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The Open Government Partnership and Public procurement

Julia Keutgen, Senior Transparency Advisor

Illustration: Open Government Partnership (OGP)

Open contracting and public procurement is one of OGP's priorities

What is it?

1. International multi-stakeholder platform
2. ***Making governments/parliaments more open, accountable, and responsive to citizens***
3. Co-creation by civil society and government/parliaments

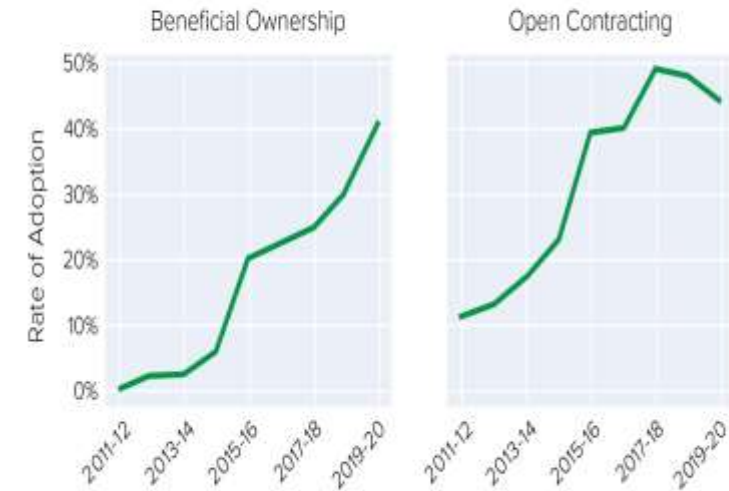
What impact?

1. Equal partnership between government/parliaments and civil society in creation, implementation and monitoring (major criteria in monitoring)
2. Roles and responsibility of the government/parliament and civil society
3. Raised the spectrum of public participation



1. OGP provides a platform for governments to adopt open contracting policies focused on disclosure, participation, and oversight throughout the entire procurement chain.
2. In OGP, over 70 members have open contracting commitments with the majority of commitments focused on information disclosure.
3. OGP members have also been piloting sector-specific application of open contracting reforms, such as in the health, infrastructure, and extractive sectors, establishing beneficial ownership registers for government suppliers, and creating opportunities to open up procurement markets to women, youth, persons with disabilities, and other under-represented communities.

Increasing Adoption of Beneficial Ownership and Open Contracting Reforms



Examples of OGP around the world



Lebanon and OGP

Lebanon's performance against the OGP minimum eligibility criteria:

- 1) publish the executive budget proposal and the audit report on an annual basis;
- 2) publicly disclose assets alongside a system to verify the accuracy of the declarations;
- 3) continue the implementation of ongoing open government reforms to improve the results of indices measuring civil liberties, civil society organisation (CSO) entry and exit, and CSO repression.





5 reasons why is important for civil society to engage with the parliament?

1. Parliament as an accountability actor holding government to account
2. Role of parliament in legislation, oversight, budget provides opportunity to influence and create new opportunities for civil society
3. Political nature of parliament: cross-party
4. Nature of parliament as a representative institution (repres democracy and particip democracy)
5. Post conflict setting: engagement with parliament to build a successful institution for the future



What have parliaments done to date in OGP?

- Reviewing and ratifying relevant legislation and securing input from citizens.
- Lending political support to open government initiatives.
- Improving implementation through parliamentary action and by publicly holding governments to account.
- Promoting sustainable open government reforms by building political traction across party lines and electoral cycles.
- Embracing open parliament reforms to cement and drive appetite for open government.
- Contributing where possible to the choice and design of open government commitments and ensuring these are 'state commitments' and do not simply reflect the interests of the government of the day.



WHAT ARE THE PILLARS OF OPEN PARLIAMENT REFORMS?

Improving public access to information about the work and practices of parliament. This could concern budgeting and expenses to account for the use for public funds, or more law-oriented data such as records of committee meetings and proceedings, voting outcomes, updates on bills etc.

Creating mechanisms to allow for public oversight of the legislature

Establishing channels of public engagement and ensuring inclusive and sustained participation

Embedding open practices and cultures within the parliament and MPs, such as through the adoption of ethical standards or new protocols or guidelines on transparency

Holding the executive to account for its open government commitments in the AP



Lessons learned from International Experiences

1. Generating and sustaining interest, political will and leadership for Open Parliament: formal, permanent parliamentary body, network of MP champion
2. Innovate in engaging CSOs: strategy to engage civil society
3. Pursue multiple channels to engage Governments: Open government approach

LESSONS
LEARNED

