

1. OGP Commitment Template - As on 04 December 2023

Country	South Africa		
Number and Name of the Commitment	Commitment number 1: Transformative fiscal transparency		
Brief Description of the Commitment	<p><i>(Describe what the commitment wants to do and would like to achieve in less than 200 characters.)</i></p> <p>a) Recapping from the previous National Action Plans, South Africa continues to champion fiscal transparency, to promote public access to financial information and thus promote accountability. However, fundamental issues persist with connecting transparency to meaningful public participation that has the potential to be transformative and that ensures accountability of the government.</p> <p>b) With the adoption by the Cabinet of the APRM-OGP complementarity, one of the APRM's thematic areas on "democracy and political governance" has identified "promoting the rule of law, re-inforcing accountability and combating corruption" as critical issues.</p> <p>c) Hence transformative fiscal transparency seeks to ensure that citizens have access to fiscal information that will empower them to hold public representatives accountable and thus play a key role in combating corruption.</p>		
Commitment Lead	National Treasury		
Supporting Stakeholders	Government	Civil Society	Other Actors (Parliament, Private Sector, etc)
	Department of Public Service and Administration	<p>APRM National Governing Council (NGC) as per the APRM-OGP Complementarity</p> <p>OGP Interim Steering Committee, which will formalised into a multi-stakeholder Forum as per the Roadmap.</p>	The sectors that constitute the NGC consists of sectors that come from organised labour, organised business, youth, faith-based organisations, arts and culture, and people with disabilities among others. All the aforesaid sectors are part and parcel of the oversight on the implementation of the issues arising from South Africa's
Period Covered	2023 to 2026 [four-year action plan] as per section 2.3 of the OGP National Handbook, 2022		

Problem Definition

1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?

Who are affected? Where is it taking place? How are they affected? When are they most affected? When did the problem start? How long has the problem impacted those affected?

1.1 South Africa's APRM Second Generation Review Report dated February 2022 APRM Review Report clearly identifies the challenge of corruption and its association with ineffective accountability as a topical issue. Since corruption depletes the capacity of the state to deliver on its mandate, the issue of corruption affects all levels of society.

1.2 The impact of corruption on the ability of the government to deal with unemployment, poverty, and inequality means that the poor are the most affected by the impact of corruption on the country's fiscus.

1.3 Hence transformative fiscal transparency empowers the citizens to have access to the requisite fiscal information kept by the government and thus help to re-inforce the accountability of the public representatives.

2. What are the causes of the problem?

Elaborate on your understanding of the causes of the problem. As much as possible, identify the root causes. Utilize problem analytical tools (e.g., problem tree, five whys, fishbone diagram, or other related methods) when necessary and provide evidence whenever possible.

The causes of the problem are multifaceted, though the APRM Review Report has among others identified the causes of corruption and lack of accountability as being exacerbated by weaknesses in the institutions that are meant to hold government accountable, inadequate consequent management in the public administration, insufficient capacity by the civil society to hold the government accountable.

Commitment Description

1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?

What solutions were made available for this problem in previous years? How successful have they been?

The Vuleka-mali portal which is hosted by the National Treasury, has been the primary platform to anchor transformative fiscal transparency, with a focus on national and provincial financial data. The Vuleka-mali portal has been successful in ensuring that civil society has access to the budget data of national and provincial departments.

Evidently more needs to be done to tackle the challenge of corruption and insufficient accountability by the government, especially at the local sphere of government.

2. What solution are you proposing?

What will you do to solve the problem? How does this differ from previous efforts? In what way will the solution solve the problem? How will the solution solve the problem? Will it solve the problem in its entirety or partially? What portion of the problem will it solve, if not the whole problem?

The solution that is specifically proposed is to expand the scope of institutions whose financial data will be available in Vuleka-mali portal to also include Schedules 3A and 3C public entities as defined in Public Finance Management Act, 1999.

Schedules 3A and 3C have the mandate to fulfil a specific economic or social responsibility of the government. They rely on government funding and public money, either by means of a transfer from the Revenue Fund or through statutory money.

Additionally, financial data for the local sphere of government will be added to be part of the transformative fiscal transparency through the addition of the GoMuni portal which can be

accessed at: Link to GoMuni: https://lg.treasury.gov.za/ibi_apps/signin - click on the public access.

3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

What outputs would we like to produce? What changes in knowledge, skills, and capacities do we want to achieve? What changes in behavior, systems, and practices do we want to create?

Given the anchor issues of promoting the rule of law, re-inforcing accountability and combating corruption; the expansion of scope of institutions whose financial data is available on the Vuleka-mali portal will enhance the levels of transparency and widen the number of public entities whose financial data is easily accessible to the community. By extension, such an enhanced level of community access to financial data will improve the level of accountability of government officials.

Additionally, the municipal money portal will be added and an annual report will be published and shared with civil society during October 2024 (covering the local government 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 financial year).

Subsequent reports will be published in October 2025 and October 2026 and shared civil society.

Commitment Analysis	
Questions	Answer (if not applicable, just answer with N/A)
<p>1. How will the commitment promote transparency? <i>How will it help improve citizens' access to information and data? How will it make the government more transparent to citizens?</i></p>	Refer to paragraph 3 above
<p>2. How will the commitment help foster accountability? <i>How will it help public agencies become more accountable to the public? How will it facilitate citizens' ability to learn how the implementation is progressing? How will it support transparent monitoring and evaluation systems?</i></p>	Refer to paragraph 3 above
<p>3. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions? <i>How will it proactively engage citizens and citizen groups?</i></p>	Refer to paragraph 3 above

Commitment Planning

(This is an initial planning process largely looking at milestones and expected outputs, as well as key stakeholders involved.)

Milestones <i>(Milestones are part of a series of actions or events that, when executed, will lead to the achievement of the result the commitment would like to achieve.)</i>	Expected Outputs <i>(Outputs are concrete, objectively-verifiable results that are direct products of activities conducted or implemented.)</i>	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders					
<p>1. A formal process initiated to expand the scope of institutions whose financial data will be available on Vuleka-mali to also include Schedules 3A and 3C public entities as defined in Public Finance Management Act, 1999</p> <p>3. A formal process initiated to include financial data for the local sphere of government as part of the Transformative Fiscal Transparency</p>	<p>Scope of institutions on Vuleka-mali portal expanded to include Schedules 3A and 3C public entities as defined in Public Finance Management Act, 1999</p>	<p>November 2024</p>	<p>Lead: National Treasury: Vuleka-mali officials GoMUni officials</p>					
	<p>Financial data for the local sphere of government will be added to be part of the transformative fiscal transparency through the addition of the GoMuni portal</p>	<p>November 2024</p>	<p><u>Supporting Stakeholders</u></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Government</td> <td>CSOs</td> <td>Others (e.g., Parliament, Private Sector etc)</td> </tr> </table>			Government	CSOs	Others (e.g., Parliament, Private Sector etc)
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	<p>Municipal money annual report published and shared with civil society during October 2024 (covering the local government 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 financial year)</p>	<p>November 2024</p>	<p>DPSA</p>	<p>Steering Committee /Multi-stakeholder Forum</p>	<p>Other stakeholders such as Universities will be involved as and when the project unfolds</p>			
<p>Municipal money annual report published and shared with civil society during October 2024 (covering the local government 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 financial year)</p>	<p>November 2025</p>							
<p>Municipal money annual report published and shared with civil society during October 2024 (covering the local government 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 financial year).</p>	<p>November 2026</p>							