



**OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP**

**CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION  
NATIONAL ACTION PLAN  
(2016-18)**

**SRI LANKA**

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## INTRODUCTION

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the first Open Government Partnership (OGP) Civil Society National Action Plan for Sri Lanka. In Sri Lanka becoming a member of the OGP in November 2015, the government committed to becoming more “open, effective and accountable” in its policy planning and implementation, whilst pledging to do so with the collaborative input of civil society.

When Transparency International Sri Lanka first advocated for Sri Lanka’s membership of the OGP, we acknowledged that there would be difficulties. Politicians and civil servants would need to become more willing to open the doors of government. Similarly civil society would need to understand the limits in shifting bureaucracies and the need for pragmatism, patience and flexibility.

Despite these reservations, we realised that the systematic planning, reporting and review provided through the OGP will provide an unprecedented template. This will not only encourage proactive government reporting, but also empower the media to track progress and hold government to account.

In early 2016 we have seen a civil society driven island wide consultative process, culminating in a coalition of over fifteen civil society organisations coming together to draft twelve commitments for government action. These commitments range from focused areas concerning Health and Education to broader areas such as the implementation of the Right to Information. Different organisations drafted and championed different commitments, hence the differing styles in commitment language. However all commitments have been brought together through a common template. These commitments can be read in detail on the pages to follow in this document.

The commitments have meshed together public concerns and civil society expertise in a format of key milestones and dates for completion. This use of milestones and dates provides a natural extension to the 100-day programme championed by the government in January 2015, which first introduced a calendar system of government commitments. This format importantly ensures that government can be held accountable to its commitments.

Having presented these commitments to government, we eagerly await Government ownership, through formal cabinet approval with minimal alterations. Furthermore we look forward to both tracking the implementation progress and contributing towards supporting the government in delivering their commitments. However it is essential that civil society also continue to be constructively critical when milestones are not met.

In developing this action plan, the unstinting efforts of Ms. Pushpi Weerakoon must be recognised, who has worked tirelessly at TISL in her capacity as the OGP Civil Society Coordinator, ably assisted by Mr. Jerome Senanayake. Similarly, the efforts of Mr. Harim Peiris, OGP Government Focal Point must be acknowledged in facilitating civil society-government meetings.

My final appreciation is extended to both the members of public and the civil society partners who have come together to build the first OGP civil society national action plan, which lays testament to the vibrancy of civil society at this crucial juncture.

*Asoka Obeyesekere*

**Executive Director**

**Transparency International Sri Lanka**

17 August 2016

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS AND NATIONAL ACTION PLAN DRAFTING PROCESS**

During the months of March and April 2015, informational meetings were conducted with Sri Lankan Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and newspaper articles were published to raise awareness of Sri Lanka's participation in OGP and what it meant for civil society and citizens. This was followed by a public launch event on 5th April, co-organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the OGP project team in TI Sri Lanka. The launch was attended by the international OGP Support Unit, CSOs from across Sri Lanka and senior government officials from across ministries. After the ceremonial launch, the participants broke into mixed groups and came up with a list of pressing issues faced by Sri Lanka along with possible open government solutions to the issues.

Following this consultation, an open invitation was sent to civil society organisations that attended to nominate themselves for an interim CSO Steering Committee to help organise further consultations and draft commitments to submit to the government for consideration. CSOs with regional contacts across the 9 provinces of the country, helped co-organise town-hall style public consultations in collaboration with the district secretariats. These sessions were held in: Colombo (5th April), Ratnapura (19th May), Monaragala (20th May), Galle (26th May), Trincomalee, (31st May) Jaffna (2nd June), Anuradhapura (8th June) Kandy (9th June), Puttalam (10th June) and once again in Colombo (20th June) with the Government at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Approximately 400 different governance issues faced by the public surfaced during the consultations. These issues were collated into themes such as Health, Corruption, RTI, IT, Procurement, Environment, Women and Education. The CSO committee members based on their areas of expertise took ownership to draft open government commitments to address these issues. A press conference was held in June to introduce OGP to a broader audience, explain the process to date, introduce the themes and their importance and also introduce the CSOs leading the development of commitments under each theme.

A joint meeting of the CSOs and relevant line ministries was held on 7th July to finalise the commitments. The themes and initial proposals for commitments were put forth for public consultation on the TISL website for a period of 17 days. From 28th July the commitments were further developed and drafted by the CSOs, with input from government counterparts. The commitments were subsequently fine-tuned further with inputs from local experts on open government and international experts from OGP working groups.

The final set of commitments proposed by the CSO coalition were handed over to the government Point of Contact for OGP, Mr. Harim Peiris (Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs) to be reviewed by the President's and Prime Minister's offices for approval before submitting it for Cabinet approval.

In the coming months, we hope to broaden the base of civil society organisations involved in the OGP effort and come to a collective consensus on how we organise ourselves in the next phase of implementation and monitoring and the way forward for Sri Lankan civil society to get the most out of Sri Lanka's participation in OGP.

We, the OGP team would like to express our gratitude to the collective efforts of our CSO members without whom this National Action Plan (NAP) would not be possible. We also thank the OGP support Unit Staff members Ms. Shreya Basu (Regional Civil Society Coordinator, Asia Pacific) and Mr. Abhinav Bahl (Program Manager, Government Support and Exchange) for advising and supporting us throughout this process.

*Pushpi Weerakoon*  
**OGP Civil Society Coordinator**

## **OGP CSO STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

- Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne – Sarvodaya
- Sonali De Silva - Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF)
- Ariyapala Gamage - NNAF
- Mario Gomez - International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES)
- Shyamala Gomez - Fokus
- Hemanthi Goonesekera - Federation of Sri Lankan Local Govt. Authorities
- Buhary Mohammed - Eastern Social Development Foundation
- Asoka Obeyesekere – Transparency International Sri Lanka
- Maithreyi Rajasingham - Viluthu
- Annet Royce - SevaLanka Foundation
- C. Senerathne - NGO Management Development Centre
- Jeevan Thiagarajah - Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies (CHA)
- Sriyanie Wijesundera – Centre for Policy Alternatives

# THEME: HEALTH

## Commitment 1: Improving public access to preventive and curative strategies to combat Chronic Kidney Disease

A mysterious chronic kidney disease (CKD) has been killing thousands of Sri Lankans. In 20 years the disease has left more than 20,000 people dead and affected more than 400,000; some villages report it causes as many as 10 deaths a month. For those already affected by this disease, care is often inadequate. The country has just 183 dialysis machines, forcing most villagers to receive less than the three recommended weekly treatments<sup>1</sup>. In the absence of reliable information, fear and rumours are driving thousands to seek desperate measures, including many which are unscientific and spurious. CKD should be viewed like any public health issue where health promotion, prevention, early detection, treatment and rehabilitation principles would apply. The selection of the appropriate strategy depends on the scientific basis, current epidemiology, plausibility of behavioural change where it applies, economic feasibility and political interest. Whilst the Ministry of health being the agency to take the lead on Public health can identify the prevention strategic plan, its implementation would depend on greater understanding of the public and the efforts of other relevant non health sector actors.

A prevention strategic plan has not been developed although some measures have been taken based on strengths of individual advocacy. These interventions have been carried out as inter-sectoral approaches related to pesticide, fertilizer regulation and provision of safe water. Engaging the public would help decision makers to consolidate and implement more effective prevention strategies to reduce the occurrence of CKD.

The other pressing concern of the ministry of health has been to expand services for dialysis for those affected with CKD. There is no reliable information available to those affected and citizens at large on the availability of dialysis machines and medicines in public hospitals.

**Responsible Agency:** Ministry of Health

**Timeline:** July 2016 – July 2018

Improving public access to preventive and curative strategies to combat Chronic Kidney Disease	
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Ministry of Health NCD unit and Health Education Bureau, Presidential Task force for CKDu.
<b>Other Actors</b>	Sarvodaya, Patient's Rights Movement, People's Health Movement (Civil Society), College of Community Physicians of Sri Lanka
<b>Issues to be Addressed</b>	At present the public is not aware of prevention, mitigation and coping strategies on CKD, including accessing information on critical medical interventions.
<b>Main Objective</b>	Increase the level of understanding of the public regarding prevention, mitigation and coping with CKD and engage civil society in developing the prevention plan
<b>OGP Challenge</b>	Creating Safer Communities. Improving Public Services.

<sup>1</sup> The Independent (UK). 18 January 2015

<b>OGP Principles</b>	<b>Transparency</b>	<b>Accountability</b>	<b>Public Participation</b>
<b>Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment</b>	New or on-going:	Start Date:	End Date:
1. Establish a multi-stakeholder forum to draft a prevention strategic plan and recommend changes to health policy	New		Nov. 2016
2. Publish key information related to the government's measures to combat CKD, including a list of medical facilities, the services being offered, the budget allocated for CKD and key policies on the ministry website and through media	New	end Nov	Jan 2017
3. Conduct island wide public consultations and campaigns to disseminate key information (no. 2 above)	New	June 2017	June 2018
4. Institutionalize feedback mechanisms in medical facilities offering treatment for CKD to elicit responses on access to, quality of and reliability of facilities and services.	New	June 2017	June 2018
5. Publish semi-annual reports of citizen/user feedback on access, quality and reliability of facilities and services offered on CKD.	New	Dec 2017	June 2018
<b>Indicator</b>	The Ministry of Health, Peoples Health Movement and Patients' Rights Movement together will take the initiative to design and implement the project with greater public participation - # of messages finalized. # of public consultations held		
<b>Risks and Assumptions</b>	The pervasive nature of the issue will catalyse government and citizens to respond proactively to the proposed interventions.		

## Commitment 2: Transparent Policy to Provide Safe and Affordable Medicines for All

Essential medical drugs play an important role in preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative health care. Sri Lanka is proud to sustain a free and universal healthcare system, which has helped it score high on health indicators for the country (such as life expectancy and utilization of health services). However, there still exist disparities in the implementation of this system. Even if medical care is free, if safe and affordable medical drugs are not available to the general public, it will affect people's health in a significantly negative way.

In Sri Lanka, non-availability and shortage of drugs in government hospitals and clinics are having disastrous consequences. The quality and cost of drugs is also a serious problem for the people. This commitment aims to improve national health standards and ensure safe and affordable medicines will be available to all. The appointment of an advisory board to the National Medicinal Drug Regulatory Authority (NMDRA) and its collaboration with the respective government authority in assessing implementation will increase government accountability and transparency.

**Responsible Agency:** Ministry of Health

**Timeline:** July 2016 – July 2018

Transparent Policy to Provide Safe and Affordable Medicines for All			
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Ministry of Health, National Medicinal Drug Regulatory Authority (Government), Medical Supplies Division		
<b>Other Actors</b>	Sarvodaya Patient's Rights Movement, People's Health Movement (Civil Society).		
<b>Issues to be Addressed</b>	At present there is no oversight from civil society on national health standards and their implementation. There have been many cases of significant price fluctuations, poor quality drugs and non-availability of medication. This policy will address these issues by guaranteeing public oversight of the availability of safe and affordable medications through an advisory board to the National Medicinal Drug Regulatory Authority (NMDRA).		
<b>Main Objective</b>	Increase the level of availability and affordability of quality essential medicines in the country.		
<b>OGP Challenge</b>	Improving health		
<b>OGP Principles</b>	Transparency	Accountability	Public Participation
<b>Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment</b>	New or on-going:	Start Date:	End Date:
1. Appointment of the advisory board to the national medicinal drug regulatory authority (NMDRA) with representation from CSOs/Health Activists	New	July 2016	Sept. 2016
2. Establish an institutionalized monitoring system to ensure essential drug availability (RMSD, Institution level) with provision for public feedback	On-going		Dec 2016
3. All government hospitals and clinics to ensure provision of quality essential medicines at all times and ensure public dissemination of the information through display boards	New	Sept. 2016	June 2018



4. Establish a rating system for private pharmacies that will be based on availability of essential medicines at affordable pricing and make that information public through a web portal	New	August 2016	Jan 2017
5. Public awareness on the rating system for private pharmacies based on the availability of essential medicines at an affordable price	New	Jan 2017	June 2017
<b>Indicator</b>	The Peoples Health Movement and Patients' Rights Movement will take the lead in designing and implementing this initiative with greater public participation.		
<b>Risks and Assumptions</b>	The government will help to ensure that the NMDRA is properly established and functional.		

## Commitment 3: National Health Performance

Sri Lanka's health sector is largely seen as successful due to its effective public delivery system, which provides both preventive and curative care at a low cost<sup>2</sup>.

Public healthcare is free for all citizens and accounts for almost all preventive care and most in-patient treatment. However, the public health sector has inadequate capacity, limited access to specialist treatment and inconsistent service standards<sup>3</sup>.

To mitigate some of these challenges, the Health Strategic Master Plan developed by the Government of Sri Lanka has framed a National Health Performance Framework to provide citizens with information regarding health sector effectiveness, efficiency and equity, and empower civil society to play an active role in ensuring that these goals for national health are met at a grassroots level.

Citizens would make use of health performance information in different ways to create a healthy dialogue and voice their interest for health development. Performance information will also be useful to create more awareness on the need for supporting change in health behaviour/ supportive policies from other sectors. The availability of such information will be a positive trigger to create this dialogue.

**Responsible Agency:** Ministry of Health

**Timeline:** July 2016 – June 2018

National Health Performance			
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Ministry of Health		
<b>Other Actors</b>	Sarvodaya, Patient's Rights Movement, People's Health Movement (Civil Society)		
<b>Issues to be Addressed</b>	Since the disaggregated health budget is not known/available to the public, there is no oversight from civil society of national health performance measures. This policy will address this issue by ensuring public oversight in setting and achieving national health goals.		
<b>Main Objective</b>	Establish a national health performance framework.		
<b>OGP Challenge</b>	Improving Public Services (Health)		
<b>OGP Principles</b>	Transparency	Accountability	Public Participation
<b>Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment</b>	New or on-going:	Start Date:	End Date:
1. Ministry of Health to publish detailed health budget and spending information	New	Jan 2017	March 2017
2. Raise awareness on the National Health Performance Framework (NHPF) through public consultations	New	Sept 2016	Dec 2016
3. Popularise the NHPF through the Ministry of Health website, newspapers, radio, television, public campaigns and the internet.	New	Jan 2017	June 2017
4. Citizens will be actively involved in monitoring the implementation of the framework through a public forum on a quarterly basis.	New	Jan 2017	June 2018

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Health Sri Lanka (2016). *Health Strategic Master Plan (2016-2025)*.

<sup>3</sup> The Economist Intelligence Unit (2014). *Sri Lanka's Healthcare Challenges*

5. Findings and deliberations from the forum to be systematically discussed with government counterparts to ensure follow up actions	New Jan 2017 June 2018
<b>Indicator</b>	This initiative will consist of a joint partnership between the Ministry of Health and active civil society organizations.
<b>Risks and Assumptions</b>	<p>The framework needs to be updated with time to capture more sensitive and specific indicators as per the country health system requirement.</p> <p>Overall sector performance will set the pace for more detailed monitoring of health programmes and sub national performance assessments</p> <p>The performance framework identifies contributions that can be made by other sectors for health improvement, which can be mobilized effectively through public awareness and empowerment.</p>

# THEME: EDUCATION

## Commitment 4: Ensuring transparency and impartiality in teacher recruitment policy and process in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka faces many challenges with regards to both the availability and quality of teachers. Each year, teachers are recruited to meet the needs arising from both enrolment increases and teacher attrition. There are over 230,000 teachers in the school system in Sri Lanka– 84 per cent and 16 per cent of them are in provincial and national schools, respectively<sup>4</sup>.

There are two entry paths into public teaching: recruitment by the Provincial Councils; or by the Ministry of Education. Recruitment under both paths is generally based on subject- specific job vacancies. A recent study<sup>5</sup> on public school teacher management in Sri Lanka highlights three trends: “First, the number of entrants with a master’s degree or higher are small in each of the years, and the number of entrants with a GCE ordinary level qualification become negligible after the 1990s. Second, there are large spikes in the number of entrants in some years such as 1989, 1990, and 2005, when over 15,000 entered service in each of those years. Third, the ratio of entrants with a GCE advanced level qualification to those with a bachelor’s degree varies markedly across the years, from a low of 1:5 in 1985 to a high of 4:1 in 2007 (an average of 3:2 over the entire period). While these patterns are mainly due to formal adjustments in recruitment rules and requirements, some patterns—for example the recruitment spikes in certain years—are arguably due to arbitrary adjustments in recruitment requirements stemming from political considerations”.

The report also records instances when rules related to minimum academic qualifications and subject-specific vacancies were relaxed. For example, Provincial Councils at times recruited individuals with GCE advanced level qualifications, rather than university degree holders, to fill critical vacancies in certain subjects or at disadvantaged locations. As political concession, public sector jobs were dispensed to university degree holders during periods when the private labour market was weak. At these times, teacher recruitment was based on total vacancies rather than their subject breakdown, leading to over-recruitment in certain subjects (for example, arts and social science subjects) and under-recruitment in others (for example, science, math, English, and computer literacy).

Under gridding these trends and observations is the lack of transparency in the recruitment and transfer policies.

**Responsible Agency:** Ministry of Education, Provincial Governments and Viluthu

**Timeline:** August 2016 – July 2018

Ensuring transparency and impartiality in teacher recruitment policy and process in Sri Lanka	
Lead Agency	Ministry of Education
Other Actors	Viluthu
Issues to be Addressed	Lack of transparency regarding teacher appointments and transfers.
Main Objective	Address arbitrary recruitments and postings of teachers through creating an open and transparent process.
OGP Challenge	Improving public services. Increasing public integrity. More effectively managing public resources.

<sup>4</sup> Raju, Dushyanth. 2016. *Public School Teacher Management in Sri Lanka: Issues and Options*. Washington DC.: The World Bank

<sup>5</sup> Ibid no. 1 above

<b>OGP Principles</b>	Transparency	Accountability	Public Participation
<b>Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment</b>	New or on-going:	Start Date:	End Date:
<b>1.</b> Ministry of Education to publish and make transparent the criteria and data about teacher selection, appointment, transfers, and subject selection, on the Ministry website, newspapers (in all languages) and regular circulars. The datasets will be made available in an open data format and hosted in the open data portal of the government of Sri Lanka.	New	August 2016	Nov 2016
<b>2.</b> Ministry of Education to appoint an independent review committee consisting of government (including teachers) and civil society stakeholders (including parents) to review the process of appointments and subject allocation, enhance information sharing and publish review recommendations in the public domain.	New	December 2016	April 2017
<b>3.</b> Report of the independent review committee will be widely disseminated in the public domain through ministry website, print and visual media and consultations with sector CSOs.	New	July 2017	June 2018
<b>Indicator</b>	This project is not currently operational. The project will consist of a joint partnership between the Ministry of Education and active civil society organizations in the education sector.		
<b>Risks and Assumptions</b>	There could be resistance from some sectors on making appointments and postings transparent. However, strong commitment from the ministry coupled with active support from sector CSOs will ensure that the momentum of reforms will be maintained.		

# THEME: INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

## Commitment 5: Enhance the services of the Government Information Centre (GIC- 1919) for Inclusive, Transparent, Accountable and Efficient Governance, using ICT as an enabler

Bridging the information gap between citizens and the government using ICT tools to make the Government open and accessible to the citizens through innovative approaches including digital services, has become prominent in the recent past across the world. There are many success stories under e-Government initiatives and the citizens' readiness to access and use these services is very conducive for promoting the Open Government Partnership across multiple geographic and demographic settings, and delivers many "quick wins" or "low-hanging fruit". In addition to the Government taking actions to open up its data and processes to the citizens, these ICT platforms could be productively used for bottom up approaches, i.e. the citizen's feedback to the Government.

The current ICT boost of Sri Lanka, especially the high penetration of connectivity, including the internet and the continually increasing ICT/digital literacy has opened new vistas for citizens' engagement in the governance process. This is further enhanced with high availability of mobile devices and the emergence of various ICT tools/apps to make citizen's lives more convenient.

The Government Information Centre (GIC – 1919) of Sri Lanka operates under the Information & Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka, and has completed 10 years of service this year (2016). It is one prominent example of citizen – government – private sector engagement that showcases key characteristics of Open Government: inclusiveness, transparency, accountability and efficient governance. The trilingual call centre facility and the associated institutional knowledge bases are key components, which have made the lives of citizens' more convenient when they seek information on government services and related processes. GIC has also been recognized globally, including in the Global Summit for Information Society (GSIS). The OGP initiative is an opportunity for the Ministry of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure and ICTA to enhance the services of GIC further with the assistance of the Civil Society Organizations, especially Sarvodaya Fusion.

**Responsible Agency:** Ministry of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure

**Timeline:** July 2016- Dec 2017

Enhance the services of the Government Information Centre (GIC- 1919) for Inclusive, Transparent, Accountable and Efficient Governance, using ICT as enabler		
Lead Agency		Ministry of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure
Other Actors	Government	Information and Telecommunication Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA)
	Civil Society, Private Sector	Sarvodaya Fusion, Sri Lanka Telecom
Issues to be Addressed		1. Information on citizens services by the government does not reach citizens promptly 2. Lack of a strategic approach and leadership to propagate existing GIC infrastructure to build upon its achievements during the past 10 years.

<b>Main Objective</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase citizens' awareness of citizen services through the GIC–Call centre + website + SMS alerts system etc.</li> <li>2. Effective and efficient use of ICT to provide government information as a part of the Right to Information (RTI) commitments</li> </ol>		
<b>OGP Challenge</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Need to introduce innovative, cost-effective and citizen-friendly platforms to engage both citizens and government and maximize benefits of new and emerging technologies.</li> <li>2. Optimize government's investments on ICT infrastructure and citizens' engagement to synergize OGP objectives.</li> </ol>		
<b>OGP Principles</b>	Transparency	Accountability	Public Participation
<b>Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment</b>	New or on-going:	Start Date:	End Date:
<b>1.</b> Engage the Divisional Secretariats, Nenasala/Telecentre network to make citizens aware of GIC services, assess their key needs (eg. by "IT Yahamaga" of Sarvodaya Fusion and ICTA's "Smart Social Circles") and produce one survey report every 6 months, and make it publicly available.	New	Sep 2016	Nov 2016
<b>2.</b> Training the Chief Innovation Officers (CIOs) of government agencies to develop institutional knowledge bases related to public services (5 sessions). 50 CIOs to be trained in each session, covering all key government organizations (Ministries, Departments, District Secretariats, Provincial Councils and Key Statutory bodies. If required, training could be expanded to Divisional Secretariats and Local Authorities too)	New	Oct 2016	Dec 2017
<b>3.</b> Increase the number of institutions covered under the Government Information Centre (GIC – 1919) Call Centre facility from 194 to 250 and diversifying the services offered through the facility – E.g. Tracking status of requests, personalized email feedback, text messages and social media upon subscription (by 2017, at least 2 additional service per institutions to be introduced with the assistance of ICTA.)	On-going (GIC is at 10 <sup>th</sup> year of operation)	Nov 2016	July 2017

<p><b>4.</b> Enhance the service platform of the GIC website (www.gic.gov.lk) and update the Citizens' Service Charter Information (produced by each organization in consultation with their internal and external stakeholders to reflect the changes in standard of services) for 10 key services (identified by ICTA using GIC call registries) and introduce the alternative of using SMS facilities for the same service</p>	<p>New                                      Sep 2016                                      Dec 2016</p>
<p><b>5.</b> Stocktaking of the improved project with key partners of the Government (MTDI/ICTA/SLT), Trade Union representatives and civil society organizations.</p>	<p>New                                      Oct 2017                                      Dec 2017</p>
<p><b>Indicator</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. By 2018, "GIC-1919" expected to be accessed by at least 30% of the citizens</li> <li>2. Improve the response/feedback time per query by 20% by January 2018</li> <li>3. Total No. of knowledge bases and back office processes updated/improved.</li> <li>4. Number of citizens' complaints on errors and delays. (Before, during and after the implementation)</li> </ol>
<p><b>Risks and Assumptions</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Need for a full-time Project Manager to be assigned for the present GIC project of ICTA (#45).</li> <li>2. Enhancement of key services of GIC should be done with sufficient consultation of citizens</li> <li>3. Ensure that citizens are adequately aware of the e-Gov services and GIC's role as a facilitator</li> <li>4. Capacity building of the Call Centre operators at SLT.</li> </ol>



## Commitment 6: Promote the Open Data Concept and delivering the benefits to Citizens through ICT

The necessity of Open Data for both Government and citizens has been well defined under the OGP. However, the Concept of Open Data is yet to be conveyed to a wide range of stakeholders by the strategic usage of ICT. Further, there is a need to define the boundaries of the government's openness. Therefore, a standard mechanism for data classification must be created and be mandatorily backed by a government policy directive. The benefits of OGP, in return should reach citizens through innovative ICT tools, as successfully demonstrated by other countries of this partnership.

**Responsible Agency:** Ministry of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure

**Timeline:** July 2016 – July 2018

Promote the Open Data Concept and delivering the benefits to Citizens through ICT			
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Ministry of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure		
<b>Other Actors</b>	Information and Telecommunication Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA) and CSOs involved in ICT		
<b>Issues to be Addressed</b>	Citizens' lack of opportunities to effectively access government held data and improving the accessibility of the same.		
<b>Main Objective</b>	Promote Open Data using ICT platforms and ensure citizens get its benefits using similar technologies		
<b>OGP Challenge</b>	Need to introduce innovative and citizen-friendly platforms to engage both citizens and government and maximize benefits of new and emerging technologies		
<b>OGP Principles</b>	Transparency	Accountability	Public Participation
<b>Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment</b>	New or on-going:	Start Date:	End Date:
<b>1. Revamp website (<a href="http://www.data.gov.lk">www.data.gov.lk</a>) with already available data sets of different government agencies (by ICTA Project #24)</b>	New	Aug 2016	Feb 2017
<b>2. Survey on citizens' demand on government data sets (through Nenasala/Smart Social Circles)</b>	On-going	Aug 2016	July 2018
<b>3. Open consultation on Data and Services Classification (with Open Data/Data Sharing Policy) based on the draft prepared by ICTA.</b>	On-going (but dormant)	Sep 2016	Dec 2016
<b>4. Enhance the current 89 data sets of various government institutes and</b>	New	Aug 2016	Dec 2017

<b>increase it to 200 by end of 2016 and 500 by July 2018 (by ICTA)</b>	
<b>Indicator</b>	By 2018 the initiative will be fully operative.
<b>Risks and Assumptions</b>	Timely availability of data/feedback from partner organizations Rapid improvement of digital devices and platforms, so that development should take care of such variations to not to make the solutions inefficient or obsolete.

# THEME: ENVIRONMENT

## **Commitment 7: Transparent Environmental Decisions: Restoring the Public's Right to Comment on Initial Environmental Examination and Government Accountability on Public Comments**

The Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes were introduced to the National Environmental Act (NEA) by an amendment in 1988 and was implemented in 1993 after the gazetting of the relevant regulations. Both these processes had public participation provisions until an amendment to the NEA in 2000 took away the public's right to comment on IEEs. Until this amendment, public comments were called through a notice published in the government gazette and in the newspapers in all three languages. As it stands today, the public have the right to comment only on EIA reports which are only notified through the newspapers, while IEEs are merely public documents for the purposes of the Evidence Ordinance and are only open for inspection by the public. The decision to approve through both IEEs and EIAs is notified through the newspaper. Without notice to the public on the availability of IEEs (as is the case with EIAs), it is unlikely that the public will get to know of projects that are approved through IEEs.

This is unsatisfactory and discriminatory, especially in respect of projects where the affected public may be residing far away from the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) Registry where such reports are likely to be kept. In addition, since there are no guidelines in the NEA for determining whether a project needs an IEE or an EIA the removal of the public notice and participation provisions in respect of IEE Reports may encourage Project Approving Agencies and developers to opt for the latter in preference to an EIA irrespective of the actual environmental impacts. An example is the approval of a mini hydropower project in the Koskulana River bordering the Sinharaja World Heritage Site through an IEE. The public became aware of the project through the media only after it was approved and after hearing about the damage caused to the Sinharaja World Heritage Site.

Similarly, the IEE process under the Coast Conservation and Coastal Resources Management Act (CCCRMA) does not provide for public comments in respect of IEEs. An amendment to the CCCRMA in 2011 gives the Director General of CCCRM the discretion to call for an IEE and/or an EIA upon receipt of an application for a development permit for a development activity within the Coastal Zone. The Minister is empowered to prescribe by regulation categories of development activities for which an IEE is not necessary. In order to ensure that environmental impacts are adequately addressed when implementing projects, it is necessary that the IEE process under the CCCRMA is also open for public comments.

In addition to the aforesaid laws the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance No.2 of 1937 as amended (FFPO) and the North Western Province Environmental Statute No.12 of 1990 as amended (NWPES) also provide for the IEE/EIA process. However, unlike the NEA and CCCRMA, the FFPO and the NWPES require that IEEs are open for public comments.

It needs to be stressed that where public law allows comments on IEEs/EIAs, the decision making agencies need to be accountable for the public comments received. In order to ensure the same, the

decision-making agency must list the comments received on IEEs and EIAs and indicate whether the comments were addressed or not when arriving at the project approval decision.

Therefore, it is proposed that:

- (a) Relevant amendments are made to (i) the NEA and its regulations; and (ii) the CCCRMA, the CCCRMP and regulations to restore/include the public's right to study and comment on IEE Reports before projects are approved; and
- (b) Relevant amendments are made to (i) the NEA and its regulations; (ii) the CCCRMA, the CCCRMP and regulations (iii) the FFPO and its regulations and (iv) the NWPES and its regulations to include provisions ensuring government accountability on public comments on IEEs and EIAs.

**Responsible Agencies:** Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment (MMDE), Central Environmental Authority (CEA) and Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource Management Department (CCCRMD), the Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWLC) and the North Western Province Environmental Authority (NWPEA), Sri Lanka and Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF) and other interested NGOs and CSOs.

**Timeline:** July 2016- July 2018

<b>Transparent Environmental Decisions: Restoring Public's Right to Comment on IEEs and government accountability on Public Comments'</b>		
<b>Lead Agency</b>		Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment (MMDE)
<b>Other Actors</b>	<b>Government</b>	Central Environmental Authority (CEA) and Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource Management Department (CCCRMD), the Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWLC) and the North Western Province Environmental Authority (NWPEA),
	<b>Civil Society, Private Sector</b>	(Sri Lanka and Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF) and other interested NGOs and CSOs.
<b>Issues to be Addressed</b>		Lack of provisions in the NEA and CCCRMA to include public participation in the IEE process.  Lack of government accountability on public comments received on IEEs and EIAs
<b>Main Objective</b>		Ensuring public participation/transparency in environmental decision making and government accountability on public comments on IEEs and EIAs
<b>OGP Challenge</b>		Increasing safer communities, Increasing corporate accountability, Increasing Public Integrity, Improving Public Services, More Effectively Managing Public Resources

OGP Principles	Transparency	Accountability	Public Participation
Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment	New or on-going:	Start Date:	End Date:
<b>National Environmental Act (NEA) Amendments</b>			
1. One or two meetings/discussions with the MMDE and CEA to advocate the need for the relevant amendments to the NEA and its regulations.	New	July 2016	Sep 2016
2. Drafting amendments to the NEA and its regulations to restore provisions on public participation in the IEE process and to ensure government accountability on public comments received on IEEs and EIAs.  PILF can assist the MMDE and CEA in this endeavour.	New	Sep 2016	Nov 2016
3. Amendments to NEA and regulations with aforesaid provisions passed by Parliament	New	Nov 2016	Oct 2017
4. Enforcement of the amendments to NEA and regulations by the CEA	New	Nov 2017	
5. CEA to facilitate the enforcement of the aforesaid amendments to NEA and regulations by strengthening its EIA unit and provincial branches with adequate staff, necessary budgetary allocations and other required facilities	New	July 2017	July 2018
6. Approx. 03 workshops to create awareness amongst respective government agencies and public officers on:-  a) the requirement of opening up IEEs for public comments as per the amendment to the NEA and regulations; and  b) the government accountability provisions.	New	Jan 2018	July 2018
7. (A) Approx. 04 programmes each on State owned television and radio to create awareness amongst the civil society on:  (i) the reintroduction of public participation provisions on IEEs as per amendments to the NEA and regulations and how to make effective and responsible comments on the same; and  (ii) Government accountability provisions.  (B) Dissemination of aforesaid information through the websites of the <i>MMDE and CEA</i>	New	Jan 2018	July 2018

<b>Coast Conservation and Coastal Resources Management Act (CCCRMA) Amendments</b>			
1. One or two meetings/discussions with the MMDE and CCCRMD to advocate the need for the relevant amendments to the CCCRMA, CCCRMP and regulations	New	July 2016	Sep 2016
2. Drafting amendments to the CCCRMA, CCCRMP and regulations to include provisions on public participation in the IEE process and to ensure government accountability on public comments received on IEEs and EIAs.  PILF can assist the CCCRMD in this endeavour.	New	Sep 2016	Nov 2016
3. Amendments to CCCRMA, CCCRMP and regulations with aforesaid provisions passed by Parliament	New	Nov 2016	Oct 2017
4. Enforcement of the amendments to CCCRMA, CCCRMP and regulations by the CCCRMD	New	Nov 2016	
5. CCCRMD to facilitate the enforcement of the aforesaid amendments to CCCRMA, CCCRMP and regulations by strengthening its EIA unit with adequate staff, necessary budgetary allocations and other required facilities	New	July 2017	July 2018
6. Approx. 03 workshops to creating awareness amongst respective government agencies and public officers on:-  a) the requirement of opening up IEEs for public comments as per the amendment to the CCCRMA, CCCRMP and regulations; and  b) the government accountability provisions.	New	Jan 2018	July 2018
7. A) Approx. 04 programmes each on State owned television and radio to create awareness amongst the civil society on:  i) the introduction of public participation provisions on IEEs as per amendments to the CCCRMA, CCCRMP and regulations and how to make effective and responsible comments on the same; and  ii) Government accountability provisions.	New	Jan 2018	July 2018

B) Dissemination of aforesaid information through the websites of the <i>MMDE and CCCRMD</i>			
<b>Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance (FFPO) and North Western Province Environmental Statute (NWPES) Amendments</b>			
1. One or two meetings/discussions each with the DWLC and NWPEA to advocate the need for the relevant amendments to the FFPO and NWPES and its regulations	New	Sep 2016	Nov 2016
2. Drafting amendments to the FFPO and NWPES and its regulations to ensure government accountability on public comments received on IEEs and EIAs.  PILF can assist the DWLC and NWPEA in this endeavour.	New	Nov 2016	Jan 2017
3. Amendments to FFPO and NWPES and regulations with aforesaid provisions passed by Parliament and the North Western Provincial Council	New	Jan 2017	Nov 2017
4. Enforcement of the amendments to FFPO and NWPES and regulations by the DWLC and the NWPEA	New	Nov 2017	
5. DWLC and the NWPEA to facilitate the enforcement of the aforesaid amendments to the FFPO and the NWPES and regulations by strengthening its EIA units with adequate staff, necessary budgetary allocations and other required facilities	New	Aug 2017	July 2018
6. Approx. 03 workshops to create awareness amongst respective government agencies and public officers on government accountability provisions.	New	Jan 2018	July 2018
7. (A) Approx. 04 programmes each on State owned television and radio to create public awareness on the government accountability provisions in the FFPO and NWPES.  (B) Dissemination of aforesaid information through the websites of the DWLC and NWPEA	New	Jan 2018	July 2018
<b>Indicator</b>	(i) NEA and regulations amended to reintroduce public participation provisions in the IEE process and to introduce government accountability provisions  (ii) CCCRMA, CCCRMP and regulations amended to include public participation provisions in the IEE process and to introduce government accountability provisions		

	(iii) FFPO and NWPES and regulations amended to introduce government accountability provisions
<b>Risks and Assumptions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reluctance of CEA, CCCRMD and other government agencies to bring back/introduce public participation into the IEE process</li> <li>• Reluctance of CEA, CCCRMD, DWLC and NWPEA to introduce government accountability provisions</li> <li>• Resistance by developers and other investors on bring back/introducing public participation to the IEE process.</li> <li>• Lack of political will on introducing government accountability provisions to the law</li> </ul>



# THEME: LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## Commitment 8: Transparent and Accountable Procurement System for Local Authorities in Sri Lanka

Local Authorities are the closest governance entity to citizens providing essential services from “Womb to tomb”. The services provided by Local Authorities are financed by transfers from the Central and/or Provincial Governments or from revenue generated by the Local Authorities. The procurement procedure in the Local Authorities is generally guided by the system that is universal to all state entities. Nevertheless the difference is that Local Authorities are legally an incorporated body that has a legal identity and status of an independent unit, hence the procurement procedures can only be supervised and guided not mandated and enforced. Local Authorities are responsible for most of the medium to small scale infrastructure development activities that are taking place at village and city levels including improving thoroughfares, markets, crematoriums, parks etc. In addition, there are many services that are delivered to citizens including waste management, libraries, free clinics and recreation facilities, which are procured by the councils independently.

In terms of procurement, currently there are two systems that are being followed i.e. direct award and tender process to procure goods and services and both these methods are done with the approval of the councils. As per the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Constitution, chapter XIXB a “Procurement Commission” was established and accordingly per clause number 156 (H) the Commission is vested with the powers to formulate fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and cost effective procedures and guidelines, for the procurement of goods and services, works, consultancy services and information systems by government institutions and cause such guidelines to be published in the Gazette and within three months of such publication, to be placed before Parliament.”

Therefore, under the purview of the “Procurement Commission” it is essential to develop guidelines for Local Authorities to ensure that a transparent and accountable procurement system is implemented. In addition, this guideline needs to provide space for suitable members including representatives from Civil Society to be represented in procurement committees established in the councils in order to minimize malpractices and to be accountable for total procurement processes.

Timeline: August 2016- June 2018

Transparent and Accountable Procurement System for Local Authorities in Sri Lanka		
Lead Agency		Local Government Authorities
Other Actors	Government	Ministry of Provincial Councils and Local Government & Procurement Commission
	Civil Society, Private Sector	Federation of Sri Lankan Local Govt. Authorities
Issues to be Addressed		Local authorities are responsible for procurement of goods and services that are essential to provide optimum services to their constituencies. Often it is noted that public funds are wasted due to malpractices and corruption.
Main Objective		To establish a transparent and accountable procurement system for local authorities
OGP Challenge		Improving public integrity. More effectively managing public resources.

<b>OGP Principles</b>	Transparency	Accountability	Public Participation
<b>Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment</b>	New or on-going:	Start Date:	End Date:
<b>1.</b> Guidelines prepared by FSLGA for Municipalities, Urban Councils and Pradeshiya Sabha's will be reviewed by a committee consisting of the Procurement Commission, FSLGA, Ministry of Local Government and representatives from Civil Society	New	August 2016	
<b>2.</b> Incorporate required amendments to the reviewed Procurement Guidelines	New	Nov 2016	Dec 2016
<b>3.</b> Approval obtained from "Procurement Commission and Ministry of Local Government on the final guidelines	New	Jan 2017	Sep. 2016
<b>4.</b> Gazetting out the relevant procurement guidelines and approval from Parliament for the same.	New	Jan 2017	March 2017
<b>5.</b> Government to publicise the procurement guides through mass & social media and make copies of the same available for the public at the local authorities/councils.	New	Jan 2017	
<b>6.</b> Printing and distribution to the councils	New	Feb 2017	March 2017
<b>7.</b> Creating awareness among all Local Authorities, Commissioners offices of Local Govt. and Assistant Commissioners of Local Govt. (In collaboration with Sri Lanka Institute for Local Governance)	New	April 2017	Nov. 2017
<b>8.</b> Publicly disseminating the guidelines through websites and through display boards in all Local Authorities	New	April 2017	Nov. 2017
<b>9.</b> Implementation and Monitoring the New System – by all Local Authorities (Monitoring by Commissioners/Assistant Commissioner office of Local Govt.) and civil societies through 'citizens report cards'.	New	Jan 2018 onwards	
<b>10.</b> Establish a transparent grievance redress mechanism to be operative in 3 concurrent forms – online, a telephone hotline and through an ombudsperson in all three languages	New	June 2017	
<b>Indicator</b>	<p>In Feb 2017 – three Procurement Manuals will be published.</p> <p>In March 2017 – 335 Local Authorities and 9 Commissioners offices and 25 Assistant commissioners offices received the new manuals</p> <p>In Nov 2017 – Secretaries and Commissioners of 335 Local Authorities and 9 commissioners and 25 Asst. Commissioners are aware of the new procurement guidelines.</p> <p>In January 2018 – all 335 local authorities are following the recommended guidelines.</p>		

<b>Risks and Assumptions</b>	<p><b>Assumptions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Councils are trained as per the schedule prescribed above</li> <li>- Adequate resources are available to publish and build capacities of commissioners and secretaries of the councils.</li> <li>- Frequent staff changes are not happening in councils and trained staff remains in the councils.</li> <li>- Commissioners and secretaries are committed to follow the guidelines</li> <li>- New Council chairpersons agree to adhere to the recommended methods.</li> <li>- Proper monitoring is being carried out by the assistant commissioners and commissioner's offices to ensure that the guidelines are followed and necessary corrective actions are taken for councils that are not following the recommendations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Risks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Delay in reviewing the manuals by the responsible institutions due to other exigencies.</li> <li>- Adequate resources are not available with the partner institutions who are responsible for outreach.</li> <li>- Frequent staff transfers</li> <li>- New councillors and chairpersons may need time to comprehend the systems and hence may fall out of line with the recommended methods.</li> </ul> <p>Announcement of elections and other external dynamics.</p>
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# THEME: WOMEN

## **Commitment 9: Annual Work Plan of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs to include a transparent and accountable process to implement key observations of the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).**

Sri Lanka ratified CEDAW in 1981. Upon ratification, Sri Lanka has an obligation to report to CEDAW every 4 years. At the last periodic state review in 2011, where Sri Lanka was reviewed, CEDAW issued numerous concluding observations to the Sri Lankan government. As a signatory to CEDAW, the Government of Sri Lanka is obliged to follow up on the concluding observations.

In the framework of this commitment, the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs will follow up on specific concluding observations on selected areas; Personal Law reforms, gender equality in state land distribution and non-discrimination in the formal and informal employment sectors. Consultations with the community will increase the accountability of the ministry of Women and Child Affairs to the public and will allow women's networks to directly participate in improving public services and increasing public integrity.

As an end result, the government is to take concrete actions with the accountability to implement the concluding observations with the inclusion of a transparent process and civilian participation. The progress made in implementation could be reported as government's progress at the next state review.

**Responsible Agency:** Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Civil Society Organizations

**Timeline:** July 2016- August 2018

<b>Annual Work Plan of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs to include a transparent and accountable process to implement selected CEDAW concluding observations.</b>		
<b>Lead Agency</b>		Ministry of Women and Child Affairs
<b>Other Actors</b>	<b>Government</b>	National Committee on Women, Ministry of Land, Ministry of Justice
	<b>Civil Society, Private Sector</b>	Interest group related CSOs
<b>Issues to be Addressed</b>		There has been little follow up on the CEDAW 2011 Concluding Observations after the state review. Incorporating the implementation of selected concluding observations into the annual work plan of the Ministry will ensure a transparent and a systematic process of follow up which involves interested civil society organizations. This will also ensure better coordination between different Ministries to implement the concluding observations. The different Ministries will be held accountable to ensure the operationalization of the concluding observation.
<b>Main Objective</b>		Increase the level of accountability of Ministry of Women and Child Affairs in Personal Law reforms, gender equality in state land distribution and through non-discrimination in the formal and informal employment sectors.

<b>OGP Challenge</b>	Improving Public Services, Increasing Public Integrity		
<b>OGP Principles</b>	Transparency	Accountability	Public Participation
<b>Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment</b>	New or on-going:	Start Date:	End Date:
<b>Personal Law Reforms</b>			
1. Report on divisional secretariat level consultations with Muslim and Tamil community to elicit their views.	New	Sep 2016	Dec 2016
2. Report on consultations with lawyers, judges, and religious leaders to elicit their views made available to the public.	On-going	Sep 2016	Dec 2016
3. Law on certificate of absence passed	New	Aug 2016	Nov 2016
4. Send the Cabinet paper on the findings of # 1 and # 2 reports to the Cabinet for follow up implementation by the Ministry.	New	Jan 2017	Feb 2017
5. Quarterly meetings of the Committee comprising of Ministry reps and CSOs to monitor progress and to promote transparency in the process by the Ministry providing an update on the status of the suggested amendments	New	Sep 2016	Aug 2017
6. Amendments to Personal Laws in Parliament	New	Mar 2018	Aug 2018
<b>Gender equality in state land distribution</b>			
1. Draft Land Development Ordinance amendment is presented in Parliament	New	Mar 2017	Apr 2017
2. Inter-Ministerial meeting held with the participation of AG's Department and interested CSOs on joint ownership in state land distribution.	New	May 2017	
3. Quarterly meetings of the Committee comprising of Ministry reps and CSOs to monitor progress on #1 & #2	New	Mar 2017	Aug 2018

<b>Non-discrimination in formal and informal employment sector</b>			
<b>1.</b> Prioritize thematic areas from CEDAW concluding observations on employment	New	Oct 2016	Nov 2016
<b>2.</b> Publishing information on gender discrimination in selected thematic areas in formal and informal sector employment for greater transparency and reporting data in open data format	New	Dec 2016	May 2017
<b>3.</b> Public consultation with civil society to Propose guidelines on protection of women in the formal and informal employment sector	New	June 2017	Aug 2018
<b>4.</b> Quarterly meetings of the Committee comprising of Ministry reps and CSOs to monitor progress on #3	New	Dec 2016	Aug 2018
<b>5.</b> Sharing progress of the OGP commitment on Concluding Observations with CSOs and other relevant stakeholders.	New	June 2018	June 2018
<b>Indicator</b>	Minutes of quarterly meetings of the Committees established to monitor progress.		
<b>Risks and Assumptions</b>	It may be necessary to have sufficient funding.		

# THEME: WOMEN IN POLITICAL GOVERNANCE

## Commitment 10: Strengthening Women Participation in the political decision making process at the local level

The Sri Lankan Constitution commits to gender equality and non-discrimination and recognizes affirmative action to bring about positive changes. These commitments are enshrined in the Women's Charter of Sri Lanka (1993) and the National Plan of Action for Women (1996) that reflect Constitutional commitments as well as international commitments to CEDAW. Despite these commitments to gender equality, women's participation in politics is still at a 6% low level in the national and local government.

In the South Asian region, Sri Lanka presents a sorry picture with all the peer countries reporting better ranks globally as depicted below<sup>6</sup>:

Countries in SA	Percentage	Place
Nepal	29.5%	47th
Afghanistan	27.7%	50th
Pakistan	27.7%	83rd
Bangladesh	20%	87th
India	12%	141st
Bhutan	8.5%	163rd
Maldives	5.9%	173rd
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>5.8%</b>	<b>175<sup>th</sup></b>

The Beijing +20 Review<sup>7</sup> of the situation in Sri Lanka makes the following observation regarding women in politics. "It is possible to identify many forms of political participation in Sri Lanka, ranging from voting and contesting at elections to attendance at political meetings and rallies, membership in political organizations, participation in political strikes and demonstrations, as well as participation in unconventional and illegal activities like terrorism. Women make up half of the electorate in Sri Lanka as in most countries around the world and have the right to vote going back to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Yet women's representation in the decision making sphere of politics, namely in political representation, remains woefully low despite years of activism. According to the latest statistics women's representation in politics is less than six percent at all levels, national, provincial and local. This low level of women's representation has always been seen as a conundrum in a country which has performed well on other indicators on women such as education and health".

In 2016 the law pertaining to Local Government was amended to include a 25% mandatory quota for women.

**Responsible Agency:** Election Commission

**Timeline:** June 2016- March 2017

Strengthening Women Participation in the political decision making process at the local level		
<b>Lead Agency</b>		Election Commission
<b>Other Actors</b>	<b>Government</b>	Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, and Ministry of Local Government Sri Lanka

<sup>6</sup> Inter Parliamentary Union (as on June 1, 2016). <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>

<sup>7</sup> <http://countryoffice.unfpa.org/srilanka/drive/CENWOR-BPFARreport2015-.pdf>

	Civil Society, Private Sector	Centre for Policy Analysis, Women and Media Collective, Women NGO Forum, Centre for Women’s Research, Sri Lanka Local Government Association, PAFFREL, Uva Shakthi Foundation, Maanawa Shakthi Foundation		
Issues to be Addressed	Ensure increased number of women candidates in elections to the local government by widely publicizing salient features of the Local Government Amendment Bill.  Bring together women whose capacity to enter politics has been built over the years through numerous programmes. Create a pool of women ready to enter local government politics and raise awareness among political parties to select trained women.  Ensure that all the names of the candidates (men and women) are publicized early by the Election Commission, including profiles of the candidates.			
Main Objective	To ensure the nomination and election of qualified women to local government authorities through a transparent publicized process followed by political parties.			
OGP Challenge	Increasing Public Integrity			
OGP Principles	Transparency	Accountability	Public Participation	
Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment	New or on-going:	Start Date:	End Date:	
1. Trained women planning on contesting for local government elections brought together to advocate for nominations.	New	Oct 2016	Nov 2016	
2. Political parties nominate trained qualified women for 2017 local government elections	New	Nov 2016		
3. Political parties provide financial and other support for nominated women to carry out political campaigns under party banners	New	Nov 2016	2017	
4. Publicity campaign tracking women’s 2017 entry into local government from nomination to contesting to election	New	Nov 2016	2017	
5. Names and profiles of all candidates (including women) released to the public ahead of local elections	New	Nov 2016		
Indicator	1. # Trained women nominated to local government 2. Commonly agreed criteria for the selection of women for nominations 3. Publicly available final list of candidates 4. # Trained women elected			
Expected Outcome	Transparent and publicized political party processes of nominating and supporting the contesting of women into local government			
Risks and Assumptions	<b>Risk:</b> resistance from the political parties. <b>Assumptions:</b> It is assumed that the current political environment would prevail as it is until the end of the implementation.			



# THEME: CORRUPTION

## Commitment 11: Strengthen the anti-corruption framework to increase constructive public participation

Freedom from corruption is a crucial and inseparable element of open government, and must be approached from the dual perspective of apprehension and prevention. The acknowledgment of the prevalence of corruption in the state sector and elsewhere serves as a necessary precedent to addressing the problem in a comprehensive fashion. A multi-stakeholder approach is necessary to ensure the method of addressing the problem is representative and participatory, while ensuring a strong legislative framework that is compliant with Sri Lanka's UNCAC obligations.

**Timeline:** August 2016- June 2018

<b>Strengthen the anti-corruption framework to increase constructive public participation</b>			
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Office of the President, CIABOC (Independent Commission)		
<b>Other Actors</b>	FCID, Attorney-General's Department, All organizations and coalitions interested in anti-corruption efforts (Civil Society, Private Sector)		
<b>Issues to be Addressed</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The non-conformity with the State's UNCAC and Article 156A (Constitution) obligations, including the need for the inclusion of the private sector in the anti-corruption framework as referred to in Milestone 1.</li> <li>2. Proliferation of anti-corruption agencies and lack of information-sharing</li> <li>3. No assessment and findings published on the need for a cadre of independent investigators</li> <li>4. Absence of a national corruption prevention strategy</li> <li>5. Lack of regulation of political campaign financing</li> <li>6. Inability to disseminate asset declarations available to the public</li> <li>7. The disconnect in the mandate of corruption investigation and money laundering investigations</li> <li>8. Restrictions to the sharing of information between corruption investigation bodies due to Section 17 of the CIABOC Act</li> <li>9. Citizens lack information pertaining to the individuals/entities who provide resources to support candidates at elections. This absence prevents citizens from fully understanding the accountability of their elected officials to those who provide resource support or their electorate</li> </ol>		
<b>Main Objective</b>	To strengthen anti-corruption framework and facilitate tri partite; public, private, civil society oversight and ownership of anti-corruption effort.		
<b>OGP Challenge</b>	Improve public service deliveries, economical and effective management of state resources, constructive civic engagement in public decision making mechanisms and increase public integrity		
<b>OGP Principles</b>	Transparency	Accountability	Public Participation
<b>Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment</b>	New or on-going:	Start Date:	End Date:

1. Government to appoint multi-stakeholder monitoring council comprising government officials, civil society and private sector representatives to monitor the implementation of the mandatory and non-mandatory recommendations (1-15) as found in Sri Lanka's UNCAC Implementation Action Plan	New	September 2016	June 2018
2. Office of the President to initiate the introduction of a constitutional amendment/inclusion in the new Constitution – to recognize freedom from corruption in the Directive Principles of State Policy as an element that guides the state in the formulation of its policy	New	August 2016	Jan. 2017
3. a) CIABOC to submit a budget of its projected expenses for preventing and combating corruption for the year to the Ministry of Finance with public justifications	New	August 2016 May 2017 May 2018	August 2016 June 2017 June 2018
b) Government to allocate requested budgetary provisions in its annual national budget estimates with public justifications in case of discrepancy	New	Nov. 2016 Nov. 2017	Dec. 2016 Dec. 2017
c) CIABOC to publicly report on annual expenditure allocations and spending for the year 2017, without prejudice to on-going investigations	New	Jan. 2018	March 2018
4. a) Office of the President to establish an ad hoc multi-stakeholder committee comprising of government, civil society and the private sector in consultation with CIABOC to review the mandates of existing corruption investigation agencies to ensure the avoidance of duplication of efforts, enhanced information sharing (e.g. amendment to s.17 CIABOC	New	August 2016	Dec. 2016

Act) and specialized, independent investigations into allegations of corruption.			
b) Multi-stakeholder committee on corruption investigation agency mandates to publish its findings in the public domain	New	Jan. 2017	August 2017
c) Government and CIABOC to implement recommendations of the multi-stakeholder committee on corruption investigation agency mandates and each agency to annually publicly report on instances of duplication	New	August 2017	June 2018
d) Civil society to publicly monitor progress of implementation of the findings of such committee.	New	August 2017	June 2018
5. Office of the President to initiate the amendment of election laws to include a declarations register of the quantum and sources of campaign contributions	New	Jan. 2017	Dec. 2018
6. a) CIABOC to initiate legislative amendments for the repealing of sections 7(4), 7(5) and 8 of the Declaration of Assets and Liabilities Act to allow publication and dissemination of information obtained through a request for such declaration of assets and liabilities, which will be communicated to the Office of the President	New	Sep. 2016	March 2017
b) Government to table and enact legislation referred to in Milestone 7(a)	New	March 2017	June 2017
7. a) CIABOC to initiate legislative amendments to broaden CIABOC's scope to include the offence of 'money	New	Jan. 2017	March 2017

laundering' where the predicate offences fall under CIABOC's mandate (in line with UNCAC Article 14)			
b) Government to table and enact legislation referred to in Milestone 8(a)	New	April 2017	July 2018
c) CIABOC to publish statistical data on money laundering cases, without prejudice to on-going investigations (number of cases, outcomes of closed cases, etc.)	New	Jan. 2018	June 2018
<p>8. CIABOC to establish an Interagency Corruption Prevention Council which, in consultation with civil society and the private sector, will be in-charge of the overall corruption prevention drive in Sri Lanka. The council will facilitate the input of state, private sector and civil society to develop a two-year corruption prevention action plan. This action plan will assign implementation goals across the state, private sector and civil society to undertake to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Mainstream corruption prevention across public agencies,</li> <li>b) Ensure clear oversight roles as well as monitoring &amp; evaluation,</li> <li>c) provide sufficient resources for corruption prevention,</li> <li>d) base the prevention action plan on a holistic and robust assessment of the anti-corruption system (e.g National Integrity System Assessment),</li> <li>e) allow for meaningful participation by non-state actors, particularly civil society in the design of the action plan</li> </ul>	New	Jan. 2017	June 2018

9. Government to introduce a declaration /oath of zero-tolerance for corruption to be displayed prominently in the entrances of all state offices with the contact details of the CIABOC complaints hotline	New	October 2016	Sep. 2017
<b>Indicator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New legislation</li> <li>▪ Corruption prevention action plan finalized</li> <li>▪ Multi-stakeholder consultations</li> <li>▪ Interagency Corruption Prevention Council appointed</li> <li>▪ Declaration/oath of zero-tolerance for corruption published in each state office</li> </ul>		
<b>Risks and Assumptions</b>	<p>Assumptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Corruption will be tackled with a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectorial approach</li> <li>▪ Government agencies will be open to enhanced inter and intra collaboration and information-sharing</li> <li>▪ Independent Commissions share and support Government commitments</li> </ul> <p>Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No clear line Ministry</li> <li>▪ Resistance to <i>bona fide</i> reform within the Government</li> </ul>		

# THEME: RIGHT TO INFORMATION

## Commitment 12: The enactment and implementation of the RTI Act

The legal recognition of the citizens' Right to Information and an effective mechanism whereby they are able and empowered to access such information is essential to create a culture of transparency and accountability in governance, and to encourage civic participation therein. It also serves as a tool for the systematic elimination of corruption. It balances the power of the people against the concentration of power in public authorities. The components of a democracy - such as representation, accountability, and participatory decision-making - are facilitated by the introduction of a dynamic RTI framework.

*Timeline:* August 2016- June 2018

Commitment 1: The enactment and implementation of the RTI Act		
<b>Lead Agency</b>		<i>Ministry of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media</i>
<b>Other Actors</b>	Government	Presidential Secretariat, Ministry of Public Administration and Management, Right to Information Commission, Sri Lanka Judges' Institute and state media
	Civil Society, Private Sector	Thematic-related CSOs (e.g- Health, Corruption, Education, Empowerment of Women, etc.)
<b>Issues to be Addressed</b>		<p>The RTI Bill has not yet been enacted, and needs the Speaker's certificate to have the force of law.</p> <p>Resources need to be allocated and the State has to roll out the entire RTI infrastructure.</p> <p>Systems (including ICT) have to be developed for record management, reporting, proactive disclosure and responding to requests.</p> <p>Public Authorities and their respective officials have to be trained and sensitized to the principles and processes of RTI.</p> <p>This includes ensuring the autonomy of appointed Information and Designated Officers.</p> <p>There is an on-going need for the government to engage in public awareness campaigns to ensure that citizens are equipped to utilise the established RTI mechanism.</p>
<b>Main Objective</b>		To strengthen anti-corruption framework and facilitate tri partite; public, private, civil society oversight and ownership of anti-corruption effort.
<b>OGP Challenge</b>		Improve public service deliveries, economical and effective management of state resources, constructive civic engagement in public decision making mechanisms and increase public integrity

OGP Principles	Transparency	Accountability	Public Participation
Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment	New or on-going commitment	Start Date:	End Date:
<b>1. The Enactment of the RTI Act</b> a) Ministry in charge of the subject of mass media to ensure RTI requests can commence being processed from within 6 months of the Speaker certifying the RTI Act	New	August 2016	February 2017
<b>2. Appointment and training of key RTI actors, including Information Commissioners and their staff and the Information Officers</b>	New	August 2016	September 2016
a) Ministry in charge of the subject of mass media and/or the Commission to develop the initial Terms of Reference for Information Officers and Designated Officers	New	August 2016	September 2016
b) Ministry in charge of the subject of mass media to conduct 4 training programmes for all Ministry-level Information Officers and Designated Officers for the performance of their duties under the Act on the following themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Value of RTI and their role</li> <li>• Receiving and responding to requests</li> <li>• Proactive disclosure</li> <li>• Records-management</li> </ul>	New	October 2016	August 2017
c) Ministry in charge of the subject of mass media to facilitate training of RTI Commissioners and commission staff by resource persons from RTI Commissions in comparable jurisdictions	New	November 2016	June 2018
d) Ministry in charge of the subject of mass media to sensitize and train public authorities – In order to change the mind-set of secrecy to one of civic participation, accountability and assistance to citizens	New	August 2016	June 2018
<b>3. Resource Allocation, Procedures and Processes</b> a) Ministry in charge of the subject of mass media to appoint an RTI implementation co-ordination officer	New	August 2016	September 2016

b) RTI implementation co-ordination officer to conduct/commission a study on comparative jurisdictions for best practice on procedure and processes of RTI implementation	New	September 2016	October 2016
c) RTI Commission to publish rules in the Gazette as per the provisions of the Act including details of information to be provided free of charge on a proactive basis	New	October 2016	November 2016
d) RTI Commission to publish record management guidelines for public authorities	New	November 2016	January 2017
e) Ministry in charge of the subject of mass media to Gazette regulations as per the provisions of the Act	New	August 2016	October 2016
f) Ministry in charge of the subject of mass media to request the Ministry of Finance to include RTI resource allocation in the provisional and annual national budget	New	August 2016	August 2016
g) Presidential Secretariat to develop the Government Information Centre Helpline (GIC -1919) into the main voice-based trilingual central RTI request portal, which would transmit requests in writing to relevant Public Authorities for response.	New	August 2016	December 2017
h) Ministry in charge of the subject of mass media to facilitate the development of a system that allows for the tracking, monitoring and reporting of RTI requests analytics.	New	August 2016	December 2017
i) Parliament to amend Official Secrets Act No. 32 of 1955 and the Establishments Code for RTI compliance – Ensure contradicting secrecy or similar provisions are amended in line with RTI framework	New	August 2016	August 2017



<b>4. Raising Public Awareness</b> a) Ministry in charge of the subject of mass media, in collaboration with other relevant state actors, to conduct at least 3 media awareness campaigns targeted at 3 categories: the general public, social welfare recipients and women	New	February 2017	January 2018
b) Ministry in charge of the subject of mass media, in collaboration with other relevant state actors, to conduct a targeted public awareness campaign for thematic training on the use of RTI in diverse fields for civil society	New	February 2017	January 2018
c) Government to allocate one-hour weekly slot for an RTI show on a State electronic media – Discussion around key RTI cases, activists, accomplishments, debates, etc.	New	August 2017	June 2018
d) Government to ensure publication of RTI-related content in State newspapers in Sinhala, Tamil and English fortnightly.	New	August 2017	June 2018
<b>5. Proactive Disclosure</b> a) Each Ministry and public authority to proactively disclose and update in a manner accessible to the public, an annual inventory of documents to be publicly available, and the information required to be reported to the RTI Commission under Section 8(2) and Section 10 of the RTI Act.	New	February 2017	June 2018
b) Each Ministry and public authority to publish and update information made public as per Milestone 5(a) on their respective website.	New	February 2017	June 2018
<b>Indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ RTI Act enacted</li> <li>▪ Information officers appointed in every state public authority</li> <li>▪ RTI requests facilitated in accordance with provisions of the RTI law in every state public authority</li> <li>▪ Consistent reporting to the Commission by public authorities</li> </ul>		

<b>Risks and Assumptions</b>	<p>Assumptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ RTI Act is passed by end August 2016</li> <li>▪ The final RTI Act is in concurrence with established RTI principles</li> <li>▪ Sufficient resources allocated for the effective rollout of the RTI framework</li> </ul> <p>Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implementation is not achieved within six months</li> <li>▪ Public service is resistant to disclosing information</li> </ul>
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