



Open
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Jamaica Open Government Partnership National Action Plan 2024-2026

Jamaica – Open Government Partnership: National Action Plan 2024-2026

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Message From Minister of Finance and the Public Service

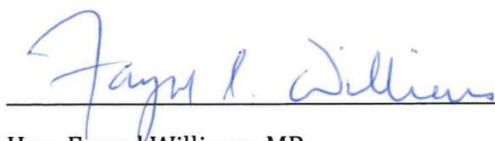
The Government of Jamaica remains committed to deepening the provision of information to the public and further entrenching transparency and accountability in the public sector. With the development of this second iteration of our Open Government Partnership (OGP) National Action Plan (NAP), following on from the successful completion of the first NAP from 2021 to 2023, we continue to abide by the principles of transparency, openness, accountability and participation across Jamaica's governance frameworks. Jamaica welcomes this consultative process as the participation of stakeholders from various sectors of society is an important part of the Jamaican psyche.

Jamaica has been engendering open government initiatives over a long period of time, and our participation in the Open Government Partnership process enables us to showcase the tremendous strides that have been made. This initiative plays a key role in the achievement of the government's strategic objectives. Jamaica stands to gain and learn from the various innovative approaches to openness undertaken by other member countries. Better access to information on the performance of government ministries and agencies and on matters of public interest ultimately help citizens to make more informed decisions, while greater transparency on the allocation and expenditure of public resources aids in entrenching accountability.

In strengthening our governance systems for greater transparency, we look forward to continuing the consultations with citizens as together we prioritize initiatives for the greater good of Jamaica.

Strong civic participation is a critical success factor in this initiative and the GOJ therefore thanks civil society stakeholders and other representatives on the Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF) for their continued commitment and participation in the Open Government Partnership process in Jamaica, and their contributions to the development of the second Open Government Partnership National Action Plan for Jamaica. We also thank the members of the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service's communication team and Strategic Public Sector Transformation Project team for their support for the Open Government Partnership process in Jamaica to date.

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, which is the lead government entity for the Open Government Partnership process in Jamaica, is committed to ensuring the successful implementation of our second National Action Plan under the Open Government Partnership, for the advancement of open government and the benefit to our citizens.



Hon. Fayval Williams, MP

Minister of Finance and the Public Service

Message From Government Co-Chair of the Multi-Stakeholder Forum

The Government of Jamaica (GOJ) has committed Jamaica to participating in a second two (2) year action planning cycle under the Open Government Partnership (OGP), an international platform which promotes and supports the application of the principles of open government in participating countries. The Second OGP National Action Plan (NAP) for 2024-2026 will promote the values of transparency, accountability and inclusiveness in the relationship between government and citizens, and has been developed through a participatory co-creation process involving stakeholders across the public sector, private sector and civil society.

The Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF) was established in August 2021 with six members each from government and civil society, and a Government of Jamaica (GOJ) Co-Chair and a Civil Society Co-Chair. The roles of the MSF will continue to include providing oversight and guidance for the development, implementation, monitoring and reporting for Jamaica's second two-year National Action Plan under the OGP.

The second OGP NAP for Jamaica will be largely based on the commitments and milestone activities which remain uncompleted following the conclusion of Jamaica's first OGP NAP over the period January 2022-August 2023. The second OGP NAP for Jamaica will also provide the opportunity for the OGP MSF to deepen the role and involvement of non-government stakeholders in the OGP process in Jamaica, and to strengthen the communication and reporting mechanisms to stakeholders.

We look forward to our continued collaboration with our civil society partners to ensure the successful implementation and monitoring of GOJ's second OGP National Action Plan.



Lorris Jarrett

Deputy Financial Secretary, Public Expenditure Division, Ministry of Finance and the Public Service

GOJ Point of Contact, OGP

GOJ Co-Chair, OGP, Multi-Stakeholder Forum

Civil Society Message From the Multi-Stakeholder Forum

Realizing a Jamaica that is the place of choice to live, work, raise families, and do business requires the active participation of the entire society. Opening up the development process is not just a nice-to-have, but strategically advantageous for our national project. When more societal actors contribute to solving our problems, we can accelerate our learning, leverage a wider capacity to solve, and increase the momentum of our progress.

We commend the Government of Jamaica, particularly the Ministry of Finance, for remaining committed to the Open Government Partnership process. This National Action Plan represents the collective efforts of government, private sector, and civil society stakeholders working together to identify and prioritize key areas for reform. The civil society representatives on Jamaica's Multi-stakeholder Forum extend our heartfelt gratitude to all contributors and partners who have been instrumental in developing this plan.

As a small island nation, Jamaica's resource constraints manifest in various ways. The first OGP national action plan helped foster a greater understanding of the challenges that changemakers in the public sector encounter. A deep understanding of context and trust among those impacted by problems is critical to progress on the many complex problems plaguing our society. We believe that the first OGP cycle provided examples of how members of the public, when engaged effectively, can contribute to overcoming our constraints. We hope to build on these lessons in the second OGP cycle.


The practice of building new institutions is not easy—and Jamaica's OGP journey thus far has had its fair share of challenges. Expanding the community of contributors and improving the consistency of our engagement will be among the priority areas for improvement in the upcoming cycle.

Looking ahead, we are optimistic about the positive impact that implementing this NAP will have on our society. By following through on these commitments, we can strengthen public trust in government, improve service delivery, and empower citizens to actively participate in shaping Jamaica's future.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to open government. Let us work together towards a Jamaica that matches the ambition of her people.

Onwards and upwards, ever.

Sincerely,



Matthew McNaughton

Principal, SlashRoots Foundation

Civil Society Member, OGP Multi-Stakeholder Forum

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ATI	Access to Information
CIO	Chief Information Officer
CPI	Corruption Perceptions Index
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GOJ	Government of Jamaica
IRM	Independent Reporting Mechanism
JLIP	Jamaica Legal Information Portal
JSC	Joint Select Committee
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MEGJC	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation
MOEY	Ministry of Education and Youth
MOEYI	Ministry of Education, Youth and Information
MOFPS	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MLCA	Ministry of Legal and Constitutional Affairs
MSETT	Ministry of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport
MSF	Multi-Stakeholder Forum
MTF	Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework
NAP	National Action Plan
NAS	National Anti-Corruption Strategy
OGP	Open Government Partnership
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
PIOJ	Planning Institute of Jamaica
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Executive Summary

Background and Context

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is a voluntary, international forum of countries working to be more open, accountable and responsive to citizens. Participation in the OGP requires countries to endorse a high-level Open Government Declaration, deliver a National Action Plan (NAP) developed with public consultation with civil society with commitments which advance the OGP values, and commit to independent reporting on its implementation, including through the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM).

In December 2016, the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) became a member of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), through submission of a Letter of Intent signed by Prime Minister, Most Honourable Andrew Holness, and has endorsed the high-level Open Government Declaration. GOJ's engagement with the OGP is led by the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS). The GOJ has joined the OGP and committed to the OGP process, as the objectives of the OGP coincide well with the GOJ's anti-corruption policy and strategies towards achieving greater transparency, accountability, public sector efficiency and the overall strengthening of governance.

The Open Government Partnership Process in Jamaica

The public launch of the OGP process in Jamaica was held on January 15, 2021 as a virtual event organised by the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, with keynote address by then Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke, as the Ministerial focal point for the OGP process in Jamaica. The Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF) for the OGP process in Jamaica was established in 2021 with six (6) GOJ members and six (6) Civil Society members, with a GOJ Co-Chair and a Civil Society Co-Chair. The main purpose of the Multi-Stakeholder Forum is to provide oversight and guidance to the co-creation process for the development, submission, implementation, monitoring and reporting for each National Action Plan for the consecutive two-year action planning cycles for Jamaica under the OGP.

Jamaica's First OGP National Action Plan 2021-2023

The MSF coordinated the process of preparation of the Jamaica's first OGP National Action Plan (NAP) over the period September–December 2021, including several rounds of meetings of OGP stakeholder consultation groups. Jamaica's first OGP NAP was completed including seven (7) commitments, in the areas of Anti-Corruption, Open Data, Access to Information, Justice and Human Rights, Environment, Climate Change and Youth, and was approved by Cabinet and submitted to the OGP in December 2021. The NAP was subsequently placed on the MOFPS website and circulated to stakeholders for a period from January 3-19, 2022, for review and feedback by stakeholders and the public. Following this review period, revisions were made to the NAP, which provided the basis for the submission of the revised OGP National Action Plan to Cabinet and the OGP in June 2022. The first OGP NAP was implemented over the period January 2022-August 2023, and two (2) Public Progress

Reports were prepared covering the periods January-December 2022 and January 2022-August 2023, respectively. The Progress Reports indicated that progress continued on all seven (7) commitments during the January 2022–August 2023 review period, but a majority of activities were delayed under the first action planning cycle, with a common theme of constraints in human resources and funding impacting their timely implementation.

Preparation of Jamaica’s Second OGP National Action Plan 2024-2026

Cabinet approved the development of a second OGP National Action Plan for Jamaica, by way of a cabinet decision taken in November 2023. The submission which was approved by Cabinet also recommended that the second OGP NAP for Jamaica should be largely based on the commitments and milestone activities which remain uncompleted following the conclusion of Jamaica’s first OGP NAP in August 2023, and this is the approach that has been taken for the development and completion of Jamaica's second NAP. Jamaica’s Second OGP National Action Plan will cover the two (2) year period June 2024-June 2026.

For the co-creation process for the development of Jamaica's second NAP the MSF organized several rounds of meetings of OGP stakeholder consultation groups in the following thematic areas: Justice and Human Rights; Natural Resources, Environment and Climate; Access to Information; Open Data; and Youth, in order to discuss and develop proposed commitments for each thematic area for inclusion in the second OGP National Action Plan for Jamaica. The stakeholder consultation groups meetings were held as Zoom meetings hosted by MOFPS over the period December 12, 2023-June 13, 2024. The MSF also approved one (1) pro-active commitment based on an open government initiative already underway by the government, which was included in the first OGP NAP.

The process for completion and submission of the Second OGP National Action Plan for Jamaica includes the following steps: i) Prepare draft second OGP NAP based on stakeholder consultations and inputs from implementing agencies, and publish draft second OGP NAP online for review and feedback by stakeholders and the public; ii) Complete final draft second OGP NAP based on feedback from Multi-Stakeholder Forum, stakeholders, implementing agencies and the public, and submit to Cabinet; iii) Approval of second OGP NAP and submission of second OGP NAP to the OGP in 2024.

The commitments in the Second OGP National Action Plan will be implemented over the two-year OGP action planning cycle from June 2024-June 2026. The MSF will coordinate the monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the second NAP, including presentation of regular progress reports at consultations with stakeholders, and publication of regular progress reports on the online OGP webpage on the MOFPS website.

OGP National Action Plan Commitments

The seven (7) commitments included in Jamaica’s second National Action Plan under the OGP are summarized in the following table:

Jamaica – Open Government Partnership: National Action Plan 2024-2026

Commitment	Lead Implementing Entity
1. Complete the National Anti-Corruption Strategy	Integrity Commission
2. Upgrade and Strengthen the Open Data System in Jamaica	Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)
3. Amend the Access to Information (ATI) Act and Strengthen the ATI System in Jamaica	Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)
4. Increase Access to Information on and Public Awareness of the Justice System and Human Rights	Ministry of Legal and Constitutional Affairs (MLCA) Ministry of Justice (MOJ)
5. Complete Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (MEGJC) National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA)
6. Carry out Development of Climate Change Legislation and Related Activities	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (MEGJC)
7. Strengthen Youth Participation and Access to Services	Ministry of Education and Youth (MOEY)

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1.0 Background and Context

1.1 The Open Government Partnership (OGP)

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is a voluntary, international forum of countries working to be more open, accountable and responsive to citizens. The OGP was formally launched on September 20, 2011, by eight (8) founding governments (Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, the Philippines, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States). The OGP has subsequently grown to include 75 national members, a growing number of local governments and thousands of civil society participants. Participation in the OGP requires countries to endorse a high-level Open Government Declaration, deliver a National Action Plan (NAP) developed with public consultation with civil society with commitments which advance the OGP values, and commit to independent reporting on its implementation, including through the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM).

The OGP process is guided by the values of:

- Access to Information
- Civic Participation
- Public Accountability
- Technology and Innovation for Transparency and Accountability

Figure 1: Open Government Partnership Overview

Open Government Partnership



1.2 Jamaica’s Involvement in the OGP

In December 2016, the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) became a member of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), through submission of a Letter of Intent signed by Prime Minister, Most Honourable Andrew Holness, and has endorsed the high-level Open Government Declaration.

GOJ’s engagement with the OGP is led by the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS). Cabinet decisions in June 2018 and February 2020 granted approval for the MOFPS to initiate the OGP process in Jamaica through: i) Preparation of the National Action Plan (NAP) in keeping with the OGP’s Participation and Co-creation Standards; ii) Establishment of a Multistakeholder Forum, comprised of citizens, civil society organizations and government, with responsibility for assisting in the oversight of the OGP co-creation process; and iii) Designation of the MOFPS as the Government of Jamaica’s OGP Lead Agency. In December 2021, Cabinet approved seven (7) OGP commitments for inclusion in Jamaica’s first National Action Plan, and submission of the National Action Plan to the OGP before end-December 2021. Following the completion of Jamaica’s first action planning cycle under the OGP in August 2023, Cabinet subsequently granted approval in November 2023 for the development of Jamaica’s second National Action Plan under the OGP. The GOJ is committed to implementing the Second OGP National Action Plan over the period June 2024-June 2026, and to monitoring and reporting on its implementation through June 2026.

1.3 Jamaica’s Background in Open Governance

The GOJ has joined the OGP and committed to the OGP process, as the objectives of the OGP coincide well with the GOJ’s anti-corruption policy and strategies towards achieving greater transparency, accountability, public sector efficiency and the overall strengthening of governance. The Government of Jamaica has a long history of implementing initiatives towards enhancing open governance, including the following:

- Passage of the Access to Information Act in 2002 and establishment of the Access to Information Unit;
- Passage of the Public Bodies Management and Accountability Act (2001) and the Corruption Prevention Act (2002);
- Establishment of the Government’s fiscal responsibility framework through amendments to the Financial Administration and Audit Act and the Public Bodies Management and Accountability Act (2010);
- Passage of the Integrity Commission Act (2017);
- Publication of annual Citizen’s Guide to the Central Government’s Budget commencing with Financial Year 2019/2020;
- Launch of InvestmentMap Jamaica (November 2020) which tracks the country’s public investment projects and makes information available to citizens in a user-friendly format;
- Passage of the Bank of Jamaica (Amendment) Act (2020) which modernises Jamaica’s central bank through clarification of its mandate and enhancement of its governance structure, and which came into effect in April 2021;

- Passage of legislation in Parliament to establish a Fiscal Commission (February 2021);
- Approval of the GOJ Open Data Policy (July 2021).

1.4 Benefits of Open Governance and the OGP

The benefits of enhanced open governance to the citizens and residents of Jamaica include the following:

- Better access to information on the performance of government ministries and agencies and on matters of public interest;
- Greater transparency on the allocation and expenditure of public resources;
- Strengthened mechanisms to detect and address corruption in the administration of central government and public bodies;
- Enhanced ability to hold government and public officials accountable for the efficient and effective use of public resources and the achievement of targeted results;
- Greater opportunities for citizens to participate in the determination of government priorities and the monitoring of outcomes.

The OGP process has the potential to contribute to open governance in Jamaica through a range of mechanisms, including the following:

- The OGP provides an international framework within which participating countries including Jamaica are required to demonstrate and maintain commitment to the principles of open government;
- The OGP fosters and encourages partnership and collaboration between government and civil society stakeholders in participating countries;
- The OGP allows for the identification and implementation of priority actions that will advance access to information, civic participation and public accountability in participating countries including Jamaica;
- The OGP can provide technical support and a community of best practices that can help to build the capacity for open government in participating countries;
- The monitoring, reporting and assessment requirements of the OGP process, including self-assessment by participating governments and independent reporting by the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM), will strengthen the transparency and accountability in implementing open government reforms.

2.0 The Open Government Partnership Process in Jamaica

2.1 Formal Launch of the OGP Process in Jamaica

The public launch of the OGP process in Jamaica was held on January 15, 2021 as a virtual event organised by the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, with keynote address by then Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke, as the Ministerial focal point for the OGP process in Jamaica. The public launch was attended by representatives of government and civil society in Jamaica, the private sector, the OGP and multilateral institutions, and served as the official launch of the National Action Plan preparation process in Jamaica.

2.2 Establishment of Jamaica’s OGP Multi-Stakeholder Forum

The Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF) plays a central role under the OGP model in the process of co-creation of National Action Plans (NAPs), and in the monitoring, reporting and assessment of NAPs. There is no one-size-fits-all model for the MSF, and different countries have adopted different approaches. However, the general recommendations by the OGP are that government and civil society should have an equal standing in the Forum by means of an equal number of representatives, and they should share responsibility for directing and coordinating the Forum.

The Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF) for the OGP process in Jamaica was established in 2021 with six (6) GOJ members and six (6) Civil Society members, with a GOJ Co-Chair and a Civil Society Co-Chair. The six GOJ members of the MSF were nominated, following letters of invitation sent by the Financial Secretary of the MOFPS to five (5) key Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). The six Civil Society members were selected through a process of nomination and election designed and conducted by civil society stakeholders, with online voting on fifteen nominees by civil society stakeholders taking place over the period June 28-July 9, 2021. The Civil Society Co-Chair was selected by the Civil Society members of the MSF. The first meeting of the MSF was held on August 12, 2021, as a virtual meeting hosted by the MOFPS. The MSF has held regular meetings over the period from August 12, 2021 to February 1, 2024. The Terms of Reference for the MSF were unanimously approved by all members of the MSF.

The main purpose of the Multi-Stakeholder Forum is to provide oversight and guidance to the co-creation process for the development, submission, implementation, monitoring and reporting for each National Action Plan for the consecutive two-year action planning cycles for Jamaica under the OGP, including for the first National Action Plan from January 2022-August 2023, and for the second National Action Plan from June 2024-June 2026.

The twelve (12) original members of the MSF, as well as GOJ alternate members, are listed in Appendix 1, along with their status as at June 2024.

2.3 Communication of the OGP Process

The OGP process in Jamaica is supported by a communication programme led by the Corporate Communication and Public Relations Branch of the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service. The OGP communication programme includes the following aspects:

- Dissemination of information and updates on the progress of the OGP process on a range of online and digital media channels;
- Logistics, promotion, live-streaming and media relations for OGP events including the public launch in January 2021;
- Production of short informational video on the OGP (4 minutes in length) for the launch event;
- Design and production of OGP Jamaica publications, including the successive National Action Plans.

The OGP Co-creation and Participation Standards outline the following basic standards for online communication:

- Have a visible, accessible and searchable national OGP website/webpage with information related to the country's OGP activities;
- Collect, document and publish a repository that provides access to all documents related to the national OGP process, accounting for the development and implementation of the OGP action plan;
- Provide regular progress updates during the development and implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP);
- Provide opportunities for public feedback and comments.

A national OGP webpage and OGP document repository have been established on the MOFPS website, including a series of dedicated folders where relevant documents for the OGP process are stored and are accessible for downloading by civil society and government stakeholders and members of the public, and where information on aspects of the national OGP process is proactively published.

The communication of the OGP process in Jamaica also benefits from the ongoing sharing of information on the OGP process among civil society stakeholder networks, and by periodic presentations by the MSF on the public progress reports on the implementation of NAPs to stakeholder consultation groups.

3.0 Preparation and Implementation of Jamaica's First OGP National Action Plan

The Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF) coordinated the process of preparation of Jamaica's First OGP National Action Plan (NAP) over the period September–December 2021, including several rounds of meetings of OGP stakeholder consultation groups. Under the preparation of the first OGP National Action Plan, the MSF approved the development of commitments for the first NAP in the following four (4) thematic areas: Justice and Human Rights; Natural

Resources, Environment and Climate; Access to Information; and Youth, based on the results of online voting on priority thematic areas for the OGP by civil society stakeholders over the period June 28-July 9, 2021. The MSF also approved two (2) pro-active commitments based on open government initiatives already underway or proposed by the government, in the areas of Anti-Corruption and Open Data.

Jamaica's first OGP NAP was completed based on the inputs from stakeholder consultations and from implementing agencies, and included seven (7) commitments, in the areas of Anti-Corruption, Open Data, Access to Information, Justice and Human Rights, Environment, Climate Change and Youth. The first OGP NAP was approved by Cabinet and submitted to the OGP in December 2021. The NAP was subsequently placed on the MOFPS website and circulated to stakeholders for a period from January 3-19, 2022, for review and feedback by stakeholders and the public. Following this review period, revisions were made to the NAP, which provided the basis for the submission of the revised OGP National Action Plan to Cabinet and the OGP in June 2022.

The first OGP NAP was implemented over the period January 2022-August 2023, and two (2) Public Progress Reports were prepared covering the periods January-December 2022 and January 2022-August 2023, respectively. The Progress Reports indicated that progress continued on all seven (7) commitments during the January 2022-August 2023 review period, but a majority of activities were delayed under the first action planning cycle, with a common theme of constraints in human resources and funding impacting their timely implementation. A graphic summary of the implementation status of the milestone activities for the first OGP NAP for Jamaica over the period January 2022-August 2023 is included as Appendix 2.

4.0 Preparation of Jamaica's Second OGP National Action Plan

4.1 Context for Co-Creation Planning Process

Cabinet approved the development of a second OGP National Action Plan for Jamaica, by way of a cabinet decision taken in November 2023. The submission which was approved by Cabinet also recommended that the second OGP NAP for Jamaica should be largely based on the commitments and milestone activities which remain uncompleted following the conclusion of Jamaica's first OGP NAP in August 2023, and this is the approach that has been taken for the co-creation planning process for the development and completion of Jamaica's second NAP.

The Second OGP NAP was intended to be submitted by end-February 2024, to cover an implementation period from January 2024-December 2025. However, Jamaica was not able to submit its Second OGP NAP to the OGP by the end of February 2024 as planned, in part due to the scheduling of local government elections in February 2024, which impacted the targeted approval process for the Second OGP NAP. As a consequence, and in line with the advice provided from the OGP, Jamaica will now submit its Second OGP NAP in 2024, which will cover an action plan cycle from June 2024-June 2026.

4.2 Stakeholder Consultations

For the co-creation process for the development of Jamaica's second NAP, the MSF organized several rounds of meetings of OGP stakeholder consultation groups in the following thematic areas: Justice and Human Rights; Natural Resources, Environment and Climate; Access to Information; Open Data; and Youth, in order to discuss and develop proposed commitments for each thematic area for inclusion in the second OGP National Action Plan for Jamaica. The first round of stakeholder consultation groups meetings were held as Zoom meetings hosted by MOFPS over the period December 12, 2023-January 30, 2024. A virtual Stakeholder Consultation Meeting was hosted by the MOFPS on April 18, 2024 to discuss the changes in timeframes for the Second OGP National Action Plan for Jamaica for the two (2) year period from June 2024-June 2026. The second round of the meetings of the five (5) OGP stakeholder consultation groups were held as Zoom meetings hosted by MOFPS over the period May 22-June 13, 2024, to review the existing commitments in Jamaica's Second OGP National Action Plan, and to make any changes to the timeframes and content for the milestone activities that may be indicated by the change in the timeframe for the Second OGP NAP to June 2024-June 2026. The MSF also approved one (1) pro-active commitment based on an open government initiative already underway by the government, which was included in the first OGP NAP. The schedule of the stakeholder consultation group meetings held for the co-creation process for the second OGP NAP is shown in Appendix 3.

The participants in the stakeholder consultation group meetings include representatives of relevant government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), civil society organizations, the private sector, trade unions, faith-based organizations, youth organizations and academia. The participants were selected and recommended by the government and civil society members of the MSF, as well as by other government MDAs and by the OGP civil society working group.

The stakeholder consultation group meetings were also informed by presentations on the background to the OGP process, the Public Progress Report on the implementation of the first OGP NAP for the period January 2022-August 2023, and the context and approach for the co-creation process for the second OGP NAP.

4.3 Preparation and Completion of Draft Second National Action Plan

The process for completion and submission of the Second OGP National Action Plan for Jamaica includes the following remaining steps: i) Prepare draft second OGP NAP based on stakeholder consultations and inputs from implementing agencies, and publish draft second OGP NAP online for review and feedback by stakeholders and the public; ii) Complete final draft second OGP NAP based on feedback from Multi-Stakeholder Forum, stakeholders, implementing agencies and the public, and submit to Cabinet; iii) Approval of second OGP NAP and submission of second OGP NAP to the OGP in 2024. A summary schedule of the key steps in the OGP co-creation process for Jamaica's second National Action Plan over the period from December 2023-August 2024 is included as Appendix 4.

4.4 Framework for Implementation and Monitoring of National Action Plan

The commitments in the Second OGP National Action Plan will be implemented over the two-year OGP action planning cycle from June 2024-June 2026. The MSF will coordinate the monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the second NAP, including presentation of regular progress reports at consultations with stakeholders, and publication of regular progress reports on the online OGP webpage on the MOFPS website. The MSF will also coordinate a minimum of two (2) consultations on the implementation of the NAP with civil society stakeholders over the two-year implementation period.

The reporting on the implementation of Jamaica’s first OGP National Action Plan will also include an Action Plan Review and End-of-Term Results Report by the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM), and an End-of-Term Self-Assessment Report by the GOJ. The second OGP action planning cycle will also provide the opportunity for the OGP Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF) to strengthen the role and involvement of non-government stakeholders in the OGP process in Jamaica, and to strengthen the communication and reporting mechanisms to stakeholders.

A list of key OGP links that provide sources of information on the OGP process is included as Appendix 5.

5.0 Second OGP National Action Plan Commitments 2024-2025

The seven (7) commitments included in Jamaica’s Second National Action Plan under the OGP are summarized in the following table, including the name of each commitment, the lead implementing MDA, OGP thematic area, and policy alignment with the Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan, Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTF) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The commitments are described in detail in the following sections 4.1 – 4.7, using the template for OGP commitments, including timelines and milestones for implementation.

Table 1: Second OGP National Action Plan Commitments 2024-2025

Commitment	Lead Implementing Agency	OGP Thematic Areas	Policy Alignment	
			Vision 2030 Jamaica/Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTF)	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
1. Complete the National Anti-Corruption Strategy	Integrity Commission	Transparency, Accountability and Anti-Corruption (Pro-Active Commitment)	National Outcome No. 6 Effective Governance	SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
2. Upgrade and Strengthen the Open Data System in Jamaica	Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)	Access to Information, Digital Governance	National Outcome No. 6 Effective Governance National Outcome No. 11 A Technology-Enabled Society	SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
3. Amend the Access to Information (ATI) Act and Strengthen the ATI System in Jamaica	Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)	Access to Information	National Outcome No. 6 Effective Governance National Outcome No. 11 A Technology-Enabled Society	SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
4. Increase Access to Information on and Public Awareness of the Justice System and Human Rights	Ministry of Legal and Constitutional Affairs (MLCA) Ministry of Justice (MOJ)	Justice and Human Rights	National Outcome No. 6 Effective Governance	SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
5. Complete Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (MEGJC) National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA)	Environment	National Outcomes No. 13, 14 and 15	SDGs 11, 13, 14 and 15

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Commitment	Lead Implementing Agency	OGP Thematic Areas	Policy Alignment	
			Vision 2030 Jamaica/Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTF)	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
6. Carry out Development of Climate Change Legislation and Related Activities	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (MEGJC)	Climate Change	National Outcomes No. 10, 13, 14 and 15	SDGs 7, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15
7. Strengthen Youth Participation and Access to Services	Ministry of Education and Youth (MOEY)	Youth	National Outcome No. 1 A Healthy and Stable Population National Outcome No. 2 World-Class Education and Training	SDGs 16 and 17

4.1 Complete the National Anti-Corruption Strategy	
Commitment Start and End Date June 2024-June 2026	
Lead implementing agency/actor	The Integrity Commission of Jamaica
Commitment description	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	<p>Over the 19 years from 2002-2020, Jamaica has averaged a Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) score of only 37.5 out of 100 in the rankings conducted annually by Transparency International. Prior to its 2017 and 2018 CPI scores of 44 Jamaica had never scored higher than 41 (2015 CPI score) while Jamaica’s lowest CPI score ever was 30 which was recorded in 2009. A CPI score of below 50 means that a country has a serious corruption problem. In 2023 Jamaica had a CPI score of 44 and ranked 69th out of 180 countries.</p> <p>A 2015 USAID Final Report entitled “Combatting Corruption in Jamaica Final Performance Evaluation Caribbean Basin Security Initiative” cited a deficit in Jamaica’s efforts as follows, “While institutional progress has been made, the Government’s approach to corruption remains piecemeal and unfinished.” Additionally, Jamaica’s 2014 National Security Policy estimates that 5% of GDP or nearly J\$100 billion is lost to corruption annually.</p>
What is the commitment?	To complete the development of Jamaica’s National Anti-Corruption Strategy.
How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?	The country has specialised agencies and organisations with a range of roles which are mandated to address causes of corruption, including The Integrity Commission, The Major Organised Crime Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA), Financial Investigations Division, Revenue Protection Division and Jamaica Customs Agency. Despite the presence of these agencies, and the promulgation of new laws and measures, the country has not had the benefit of an integrated and coordinated approach in dealing with corruption issues. The completion of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NAS) will provide a structured framework for coordinated action among relevant agencies and stakeholders in addressing the causes and manifestations of corruption in the public and private sectors on a sustainable basis. The NAS will include a monitoring and evaluation framework that will enhance transparency in its implementation.

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<p>Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?</p>	<p>The completion of Jamaica’s National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NAS) is relevant to the following OGP values:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to Information: The NAS will strengthen reporting requirements and transparency. 2. Civic Participation: The process of completion of the NAS will include extensive stakeholder consultation and the NAS will include defined roles for stakeholders in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation. 3. Public Accountability: The NAS will strengthen prevention and detection of corruption within government, public bodies and the private sector. 	
<p>Additional information</p>	<p>The completion of Jamaica’s National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NAS) is aligned with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 6 (1)(j) of the Integrity Commission Act (2017) – Coordinate the implementation of an anti-corruption strategy • Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan – National Outcome No. 6 Effective Governance, including National Strategy 6-1 Strengthen the Process of Citizen Participation in Governance and National Strategy 6-7 Strengthen Accountability and Transparency Mechanisms • Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTF) for the relevant three-year period • Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions – Target 16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms • Lima Commitment, OAS VIII Summit of the Americas (2018) - Democratic Governance Against Corruption 	
<p>Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable</p>	<p>Start Date:</p>	<p>End Date:</p>
<p>Conduct extensive stakeholder consultations on preparation of National Anti-Corruption Strategy</p>	<p>January 2024</p>	<p>July 2024</p>
<p>Develop Draft National Anti-Corruption Strategy</p>	<p>July 2024</p>	<p>December 2024</p>
<p>Conduct extensive stakeholder consultations on Draft National Anti-Corruption Strategy</p>	<p>January 2025</p>	<p>March 2025</p>
<p>Complete National Anti-Corruption Strategy and submit to Cabinet</p>	<p>April 2025</p>	<p>July 2025</p>

Contact information		
Contacts	<p>Mr. Ryan Evans - Director of Corruption Prevention, Stakeholder Engagement and Anti-Corruption Strategy, Integrity Commission</p> <p>Mr. Maurice Barrett - Manager, Anti-Corruption Policy and Strategic Engagement, Integrity Commission</p>	
Email and Phone	<p>Ryan.Evans@integrity.gov.jm</p> <p>Maurice.Barrett@integrity.gov.jm</p> <p>876-929-6460, 876-929-6466, 876-929-7535, 876-929-7536</p>	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	<p>Ministry of Finance and the Public Service</p> <p>Ministry of National Security</p> <p>Ministry of Justice</p> <p>Major Organised Crime Anti-Corruption Agency</p> <p>Tax Administration Jamaica</p> <p>Jamaica Customs Agency</p> <p>Auditor General’s Department</p> <p>Attorney General’s Chambers</p>
	CSOs, private sector, multilateral agencies, working groups	<p>Private Sector Organization of Jamaica</p> <p>Jamaica Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>National Integrity Action</p> <p>Jamaica Accountability Meter Portal</p>

4.2 Upgrade and Strengthen the Open Data System in Jamaica	
Commitment Start and End Date June 2024-June 2026	
Lead implementing agency/actor	Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)
Commitment Description	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	On a global scale, Open Data has become a major initiative by governments to increase the availability and useability of information and data generated to facilitate research, and promote government transparency, private sector technology growth, innovation and policy formulation. There is high demand for government data in Jamaica, and there is a vast amount of data available on government websites to meet this demand. However, the main limitation is that much of this data is not in a readily reusable format and the barriers to converting it have challenged potential users of government data. The Open Data Portal established by the government in June 2016 hosts data in a range of subjects including on the economy, finance, infrastructure, health, education, agriculture and transportation. However, the Open Data Portal experienced challenges in its operation, and much of the data on the portal was not current. Under the first OGP National Action Plan (NAP) for Jamaica, steps were taken to upgrade the Open Data Portal. The second OGP NAP will consolidate and build on these steps to strengthen the broader Open Data System in Jamaica.
What is the commitment?	To upgrade and strengthen the Open Data system in Jamaica through strategic actions in the Implementation Plan for the Open Data Policy, including consolidating and building on the upgrading of the Open Data Portal.
How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?	The Government of Jamaica Open Data Policy which was approved by the Cabinet in July 2021 provides the Vision, Guiding Principles, Goals, Objectives and Strategies for the advancement of Open Government Data in Jamaica. The Implementation Plan will provide the basis for the realization of the Open Data Goals. The key strategic actions included in the OGP Open Data commitment will address key constraints, including through conducting communication and sensitization on the Open Data Policy with MDAs and other stakeholders, expanding the participation of civil society in Open Data governance, completing a review of existing legislation and policies relevant to Open Data, strengthening partnerships and engagement among government and non-

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	government stakeholders in areas relevant to Open Data, and conducting capacity building for Open Data capabilities.	
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	<p>The upgrading and strengthening of the Open Data system in Jamaica is relevant to the following OGP values:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to Information: The upgrading and strengthening of the Open Data system will significantly improve the provision of Open Government Data in Jamaica. The commitment will also strengthen the relationship between the Open Data system and the Access to Information system. 2. Civic Participation: The development of the Implementation Plan for the Open Data Policy will include stakeholder consultation and the representation and role of civil society on the Open Data Committee will be expanded. 3. Public Accountability: The increased availability of Open Government Data will enable more effective monitoring of performance of government entities, projects and programmes. 4. Technology and Innovation for Openness and Accountability: The strategic actions in the Implementation Plan for the Open Data Policy will deploy technology to increase the provision of Open Government Data, including consolidating and building on the upgrading of the Open Data Portal. 	
Additional information	<p>The upgrading and strengthening of the Open Data system in Jamaica is aligned with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Jamaica Open Data Policy (2021) • Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan – National Outcome No. 6 Effective Governance, including National Strategy 6-1 Strengthen the Process of Citizen Participation in Governance, National Strategy 6-5 Strengthen Public Institutions to Deliver Efficient and Effective Public Goods and Services, and National Strategy 6-7 Strengthen Accountability and Transparency Mechanisms; National Outcome No. 11 A Technology-Enabled Society, including National Strategy 11-1 Integrate Science and Technology into All Areas of Development • Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTF) for the relevant three-year period • Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions – Target 16.10 Ensure public access to information; Open Data is also seen as playing a cross-cutting role, contributing towards the achievement of all seventeen SDGs 	
Milestone Activity with a Verifiable Deliverable	Start Date:	End Date:
Complete Implementation Plan for the Open Data Policy	June 2024	August 2024

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Strengthen Open Data Committee including expanded representation and role of civil society	June 2024	December 2024
Conduct communication and sensitization on the Open Data Policy with MDAs and other stakeholders	June 2024	June 2026
Complete review of existing legislation and policies relevant to Open Data	July 2024	September 2025
Strengthen partnerships and engagement among government and non-government stakeholders in areas relevant to Open Data	July 2024	September 2025
Conduct capacity building for Open Data capabilities among government and non-government stakeholders, including for the upgraded Open Data Portal	September 2024	December 2025
Publish and maintain a public list of Government data sets, including rationale and timelines for their publication or non-disclosure, and quarterly updates on priority list of data sets to be mainstreamed into the Open Data Portal	September 2024	June 2026
Contact Information		
Contacts	Mr. Gary Campbell - Director of Technology, Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)	
Email and Phone	Gary.Campbell@opm.gov.jm 876-431-1456	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Ministry of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport Ministry of Finance and the Public Service eGov Jamaica Limited Office of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) ICT Authority ¹

¹ It is intended that the ICT Authority when established will replace eGov Jamaica Limited and the Office of the CIO.

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	CSOs, private sector, multilateral agencies, working groups	Jamaica Technology and Digital Alliance Jamaica Developers Community
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4.3 Amend the Access to Information (ATI) Act and Strengthen the ATI System in Jamaica	
Commitment Start and End Date June 2024-June 2026	
Lead implementing agency/actor	Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)
Commitment Description	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	The Access to Information (ATI) Act that was passed in 2002 and came into effect in 2004 is in need of review and amendment. A comprehensive review of the ATI Act was conducted in 2009-2011, and the Joint Select Committee (JSC) Report to Parliament was tabled in 2011, which made recommendations including the strengthening ATI Unit and extending the public interest test. However, there has been no action taken since 2011 to amend the ATI Act, or implement the recommendations in the JSC Report. The existing ATI system also has constraints including delays in responses to requests for information.
What is the commitment?	To amend the Access to Information (ATI) Act and strengthen the ATI system in Jamaica.
How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?	The commitment to amend the ATI Act, based on the JSC Report of 2011 and subsequent developments, and to strengthen the ATI system in Jamaica will improve the legal and regulatory framework and system for provision of information by the government to citizens, both proactively and in response to requests for information, in order to advance certain fundamental principles underlying the system of constitutional democracy, including governmental accountability, transparency, and public participation in decision-making. The actions to improve the existing ATI system, including capacity development and training for ATI officers, public education on the ATI system, improved guidelines for public bodies and ATI officers, strengthening of reporting mechanisms, and development of a proposal for the application of an online platform for making and tracking ATI requests, will improve the operation of the existing ATI system and reduce delays in response to ATI requests.

<p>Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?</p>	<p>The commitment to amend the ATI Act and strengthen the ATI system in Jamaica is relevant to the following OGP values:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to Information: The amendments to the ATI Act and strengthening of the ATI system will improve the legal and regulatory framework for ATI and the operation of the ATI system, resulting in improved access to public information for citizens. The commitment will also strengthen the relationship between the Access to Information system and the Open Data system. 2. Civic Participation: The process to amend the ATI Act and regulations will include stakeholder consultations. The establishment of the Access to Information Act Advisory Committee will provide a multi-stakeholder framework for the participation of government and non-government stakeholders including civil society in the ATI reform process. 3. Public Accountability: The increased access to information will enable more effective monitoring of the performance of government entities, projects and programmes.
<p>Additional information</p>	<p>The commitment to amend the Access to Information (ATI) Act and strengthen the ATI system in Jamaica is aligned with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Jamaica Open Data Policy (2021) • Data Protection Act (2020) • Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan – National Outcome No. 6 Effective Governance, including National Strategy 6-1 Strengthen the Process of Citizen Participation in Governance, National Strategy 6-5 Strengthen Public Institutions to Deliver Efficient and Effective Public Goods and Services, and National Strategy 6-7 Strengthen Accountability and Transparency Mechanisms; National Outcome No. 11 A Technology-Enabled Society, including National Strategy 11-1 Integrate Science and Technology into All Areas of Development • Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTF) for the relevant three-year period • Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions – Target 16.10 Ensure public access to information; Access to Information is also seen as playing a cross-cutting role, contributing towards the achievement of all seventeen SDGs • Inter-American Convention Against Corruption of which Jamaica is a party and the Committee of Experts that guides the Mechanism for Follow-Up on the implementation of the Convention ('MESICIC') in which Jamaica participates • The Escazu Agreement (2018) to which Jamaica is a signatory • Lima Commitment, OAS VIII Summit of the Americas (2018) - Democratic Governance Against Corruption

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Milestone Activity with a Verifiable Deliverable	Start Date:	End Date:
Establish the Access to Information Act Advisory Committee, including confirmation of membership, approval of Terms of Reference (TOR), and endorsement of the ATI Access to Information Act Advisory Committee by the relevant Minister	June 2024	September 2024
Establish new Joint Select Committee to review the Access to Information Act and take submissions from the public	January 2025	April 2025
Prepare Draft Bill to amend the ATI Act and regulations based on new Joint Select Committee Report	May 2025	October 2025
Review of Draft Bill to amend the ATI Act and regulations by the Access to Information Act Advisory Committee and consultation sessions with stakeholders and the public	November 2025	January 2026
Finalize Bill to amend the ATI Act and Regulations	February 2026	June 2026
Prepare improved guidelines for public bodies and ATI officers	June 2024	June 2026
Undertake capacity development and training for ATI officers	June 2024	June 2026
Conduct programme of public education on the ATI system and rights	June 2024	June 2026
Strengthen reporting mechanisms for annual reports, and reporting for the SDGs and Lima Commitment	July 2024	June 2026
Develop proposal for the application of technology for online platform for making and tracking ATI requests	June 2024	March 2025

Contact Information		
Contacts		<p>Mrs. Nicola Ann Brown Pinnock - Chief Technical Director (Acting), Information Division, Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)</p> <p>Mr. Damian Cox - Senior Director, Access to Information Unit, Information Division, OPM</p>
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Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	<p>Ministry of Finance and the Public Service</p> <p>Ministry of Legal and Constitutional Affairs</p> <p>Office of the Parliamentary Counsel</p> <p>Attorney General's Chambers</p>
	CSOs, private sector, multilateral agencies, working groups	<p>ATI Advisory Stakeholders Committee</p> <p>Access to Information Act Advisory Committee</p>

4.4 Increase Access to Information on and Public Awareness of the Justice System and Human Rights	
Commitment Start and End Date June 2024-June 2026	
Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry of Legal and Constitutional Affairs (MLCA) Ministry of Justice (MOJ)
Commitment description	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	<p>The Ministry of Legal and Constitutional Affairs (MLCA) was established in January 2022 to take charge of and give focused attention to the Government’s Legislative Agenda and its legal and constitutional reform aspirations. The creation of the MLCA is the Government’s attempt to holistically revisit the legal and constitutional infrastructure of the State and accelerate the pace of reform. The MLCA has been mandated to reform the Constitution so that it effectively serves and reflects the will of the people of Jamaica. A robust Legal Education Programme has been crafted and implemented to heighten awareness of the Constitution and Laws of Jamaica.</p> <p>The protection of human rights through a responsibility framework priority underscores the MLCA's commitment to heighten awareness of people’s constitutional rights and address lingering human rights concerns. Access to justice is a critical pillar for equitable and sustainable social and economic development. However, access to justice remains a complex issue, characterized by economic, social, structural, cultural and institutional barriers, including citizen disengagement, the intricacy and cost of legal processes, as well as the need to deepen partnerships across Government.</p> <p>This also includes the unique challenge which flows from low levels of awareness among stakeholders and the general public on human rights, freedoms, and the responsibilities of citizens, as provided in Chapter 3 of the Constitution, the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (See for example, Jamaica Citizen Scorecard). To date, this has led to a failure to translate and apply human rights concepts which has resulted in documented failures in recognizing when human rights violations take place. There are also constraints with respect to the existing sources of information on the justice system, including the limited functionality, relevance and effectiveness of the existing MOJ laws of Jamaica webpage. There are significant information gaps on the existing webpage, and there are delays in the uploading of new legislation and legislative changes.</p>

<p>What is the commitment?</p>	<p>Increase access to information on and public awareness of the Justice System and Human Rights</p>
<p>How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?</p>	<p>The Jamaica Legal Information Portal (JLIP) will increase access to information on all existing Laws, regulations and subsidiary legislation, official information contained in the Jamaica Gazette publications, and timely notification of judicial and legislative developments. The JLIP will be in keeping with international best practice premised on the principle that every person has the right of free access to public legal information, which empowers citizens and supports efficient and timely justice processes. The Human Rights and Justice Public Education Programme will provide increased information on human rights and open governance to a broad cross-section of stakeholders and the Jamaican public, including children and youth. It may be noted that the subject areas of legal reform, public education on the laws of Jamaica, constitutional reform and human rights fall under the portfolio of the Ministry of Legal and Constitutional Affairs, while the subject area of the justice system falls under the portfolio of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ).</p>
<p>Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?</p>	<p>The commitment to increase access to information on and public awareness of the Justice System and Human Rights is relevant to the following OGP values:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to Information: The Jamaica Legal Information Portal will increase access to information on all existing Laws, regulations and subsidiary legislation, official information contained in the Jamaica Gazette publications, and timely notification of judicial and legislative developments. The Human Rights and Justice Public Education Programme will provide information on human rights and open governance to a broad cross-section of stakeholders and the Jamaican public, including children and youth. 2. Civic Participation: The Human Rights and Justice Public Education Programme will involve the participation of civil society organizations involved in human rights. 3. Technology and Innovation for Openness and Accountability: The Jamaica Legal Information Portal and the virtual, online and social media components of the Human Rights and Justice Public Education Programme will deploy technology to increase access to information on and public awareness of the Justice System and Human Rights in Jamaica.

Additional information	<p>The commitment to increase access to information on and public awareness of the Justice System and Human Rights is aligned with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms (Constitutional Amendment) Act 2011, which expanded the rights in Chapter III of the Jamaican Constitution • Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) • International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) • International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) • Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan – National Outcome No. 6 Effective Governance, including National Strategy 6-2 Reform the Justice System and 6-3 Ensure Tolerance and Respect for Human Rights and Freedoms • Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTF) for the relevant three-year period • Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions – Target 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all 	
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start Date:	End Date:
Establish Jamaica Legal Information Portal (JLIP)	June 2024 ²	June 2025
Conduct stakeholder consultations on preparation of Human Rights and Justice Public Education Programme	November 2024	January 2025
Complete preparation of Human Rights and Justice Public Education Programme	February 2025	April 2025
Implement Human Rights and Justice Public Education Programme	May 2025	December 2025
Contact information		
Contacts	<p>Ms. Nadine Wilkins – Director, Legal Reform Department, Ministry of Legal and Constitutional Affairs (MLCA)</p> <p>Capt. Natalie James – Acting Director, Human Rights Division, MLCA</p> <p>Ms. Shereika Mills – Acting Human Rights Officer, MLCA</p> <p>Ms. Shawn Harriott – Acting Coordinator, Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice (MOJ)</p>	

² The Jamaica Legal Information Portal is a project of MLCA which commenced in July 2022.

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Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service Ministry of National Security Ministry of Education and Youth Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Office of the Public Defender
	CSOs, private sector, multilateral agencies, working groups	National Integrity Action Citizens Action for Free and Fair Elections Jamaicans for Justice Stand Up For Jamaica

4.5 Complete Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations	
Commitment Start and End Date June 2024-June 2026	
Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (MEGJC) National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA)
Commitment Description	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	The framework for the conduct of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) in Jamaica has guidelines for inclusion of stakeholder consultations in the decision-making process for development projects and activities that may have a significant impact on the environment or public health. It is therefore important that key stakeholders, particularly those who may be affected by their impacts, are empowered to actively participate in the process. It is noted that citizen awareness and understanding of the environmental and public health impacts of projects are critical in ensuring proactive public participation in the EIA process. Indeed, public participation may also be improved by provision of greater information and data on the potential impacts of development projects.
What is the commitment?	To complete Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations under the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) Act.
How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?	The completion and subsequent promulgation of EIA Regulations will provide the public with access to information on projects and activities that may have a significant impact on the environment and public health throughout all phases of the project or activity, and will require the participation of relevant stakeholders, including the public, in the environmental decision-making process for the approval of relevant projects and activities. EIA Regulations with legal requirements for access to information and public participation will enhance consistency and predictability in the process for approving major projects and developments.

<p>Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?</p>	<p>The completion of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations in Jamaica is relevant to the following OGP values:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to Information: This commitment will strengthen processes to make public relevant information on projects and activities that may have an impact on the environment and public health safety. 2. Civic Participation: The completion and subsequent promulgation of EIA Regulations will strengthen the role of consultation with stakeholders in the approval process for development projects and activities, and increase the capacity of citizens to understand how projects and activities can impact their environment and public health. 3. Public Accountability: This commitment aims to put in place a process and standards to be adhered to by implementers of projects which have an impact on the environment and public health. 	
<p>Additional information</p>	<p>The completion of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations is aligned with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Resources Conservation Authority Act 1991 • The Building Act 2018 • Town and Country Planning Act 1958 • The Local Improvements Act 1914 • Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan –National Outcome No. 13 Sustainable Management and Use of Environmental and Natural Resources; National Outcome No. 14 Hazard Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change; and National Outcome No. 15 Sustainable Urban and Rural Development • Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTF) for the relevant three-year period • The Escazu Agreement (2018) to which Jamaica is a signatory • Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities; SDG 13 Climate Action; SDG 14 Life Below Water; and SDG 15 Life On Land 	
<p>Milestone Activity with a Verifiable Deliverable</p>	<p>Start Date:</p>	<p>End Date:</p>
<p>Conduct stakeholder consultations on elements of EIA Regulations</p>	<p>August 2024</p>	<p>January 2025</p>
<p>Prepare drafting instructions for EIA Regulations</p>	<p>February 2025</p>	<p>July 2025</p>
<p>Submit drafting instructions on EIA Regulations to the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel and collaborate on the finalization of EIA Regulations</p>	<p>July 2025</p>	<p>June 2026</p>

Contact Information		
Contacts		<p>Ms. Gillian Guthrie - Chief Technical Director (Acting), Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (MEGJC)</p> <p>Ms. Andrea Donaldson - Senior Manager, Conservation and Protection Subdivision, National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA)</p>
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Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	<p>Ministry of Finance and the Public Service</p> <p>National Environment and Planning Agency</p>
	CSOs, private sector, multilateral agencies, working groups	

4.6 Carry out Development of Climate Change Legislation and Related Activities	
Commitment Start and End Date June 2024-June 2026	
Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (MEGJC)
Commitment Description	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	Global atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gas emissions due to human activities have grown since pre-industrial times (1750), resulting in global warming of approximately 1°C above pre-industrial levels by 2017. As a small-island developing state, Jamaica is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise, increased threats to human health, and increased frequency of extreme weather events such as storms, droughts and hurricanes. Jamaica’s vulnerability to climate change impacts is further compounded by social issues such as poverty, environmental degradation, and the location of human settlements and critical infrastructure in high-risk coastal areas. Jamaica’s first Climate Change Policy Framework was finalized in September 2015. However, the 2015 Policy Framework did not take into account issues related to the Paris Agreement. In this regard, the policy was updated, and a new Climate Change Policy Framework was finalized in March 2023.
What is the commitment?	To carry out development of Climate Change Legislation and conduct stakeholder and public consultations towards the preparation and finalization of Jamaica’s next Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the 2015 Paris Agreement.
How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?	The updating of the Climate Change Policy Framework for Jamaica took into consideration the provisions of the Paris Agreement and other relevant international, regional and national developments in sectors, including the energy and transport sectors, as well as the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and other relevant United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) reports and material. Extensive consultations with stakeholders and the public were conducted on the Green Paper which was prepared for the updating of the Climate Change Policy Framework, and served as the basis for preparation of the White Paper for the updating of the Climate Change Policy Framework, which was submitted for Cabinet approval and tabled in Parliament in March 2023. The updated Climate Change Policy Framework will advance the strengthening of Jamaica’s adaptive capacity and resilience to reduce its vulnerability to climate change, pursuit of low carbon development and reduced greenhouse gas

	<p>emissions, enhancement of access to and mobilization of climate finance, and promotion of public education and awareness raising, research and technology transfer towards ambitious climate action. Key actions to be undertaken under the Implementation Plan for the updated Climate Change Policy Framework also include preparation of Climate Change legislation, to be undertaken under the Second OGP National Action Plan 2024-2025 for Jamaica; development of the National Adaptation Plan, with funding support from the Green Climate Fund; vulnerability assessments at the national, sectoral and community levels; and a Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) project, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), to strengthen Jamaica’s institutional and technical capacity to meet its reporting requirements under the Paris Agreement and UNFCCC. Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) is a term adopted by the UNFCCC to denote work under Article 6 of the Convention (1992) and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement. The appointment of an ACE focal point for Jamaica, which was a target under the first OGP NAP, was completed in January 2024. The involvement of stakeholder consultations will contribute to the preparation and finalization of Jamaica’s next Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the 2015 Paris Agreement.</p>
<p>Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?</p>	<p>The development of Climate Change Legislation and stakeholder and public consultations towards the preparation and finalization of Jamaica’s next NDC are relevant to the following OGP values:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to Information: The development of climate change legislation and preparation and finalization of Jamaica’s next NDC will facilitate improved capacity for monitoring and reporting on information on emissions and climate change impacts. 2. Civic Participation: The stakeholder and public consultations towards the development of climate change legislation and preparation and finalization of Jamaica’s next NDC will enhance civic participation in important components of Jamaica’s climate change policy and operational framework. 3. Public Accountability: The development of climate change legislation and preparation and finalization of Jamaica’s next NDC will support the strengthening of the capacity to prepare and regularly publish national reports on the assessment of climate change impacts, projects, programmes and activities including National Communications, Adaptation Communications, Biennial Update Reports (BURs), Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and State of the Jamaican Climate Reports.

<p>Additional information</p>	<p>The development of Climate Change Legislation and stakeholder and public consultations towards the preparation and finalization of Jamaica’s next NDC are aligned with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 1992 • The Paris Agreement 2015 • The SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway 2014 • The Forest Policy of Jamaica 2017 • Jamaica’s National Energy Policy 2009-2030 • National Water Sector Policy and Implementation Plan, 2019 • The National Strategy and Action Plan on Biological Diversity in Jamaica 2016 – 2021 • The Disaster Risk Management Act 2015 • Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan – National Outcome No. 10 Energy Security and Efficiency; National Outcome No. 13 Sustainable Management and Use of Environmental and Natural Resources; National Outcome No. 14 Hazard Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change; and National Outcome No. 15 Sustainable Urban and Rural Development • Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTF) for the relevant three-year period • Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy; SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities; SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production; SDG 13 Climate Action; SDG 14 Life Below Water; and SDG 15 Life On Land 	
<p>Milestone Activity with a Verifiable Deliverable</p>	<p>Start Date:</p>	<p>End Date:</p>
<p>Preparation of Climate Change Legislation</p>		
<p>Engage consultant to support preparation of Concept Paper in relation to climate change legislation</p>	<p>August 2024</p>	<p>December 2024</p>
<p>Conduct stakeholder consultations to inform the preparation of Concept Note for draft climate change legislation</p>	<p>January 2025</p>	<p>March 2025</p>
<p>Prepare Cabinet Submission on preparation of draft climate change legislation and submit to Cabinet</p>	<p>March 2025</p>	<p>July 2025</p>

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Engage consultant to support preparation of drafting instructions for climate change legislation ³	July 2025	September 2025
Conduct stakeholder and public consultations to inform the preparation of drafting instructions for climate change legislation	October 2025	December 2025
Complete drafting instructions for climate change legislation and submit to the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel	December 2025	April 2026
Preparation of Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)		
Conduct stakeholder and public consultations on the preparation of draft NDC	July 2024	September 2024
Conduct stakeholder and public consultations on review of final NDC	March 2025	June 2025
Submit final NDC to UNFCCC	November 2025	November 2025
Contact Information		
Contacts	Ms. Gillian Guthrie - Chief Technical Director, (Acting), Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (MEGJC) Mr. Omar Alcock – Principal Director (Acting), Climate Change Division, MEGJC	
Email and Phone	gillian.guthrie@megjc.gov.jm Omar.Alcock@megjc.gov.jm 876-443-3133, 876-423-4154	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Ministry of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport Ministry of Finance and the Public Service Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining Meteorological Service of Jamaica National Environment and Planning Agency

³ MEGJC has the option to procure one consultancy to support the preparation of Concept Paper and the drafting instructions.

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	CSOs, private sector, multilateral agencies, working groups	Jamaica Environment Trust Jamaica Climate Change Youth Council Climate Change Advisory Board Mona Climate Studies Group
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4.7 Strengthen Youth Participation and Access to Services	
Commitment Start and End Date June 2024-June 2026	
Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry of Education and Youth (MOEY)
Commitment Description	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	The Youth population of Jamaica comprises approximately 28 per cent of the country’s overall population, based on the Commonwealth’s definition for youth as being from 15 to 29 years. It may also be noted that the United Nations, for statistical purposes, defines youth as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years. However, the Situational Analysis for Jamaica’s National Youth Policy notes that young people are under-represented in processes of national political and policy engagement and public administration. Youth also have limited awareness and engagement in critical areas of nation building such as governance, culture and the environment. The National Youth Policy recognizes the need for greater youth engagement and youth participation through the creation or expansion of platforms for them to assert their ideas or recommendations and to be involved in processes of national and community development.
What is the commitment?	To strengthen youth participation and access to services in Jamaica through key actions in the Implementation Plan for the National Youth Policy.
How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?	The Implementation Plan for the Revised National Youth Policy (2017-2030) will provide the basis for the realization of the Vision, Guiding Principles, Goals, Objectives and Strategies for Youth advancement, development and participation in Jamaica. The key actions included in the OGP Youth commitment will increase Youth participation and access to services, including through: Completion of the Implementation Plan and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the National Youth Policy; launch of new website for the Youth and Adolescents Policy Division, including establishment of the National Youth Programmatic Inventory online directory; and undertaking programme for at-risk and unattached youth through the network of Youth Innovation Centres (YICs).

<p>Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?</p>	<p>The strengthening of youth participation and access to services in Jamaica is relevant to the following OGP values:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to Information: The National Youth Programmatic Inventory survey and online directory will significantly improve the provision of information on youth programmes and services in Jamaica. 2. Civic Participation: The development of the Implementation Plan for the National Youth Policy will include stakeholder consultation including with youth stakeholders. The National Youth Programmatic Inventory online directory will improve the opportunities for youth to participate in youth programmes and services in Jamaica. 3. Public Accountability: The completion of the Implementation Plan and monitoring and evaluation framework for the National Youth Policy will enable more effective monitoring of performance of youth projects and programmes. 4. Technology and Innovation for Openness and Accountability: The new website for the Youth and Adolescents Policy Division and the National Youth Programmatic Inventory online directory will deploy technology to increase the provision of information on and access to youth programmes and services in Jamaica. 	
<p>Additional information</p>	<p>The strengthening of youth participation and access to services in Jamaica is aligned with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Revised National Youth Policy (2017-2030) • Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan – National Outcome No. 1 A Healthy and Stable Population, including National Strategy 1-1 Maintain a Stable Population; National Outcome No. 2 World-Class Education and Training, including National Strategy 2-8 Expand Mechanisms to Provide Access to Education and Training for All including Unattached Youth • Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTF) for the relevant three-year period • Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals; Youth is also seen as playing a cross-cutting role, contributing towards the achievement of all seventeen SDGs 	
<p>Milestone Activity with a Verifiable Deliverable</p>	<p>Start Date:</p>	<p>End Date:</p>
<p>Complete Implementation Plan and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the National Youth Policy</p>	<p>June 2024</p>	<p>June 2025</p>
<p>Complete development and launch of new website for the Youth and Adolescents Policy Division</p>	<p>June 2024</p>	<p>November 2024</p>
<p>Complete and publish Gap Analysis and Recommendations Report for National Youth Programmatic Inventory</p>	<p>September 2024</p>	<p>March 2025</p>

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Establish National Youth Programmatic Inventory online directory based on results of survey and Gap Analysis and Recommendations Report, with mechanisms for ongoing updating and maintenance		October 2024	December 2024
Undertake programme for at-risk and unattached youth through network of Youth Innovation Centres (YICs)		June 2024	June 2026
Contact Information			
Contacts		Ms. Yanique Williams - Senior Director (Acting), Youth and Adolescents Policy Division, Ministry of Education and Youth (MOEY)	
Email and Phone		yanique.williams@moey.gov.jm 876-922-1400, 876-612-5700-2, 876-360-1067	
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	
	CSOs, private sector, multilateral agencies, working groups	National Youth Council of Jamaica Youth Advisory Council of Jamaica	







Appendix 1: Original Members of Jamaica’s OGP Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF)

Name	Position	Institution⁴	Current Status⁵
OGP Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF)			
Government of Jamaica (GOJ) Members			
Mrs. Lorris Jarrett (GOJ Co-Chair)	Deputy Financial Secretary, Public Expenditure Division	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS)	
Mr. Richard Lumsden (Alternate GOJ Co-Chair)	Director, Economic Reform Monitoring Unit		
Mrs. Sherricca Brandford	Coordinator, Criminal Justice Reform	Ministry of Justice	Left the Ministry of Justice in April 2023
Ms. Monique Gibbs	Senior Director, Strategic Planning, Performance Monitoring, Evaluation and Modernization	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (MEGJC)	
Mr. Gary Campbell	Director of Technology	Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)	
Mrs. Danielle Jones Cox	Senior Director, Modernization Programme Implementation	Cabinet Office	Reassigned to the MOFPS in March 2024
Mr. Easton Williams	Senior Director, Social Policy, Planning and Research	Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ)	
Mrs. Stacey Clarke-Callum (PIOJ Alternate)	Programme Director, Civil Registration and Migration Policy		New PIOJ Alternate is Ms. Antonette Richards
Civil Society Members			
Mr. Jason Scott (Civil Society Co-Chair)	Deputy President	Jamaica Technology and Digital Alliance	Resigned from the MSF in July 2023
Mr. Matthew McNaughton	Principal	SlashRoots Foundation	
Ms. Dahvia Hylton	Policy and Research Lead	Jamaica Climate Change Youth Council (JCCYC)	
Ms. Tamisha Lee	President	Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers	
Mr. Oshane Bailey	Co-Founder/Full Stack Engineer	Osoobe Ltd.	
Ms. Thoneisa Jarrett (Youth Representative)	Student	The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus	

⁴ Institutions revised to reflect Cabinet reshuffles announced in January 2022 and May 2023.

⁵ Current status as at June 2024.

**Appendix 2: Summary of Milestone Activity Implementation Status for First OGP NAP
January 2022-August 2023**

Implementation Status	Status Indicator	Number of Activities	%
Activity is complete		2	5%
Activity is on track		1	2%
Activity is delayed		37	88%
Activity is at risk		0	0%
No update on activity provided		1	2%
Activity is cancelled		1	2%
Activity has not yet started but is not delayed	[Blank]	0	0%
TOTAL		42	100%

Note: Discrepancies in table may be due to rounding errors.

Appendix 3: Schedule of Stakeholder Consultation Meetings for Second OGP NAP

Priority Thematic Areas / Stakeholder Consultation Groups	Schedule of Stakeholder Consultations
	Dates of Meetings Held
Natural Resources, Environment and Climate	December 12, 2023, January 23, 2024 and June 13, 2024
Open Data	December 13, 2023, January 30, 2024 and May 28, 2024
Justice and Human Rights	December 18, 2023, January 10, 2024, May 22, 2024 and May 30, 2024
Access to Information	December 19, 2023, January 12, 2024, January 24, 2024 and May 28, 2024
Youth	January 11, 2024, January 19, 2024 and May 24, 2024

Appendix 4: Summary Schedule of OGP Co-Creation Process for Second National Action Plan

Action	Proposed Timeframe
Send out invitations for OGP stakeholder consultation groups	December 4-11, 2023
Hold three (3) rounds of meetings of OGP stakeholder consultation groups to develop draft commitments for inclusion in second OGP NAP in five (5) thematic areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Open Data ➤ Access to Information ➤ Justice and Human Rights ➤ Natural Resources, Environment and Climate ➤ Youth 	First Round: December 12-19, 2023 Second Round: January 10-30, 2024 Third Round: May 22-June 13, 2024
Prepare draft second OGP NAP based on inputs from implementing agencies and stakeholder consultation groups, and publish draft second OGP NAP online for review and feedback by stakeholders and the public	February 5-19, 2024
Prepare revised draft second OGP NAP based on inputs from implementing agencies and stakeholder consultation groups, and publish revised draft second OGP NAP online for review and feedback by stakeholders and the public	June 27 – July 12, 2024
Complete final draft second OGP NAP based on feedback from Multi-Stakeholder Forum, stakeholders, implementing agencies and the public, and submit to Cabinet	July 15-19, 2024
Approval of second OGP NAP and submission of second OGP NAP to OGP	July - December, 2024

Appendix 5: Key OGP Links

The following relevant OGP links provide additional information on the OGP process:

- OGP Website: <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/>
- GOJ OGP Webpage on MOFPS Website: <https://www.mof.gov.jm/documents/open-government/>
- GOJ OGP Document Repository: <https://www.mof.gov.jm/documents/programmes/>
- OGP Email Address: ogp@mof.gov.jm
- OGP Informational Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKp7mHeF-Bk>