



OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

SRI LANKA

OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (OGP)

Sri Lanka National Action Plan 2015 to 2017

Affirming that Government of Sri Lanka established in 2015 was elected on a policy platform of which good governance and anti-corruption are foundational and key components, along with political reforms.

Recognizing hence, that there is now, great interest among the international community of nations on Sri Lanka's progress in implementing good governance, anti-corruption and political reforms.

Deciding, to build further on the significant gains and advances made by the Government of Sri Lanka in the area of good governance since January 2015 including through the one hundred (100) day program.

Further recognizing that the good governance program and mandate of 2015 had strong backing from civil society organizations and accordingly civil society is a stakeholder in good governance reforms and that the OGP also has as its essential ethos, a partnership between government and civil society. The OGP process in Sri Lanka is a partnership between government and civil society.

Reiterating Sri Lanka's commitment to the Joint Declaration on Open Government for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development signed during the OGP Global Summit held in Mexico in October 2015.

Accordingly, further to Sri Lanka's submission of its Letter of Intent and endorsing the OGP declaration and committing to its objectives, thereby Sri Lanka became a participating country of the OGP.

The following commitments to promote transparency, accountability and public participation (TAP) in the thematic areas of health, education, Information & communication technology, environment, anti corruption, local government, right to information and women's issues, in a manner which is specific, measurable, relevant and time bound constitute, Sri Lanka's National Action Plan (NAP) for the Open Government Partnership (OGP) for the two year period from 2015 to 2017.

TABLE OF CONTENT

THEME: HEALTH

Commitment 1: Improving public access to preventive and curative strategies to combat Chronic Kidney Disease	-03
Commitment 2: Transparent Policy to Provide Safe and Affordable Medicines for All	-05
Commitment 3: National Health Performance	-07

THEME: EDUCATION

Commitment 1: Ensuring transparency and impartiality in teacher recruitment policy and process in Sri Lanka	-09
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THEME: INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Commitment 1: Enhance the services of Government Information Center (GIC- 1919) for Inclusive, Transparent, accountable and Efficient Governance, using ICT as enabler	- 11
Commitment 2: Promote the Open Data Concept and delivering the benefits to Citizens through ICT	- 14

THEME: ENVIRONMENT

Commitment 1: Transparent Environmental Decisions: Restoring the Public's Right to Comment on Initial Environmental Examination and Government Accountability on Public Comments	- 16
--	------

THEME: LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Commitment 1: Transparent and Accountable Procurement System for Local Authorities in Sri Lanka	-22
---	-----

THEME: WOMEN

Commitment 1: Annual Work Plan of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs to include a transparent and accountable process to implement selected Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Concluding Observations.	-25
--	-----

THEME: WOMEN IN POLITICAL GOVERNANCE

Commitment 1: Strengthening Women Participation in the political decision making process at the local level	- 28
---	------

THEME: CORRUPTION

Commitment: Strengthen the anti-corruption framework to increase constructive public participation	-31
--	-----

THEME: RIGHT TO INFORMATION

Commitment 1: The enactment and implementation of the RTI Act	- 36
---	------

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 treatments¹. In the absence of reliable information, fear and rumors 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, and plausibility of behavior change where it applies, economic feasibility and political interest. Whilst the Ministry of health being the agency to take 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 sectors.

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 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 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	
Lead Agency	Ministry of Health NCD unit and Health Education Bureau, Presidential Task force for CKDu.
Other Actors	Sarvodaya, Patient's Rights Movement, People's Health Movement (Civil Society), College of Community Physicians of Sri Lanka
Issues to be Addressed	At the present the public is not aware of prevention, mitigation and coping strategies on CKD, including accessing information on critical medical interventions.
Main Objective	Increase the level of understanding of public regarding prevention, mitigation and coping with CKD and engage civil society in developing the

¹ The Independent (UK). 18 January 2015

	prevention plan		
OGP Challenge	Creating Safer Communities. Improving Public Services.		
OGP Principles	Transparency	Accountability	Public Participation
Milestones to Fulfill the Commitment	New or ongoing:	Start Date:	End Date:
1. Establish a multi-stakeholder forum to draft prevention strategic plan and recommend changes to health policy	New		Nov. 2016
2. Publish key information related to government's measures to combat CKD, including list of medical facilities and services being offered, budget allocated for CKD and key policies in 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
Indicator	The Ministry of Health, Peoples Health Movement and Patients Rights Movement together will take the initiative to designing and implementing the project with greater public participation # of messages finalized. # of public consultations held		
Risks and Assumptions	The pervasive nature of the issue will catalyze 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 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 collaboration in assessing implementation will also 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			
Lead Agency	Ministry of Health, National Medicinal Drug Regulatory Authority (Government), Medical Supplies Division		
Other Actors	Sarvodaya Patient's Rights Movement, People's Health Movement (Civil Society).		
Issues to be Addressed	At the present there is no oversight from civil society of the 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).		
Main Objective	Increase the level of availability and affordability of quality essential medicines in the country.		
OGP Challenge	Improving health		
OGP Principles	Transparency	Accountability	Public Participation
Milestones to Fulfill the Commitment	New or ongoing:	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	Ongoing		Dec 2016

3. All government hospitals and clinics 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 availability of essential medicines at an affordable price	New	Jan 2017	June 2017
Indicator	The Peoples Health Movement and Patients Rights Movement will take the lead in designing and implementing this initiative with greater public participation.		
Risks and Assumptions	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 low cost². 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 standards³.

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 behavior/ 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

Improving public access to preventive and curative strategies to combat Chronic Kidney Disease			
Lead Agency	Ministry of Health		
Other Actors	Sarvodaya, Patient's Rights Movement, People's Health Movement (Civil Society)		
Issues to be Addressed	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.		
Main Objective	Establish a national health performance framework.		
OGP Challenge	Improving Public Services (Health)		
OGP Principles	Transparency	Accountability	Public Participation

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

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

Milestones to Fulfill the Commitment	New or ongoing:	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
5. Findings and deliberations from the forum to be systematically discussed with government counterparts to ensure follow up actions	New	Jan 2017	June 2018
Indicator	This initiative will consist of a joint partnership between the Ministry of Health and active civil society organizations.		
Risks and Assumptions	<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 detail monitoring of health programs 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 1: Ensuring transparency and impartiality in teacher recruitment policy and process in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka faces many challenges with regards to 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, respectively⁴.

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 study⁵ on public school teacher management in Sri Lanka highlights three trends: “First, the numbers of entrants with a master’s degree or higher are small in each of the years, and the numbers of entrants with a GCE ordinary level qualification become negligible after the 1990s. Second, there are large spikes in the numbers 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 labor 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.

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

⁵ Ibid no. 1 above

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	To create an open and transparent process on recruitments and postings of teachers.		
OGP Challenge	Improving public services. Increasing public integrity. More effectively managing public resources.		
OGP Principles	Transparency	Accountability	Public Participation
Milestones to Fulfill the Commitment	New or ongoing:	Start Date:	End Date:
1. Ministry of Education to publish and make transparent criteria and data about teacher selection, appointment, transfers, and subject selection, on Ministry website, newspaper (in all languages) and regular circulars. The datasets will be made available in open data format and hosted in the open data portal of government of Sri Lanka.	New	August 2016	Nov 2016
2. 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
3. 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
Indicator	The policy will be jointly implemented by the Ministry of Education in partnership with civil society organizations active in the education sector.		
Risks and Assumptions	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 1: Enhance the services of Government Information Center (GIC- 1919) for Inclusive, Transparent, accountable and Efficient Governance, using ICT as enabler

Bridging the information gap between citizens and government using ICT tools to make the Government more close and open 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 Open Government Partnership across multiple geographic and demographic settings, and delivers many "quick wins" or "low-hanging fruits". In addition to 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 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 life more convenient.

The Government Information Service (GIC – 1919) of Sri Lanka, operates under the Information & Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka completes 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 center facility and the associated institutional knowledge bases are key components which has made citizens' life much convenient when they seek information on government services and related processes. GIC has been also recognized globally, including in the Global Summit for Information Society (WSIS). The OGP initiative is an opportunity for the Ministry of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure and ICTA to enhance it 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 Government Information Center (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		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information on citizen's services by the government does not reach citizens promptly 2. Lack of strategic approach and leadership to propagate existing GIC infrastructure build upon its achievements during the past 10 years. 		
Main Objective		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase citizens' awareness of citizen services through the GIC-Call centre + website + SMS alerts system etc. 2. Effectively and efficient use of ICT to provide government information as a part of RTI commitments 		
OGP Challenge		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 2. Optimize government's investments on ICT infrastructure and citizens' engagement to synergize OGP objectives. 		
OGP Principles		Transparency	Accountability	Public Participation
Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment		New or ongoing:	Start Date:	End Date:
1. Engage the Divisional Secretariats, Nenasala/Telecentre network to make citizens aware of GIC services and assess their key needs (eg.by "IT Yahamaga" of Sarvodaya Fusion and ICTA's "Smart Social Circles"). Produce One Survey report for every 6 month, and will be made publicly available)		New	Sep 2016	Nov 2016
2. Training of the Chief Innovative 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

3. Increase the number of institutions covered under the Government Information Centre (GIC – 1919) Call Centre facility from 194 to 250, also 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.)	Ongoing (GIC is at 10 th year of operation)	Nov 2016	July 2017
4. Enhance the service platform of the GIC (www.gic.gov.lk) along with updating 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 SMS facility for citizens	New	Sep 2016	Dec 2016
5. Stocktaking of the improved project with key partners of the Government (MTDI/ICTA/SLT), Trade Union representatives and civil society organizations.	New	Oct 2017	Dec 2017
Indicator	1. By 2018, "GIC-1919" is accessed by at least 30% of the citizens 2. Improve the response/feedback time per query by 20% by January 2018 3. Total No. of knowledge bases and back office processes updated/improved. 4. Number of citizens' complaints on errors and delays. (Before, during and after the implementation)		
Risks and Assumptions	1. Need for a full-time Project Manager to be assigned for the present GIC project of ICTA (#45). 2. Enhancement of key services of GIC should be done with sufficient consultation of citizens 3. Ensure that citizens are adequately aware of the e.Gov services and GIC's role as a facilitator 4. Capacity building of the Call Centre operators at SLT.		

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

4. Enhance the current 89 data sets of various government institutes and increase it to 200 by end of 2016 and 500 by July 2018 (by ICTA)	New	Aug 2016	Dec 2017
Indicator	By 2018 the initiative is fully operative.		
Risks and Assumptions	<p>Timely availability of data/feedback from partner organizations</p> <p>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.</p>		

THEME: ENVIRONMENT

Commitment 1: 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 since 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 a newspaper in all three languages. As it stands today the public have the right to comment only on EIA reports which is notified through the newspaper only, 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 public on the availability of IEEs (as in EIAs), it is most 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. A civil society provided example is the approval of a mini hydropower project in the Koskulana River bordering the Sinharaja World Heritage Site through an IEE. Public became aware of the project through the media only after the same was approved and damaged 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

Transparent Environmental Decisions: Restoring Public's Right to Comment on IEEs and government accountability on Public Comments'		
Lead Agency		Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment (MMDE)
Other Actors	Government	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),
	Civil Society, Private Sector	(Sri Lanka and Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF) and other interested NGOs and CSOs.
Issues to be Addressed		<p>Lack of provisions in the NEA and CCCRMA to include public participation in the IEE process.</p> <p>Lack of government accountability on public comments received on IEEs and EIAs</p>

Main Objective	Ensuring public participation/transparency in environmental decision making and government accountability on public comments on IEEs and EIAs		
OGP Challenge	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 ongoing:	Start Date:	End Date:
National Environmental Act (NEA) Amendments			
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 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 NEA and regulations; and b) the government accountability provisions.	New	Jan 2018	July 2018

<p>7. (A) Approx. 04 programmes each on State owned television and radio to create awareness amongst the civil society on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>(B) Dissemination of aforesaid information through the websites of the <i>MMDE and CEA</i></p>	New	Jan 2018	July 2018
Coast Conservation and Coastal Resources Management Act (CCCRMA) Amendments			
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	New	Jan 2018	July 2018

<p>officers on:-</p> <p>a) the requirement of opening up IEEs for public comments as per the amendment to the CCCRMA, CCCRMP and regulations; and</p> <p>b) the government accountability provisions.</p>			
<p>7. A) Approx. 04 programmes each on State owned television and radio to create awareness amongst the civil society on:</p> <p>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</p> <p>ii) government accountability provisions.</p> <p>B) Dissemination of aforesaid information through the websites of the <i>MMDE and CCCRMD</i></p>	New	Jan 2018	July 2018
Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance (FFPO) and North Western Province Environmental Statute (NWPES) Amendments			
<p>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</p>	New	Sep 2016	Nov 2016
<p>2. Drafting amendments to the FFPO and NWPES and its regulations to ensure government accountability on public comments received on IEEs and EIAs.</p> <p>PILF can assist the DWLC and NWPEA in this endeavour.</p>	New	Nov 2016	Jan 2017
<p>3. Amendments to FFPO and NWPES and regulations with aforesaid provisions passed by Parliament and the North Western Provincial Council</p>	New	Jan 2017	Nov 2017
<p>4. Enforcement of the amendments to FFPO and NWPES and regulations by the DWLC and the NWPEA</p>	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
Indicator	<p>(i) NEA and regulations amended to reintroduce public participation provisions in the IEE process and to introduce government accountability provisions</p> <p>(ii) CCCRMA, CCCRMP and regulations amended to include public participation provisions in the IEE process and to introduce government accountability provisions</p> <p>(iii) FFPO and NWPES and regulations amended to introduce government accountability provisions</p>		
Risks and Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reluctance of CEA, CCCRMD and other government agencies to bring back/introduce public participation into the IEE process • Reluctance of CEA, CCCRMD, DWLC and NWPEA to introduce government accountability provisions • Resistance by developers and other investors on bring back/introducing public participation to the IEE process and on introducing government accountability provisions to the laws 		

THEME: LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Commitment 1: Transparent and Accountable Procurement System for Local Authorities in Sri Lanka

Timeline: August 2016- June 2018

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, 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 19th 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 represent in procurement committees established in the councils to minimize malpractices and to be accountable for total procurement processors.

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.		
OGP Principles	Transparency	Accountability	Public Participation
Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment	New or ongoing:	Start Date:	End Date:
1. Guide Lines prepared by FSLGA for Municipalities, Urban Councils and Pradeshiya Sabhas are reviewed by a committee consisting of Procurement Commission, FSLGA, and Ministry of Local Government and representatives from Civil Society	New	August 2016	
2. Incorporate required amendments to the reviewed Procurement Guidelines	New	Nov 2016	Dec 2016
3. Approval obtained from "Procurement Commission and Ministry of Local Government on the final guidelines	New	Jan 2017	Sep. 2016
4. Gazetting out the relevant procurement guidelines and approval from Parliament for the same.	New	Jan 2017	March 2017
5. 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	
6. Printing and distribution to the councils	New	Feb 2017	March 2017
7. 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
8. Publicly disseminating the guidelines through websites and through display boards in all Local Authorities	New	April 2017	Nov. 2017
9. 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	
10. 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	

Indicator	<p>In Feb 2017 – three manuals Procurement Manuals 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>
Risks and Assumptions	<p>Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Councils are reached as per the schedule prescribed above, for training - Adequate resources are available to publish, and building capacities of commissioners and secretaries of the councils. - Frequent staff changes are not happening in councils and trained staff remains in the councils. - Commissioners and secretaries are committed to follow the guidelines - New Council chairpersons agree to adhere to the recommended methods. - 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. <p>Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delay in reviewing the manuals by the responsible institutions due to other exigencies. - Adequate resources are not available with the partner institutions who are responsible for outreach. - Frequent staff transfers - New councillors and chairpersons may need time to comprehend the systems hence may fall in line with the recommended methods. <p>Announcement of elections and other external dynamics.</p>

THEME: WOMEN

Commitment 1: Annual Work Plan of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs to include a transparent and accountable process to implement selected Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Concluding Observations.

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 Sri Lankan government. As a state party, Sri Lankan government is obliged to follow up on the concluding observations.

In the framework of this commitment, the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs will follow upon specific concluding observations on selected areas; Personal Law reforms, gender equality in state land distribution, non-discrimination in formal and informal employment sector. Consultations with community will increase 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 concluding observations with the inclusion of a transparent process and civilian participation. The progress made by such an implementation could be reported as our 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

Annual Work Plan of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs to include a transparent and accountable process to implement selected CEDAW Concluding Observations.		
Lead Agency		Ministry of Women and Child Affairs
Other Actors	Government	National Committee on Women, Ministry of Land, Ministry of Justice
	Civil Society, Private Sector	Interest group related CSOs
Issues to be Addressed		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.		
Main Objective	Increase the level of accountability of Ministry of Women and Child Affairs in Personal Law reforms, gender equality in state land distribution, non-discrimination in formal and informal employment sector		
OGP Challenge	Improving Public Services, Increasing Public Integrity		
OGP Principles	Transparency	Accountability	Public Participation
Milestones to Fulfill the Commitment	New or ongoing:	Start Date:	End Date:
Personal Law Reforms			
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, religious leaders to elicit their views made available to the public.	Ongoing	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
Gender equality in state land distribution			
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
Non-discrimination in formal and informal employment sector			
1. Prioritize thematic areas from CEDAW concluding observations on employment	New	Oct 2016	Nov 2016
2. 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
3. Public consultation with civil society to Propose guidelines on protection of women in the formal and informal employment sector	New	June 2017	Aug 2018
4. Quarterly meetings of the Committee comprising of Ministry reps and CSOs to monitor progress on #3	New	Dec 2016	Aug 2018
5. Sharing progress of the OGP commitment on Concluding Observations with CSOs and other relevant stakeholders.	New	June 2018	June 2018
Indicator	Minutes of quarterly meetings of the Committees established to monitor progress.		
Risks and Assumptions	It may be necessary to have sufficient funding.		

THEME: WOMEN IN POLITICAL GOVERNANCE

Commitment 1: 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 below⁶:

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
Sri Lanka	5.8%	175th

The Beijing +20 Review⁷ 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 20th 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.

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

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

Responsible Agency: Election Commission

Timeline: June 2016- March 2017

Strengthening Women Participation in the political decision making process at the local level			
Lead Agency		Election Commission	
Other Actors	Government	Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, and Ministry of Local Government Sri Lanka	
	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		<p>Ensure increased number of women candidates in elections to the local government by widely publicizing salient features of the Local Government Amendment Bill.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Ensure that all the names of the candidates (men and women) are publicized early by the Election Commission, including profiles of the candidates.</p>	
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 ongoing:	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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<p>Risk: resistance from the political parties.</p> <p>Assumptions: It is assumed that the current political environment would prevail as it is until the end of the implementation.</p>

THEME: CORRUPTION

Commitment: 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

The enactment and implementation of the RTI Act	
Lead Agency	Office of the President, CIABOC (Independent Commission)
Other Actors	FCID, Attorney-General's Department, All organizations and coalitions interested in anti-corruption efforts (Civil Society, Private Sector)
Issues to be Addressed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To ensure conformity with the Constitution (Article 156A) and State's UNCAC obligations, including the need for the inclusion of the private sector in the anti-corruption framework as referred to in Milestone 1. 2. To ensure coordination and information sharing among various anti-corruption agencies. 3. Lack of an assessment and the findings to be published on the requirement for a cadre of independent investigators on corruption issues. 4. Lack of a national corruption prevention strategy. 5. Need to regulate political campaign financing including disclosure of donors and resource providers. 6. Inability to disseminate asset declarations available to the public. 7. Address the disconnection in the mandate of corruption investigation and money laundering investigations. 8. The need to amend section 17 of the CIABOC Act to share information between corruption investigation bodies.
Main Objective	To strengthen the anti-corruption framework and facilitate tri partite; public, private, civil society oversight and ownership of anti-corruption efforts.
OGP Challenge	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 Fulfill the Commitment	New or ongoing:	Start Date:	End Date:
1. Government to host a national anti-corruption summit	New	December 2016	
2. 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
3. Government to explore the inclusion in the new constitution a provision 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
4. 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
5. a) Government to establish an ad hoc multi-stakeholder committee comprising of government, civil society and the private sector in	New	August 2016	Dec. 2016

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 Act) and specialized and 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
6. Government to amend the election laws to include a disclosure (declarations register) of the quantum and sources of campaign contributions.	New	Jan. 2017	Dec. 2018
7. a) CIABOC will initiate and communicate to the president's office 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.	New	Sep. 2016	March 2017

b) Government to table and enact legislation referred to in Milestone 7(a).	New	March 2017	June 2017
8. a) CIABOC to initiate legislative amendments to broaden CIABOC's scope to include the offence of 'money laundering' where the predicate offences fall under CIABOC's mandate (in line with UNCAC Article 14).	New	Jan. 2017	March 2017
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
9. CIABOC to establish Inter-agency 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: a) Mainstream corruption prevention across public agencies, b) Ensure clear oversight roles as well as monitoring & evaluation, c) Provide sufficient resources for corruption prevention, d) Base the prevention action plan on a holistic and robust assessment	New	Jan. 2017	June 2018

THEME: RIGHT TO INFORMATION

Commitment 1: 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		
Lead Agency		<i>Ministry of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media</i>
Other Actors	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)
Issues to be Addressed		<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 ongoing need for the government to engage in public awareness campaigns to ensure that citizens are equipped to utilize the established RTI mechanism.</p>

Main Objective	To strengthen anti-corruption framework and facilitate tri partite;		
OGP Challenge	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	Transparenc	Accountability	Public
Milestones to Fulfill the Commitment	New or ongoing Commitment	Start Date:	End Date:
1. The Enactment of the RTI Act 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
2. Appointment and training of key RTI actors, including Information Commissioners and their staff and the Information Officers a) Constitutional council to appoint RTI Commission	New	August 2016	September 2016
b) 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
c) 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"> • Value of RTI and their role • Receiving and responding to requests • Proactive disclosure • Records-management 	New	October 2016	August 2017

d) 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
e) 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
3. Resource Allocation, Procedures and Processes			
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 examine & implement international best practices 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.	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
4. Raising Public Awareness			
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
5. Proactive Disclosure			
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
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RTI Act enacted ▪ Information officers appointed in every state public authority ▪ RTI requests facilitated in accordance with provisions of the RTI law in every state public authority ▪ Consistent reporting to the Commission by public authorities 		
Risks and Assumptions	<p>Assumptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The RTI Act is significantly more open and transparent disclosure of governance. ▪ Sufficient resources allocated for the effective rollout of the RTI framework <p>Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Above change requires significant shift in practices and processors. ▪ Implementation is not achieved within six months ▪ Public service is resistant to disclosing information 		