

# OGD Strategy and Action Plan Blueprint

This document was developed as part of the implementation of the project “Strengthening of capacities to Developing Countries to provide Access to Information for Sustainable Development through Open Government Data” coordinated by the Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). More information about the project can be found at: <https://publicadministration.un.org/en/ogd>

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## Preamble

The following components are suggested as a way to help countries develop their OGD strategy and action plan. Each section/subsection briefly describes the information that can be included/discussed in the corresponding section/subsection. Each country can decide on the scope of their strategy/plan and the format in which they want to present the information.

An Open Government Data (**OGD**) **Strategy** should establish a long-term vision for an OGD Initiative and identify shared goals that all stakeholders have agreed on. This long-term vision should be aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their integration into national policy priorities. Based on an assessment of the local enabling conditions, the strategy should provide guidance to design OGD policies and prioritize actions in order to achieve the OGD vision.

An OGD Action Plan should define ambitious but realistic commitments aligned to the long-term OGD vision, and design specific actions for the achievement of those commitments. These actions should use S.M.A.R.T. methodology to ensure they are Specific, Measurable, Agreed upon, Relevant/Realistic and Time-based. These criteria will facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the proposed actions.

Both the OGD Strategy and Action Plan should be designed through an inclusive multi-stakeholder process that follows the Design Principles for Digital Development<sup>1</sup>. This is important to ensure the engagement and commitment of all relevant stakeholders to work together in order to meet the shared goals.

## Benefits of Open Government Data for Sustainable Development

This section introduces the benefits of OGD for Sustainable Development, as directly linked to the country's sustainable development priorities, and describes how the OGD initiative will support the accomplishment of those priorities. This section should include the value proposition of the OGD initiative for different stakeholders in the country, and should provide a narrative of how OGD can help the country make progress on the SDGs as part of national priorities.

## Assessment Findings

This section presents the main findings and recommendations for each of the eight dimensions assessed through the OGD Assessment<sup>2</sup> for the respective country to inform the development of OGD Strategy and OGD Action Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> Digital Development Principles Working Group. Design Principles for Digital Development, <http://digitalprinciples.org/>

<sup>2</sup> UN DESA/DPADM, 2017. [OGD Assessment Methodology](#).

## Mandate and Process

This section describes the mandate of the highest political authority who has endorsed the OGD initiative at the national level. It also includes a description of regional mandates (like the endorsement of the International Open Data Charter or other international agreements) if applicable. This section should also explain the relationship between this OGD Strategy and Action Plan and the subscribed international commitments (like OGP commitments, Open Data Charter, EITI, and CoST) that state the need of an OGD programme.

If a multi-stakeholder OGD Working Group has been established, this section may provide details on their mandate, composition and governance structure. This section should also explain the proposed process (like the Principles for Digital Development) for the design and implementation of the OGD initiative.

## Strategy

This section outlines the strategic long term vision, mission, and expected outcomes that the National OGD strategy aims to achieve in a defined period of time. This section could include short paragraphs on the following aspects:

1. Vision statement for OGD in COUNTRY. Establishing a clear, shared long term vision
2. Mission statement for OGD in COUNTRY. Mission to accomplish the vision
3. Outcomes (i.e. specific outcomes that the strategy aims to achieve)
4. Supportive ecosystem: linkage between OGD and
  - a. National Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), targets and indicators
  - b. International Open Data Charter
  - c. Open Government Partnership, EITI, CoST and other related initiatives
5. Stakeholders

## Ecosystem approach

This section discusses the value of an ecosystem approach for a sustainable OGD initiative in the country, and its implications for the formulation of the strategy, vision and mission, stakeholder engagement and the design of a multi-stakeholder process for the formulation and implementation of a National OGD Action Plan.

## Setting goals

This section presents the priorities and goals set for the OGD Strategy, which are aligned with the main national development goals and other national policy priorities. Ideally, the priorities should be clustered and presented along the main societal benefits of OGD:

- Open data for **improving governance**, primarily by increasing transparency for preventing corruption, and enhancing public services and resource allocation
- Open data for **empowering people** to take control of their lives and demand change by enabling more informed decision-making and new forms of social mobilization, both in turn facilitated by new ways of communicating and accessing information
- Open data for **creating new opportunities** for people and organizations, by fostering innovation and promoting economic growth and job creation
- Open data for **solving public problems**, primarily by allowing people and policymakers to carry out new forms of data-driven assessment of the problems at hand. It also enables data-driven engagement producing more targeted interventions and enhanced collaboration

Countries can select the priorities according to their own needs - i.e. they do not need to identify priorities for all areas but may decide to focus on specific areas.

## Setting priorities

This section should describe the process that leads to the identification of priorities. This might include:

1. Identifying and consulting with all relevant stakeholders
2. Understanding where to start from (e.g. conduct an OGD assessment)
3. Establishing shared long-term vision
4. Initiating a deliberative process to set priorities
5. Agreeing on ambitious but realistic goals
6. Defining in detail each goal in a collaborative manner
7. Establishing mechanisms for carrying out iterative implementation with feedback loops and evaluation
8. Establishing mechanisms for reviewing priorities and redefining actions

## OGD Release Commitments

The Action Plan commitments for building the legal and organizational OGD foundations and for the publication of key datasets could be presented here. Commitments should be formulated using S.M.A.R.T. methodology (see above). Commitments might include:

### A. Institutional framework

Commitments related to the OGD governance framework (roles and responsibilities), strengthening of roles through mandates, capacity building, sensitization, and training.

### B. Regulatory framework

Commitments on establishing and/or improving the regulatory foundations of OGD, which may include adopting or modifying policies, executive orders and laws. This section could also include commitments related to OGD license.

### C. Data management and publication

Commitments on improving government data management throughout its life cycle, opening government data pilot projects, data prioritization and preparation, publication of key datasets, and technological platforms.

For guidance on commitments on the institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks, please see the Open Data Policy Guidelines<sup>3</sup>, and the Open Gov Guide<sup>4</sup> as a resource for people working to enhance public sector transparency, responsiveness, accountability and effectiveness.

For guidance on commitments on data management and release, please see UN DESA's OGD Step-by-Step Guide for Government Implementers available in Section 4 of the [Guide on Lessons for Open Government Data Action Planning for Sustainable Development](#).

## OGD Ecosystem Commitments

This section may discuss Action Plan commitments for promoting the use of OGD within the OGD community to improve service provision and decision-making, promote citizen engagement and innovation, and help problem solving. Commitments should be formulated using S.M.A.R.T. methodology (see above). Commitments might include:

### I. Community strengthening

Commitments on OGD dissemination, development of an OGD community, capacity building, as well as competitions (such as hackathons), incubations and/or mentorships for OGD entrepreneurs, and other initiatives for stimulating OGD demand and strengthening the ecosystem (i.e. government agencies, CSOs, NGOs, private sector, academia and media).

### II. Open data reuse

Commitments on using OGD for improving public services at the national and local levels. These may include addressing problems related to the SDGs, promoting civic technology and entrepreneurship, research, economic value generation, and data consumption within government for applications such as evidence-based decision-making, analytics, and improved public service delivery.

## Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

This section may address the methodology to be used for efficient monitoring, evaluation and learning. Please see this [template for the formulation of S.M.A.R.T. OGD commitments](#) with suggested indicators

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<sup>3</sup> Sunlight Foundation. Open Data Policy Guidelines, <https://sunlightfoundation.com/opendataguidelines/>

<sup>4</sup> Transparency and Accountability Initiative and Open Government Guide Working Group. Open Government Guide, <http://www.opengovguide.com/>

that can be monitored to inform OGD evaluation and learning. It is recommended to use this template for all the commitments of the OGD Action Plan.

## Closing Remarks

This section may present the conclusion and include any other relevant final reflections related to the OGD National Action Plan.

## Annexes

All relevant information and documents need to be included as annexes. It is recommended to include one annex listing contact information of known members of the national OGD ecosystem in order to enhance the opportunities for sharing experiences inside and outside the country. It is also recommended to include another annex with the summary of all commitments of the OGD Action Plan.

### Note

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Suggested citation: Guide on OGD Action Planning for Sustainable Development by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), and the Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM).