

2. OGP Commitment Template – As on 04 December 2023

Country	South Africa		
Number and Name of the Commitment	<i>Commitment number 2:</i> Open Data Transparency across the three spheres of government		
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 strive to seek ways to provide public access to government data, thus promoting 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) Working together with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Centre for the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR), this commitment seeks to facilitate the development and eventual adoption of a common framework/ protocol with the metropolitan municipalities for the sharing of open data.</p> <p>d) The engagement with the metropolitan municipalities will thus pilot the development and eventual adoption of a common framework/ protocol for sharing open data with six metropolitan municipalities, as a precursor to the eventual adoption of the national framework/ protocol on open data sharing across the three spheres of government in South Africa.</p>		
Commitment Lead	The CSIR (4IR Centre)		
Supporting Stakeholders	Government	Civil Society	Other Actors (Parliament, Private Sector, etc)
	DPSA National Treasury South African Local Government Association (SALGA) Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG) eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality City of Joburg Metropolitan Municipality	Civil Society represented in OGP Interim Steering Committee/ Multi-stakeholder Forum Kagiso Trust Open Cities Lab South African Cities Network (SACN)	Other actors such as Universities will be involved as and when the project unfolds

	Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality Makhana Municipality Western Cape Government (WCG) Mpumalanga Province (MP)		
Period Covered	2023 to 2026 [four-year action plan] as per section 2.3 of the OGP National Handbook, 2022		

Problem Definition	
<p>1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?</p> <p><i>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?</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>1.3 Hence Open Data Transparency across the three spheres of government is an essential feature of re-inforcing the accountability of the public representatives.</p> <p>1.4 The communities/ citizens of South Africa are affected, especially those civil organizations who track the corruption in the government departments. Thus, the lack of a common framework/ protocol among the three of government on sharing of open data, creates challenges for those who seek to hold the government to account.</p> <p>1.5 Cities generate a significant amount of data that is useful to citizens. However, this information is often hidden from public view and is confined in line department archives or is difficult to access.</p>	
<p>2. What are the causes of the problem?</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	

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.

Another cause is that at the city level there are often no open data framework guidelines for the implementation of open data and hence the need for a project of this nature.

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 CSIR has done the baseline work of developing a draft Framework/ Protocol on Open Data sharing, working with the metropolitan municipalities. The baseline work now needs to be taken further to the rest of the 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 CSIR engagement with the metropolitan municipalities will thus pilot the development and eventual adoption of a common framework/ protocol for open data sharing with six metropolitan municipalities, which should serve as a precursor for the eventual adoption of the national framework/ protocol on open data sharing across the three spheres of government in South Africa.

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?

The eventual adoption of a National Framework/ Protocol on Open Data sharing in South Africa, which is informed by the pilot conducted at the metropolitan municipalities.

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>	<p>Refer to the Commitment Description in paragraph 1 to 3 above.</p> <p>One of the key principles of Open Data is that data will be <i>Open by Default</i> and there will be <i>Citizen Engagement and Inclusivity</i>. The Open Data Policy will specify data sets that will be free to access by citizens. It will also highlight formal civil society engagement initiatives coupled with recommended mechanisms and tools for citizen engagement and feedback.</p>

<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>	<p>Refer to the Problem Definition in 1 and 2 above. The identified data will include all sorts data specifically related to Services. These data sets will be free to access via an open data portal. Citizens will therefore be more proactively informed on data relating to service; thus creating a platform for proactive engagement and resolving challenges.</p>
<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>	<p>Access to data empowers citizens to know what is happening and enables them to hold government to account and thus deal with corruption, among others.</p> <p>As mentioned in 1 above, one of the key Open Data Principles is Citizen Engagement. This principle endures the effective engagement of civil society at large.</p>

Commitment Planning <i>(This is an initial planning process largely looking at milestones and expected outputs, as well as key stakeholders involved.)</i>													
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. Dialogue initiated with six metropolitan municipalities on the adoption on Open Data Sharing Framework/ Protocol</p>	<p>Consensus reached on a common Framework/ Protocol</p>	<p>November 2024</p>	<p>Lead: CSIR Centre for the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) and DPSA</p>										
<p>2. Municipal Councils of all six metropolitan municipalities have endorsed Open Data Sharing Framework/ Protocol</p>	<p>All six metropolitan municipalities have the Open Data Sharing Framework /Protocol implemented</p>	<p>November 2025</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3"><u>Supporting Stakeholders</u></th> </tr> <tr> <th>Government</th> <th>CSOs</th> <th>Others</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>DPSA National Treasury</td> <td>Steering Committee /Multi-stakeholder Forum</td> <td>Other stakeholders such as Universities will be involved as and when the project unfolds</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>			Government	CSOs	Others	DPSA National Treasury	Steering Committee /Multi-stakeholder Forum	Other stakeholders such as Universities will be involved as and when the project unfolds
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<p>3. National Open Data Sharing Framework/ Protocol dialogue initiated</p>	<p>Draft National Open Data Sharing Framework/ Protocol agreed with national stakeholders</p>	<p>November 2026</p>											