



Democracy Beyond the Ballot Box

About the Open Government
Partnership (OGP)

Open
Government
Partnership





The Open Government Partnership

OGP was founded in 2011 by eight government leaders and nine civil society leaders from Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, the Philippines, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

VISION

Open governments working in partnership with civil society and people to strengthen democracy and deliver better societal outcomes.

MISSION

Inspire, connect, and enable an ever-growing community of reformers and champions from government and civil society to take action together.

OGP Core Values

By embracing OGP's **core values**, governments can achieve greater strides toward open governance and improved solutions for public challenges.

Transparency

Civic
participation

Public
accountability

Inclusion



OGP members

74

countries

150

**local
governments**

1,000+

**civil society
organizations**



Map may show borders that do not reflect OGP institutional policy.

A unique model

Equal partnership

- **Government involvement** - high-level political leadership; public officials
- **Civil society** sits at the same table as government
- **Reflected in national and global governance** structure of OGP

Action-oriented, with in-built accountability

- Anchored on **2- or 4-year action plans**
- Engine of **implementation for global pledges** like SDGs, G7, and Summit for Democracy
- Accountability ensured by OGP's **Independent Reporting Mechanism**

Country ownership

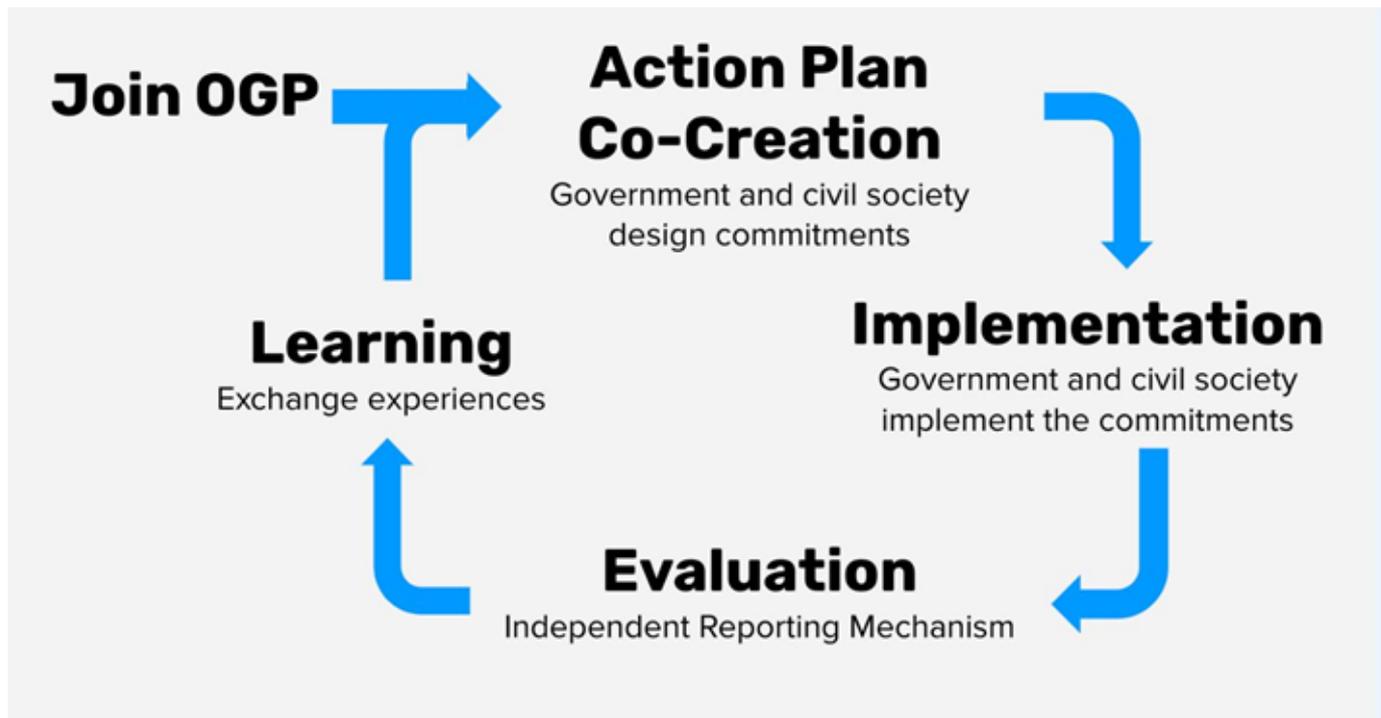
- **National dialogue** to identify priorities
- **Collaboration** between government, civil society and others on design and implementation of reforms
- **Flexible, but ambitious** in recognizing different starting points, but asking members to “stretch”

Global Community of Reformers

- **Global platform** provides inspiration, support, peer learning and spotlighting opportunities
- Platform for forging **multi-sectoral coalitions**
- **Global Summit and Regional Meetings**



The OGP Action Plan Cycle



The Steering Committee is OGP's executive, decision-making body.

The SC is comprised of **22 members** (11 from national governments and 11 from civil society), with parity maintained between the two constituencies.



The Multistakeholder Forum (MSF)

Countries are expected to have an established space for **ongoing dialogue and collaboration** between government and civil society, leading open government processes

It should be balanced, inclusive, and have diverse representation:

- **Balanced:** no constituency, government, or civil society is over or underrepresented
- **Inclusive:** Proactively include representatives of groups such as women, youth, seniors, people with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ and indigenous communities
- **Diverse:** MSF has a diverse set of stakeholders and interests



**What have
we achieved?**



Reforms implemented through OGP

OGP is designed to advance open government reforms domestically and internationally across a range of policy areas and renew democracy.

Protecting the Right to Information

Fighting Corruption

Guarding Civic Space

Combatting Climate Change

Improving Digital Governance

Opening Up Budgets

Including All Voices

Granting Access to Justice

Ensuring Media Freedom

Enhance Public Participation

OGP commitments by the numbers

+5,400 commitments

AMBITION

48%

have the potential to
change the status quo

COMPLETE

60%

are substantially or fully
completed

EARLY RESULTS

23%

have made government
significantly more open



Promoting & Protecting Civic Space through the OGP

Democracy and civic Space are under attack, globally!

Global Democracy

- **Approximately 72% of the world's population lives under autocratic rule.**
Source: V-Dem Institute, Democracy Report 2024
- **The number of liberal democracies has declined from 42 in 2012 to around 29 in 2023.**
Source: V-Dem Institute
- **Freedom has declined globally for 18 consecutive years.**
Source: Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2024
- **Less than 8% of the global population lives in a “full democracy.”**
Source: EIU, Democracy Index 2023

Global Civic Space

- **Over 70% of the world's population lives in countries where civic space is repressed or closed.**
Source: CIVICUS Monitor (2023–2024)
- **Only around 3% of the global population lives in countries with “open” civic space.**
Source: CIVICUS Monitor
- **More than 110 countries are rated as obstructed, repressed, or closed.**
Source: CIVICUS Monitor

Democracy and Civic Space in Italy

Democracy – Italy

- **EIU status: “Full Democracy.”**
- **Democracy Index score: 7.69 / 10 (2023)**
(High electoral integrity and pluralism; weaker performance on political participation and functioning of government.)
Source: EIU, Democracy Index 2023
- **Freedom status: “Free.”**
- **Freedom House score: 90 / 100 (2024)**
(Strong civil liberties and political rights protections, with noted concerns around media independence and minority rights.)
Source: Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2024

Civic Space – Italy

- **Italy is rated “Narrowed”** (civic freedoms exist but face constraints).
Source: CIVICUS Monitor (2024)
- Italy’s civic space concerns have included:
 - Legal and administrative restrictions affecting NGOs (particularly migration-related NGOs).
 - Strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs) targeting journalists and activists.
 - Policing concerns in the context of protests.

Civic space is a fundamental foundation for economic growth, social progress and democratic health. Without it, people cannot meaningfully participate in decision-making, scrutinise government actions, or hold politicians accountable.

Strong civic space is associated with:

- Faster economic growth
- Lower inequality
- Improvements in quality and accessibility of public services
- Lower likelihood of social conflict
- Less corruption

In today's rapidly changing technological and geopolitical landscape, vibrant civic space provides the foundation that enables democracies to adapt, renew legitimacy, reduce polarisation, and deliver for citizens.

Global Trends - Civic Space

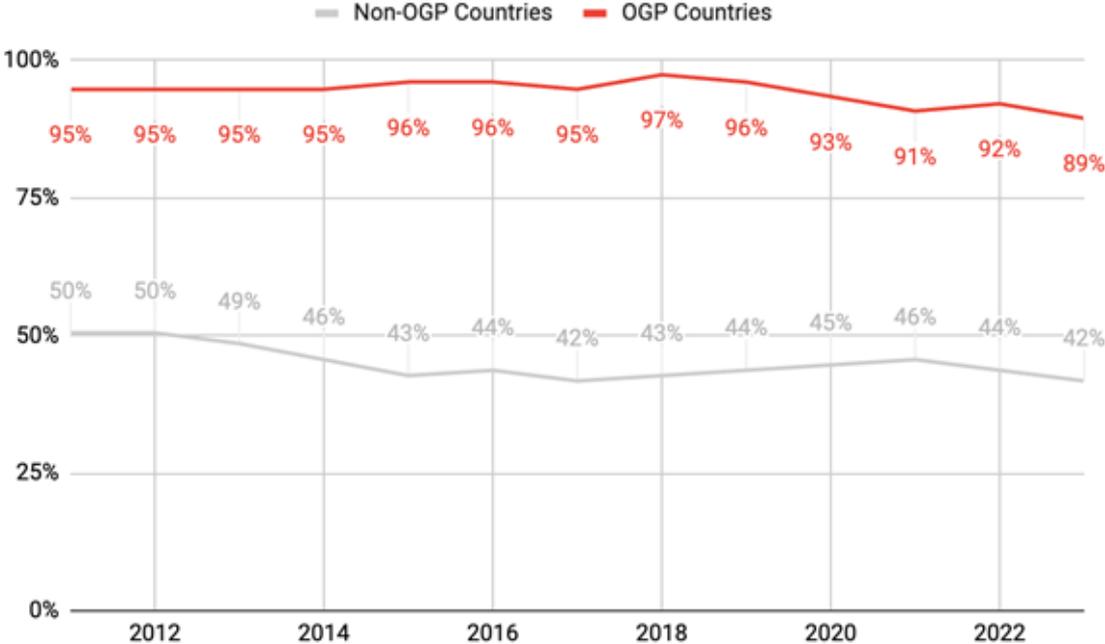
Question: Does the government attempt to repress civil society organizations (CSOs)?

- 0: Severely
- 1: Substantially
- ~~2: Moderately~~ **OGP Values Check**
- 3: Weakly
- 4: No

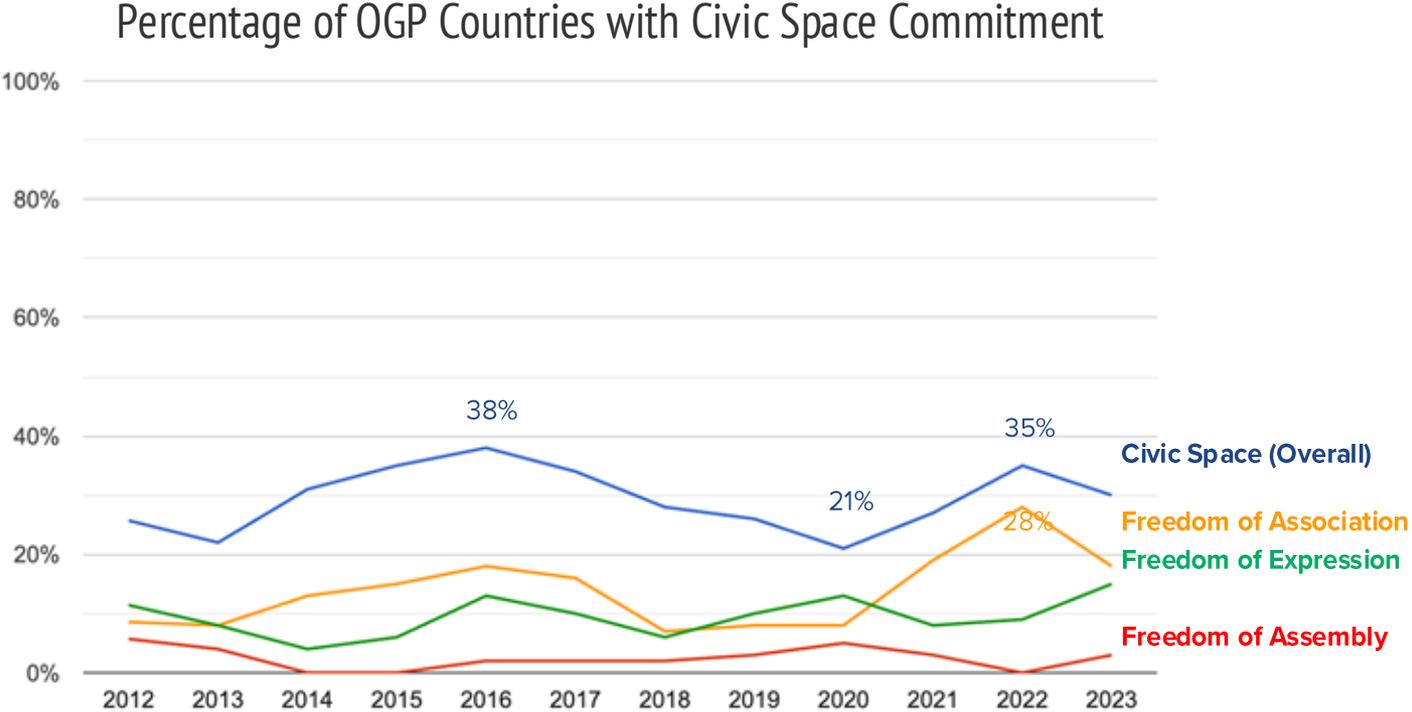


Global Trends - Civic Space

Percentage of Countries that Pass the OGP Values Check



Global Trends - OGP Commitments



Note: Includes two-year moving average.



Guarding Civic Space

A photograph of a woman with white hair, glasses, and a white face mask, holding a megaphone and raising her fist. She is wearing a blue patterned scarf and a dark blue shirt. In the background, other people are visible, some wearing face masks and raising their fists, suggesting a protest or demonstration. The scene is outdoors with a blurred background.

Defending Activists and Journalists

- + **OGP countries protect freedom of expression and in particular journalists and activists - the critical intermediaries connecting public officials with citizens and serving as watchdogs.**
 - Ireland has adopted strong and comprehensive whistleblower protections.
 - Colombia is creating a national archive to document and provide information about past victims of its armed conflict.
 - Spain has passed a law on Professional Secrecy for Journalists that guarantees the protection of editorial independence in a secure media environment, especially for those who provide news and content on current affairs.



Freedom of Association

+ **OGP members allow for the free operation of advocates and reformers to form non-profit, mission-driven organizations.**

- Sierra Leone is improving transparency of public funding received by civil society organizations working in post-Ebola recovery efforts.
- Latvia has established a “NGO Fund” to build CSO capacity to engage in policy processes.
- El Salvador is using OGP to accelerate the process for creating an organization, which previously took three to eight years.



Freedom of Assembly

- + **OGP members support peaceful assembly, an essential part of healthy and effective democratic institutions.**
 - Northern Ireland has a civilian panel evaluate and make binding decisions on route changes for controversial parades.
 - The South African Constitutional Court struck down a restrictive protest law that was being used by the government to criminalize public assembly through fines and jail time.



Obtaining the Right to Information

- + **OGP members are required to have laws guaranteeing the right to information.**
 - The Netherlands is working on a higher int'l standard on proactive disclosure.
 - Liberia publishes information on land ownership and has passed a formal Lands Rights Act.
 - Croatia's RTI act includes a legal obligation to consult with the public about new legislation and enforce a directive on the re-use of public sector information.



Improving Digital Governance

- + **OGP members are leveraging the opportunities of evolving technology while also developing policies to deal with the threats, including disinformation, discrimination, and privacy concerns.**
 - The twin Ghanaian cities of Sekondi and Takoradi, Ukraine, and other members are using social media and online platforms to enlist citizens in tracking corruption in government contracts and the efficiency of public services.
 - France is taking steps to ensure on and offline rights are protected and to make public algorithms transparent.



CIVIC SPACE LAB

The **Civic Space Lab** is a new OGP initiative designed to inspire and support government reformers to take leadership in strengthening civic space in their country.

It comprises two complementary initiatives that strengthen civic space through governmental support and collaboration:

- The **Reformers' Program** provides a unique opportunity for forward-thinking governments to strengthen aspects of their civic environment with expert support and technical assistance throughout the process. Membership is open to any OGP governments that demonstrate a strong commitment to civic space reform.
- The **Leaders' Group** serves as a platform for governments with proven track records in civic space protection, designed to support collective reflection, knowledge sharing and action on frontier issues of civic space strengthening, protection and mainstreaming. Membership is by invitation only to OGP members who have already demonstrated strong leadership on civic space.

THE OPEN GOV CHALLENGE

Globally, we are facing a host of crises.

OGP launched the [Open Gov Challenge](#) to address these issues. OGP members must rise to the challenge by accelerating reforms for lasting change through collective action with open government and OGP.



10

areas that can
strengthen
democracies



Get in Touch

Alessandro Bellantoni

Director, Policy and Partnerships

OGP

a.bellantoni@opengovpartnership.org



opengovpartnership.org



facebook.com/OpenGovernmentPartnership



instagram.com/opengovpartnership