



# Open Government Partnership

## **SRI LANKA'S 2<sup>nd</sup> NATIONAL ACTION PLAN**

**2019 - 2021**

# ***CONTENTS***

---

1. INTRODUCTION
2. OPEN GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO DATE
3. NAP DEVELOPMENT PROCESS
4. COMMITMENTS
5. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

---

On 28<sup>th</sup> October 2015, Sri Lanka became the 68<sup>th</sup> member country of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) that endorsed the Open Government Declaration at the Annual OGP Summit. The OGP is a multilateral initiative that aims to secure concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance. At present, the OGP includes 75 participating countries and 15 sub-national governments implementing National Action Plans focusing on domestic policy reforms. The 2-year Action Plans of the OGP are based on four values that OGP participating governments are expected to uphold to advance open governance for the well-being of their citizens. They are;

1. Transparency
2. Accountability
3. Public participation
4. Technology and innovation for openness and accountability

The Action Plans are formulated in consultation with the citizens and civil society at large to ensure that commitments and milestones are inclusive and responsive to citizen needs.

Sri Lanka became eligible to join the OGP with the recognition of the Right to Information in the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution. As mandated by the OGP, Sri Lanka commenced the development of its first 2-year National Action Plan in February 2016 which was thereafter approved and adopted by Cabinet in October 2016. The first OGP National Action Plan (NAP) had a total of 12 commitments organized into 9 thematic areas. These were: health, education, ICT, environment, local government, women, women in political governance, anti-corruption, and right to information. The first NAP was implemented under the guidance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the commitments under the right to information theme emerged as starred commitments by the end of the implementation period.

The Second National Action Plan presented here is a result of a coordinating and consultative process led by the Presidential Secretariat. The NAP consists of 15 transformative commitments ranging from enhancing the rights of the disabled to improving accountability through asset declarations and provision of improved services regarding disaster management. While respective government agencies have pledged to implement and achieve each milestone and commitment, civil society organizations will also support the progress of the NAP implementation through a monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) framework. It is believed that the Second National Action Plan will lead to enhanced transparency and citizen participation in governance processes which will increase the accountability of the government to its citizens.

## **2. OPEN GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO DATE**

---

Since joining the Open Government Partnership, the Government of Sri Lanka has taken steps to promote and establish the principles of open governance in various layers of government. A key achievement in this regard is the action taken on promoting the use of right to information (RTI) among citizens and the training provided to the public sector on implementing the RTI Act. The commitment on RTI in the first National Action Plan also featured as one of the more successful commitments in terms of implementation with the relevant government institutions driving implementation.

In May 2017, on the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a delegation from Mongolia headed by Hon. J. Munkhbat, Chairman of the Cabinet Secretariat of Mongolia together with a team of 25 elected representatives of local governments of Mongolia equivalent to Mayors and Chairpersons of Local Authorities visited Sri Lanka. The aim of the visit was to learn about the open governance initiatives implemented by government institutions in Sri Lanka. The delegation met with local government representatives in Sri Lanka as well as civil society representatives attached to the OGP to share experiences and for cross learning.

The government has also made efforts to connect with the OGP partners at a global level. This year in July, His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka, attended the Global Session of the Annual OGP Summit held in Tbilisi, Georgia, where he expressed views on the special efforts made by the government to fight corruption and also responded to the theme, “How the decisions taken at the OGP could be used for the welfare and benefit of the people of the member countries?”.

### **3. NAP DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

---

The Second National Action Plan of the OGP was created through a co-creation process where representatives from government and civil society formulated commitments and milestones in a collaborative manner. Led by the Presidential Secretariat and supported by the OGP Civil Society organization partners, the co-creation process began with a review of the first NAP with all participating government and CSO members. Nine consultation meetings covering all nine provinces in Colombo (18<sup>th</sup> June), Puttlam (19<sup>th</sup> June), Jaffna (21<sup>st</sup> June), Trincomalee (22<sup>nd</sup> June), Kegalle (28<sup>th</sup> June), Galle (29<sup>th</sup> June), Anuradhapura (2<sup>nd</sup> July), Kandy (4<sup>th</sup> July), and Badulla (5<sup>th</sup> July 2018). These meetings, attended by the general public as well as government representatives, resulted in a multitude of issues ranging from the lack of water sanitation to curbing corruption, the need for budget transparency, gaps in the education system and problems arising due to disaster situations. The general public was also given the opportunity to submit their recommendations in writing as a response to print advertisements published in Sinhala, Tamil and English during this period. In addition to this, government ministries and leading departments were invited to submit their own recommendations on open governance. The shortlist of issues and thematic areas that were discussed and worked on by government and civil society was derived from all of these sources.

## 4. COMMITMENTS

Commitment #1:	Improve public engagement for prevention of bribery and corruption through the presence of Integrity Officers within public authorities	<b>4</b>
Commitment #2:	Establish an effective asset declaration system to ease submission, verification and public access	<b>6</b>
Commitment #3:	Increase the use of Right to Information (RTI) among citizens and improve public authorities' response to RTI implementation by 2020	<b>8</b>
Commitment #4:	Establish a sustainable mechanism for citizen participation in health sector development	<b>10</b>
Commitment #5:	Change behaviour of school children to say "No" to Drugs, Tobacco, Alcohol and other Substances by 2020	<b>12</b>
Commitment #6:	Deliver cost effective and reliable government information services to citizens by improving GIC-1919, Government websites and Open Data digital platforms	<b>14</b>
Commitment #7:	Empower farmers with an Agriculture Decision Support and Agribusiness Support System	<b>16</b>
Commitment #8:	By end 2020, implement a mechanism for participation of persons with disabilities to determine housing allocations for 3200 identified low income families	<b>18</b>
Commitment #9:	Disability Rights bill formulated with public participation in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and enacted by the Parliament by 2020	<b>20</b>
Commitment #10:	Ministry in charge of Disaster Management to identify, prepare, implement and monitor disaster management activities in a participatory manner	<b>22</b>
Commitment #11:	Climate change challenges to be comprehensively incorporated in the National Environmental Policy and the Act in a participatory manner by the Ministry in charge of Environment	<b>24</b>
Commitment #12:	Establish a transparent and answerable process to implement selected Concluding Observations of the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in work plans of related Ministries by 2020	<b>26</b>
Commitment #13:	Strengthening the Committee System in <i>Pradeshiya Sabhas</i> with citizen participation to improve local service delivery	<b>29</b>
Commitment #14:	Improve public bus transport based on passenger needs and feedback	<b>31</b>
Commitment #15:	Promote the creation of a child friendly environment by implementing the 2018 Concluding Observations of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in a participatory manner.	<b>33</b>

## Commitment #1

### Improve public engagement for prevention of bribery and corruption through the presence of Integrity Officers within public authorities

1<sup>st</sup> March 2019– 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

Lead implementing agency/ actor	Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC)
<b>Commitment description</b>	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	There is a lack of faith in the integrity of the public sector due to corruption. Citizens have grievances stemming from corruption such as extortion and bribe requests, but are unable to follow up on the complaints filed. Lack of awareness on the procedures, costs, time involved in obtaining a public service has led to manipulation of service recipients by some public officials leading to bribe taking. Citizens do not know whom to turn to when facing bribery and corruption at the point of service delivery. This this undermines their confidence in public institutions. Although various laws and regulations are introduced to curb bribery and corruption, they focus mainly on enforcing the law or penalizing offenders consequent to the occurrence of an incident of bribery and corruption. CIABOC has observed that implementation of laws and regulations alone has no effect in creating a culture free of bribery and corruption.
What is the commitment?	Many countries which have successfully curbed corruption in their societies have focused on raising integrity in the public service as an effective tool to prevent bribery and corruption. The purpose of this commitment is to limit opportunities for bribe taking and corruption by educating citizens on the means and modes of public service delivery with the assistance of Integrity Officers appointed in public institutions. When citizens have greater awareness on the type of public service that can be obtained from institutions, the procedure, time and cost involved, it will curtail opportunities for public officials to mislead them and thus engage in bribe-taking or corruption. In the process, public sector employees too will be made aware on how to prevent bribery or corruption in their institutions.
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	This commitment will provide for the appointment of Integrity Officers in public institutions to create wide awareness on public service delivery and facilitate citizens to obtain their services. The Integrity Officers will be responsible for creating Citizen Charters. Where necessary, the Integrity Officer, under the guidance of the Head of the Department, will appoint a facilitating officer to provide guidance to the citizens, facilitate communication with the relevant service providing officer, and ensure that an efficient service is being provided. Further, the Integrity Officer will be responsible to simplify and clarify circulars that lack clarity and take action to raise awareness among citizens and staff employees concerning such circulars. They will also take action to implement and comply with a code of ethics, Conflict of Interest rules, Gift rules and provision of assets declarations.
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	This commitment promotes <b>transparency</b> and <b>public participation</b> as it guides and facilitates citizens on the services that could be obtained from

		the public Institution. It also enhances <b>public accountability</b> since this whole process of having Integrity Officers improves the clarity of the actions of public institutions.	
Additional information		The Commitment supports the objectives of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption; the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal No. 16 which calls for reducing corruption and bribery; and the current initiatives by the CIABOC, including the implementation of an envisaged national action plan to combat corruption which is under preparation.	
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
1. Cabinet approval is obtained to appoint Integrity Officers in all public institutions and circular instructions are issued accordingly.		March 2019	July 2019
2. Role and responsibilities of Integrity Officers are disseminated by electronic, print and digital media and a public awareness campaign. Integrity Officer contact details and functions are displayed at the entrance of all public institutions (trilingual and Braille) and websites.		July 2019	December 2019
3. Citizen Charters providing information on the type of services provided, costs for such services, delivery time etc are displayed in every service providing institution.		July 2019	December 2019
4. Examine procedures and circulars in operation in the institution, and where such procedures and circulars lack clarity or are complex, take necessary steps to make them simple and clear.		January 2020	July 2020
5. Where required, under the guidance of the Head of the Institution, appoint a 'Facilitating Officer' to guide and facilitate the public.		January 2020	July 2020
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Director General Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery and Corruption (CIABOC)	
Title, Department		Director General Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery and Corruption (CIABOC)	
Email and Phone		Email: <a href="mailto:ciaboc@eureka.lk">ciaboc@eureka.lk</a> Tel: 011 2 596 365	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Presidential Secretariat; Ministry in charge of Public Administration; Ministry in charge of Home Affairs; Ministry in charge of Provincial Councils & Local Government.	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Transparency International Sri Lanka and other engaged Civil Societies	

## Commitment #2

### Establish an effective asset declaration system to ease submission, verification and public access

1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

Lead implementing agency/ actor	Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC)
<b>Commitment description</b>	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	There is a citizen perception that elected officials and senior public servants frequently use their official positions for personal financial gains. Citizens are unaware of the financial interests of elected officials and senior public servants. Details of personal assets are necessary if a complaint arises with regard to unlawful acquisition of assets by government officials or politicians. Under the asset disclosure law in the country, all relevant government employees are required to declare their assets and liabilities annually to their Heads of Institutions. Many government institutions do not, however, adhere to this legal requirement. Asset disclosures are currently made through a paper based system, but this is extremely challenging for monitoring and verification purposes.
What is the commitment?	This commitment is about establishing an effective asset declaration system for systematic asset disclosure by persons occupying public positions that will help strengthen public integrity and enhance citizens' confidence in public institutions.
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	The CIABOC will publicly launch an asset declaration online portal with ease of submission, verification and public access following relevant legal amendments. Citizens will be provided information on public access through a public information campaign using electronic, print and digital media. Public scrutiny of assets will serve as a deterrent against unethical behaviour to use public office for private gains. CIABOC will provide annual reports on the status of prosecutions undertaken based on asset declaration verification. By facilitating access to asset information and verification, instances of corruption and abuse can be more readily detected.
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	This commitment promotes <b>public accountability</b> as it provides for public scrutiny of the measures taken against unethical behaviours of public officials. It promotes <b>technology and innovation for openness</b> and <b>accountability</b> by providing opportunities for information and citizen participation.
Additional information	The Commitment strengthens the prevailing Declaration of Assets and Liabilities Law; supports the objectives of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption; the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal No. 16 which calls for reducing corruption and bribery; and the current initiatives by the CIABOC, including the implementation of an envisaged national action plan to combat corruption which is under preparation.



Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
1. Asset declaration online portal introduced with a public launch following relevant legal amendments.		March 2019	December 2019
2. Citizens are provided information on public access through a public information campaign using electronic, print and digital media		January 2020	June 2020
3. Creating an 'Office of Assets Disclosure' to be responsible for collecting, analyzing and taking necessary actions on assets declarations		January 2020	June 2020
4. CIABOC provides annual reports on the status of prosecutions undertaken based on asset declaration verification		January 2020	December 2020
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Director General Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery and Corruption(CIABOC)	
Title, Department			
Email and Phone		Email: <a href="mailto:ciaboc@eureka.lk">ciaboc@eureka.lk</a> Tel: 011 2 596 365	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Presidential Secretariat, Attorney General's Department, Auditor General's Department, Ministry in charge of Information Technology; Ministry in charge of Public Administration, Department of Inland Revenue, Sri Lanka Customs, Exchange Control Department	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Transparency International Sri Lanka and other engaged Civil Society	

## Commitment #3

### Increase the use of Right to Information (RTI) among citizens and improve public authorities' response to RTI implementation by 2020

1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

Lead implementing agency/ actor	<b>Ministry in charge of implementing the Right to Information Act</b>
<b>Commitment description</b>	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	Access to information is a constitutional right of the people of Sri Lanka. Citizens have the ability to use the Right to Information Act (RTI) to seek information from public authorities on the services they are entitled to and the progress of complaints, have their grievances redressed quickly without any need for paying bribes, and to hold public institutions accountable. Due to limited awareness, however, the number of citizens making RTI requests is still low. An issue leading to public sector opacity is that records are not maintained in a systematic and accessible manner. Proactive disclosure of certain categories of information is a mandatory requirement under the RTI Act, but it is also one of the most poorly implemented provisions of the Act.
What is the commitment?	The purpose of this commitment is to enhance opportunities for citizens to file RTIs and improve responsiveness of public authorities to such requests and thereby contribute towards improving service delivery, exposing corruption and fostering participation in decision-making.
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	The Ministry will establish an online disability friendly RTI request portal with 50% of public authorities listed. Having such online request portal run by the government, where many public authorities are listed, will increase accessibility to citizens, including disabled persons. E-record management systems will be introduced in 50% of public authorities. Introducing e-record management would require the digitization of available information, which will in turn lead to greater accessibility to the people. An accelerated awareness raising programme will be conducted with the intention of increasing the proportion of people using RTI and increasing public authorities' response to RTI both proactively and in response to RTI requests. The Ministry will conduct awareness-raising programmes for the public in each Grama Niladhari division. As a result of such programmes, the Ministry expects an increase in RTI requests filed in those areas compared to previous years. The Ministry will also work with 15 public authorities to spearhead compliance with the mandatory proactive disclosure provisions of the RTI regime.
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	This commitment addresses the values of <b>access to information</b> as it strengthens the provisions of the current RTI Act. It enhances <b>public participation</b> as it shifts the role of citizens from being mere spectators to that of being active participants in the process of governance. It also promotes <b>public accountability</b> as citizens can evaluate and determine whether public authorities are delivering the expected results.
Additional information	The commitment will strengthen the operation of Right to Information Act

	No. 12 of 2016. It is in line with Sustainable Development Goal No. 16 and will also complement proposed National Anti-Corruption Strategies.	
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start Date:	End Date:
1. A disabled-friendly online RTI request portal will be established by the Ministry with the support of Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) /other contracted entities with 10 public authorities enlisted initially, and with 50% of all public authorities enlisted and accessible by end of NAP period. The Ministry will conduct testing for user and disability friendliness, prior to the launch of the portal. The portal will track gendered data on RTI usage on the portal.	March 2019	December, 2019
2. E-record management system is developed and introduced to 10 public authorities. The number of public authorities will be increased to 50% of all public authorities by end of NAP period.	March 2019	February, 2021
3. There is a 50% increase in RTI requests made over the previous year, and information given, by 30th August, 2019 based on RTI Commission Annual Report; 75% on top of 2019 baseline, by 30th August, 2020. A summary data sheet will be available for public access by the Ministry.	March 2019	February, 2021
4. Ministry in consultation with citizens and engaged CSOs will guide 5 selected Divisional Secretariats, 5 District Secretariats and 5 Ministries each NAP year, to continually make available proactive information as per Regulation 20 of Gazette No. 66/2004 (mandatory) on their respective websites and physical premises on a monthly basis. The names of these public authorities will be made publicly available each year.	March 2019	February, 2021
Contact information		
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Ms Thilaka Jayasundera	
Title, Department	Additional Secretary, Ministry of Finance	
Email and Phone	Tel: 011 2513459 0112513460 Mobile: 0766632368	
Other Actors	State actors involved	Ministry in charge of Public Administration & Management; Ministry in charge of Home Affairs, Ministry in charge of Information Technology; Right to Information Commission, Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA)
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	TISL and other engaged CSOs

## Commitment #4

Establish a sustainable mechanism for citizen participation in health sector development		
1 <sup>st</sup> March 2019 – 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2021		
Lead implementing agency/ actor	Ministry in charge of the subject of Health	
Commitment description		
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	The health sector is currently undergoing reforms to strengthen primary healthcare. These reforms aim at addressing demands for healthcare and developing a system where the citizens can access the closest primary healthcare hospital and receive appropriate specialized care as per their needs. Although it is important for citizens to take part in the process to see these reforms through, there is currently limited engagement of citizens in health sector development. Absence of sustained mechanisms to share information and obtain citizen feedback is a primary reason for low level of citizen participation in health sector development.	
What is the commitment?	Citizens must understand and participate in health sector reforms to ensure their success. The purpose of this commitment is to provide strategies that will empower citizens and enable them to participate in the development of health services in the country. Existing channels of engaging the public will be revisited. Linkages formalizing citizen participation and platforms to share information will be strengthened.	
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	Citizens will be empowered to participate in health sector development using several strategies. More linkages will be established with citizen groups to formalize citizen participation. Improving the health ministry website to make it more people friendly will create more opportunities for citizens to easily access information and to provide feedback. This platform will also provide evidence based health information that can be easily understood which can dispel any misconceptions that hinder people's health and contribute towards improving health literacy. Identified priority areas are: chronic kidney disease, mental health and drug supply management. While citizens can give useful feedback they also need to be empowered on changing their health seeking behaviours, i.e. the primary care strengthening will bring a system where the closest primary care hospital will become their first choice for contact care.	
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	This commitment addresses the values of <b>public participation</b> as it encourages citizens to participate in implementing the health reforms in a successful manner. It promotes <b>access to information</b> by providing health related information more accessible to the citizens.	
Additional information	The reforms have been approved as the policy for health service delivery for UHC.	
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start Date:	End Date:
1. A sustainable mechanism will be introduced to enable citizen	April 2019	February 2020

participation for health improvement through formalizing existing networks of Sarvodaya and Peoples Health Movement.			
2. A people and professional friendly ministry website will be developed, improving the image of the organization in health development whilst engaging all for health improvement.		April 2019	June 2020
3. A drug supply management information system up to primary care level is created informing stock outs to both providers and people		April 2019	June 2020
4. Information on food based research relevant to CKDu will be made available to citizens through an organized communication strategy		April 2019	February 2020
5. An evidence based mental health improvement communication campaign will be launched in schools and other social institutions		July 2019	June 2020
<b>Contact information</b>			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Dr H S R Perera	
Title, Department		Director, Ministry of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine	
Email and Phone		Email: <a href="mailto:susiepds@gmail.com">susiepds@gmail.com</a> Mobile: 0777588944	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Department of Health	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Sarvodaya, Peoples Health Movement	

## Commitment #5

### Change behaviour of school children to say “No” to Drugs, Tobacco, Alcohol and other Substances by 2020

1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

Lead implementing agency/actor	<b>Ministry in charge of Child Affairs, Ministry in charge of Education</b>	
<b>Commitment description</b>		
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	Use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco by school children in both urban and rural areas has been a significant concern for well over a decade particularly because it is a sensitive age where such use can lead to long-term addictions. The main reasons for children becoming vulnerable to use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco is peer pressure or lack of knowledge or guidance about their adverse consequences. Many children who have engaged in drug use were found to have dropped out from school. There are other adverse social and health issues affecting children with drug-use behaviours.	
What is the commitment?	The Ministries in charge of Child Affairs and Education in collaboration with the Presidential Secretariat will establish and strengthen School Drug Prevention Committees in 6400 secondary schools. The School Drug Prevention Committees composed by school children, parents and teachers will be an effective decision making forum for drug prevention activities. Other strategies to discourage drug and other substance use by children will be implemented through Rural Committees and religious organisations. A proper mechanism will be in place to monitor the School Drug Prevention Programme. An Annual Summit will be held to review the School Drug Prevention Programme and share best practices.	
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	This commitment will use creative strategies to involve school children as active participants in drug prevention activities. They will be empowered to take informed decisions and be self-motivated to change any drug use behaviours. Participation of communities in Rural Committees will work towards creating drug-free environments in their villages. Equipped with a proper understanding of the risks and dangers of drugs and a physical environment to support drug prevention, the probability of children engaging in drug-user behaviours will be minimised.	
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	This commitment promotes <b>public participation</b> and <b>transparency</b> as citizens, including school children, parents, teachers and communities, get involved in implementing and monitoring strategies for drug prevention.	
Additional information	The commitment will strengthen the national programme for drug prevention conducted by the Presidential Secretariat and the policies and programmes for protection of children.	
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start Date:	End Date:
1. School Drug Prevention Committees will be established and strengthened in 6400 secondary schools to implement strategies to	March 2019	June 2019

discourage use of drugs among school children.		
2. Strategies will be implemented through Rural Committees to discourage drug use by children outside school premises.	May 2019	August 2019
3. Drug prevention activities for children will be implemented through the intervention of religious leaders and religious places.	September 2019	November 2019
4. The School Drug Prevention Programme will be monitored.	March 2019	August, 2021
5. An Annual Summit will be held to review the School Drug Prevention Programme and share best practices.	September, 2019	September, 2020

#### Contact information

Name of responsible person from implementing agency		<p><b>Mr J P S Jayasinghe, Director (Planning), Ministry of Women and Child Affairs &amp; Dry Zone Development</b>  Email: <a href="mailto:ipsjayasinghe@gmail.com">ipsjayasinghe@gmail.com</a> Tel: 011 2186275 Mobile: 0718102952</p> <p><b>Mr H M Abeyratne, Chairman, Child Protection Authority</b>  Email: <a href="mailto:chairperson@childprotection.gov.lk">chairperson@childprotection.gov.lk</a>  Tel 0112778911/ 011 2778915</p>
Title, Department		
Email and Phone		
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Presidential Secretariat, National Dangerous Drugs Control Board, National Authority of Tobacco and Alcohol, National Child Protection Authority.
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Alcohol and Drugs Information Centre; Foundation for Innovative Social Development, Healthy Lanka, Sarvodaya and other CBOs working on this issue

## Commitment #6

### Deliver cost effective and reliable government information services to citizens by improving GIC-1919, Government websites and Open Data digital platforms

1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

Lead implementing agency/actor	<b>Ministry in charge of Information Technology &amp; Digital Infrastructure</b>
<b>Commitment description</b>	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	Citizens do not have prompt access to reliable information on citizen services provided by various government organizations. Obtaining accurate and relevant information on these services as well as other government information is often a difficult task for most citizens. This results in poor knowledge of citizens' rights and lack of citizen engagement in the governance process.
What is the commitment?	This commitment is about expanding and improving the Government Information Centre (GIC - 1919) knowledge platforms to address the information needs of citizens to obtain better service delivery and influence better government decision-making. Information will be provided on a wider range of government services in a more citizen friendly manner, including for differently-abled citizens to access information on government services.
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	The inclusion of an additional 80 government organizations to the Government Information Centre knowledge platforms with relevant content information will increase the efficiency of the citizen service and information delivery mechanism of the government. Concurrently, the effectiveness of all government websites and e-services will be rated periodically on their performance to rectify any qualitative and quantitative deficiencies. New features will be introduced to ensure that citizens with disabilities can readily access information. Citizens' awareness on GIC services will be enhanced and their awareness will be assessed once every six months. Such reports will be made public. Government datasets will be increased from 300 to 2,000 and made available for citizen access. By increasing the open government datasets, citizens will be able to easily find, access and reuse public datasets and engage in government decision making. Access to open data will also promote technological innovation and economic growth by enabling citizens to develop new kinds of digital applications and services. The Effectiveness of government websites and e-services will be evaluated and bi-annual reports on government web presence will be prepared.
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	This commitment enhances citizens' <b>access to cost-effective and reliable information</b> and enables them to obtain services under the government's right to Information law and thereby promotes <b>transparency</b> . It also promotes <b>public participation</b> as it provides opportunities for citizens to examine government data and engage in the decision making process. The commitment also promotes <b>technology and innovation</b> as it creates opportunities for information sharing and



	access using new technologies.	
Additional information	This commitment supports the Government's Information & Communication Technology Agency's programmes and policies to use ICT to improve the reach and responsiveness of public services; and the recommendations and commitments in the Draft Sustainable Sri Lanka: Vision & Strategic Path and the Vision 2025.	
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start Date:	End Date:
1. Government Information Center knowledge platforms (GIC – 1919 trilingual Call Centre, GIC Website and Social Media sites) are operationalized with content support for information on government services of additional 80 government organizations.	Ongoing	September, 2020
2. New features are introduced for GIC-1919 platforms to support differently-abled citizens to access information on government services	Ongoing	March 2021
3. Multiple communication approaches are implemented to increase citizens' awareness of government services provided via GIC-1919 platforms. Surveys will be conducted on citizens' awareness on GIC-1919 services every 6 months with citizens' participation. The Survey reports will be made publicly available at six month intervals.	July 2019	March 2021
4. Number of open datasets hosted in www.data.gov.lkis increased from 300 to 2,000.	Ongoing	March 2021
5. The effectiveness of all government websites is rated based on their performance and an assessment report is produced bi-annually.	July 2019	December, 2020
<b>Contact information</b>		
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Mr Waruna Sri Dhanapala	
Title, Department	Senior Assistant Secretary (ICT for Development), Ministry of Digital Infrastructure and Information	
Email and Phone	Email: <a href="mailto:sas-ict4d@mtdi.gov.lk">sas-ict4d@mtdi.gov.lk</a> ; <a href="mailto:warunatr@gmail.com">warunatr@gmail.com</a> Tel: 94 11 2577017 Mobile: 94 777356781	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Mr Damith Hettihewa, Chief Executive Officer, Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA), 160/24 Kirimandala Mawatha, Colombo 05  Tel: 011 2369099 (Office) 0777339300 (Mobile) Fax: 011 2369091, Email: <a href="mailto:ceo@icta.lk">ceo@icta.lk</a>
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Sarvodaya Fusion and GIC Call Center Operator Mr Isura Silva, Business Consultant - Strategic Management and Outreach, Sarvodaya-Fusion, 726, Kotte Rd B120, Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte. Tel: 0112 867 590 (Office), 077310675 (Mobile) E-mail: <a href="mailto:isura@fusion.lk">isura@fusion.lk</a> , <a href="mailto:info@fusion.lk">info@fusion.lk</a>

## Commitment #7

### Empower farmers with an Agriculture Decision Support and Agribusiness Support System

1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

Lead implementing agency/actor	<b>Ministry in charge of Agriculture</b>
<b>Commitment description</b>	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	Seasonal agricultural production fluctuation and price fluctuations adversely affect the farmers' income mainly because they are not able to explore seasonal information on extents already cultivated, recommended crops and varieties, agro-input availability, technology availability, local officers to be contacted for advice etc. This unstable environment leads the farmers to abandon crop production livelihoods. Further, delays in emergency food imports can affect national/regional food security.
What is the commitment?	The purpose of this commitment is to provide farmers with a single platform to access all necessary information on agriculture and to facilitate agribusiness and thereby empower them to take timely decisions to improve their income. Access will be supported through multiple means such as web based and mobile based channels.
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	This commitment will contribute to minimize the excess agricultural production and minimize the price fluctuations ensuring a reasonable income for farmers and an affordable price for consumers on crop produce. The e-Platform will pool scattered agriculture information from various other Information Systems and improve the accessibility of information to farmers, agribusiness operators, officials and policy makers. Ready access to information on agriculture based demand and supply and price information will reduce inefficiencies in agriculture marketing functions. The commitment will provide an e-Platform having two sub components, namely information dissemination sub platform and an online classified sub component, supported with a user-friendly mobile App for farmers. A common platform will be developed for Agriculture Sector which will include the outputs / report / information generated by the other major Information Systems of the Department of Agriculture such as Crop Forecasting Information, Seed availability, Climate & Weather information, Pest Surveillance, Soil Reporting Systems and Price Information. This platform will provide information on extents already cultivated, recommended crops and varieties, agro-input availability, technology availability, local officers to be contacted for advice etc. Further, an online classified will be developed to support agriculture marketing with the support of an Android App to access and post the advertisements by farmers.
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	This commitment enhances the OGP value of <b>access to information</b> as the e-Platform will improve the accessibility of agricultural information. By facilitating information dissemination on agriculture based demand and supply, it will promote <b>transparency</b> on price information for farmers.

Additional information		The commitment provides support to decision making by Ministry in charge of Trade on emergency food imports; supports the Agriculture Programme of the Ministry in charge of Agriculture ( <i>Api Wawalai Api Kanne</i> ); recommendations and commitments in the Draft Sustainable Sri Lanka: Vision & Strategic Path and the Vision 2025.
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date: End Date:
1. Fully functioning and update databases are available for farmers to receive crop cultivation and crop forecasting information.		Ongoing June 2021
2. An e-Agriculture Platform is in place as a decision support tool for farmers to obtain relevant information on Agriculture such as crop recommendation, seed availability, technology availability, local officers to be contacted for advice and market information. Updating existing databases, development of APIs to link them with e-Agriculture Platform and development of new databases if needed.		March 2019 June 2021
3. A database is developed for farmers to receive daily price list on crop produces.		March 2019 June 2021
4. A Web / Mobile app based service is introduced linking buyers and sellers of agriculture sector with the possibility of exploring the local and international market in agriculture.		March 2019 June 2021
5. IT infrastructure development, publicity and capacity building		March 2019 June 2021
<b>Contact information</b>		
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Mr S. Periyasami
Title, Department		Director (Information & Communication)
Email and Phone		Email: <a href="mailto:periyasamy.doa@gmail.com">periyasamy.doa@gmail.com</a> Tel: 081 2030040
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Development, Provincial Department of Agriculture, Mahaweli Authority, Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research Institute (HARTI), Ministry in charge of Information Technology; Information & Communication Technology Agency (ICTA), Sri Lanka Hadhabima Authority.
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Related civil society organisations

## Commitment #8

**By end 2020, implement a mechanism for participation of persons with disabilities to determine housing allocations for 3200 identified low income families**

1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

Lead implementing agency/actor	<b>Ministry in charge of Housing and Construction</b>	
<b>Commitment description</b>		
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	Persons with disabilities (PwDs) amounting to 1.6 M (8.7%) of the population face many economic hardships. Out of 1.1 million persons with disabilities, only 29% persons are engaged in economic activities. Rates of unemployment and poverty are high among PwDs. Income generation is limited by lack of employment opportunity for both wage and self-employment. The lack of economic means has deprived a large proportion from owning a house and thus becoming self-reliant and secure. The other reasons for being homeless include limited opportunities to access existing housing loans schemes in public and private sector financial organisations; non-existence of government allocation for housing for families of PwDs; lack of disability friendly housing facilities in government housing programmes; and inability to contribute labour as expected by the government due to the disability/poverty. Many barriers in society also prevent their right to public participation in decision making processes.	
What is the commitment?	This commitment will seek to minimise the economic and social disadvantages faced by persons with disabilities by providing disability friendly housing facilities to 3200 identified low income families by 2020.	
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	Ministry in charge of Housing will seek budgetary provision to provide housing for PwDs by 2020. Cabinet approval will be sought to establish a National Housing Steering Committee to address the housing problems of PwDs in a participatory manner. The housing programme will be implemented with the participation of relevant stakeholders at the district level and will be monitored at quarterly intervals. By providing such facilities, a significant proportion of the marginalised population will be empowered to become self-reliant and secure.	
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	This commitment promotes <b>public participation</b> and <b>transparency</b> as it provides for a mechanism where the disabled community can participate in decision making and monitor the process.	
Additional information	This commitment promotes the provisions of disability legislation in Sri Lanka; the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017-2021; the recommendations and commitments in the Draft Sustainable Sri Lanka: Vision & Strategic Path and the Vision 2025; targets influencing disability rights in crosscutting Sustainable Development Goals.	
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start Date:	End Date:
1. A project proposal to provide housing for PwDs to fulfill the housing requirement by 2020 will be made and special budgetary allocation	March 2019	May 2019

will be secured.		
2. Cabinet approval will be sought to establish a National Housing Steering Committee with a mandate of ensuring the participation of all relevant stakeholders to solve the housing problems of PwDs and monitor the process. The Steering Committee will include PwDs in the membership.	May 2019	May 2019
3. The housing programme will be implemented with the participation of relevant stakeholders at the district level.	July 2019	February 2021
4. The progress of the housing programme will be monitored quarterly.	Quarterly	August 2021

#### Contact information

Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Mr M I A Wahabdeen (Director) Ms H S D Jayatillake (Assistant Director)	
Title, Department	Director – 0718014077, <a href="mailto:miawahabdeen@yahoo.com">miawahabdeen@yahoo.com</a> Assistant Director - 0775860598	
Email and Phone		
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	National Housing Development Authority; Ministry in charge of Social Welfare; National Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities; Ministry of Finance; Ministry in charge of Home Affairs
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Disability Organisations Joint Front (DOJF)

## Commitment #9

### Disability Rights bill formulated with public participation in line with UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) and enacted by the Parliament by 2020

1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

Lead implementing agency/actor	<b>Ministry in charge of Social Welfare</b>	
<b>Commitment description</b>		
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	Persons with disabilities do not enjoy equal rights and privileges as other citizens in society. They are deprived of basic entitlements enjoyed by other citizens due to physical and psychological barriers in society. In Sri Lanka, 1.6 M (8.7%) persons are living with disabilities. The existing disability legislation, Act No. 28 of 1996 is limited to access to education, employment and physical accessibility to public places. With the ratification of UNCPRD (UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) in 2016, the government is accountable to prepare local legislation in line with UNCPRD. The proposed Disability Rights Bill, however, has been formulated with the absence of two separate mechanisms, i.e 1) coordination of implementation and 2) independent monitoring as per article 33 of UNCPRD.	
What is the commitment?	The purpose of this commitment is to prepare a revised bill by the Ministry in charge of Social Welfare based on public consultations and in line with UNCPRD.	
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	The accommodation of 2 separate mechanisms in disability legislation as per article 33 of the UNCPRD, i.e coordination of implementation and independent monitoring will lead to improvement of the quality of life of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities will be able to access the draft bill in disability-friendly modes of communication. An island wide publicity campaign will be conducted on the provisions of the Disability Rights Act highlighting the entitlement of persons with disabilities.	
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	This commitment promotes <b>public accountability</b> as it provides for legislation to promote and ensure the rights of persons with disabilities.	
Additional information	This commitment promotes the provisions of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017-2021, disability legislation in Sri Lanka; the recommendations and commitments in the Draft Sustainable Sri Lanka: Vision & Strategic Path and the Vision 2025; targets influencing disability rights in crosscutting Sustainable Development Goals.	
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start Date:	End Date:
1. The existing bill is revised based on public consultations in line with UNCPRD by the Ministry in charge.	Already started	May 2019
2. The draft will be available in alternative modes of communication for persons with disabilities (i.e. Braille, Sign Language etc.) for comments and feedback	December 2019	April 2020

3. Approval by the Parliamentary subcommittee and enactment of revised bill by Parliament		May 2020	September 2020
4. The Ministry implements island wide publicity campaign on the provisions of the revised Disability Rights Act highlighting the entitlement of persons with disabilities.		October 2020	February 2021
<b>Contact information</b>			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Mr M I A Wahabdeen (Director) Ms H S D Jayatillake (Assistant Director)	
Title, Department		Director – 0718014077, <a href="mailto:miawahabdeen@yahoo.com">miawahabdeen@yahoo.com</a> Assistant Director - 0775860598	
Email and Phone			
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	National Housing Development Authority; National Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities; Ministry of Finance; Ministry in charge of Home Affairs	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Disability Organisations Joint Front (DOJF)	

## Commitment #10

### Ministry in charge of Disaster Management to identify, prepare, implement and monitor disaster management activities in a participatory manner

1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

Lead implementing agency/actor	<b>Ministry in charge of Disaster Management; Disaster Management Centre</b>
<b>Commitment description</b>	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	Sri Lanka's weather and climate patterns have undergone significant changes since recent times and frequent disasters such as heavy rainfall, floods, landslides, droughts and lightning have increased. A considerable number of people, particularly from less affluent sections of the population, are adversely affected repeatedly by these natural disasters mainly due to inadequate preparedness at the ground level. Hazardous situations, life losses, and damage to property and infrastructure due to natural disasters have increased in the recent past. Increased vulnerability to disasters has imposed a considerable economic and social burden on citizens and a strain on relief and financial aid being provided.
What is the commitment?	The Ministry in charge of disaster management and the Disaster Management Centre will engage with communities, affected persons and other stakeholders to identify needs, review the existing disaster preparedness plans, and prepare disaster management guidelines. Training will be provided to stakeholders on the implementation of the guidelines. Communities will also be engaged in the preparation of Disaster Preparedness Plans at District, Divisional and Grama Niladhari Division level. A system will be established to disseminate early warning messages. Community leaders will be provided early warning messages through SMS to be conveyed to rest of the community. Each Ministry will also undertake to prepare a comprehensive Disaster Preparedness Programme including Government response mechanism based on the District, Divisional and Grama Niladhari Division plans.
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	This commitment will enhance national readiness and capacity of communities to respond to natural disasters through the implementation of comprehensive disaster preparedness plans, disaster management guidelines and early warning systems. Hazardous situations, life losses, and damage to property and infrastructure due to disasters can be minimized thus reducing the burden of disaster impacts and communities and the government. Overall, community involvement in identification, preparation, implementation and monitoring of disaster mitigation actions will be an important factor in increasing the effectiveness of disaster management action and reducing the burden on citizens.
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	This commitment promotes <b>public participation</b> as citizens are and provided opportunity to give inputs on crucial aspects that affect their lives and are also made to participate in the implementation of the plans. It also promotes access to information by the citizens.



Additional information		This commitment strengthens and promotes the implementation of the Disaster Management Act of 2005; the recommendations and commitments in the Draft Sustainable Sri Lanka: Vision & Strategic Path and the Vision 2025; targets for disaster prevention and resilience in crosscutting Sustainable Development Goals.	
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
1. Disaster Management Centre (DMC) will review the existing preparedness plans through a consultative process including affected parties, CBOs and other stakeholders.		April 2019	September 2020
2. DMC will facilitate community and stakeholders to prepare Disaster Preparedness Plans at District, Divisional and Grama Niladhari Division levels.		October 2019	June 2020
3. Disaster management guidelines will be prepared through a consultative process with marginalized/ vulnerable groups. Consultative meetings will be held with all stakeholders to identify the needs. The guidelines will be disseminated and training on the implementation of the guidelines will be provided to stakeholders.		April 2019	November 2020
4. A system is established to effectively disseminate early warning messages to grass-root level communities. Early warning messages will be relayed via SMS to identified community leaders to be conveyed to other community members in the area.		October 2019	June 2020
5. Based on the District Divisional and GN plans, a comprehensive Disaster Preparedness Programme including a government response mechanism is developed by each Ministry.		July 2020	November 2020
<b>Contact information</b>			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Dr S Amalanadan	
Title, Department		Director General, Disaster Management Center	
Email and Phone		Email: <a href="mailto:dg@dmc.gov.lk">dg@dmc.gov.lk</a> Tel: 0112136100 Mobile: 0773957896	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	National Disaster Relief Services Centre, National Building Research Organization, Department of Irrigation, Meteorological Department; Central Environmental Authority; Coast Conservation Department; National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Related civil society organisations	

## Commitment #11

### Climate change challenges to be comprehensively incorporated in the National Environmental Policy and the Act in a participatory manner by the Ministry in charge of Environment

1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry in charge of Environment
Commitment description	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	Sri Lanka has been experiencing extreme weather conditions for the past decade or so and natural disasters such as prolonged droughts, flooding and landslides have become critical issues which are increasing with time. Climate related hazards are having a significant effect across the country, and particularly on poor communities in disaster-prone districts and the rural agricultural population. Loss of life and livelihood, property damage and displacement impose a strain on government finances which have been diverted to relief and recovery efforts at the cost of mid and long term development plans. Inappropriate planning processes where climate change aspects are not taken into consideration have led to the occurrence of some of the disasters. The existing National Environment Policy and the Act do not adequately address climate change concerns.
What is the commitment?	The purpose of this commitment is to specifically address climate change aspects in the country's National Environment Policy and Act and make recommendations for climate change adaptation and mitigation. The Ministry in charge of the subject of environment will consult with all stakeholders to review and revise the current National Environmental Policy and Act to specifically address climate change aspects and make recommendations for climate change adaptation and mitigation.
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	Recognizing that the existing National Environment Policy and Act do not adequately address climate change concerns, this commitment will undertake to revise these instruments to comprehensively address climate change issues. Given the dangers of climate change, this will provide high level policy prioritization for environmental protection and disaster management that will reduce impacts especially on the poor and the vulnerable. Further, those engaged in planning and decision making need to be aware of how the climate will change in short, medium and long terms in order to decide on ways to overcome difficulties and avoid disasters.
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	This commitment promotes <b>public participation</b> as citizens are given a voice in government policy making and opportunities to provide inputs to government decisions that affect their lives.
Additional information	Sri Lanka has fulfilled all requirements under the Montreal Protocol and action plans are prepared to address SDG 13 and other goals that directly and indirectly influence climate change. Sri Lanka also signed and ratified the Paris Agreement which strengthens global response to the threat of climate change. This commitment also strengthens and

	promotes the implementation of the Disaster Management Act of 2005; the recommendations and commitments in the Draft Sustainable Sri Lanka: Vision & Strategic Path and the Vision 2025. <i>Blue Green Development Strategy for sustainable development?</i>	
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start Date:	End Date:
1. Conduct wide stakeholder consultations to review the existing National Environmental Policy to identify gaps and areas of improvement to address climate change adaptation and mitigation.	March 2019	June 2019
2. Formulate a new National Environmental Policy that will comprehensively address climate change aspects in a participatory manner.	July 2019	June 2020
Contact information		
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Mr Mahinda Gunaratne	
Title, Department	Director (Policy Planning & Operations), Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment	
Email and Phone	Email: <a href="mailto:pmgun@gmail.com">pmgun@gmail.com</a> Tel: 01122034150 Mobile: 0715861297	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Agencies under Ministry of Environment, Meteorological Department, Disaster Management Center, Institute of Policy Studies
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Related civil society organisations

## Commitment #12

### Establish a transparent and answerable process to implement selected Concluding Observations of the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in work plans of related Ministries by 2020

1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry in charge of Women's Affairs
Commitment description	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	Under the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which Sri Lanka ratified in 1981, the country is obliged to deliver on several Concluding Observations but the pace of progress has been slow. Effective implementation of CEDAW provisions would have alleviated many current problems faced by women. Women in the informal sector are subject to unequal wages in the absence of legal protection. The lower participation of women in the workforce is also an issue. Women Heads of Household also face many socio, cultural, economic and political concerns which are not adequately addressed. Women also experience work-place sexual and gender based violence in the formal sector. The issues include low level of women representation in political governance, and accessibility of women to State Lands.
What is the commitment?	This commitment seeks to promote the implementation of selected Concluding Observations of the CEDAW in work plans of related Ministries by 2020. It will thereby enhance action to prevent women being discriminated in the informal sector, increase participation of women in political governance, promote accountability and transparency in national policy formulation for women heads of households, minimize work place related sexual harassment and remove discriminatory land laws affecting women. The Ministry in charge of Labour and Trade Union Relations also intends to propose a mechanism for minimum wage and will have provisions against discriminatory activities at workplace.
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	Establishing regulations to make "Equal pay for work of equal value" will make it mandatory for all informal sector employees to obtain equal wages for work of equal value, thereby providing protection through the law. Stakeholder consultations and monitoring will contribute to the learning that is needed to monitor and expand the plan towards eradicating this inequality. Policies and plans being developed to address the concerns of women headed households will be more transparent and effective by enabling the direct participation of WHH in the process. Work-place sexual and gender based violence in the formal sector will be minimized through the appointment of Sexual Harassment Committees. The amendment to the laws relating to State Lands will increase women's access to State Land. The provision of a quota system in parliament through amending election laws along with CSOs will contribute to increase women's participation in political governance.
Why is this commitment relevant to	This commitment promotes <b>public participation</b> as women, including

OGP values?	vulnerable groups, are provided with specific arrangements to participate and influence decision making. <b>Accountability</b> is improved through mechanisms for monitoring, participation of stakeholders and obligations for relevant public authorities to disclose information pertaining to decisions and consultations.	
Additional information	The Commitment supports the implementation of the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women; the objectives of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017-2021; the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal No. 5 which calls for gender equality.	
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start Date:	End Date:
1. A Single Employment law will be drafted by the Ministry of Labour will also include "Equal pay for work of equal value" (in line with the ILO Convention 100 obligations) mandatory in the informal sector. Operation of the Regulations will be monitored and gender segregated data on wages in the informal sector will be collected by the Ministry of Labour. National consultation report will be published in open data format in the Labour Ministry website in all 3 languages.	March 2019	September 2020
2. National level consultations will be held with relevant ministries and civil society organisations on the draft National Action Plan on women headed households in districts where WHH are predominant. The consultation report will be published in the Ministry of Women's Affairs website in all 3 languages in open data format. Final policy and plans will be presented to WHH and implemented.	March 2019	July 2020
3. Sexual Harassment Committees will be established in at least 75% of the Ministries for the formal sector. Training and monitoring of the Committees will be carried out by the Ministry of Women's Affairs. Annual reports of the Sexual Harassment Committee (including for example number of cases, nature of cases, action taken, victim protection measures etc.) will be published in websites of individual ministries in all 3 languages. Ministry of Women's Affairs will collate all Committee reports and publish one report annually in the website in all 3 languages in open data format.	March 2019	March 2021
4. A minimum of 1/3 representation of women in Parliament will be ensured by extending pressure and lobbying with political parties for the provision of a quota system in parliament through amending election laws along with CSOs. The Consultation report with the political parties will be published in the ministry website in all 3 languages.	June 2019	February 2021
5. In continuation of the 2016-2018 OGP NAP, land laws will be amended to: a) allow for State Land allocation in joint ownership; b) repeal the III Schedule of the LDO; c) repeal sections on succession.	March 2019	June 2020
Contact information		
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Ms Swarna Sumanasekera	
Title, Department	Chairperson, National Women's Committee	

Email and Phone		Email: <a href="mailto:swarnasumanasekara@gmail.com">swarnasumanasekara@gmail.com</a> Tel: 0112187248 Mobile: 0713536007
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Ministry in charge of Labour and Trade Union Relations; Ministry in charge of Provincial Councils & Local Government; Election Commission; Ministry in charge of Social Empowerment; Law Commission; Ministry in charge of Land; Ministry in charge of Justice; National Committee on Women
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Centre for Equality and Justice, Viluthu, Centre for Policy Alternatives, Rural Women's Front, Disability Organisation Joint Front

## Commitment #13

### Strengthening the Committee System in Pradeshiya Sabhas with citizen participation to improve local service delivery

1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

Lead implementing agency/actor	<b>Ministry in charge of Provincial Councils &amp; Local Government</b>
<b>Commitment description</b>	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	Pradeshiya Sabhas form an important body in the country's local government system and are responsible for providing a range of local public services. Pradeshiya Sabha Act No: 15 of 1987 provides for the establishment of Council Committees that enable the participation of citizens in the decision making processes. Presently, this provision is not properly utilized by both the councils and the citizens. Many citizens feel excluded from the decision making process and are dissatisfied with the services they receive. There is also an inadequacy of by-laws which are vital instruments to address issues arising in their locality and to facilitate the basic operations of the Pradeshiya Sabhas.
What is the commitment?	This commitment aims to enhance the capacity of citizens to engage with Pradeshiya Sabhas to advocate for better policies and improved local service delivery. Majority of the people in Sri Lanka live in Pradeshiya Sabha territories, hence there is a strong case for strengthening Committee systems in these Councils with citizen participation. Participation in Committees will also help to create a structured and ongoing dialogue between the councils and the citizens. Such an environment will be useful for citizens to bring their community needs into greater focus as well as to engage in budget preparations and project development. Committee meetings also provide opportunities to discuss administrative matters of the Council, thereby increasing the effectiveness and performance of the Council.
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	Six Pradeshiya Sabhas representing all 3 districts of the Western Province will be selected as pilot councils to establish Committees with citizen participation. Awareness creation, technical support and skills will be provided for the effective functioning of the Committees. A maximum of 5 by-laws that are needed will be identified through a participatory manner and will be drafted. A statute to strengthen the "Prajamandala" at Provincial Council level – Western Province will be developed. A mechanism will be provided to provide scaling up support to replicate the experience in other Pradeshiya Sabha, Urban Councils and Municipal Councils. Hence there is a strong need to strengthen committee system with citizen participation in Pradeshiya Sabhas and scaling up of same to Urban councils and municipalities on successful completion of projects.
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	This commitment promotes <b>public participation</b> as citizens get involved on a continuous basis in the decision making processes of the Council. It promotes <b>transparency</b> as citizens are made knowledgeable about the operations of the Council, expenditure matters, collection of income etc.

Additional information		This commitment strengthens the implementation of the Pradeshiya Sabha Act No: 15 of 1987. It will also be supported by the Right to Information law of the country.	
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
1. Pilot local councils representing 3 districts in the Western Province will be selected and council members and citizens will be provided basic awareness on the Council Committee system. The awareness programmes will reflect the capacity of citizen participation in Council Committees.		May 2019	August 2019
2. Committees with citizen representation will be established in pilot councils. Technical support and skills for the effective functioning of the Committees will be provided with the assistance of external facilitators.		August 2019	August 2020
3. A maximum of 5 by-laws will be prepared in consultation with the Council Committees. The by-laws will be identified on the basis of required needs through a consultation process facilitated by an external consultant. They will be drafted with the assistance of legal officers and with support from the Western Provincial Council.		October 2019	June 2020
4. A statute to strengthen the "Prajamandala" at Provincial Council level – Western Province will be developed.		July 2019	December 2019
5. A mechanism will be provided to provide scaling up support to replicate the experience in other Pradeshiya Sabha, Urban Councils and Municipal Councils.		July 2020	September 2020
<b>Contact information</b>			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Ms K A Subadra Walpola	
Title, Department		Senior Assistant Secretary (Local Government), Ministry of Provincial Councils, Local Government & Sports	
Email and Phone		Email: <a href="mailto:saslg@pclg.gov.lk">saslg@pclg.gov.lk</a> Tel: 0112345971 Mobile: 0714114735	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Western Provincial Council; Commissioner of Local Government; Selected Pradeshiya Sabhas in Western Province	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Federation of Sri Lanka Local Government Authorities, Civil society organizations, CBO's and other stakeholders in the selected Local Authority areas	



## Commitment #14

### Improve public bus transport based on passenger needs and feedback

1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

Lead implementing agency/actor	<b>Ministry in charge of Transport</b>	
<b>Commitment description</b>		
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	<p>Public transport is dominated by bus transport with current shares at around 45 per cent of the passenger km. Over many years, citizens have experienced very little in terms of improvement in their daily commute. They face difficulties in day today travelling due to poor quality of transport facilities; inadequate transport facilities; lack of engagement and coordination between passengers and transport authorities. The National Transport Commission has guidelines on Bus Passenger's Rights but many of these are not properly adhered to by the service providers.</p> <p>The bus transport is supplied by 6,000 state owned buses operated by the SLTB and a further 20,000 private buses mostly owned by individual entrepreneurs regulated by provincial and national transport authorities.</p>	
What is the commitment?	The commitment is about improving the quality and reliability of bus transport based on feedback from citizens on their concerns and opinions.	
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	<p>The bus transport is supplied by 6,000 state owned buses operated by the government and a further 20,000 private buses mostly owned by individual entrepreneurs regulated by provincial and national transport authorities. Passenger societies will be established in Colombo and Gampaha Districts. A comprehensive survey will be conducted to collect basic information of passenger needs through these passenger societies. A transport related database will be developed and maintained with the participation of all stakeholders.</p>	
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	This commitment enhances public participation as a mechanism is provided for citizens to voice their concerns and opinions and have their grievances addressed. It promotes technology and innovation for openness and accountability through website for information gathering and communication.	
Additional information	This commitment will facilitate the programmes of the National Transport Commission.	
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start Date:	End Date:
1. Surveys will be conducted by the National Transport Commission to collect information for route designing.	July 2019	September 2019
2. A transport related information database will be created and access will be provided through transport ministry's website	October 2019	December 2019
3. A coordinating mechanism will be developed by the National	January 2020	2020 onwards

Transport Commission to obtain feedback regarding the transport service from passengers and a grievance handling mechanism will be set up.			
Contact information			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Mr S S A Kularatne	
Title, Department		Director (Planning), Ministry of Transport & Civil Aviation	
Email and Phone		Email: <a href="mailto:ssskule@gmail.com">ssskule@gmail.com</a> Tel: 0112186182 Mobile: 0718401838	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	National Transport Commission, Road Passenger Authority, Western Provincial Council.	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Passenger societies /bus owners association	

## Commitment #15

### Promote the creation of a child friendly environment by implementing the 2018 Concluding Observations of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in a participatory manner

1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry in charge of Child Affairs
<b>Commitment description</b>	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	<p>Sri Lanka is bound by international obligations to safeguard the rights of Sri Lankan children having ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1991. In this regard, the Committee on the Rights of the Child monitors the progress made on these obligations by reviewing the information submitted by each State Party and makes recommendations or “Concluding Observations” to help States improve the situation of children.</p> <p>The latest Concluding Observations on Sri Lanka made in 2018 have identified the main factors leading to violations of child rights and make recommendations on how they could be prevented. Sri Lanka is required to submit its next periodic report by 2023 and to include therein information on the follow-up to the present Concluding Observations. Recommendations have been made to address a number of issues including low level of societal awareness on child rights; gender-based violence; children deprived of a family environment; effects of climate change on child rights; internally displaced children; trafficking in children etc. It is important to note, however, that the skills and knowledge of parties with responsibility to implement these recommendations are at a low level.</p>
What is the commitment?	By implementing the relevant recommendations of the UNCRC Concluding Observations, the Ministry in charge of child affairs, together with other agencies, aims to strengthen its efforts to build a country in which the rights of children are protected. In this regard, the Ministry recognizes the need to create a knowledgeable society that is aware of child rights and the importance of safeguarding them; consider legislative changes in the light of cultural changes; and enable social recognition for activists appearing for child rights.
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	This commitment will increase the awareness on the importance of safeguarding child rights. It will promote behaviour and practices to hear the opinion of children when taking decisions concerning them; empower the society to report on incidences of child exploitation; and effectively address factors that contribute to violence against children.
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	This commitment enhances <b>public participation, transparency</b> and <b>accountability</b> through social mobilization to identify instances of child rights violations and initiatives to protect child rights.
Additional information	The responsibilities to protect the rights of children facilitated through this

		commitment will help promote societal values.
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:
1. New laws and policies (eg: Alternative care policy) will be introduced and implemented.		March 2019
2. Child Rights Protection Committees at rural, divisional, district, provincial and national levels will be strengthened.		March 2019
3. Societal awareness on the importance of child rights protection will be enhanced.		March 2019
4. Take action based on the study made on the reintegration of institutionalized children into society.		March 2019
		End Date:
		March 2020
		March 2020
		September 2020
		March 2021
Contact information		
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Ms Chandima Sigera
Title, Department		Commissioner, Department of Probation & Childcare Services
Email and Phone		Email: <a href="mailto:chandimads@yahoo.com">chandimads@yahoo.com</a> Tel: 0112187283 Mobile: 0712526006
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Department of Probation & Childcare Services, District Secretariats, Divisional Secretariats, Ministry in charge of Education, Ministry in charge of Health, National Child Protection Authority, Children's Secretariat
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Save the Children, Foundation for Innovative and Sustainable Development (FISD), UNICEF, Leads, FRIDSRO, SOS, World Vision, Plan Sri Lanka, Child Fund, Sarvodaya, Emerge Lanka

## 5. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

A Ministerial Steering Committee will be in place to monitor progress, provide guidance and direction for the effective implementation of the National Action Plan. In addition, an Officials Committee chaired by Secretary to the President and composed of officials of key implementing agencies will review and assess the progress of the Second National Action Plan of the Open Government partnership at quarterly intervals. These meetings will be attended by the Focal Points of all implementing agencies and members of relevant civil society organizations. Every agency implementing commitments will be supported by a Monitoring & Evaluation framework that will facilitate and ensure the achievement of their milestones. The progress of the National Action Plan will be updated at quarterly intervals and published in a website under the Presidential Secretariat. In addition, government officers and citizens will be able to provide views on the Action Plan via [ogp.progress@gmail.com](mailto:ogp.progress@gmail.com). The officer from the Presidential Secretariat functioning as the Official Point of Contact will maintain a continuing dialogue and coordination with other implementing agencies and civil society stakeholders.