The Open Government Partnership

Announcing New
Open Government Initiatives

as part of the

Third Open Government
National Action Plan for
the United States of America

September 2016

New U.S. National Action Plan Initiatives

The United States is building upon the commitments in the existing [Third Open Government National Action Plan](#) to include seven new and expanded initiatives that align with the Open Government Partnership (OGP) pillars of transparency, participation, accountability, and technology and innovation. The United States will work to implement these commitments by the end of this National Action Plan cycle in June 2017.

Promote Global Interconnectivity

Champion Internet Connectivity through Global Connect
The United States Government, in coordination with other countries, multilateral institutions, and stakeholders, will work to actively promote global interconnectivity. Specifically, the Global Connect initiative will focus on encouraging foreign countries to promote Internet connectivity in development plans; to work in cooperation with multilateral development institutions in order to support connectivity and digital technologies; and finally, to harness the knowledge, skills and resources of the tech community itself to implement solutions for high-speed, affordable broadband access. As part of Global Connect, the United States will champion Internet policies, including openness, transparency, and rule of law, that can encourage investment and create a strong enabling environment for digital growth to ensure these new connections bear fruit.

Support Open Contracting

The United States Government is the world's largest buyer of goods and services. Ensuring public access to information about government procurement not only promotes transparency and accountability but also allows for more efficient and effective contracting practices across Federal agencies. In 2016, Vice President Biden committed the United States to promoting the Open Contracting Data Standard that enables disclosure of data and documents at all stages of the contracting process by defining a common data model. In support of open contracting, the United States will:

Harness the Expertise of Contracting Professionals to Improve Contracting Data
The Administration will convene contracting officers from across government agencies to hear about their experiences with contracting data including data quality, accessing existing data, and engaging with users of that data to inform updates to USAspending.gov. Additionally, the Interagency Open Data Working Group will form an Open Contracting Data subgroup to explore, among other things, better ways to link pre-award information with post-award spending data.

Make Government Contracting More Approachable for Small Businesses
To ensure that small businesses can access and use the contracting data they need, the Small Business Administration and Department of Treasury will reach out to small business owners to better understand what types of contracting data are most useful to them. The Small Business Administration will also update its existing Government Contracting Classroom [website](#) with additional training to help small businesses navigate the various steps of the contracting world including training and certification.

Harness the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) therein create a framework for advancing on social, economic, and environmental challenges, and emphasize the critical importance of transparent, participatory, and accountable government to achieving sustainable development. Data that are open, accessible, and developed with engagement of the public are critical to ensuring transparent, participatory, and accountable progress toward sustainable development. The United States will:

- Engage in public consultations in taking stock of available data and identifying data gaps for achieving and measuring progress on the SDGs. Using this information, prepare and begin reporting statistics for global SDG indicators, including associated metadata, in a manner that is accessible to the public.

- Develop an open SDG National Reporting Platform to ensure ongoing public access to relevant metadata and statistics on implementation of the SDGs. This will be developed using open source software and utilizing international common data formats to the greatest extent possible so as to facilitate interoperability and comparison of statistics.

- Develop an SDG Data Revolution Roadmap for the U.S. Government through an open and inclusive process that engages the full range of citizen, non-governmental, and private sector stakeholders and charts the future course of efforts to fill data gaps and build capacity to use data for decision-making and innovation to advance sustainable development.

- Collaborate with other countries (including Mexico, Poland, and the United Kingdom) and regional organizations such as the United Nations Economic Commission Latin America and the Caribbean and the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe in promoting development, sharing best practices and lessons learned, and ensuring interoperability of SDG Open Data and National Reporting Platforms.

- Continue to support the efforts of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data to promote inclusive and participatory development of SDG Data Revolution

Roadmaps at the national and subnational level in key partner countries.

- Convene a working group as part of the White House Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable to discuss data collection on access to justice and legal aid, including its impact on Federal programs that advance efforts to promote access to health and housing, education and employment, family stability, and public safety. The working group will assist the U.S. Government in identifying and developing national-level indicators to track achieving Goal 16, the SDG to promote the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice for all.

Improve Transparency of U.S. Security Sector Assistance

Greater transparency in the planning and delivery of foreign assistance enhances the ability of the U.S. Government to achieve national security objectives by promoting accountability and effectiveness, empowering foreign governments to make informed strategic decisions, and helping to identify what works and what does not. Yet, while security sector assistance plays a uniquely important role because of its impact on the ability of the United States to prevent, deter, and respond to conflict, security sector assistance has also faced challenges in promoting transparency. To build momentum behind efforts to improve the transparency of U.S. security sector assistance, the United States will:

Improve Transparency in the Defense Sector
Transparent and accountable defense institutions under democratic control are fundamental to global security and stability, and the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) has been a world leader in this regard. As a demonstration of its commitment to transparency, the Department of Defense will undertake participation in NATO's *Building Integrity Programme* Self-Assessment and Peer Review process. In addition, to increase transparency and accessibility in relation to its security sector assistance activities, DoD will develop a unified annual budget for its security sector assistance activities, including available details on allocation and program plans. Further, DoD will continue to expand its contributions to ForeignAssistance.gov, including by increasing the number of programs for which it provides data and improving the quality and comprehensiveness of data.

Transparently Assess, Monitor, and Evaluate Security Sector Assistance
In accordance with Presidential Policy Directive 23, the United States will enact an interagency assessment, monitoring, and evaluation framework that will set forth best practices and expectations to guide individual department and agency efforts. The United States will ensure, moreover, that leading implementers of security sector assistance have robust agency-specific policies on assessment, monitoring, and evaluation of security sector assistance, beginning with the establishment of the first-ever department-wide policy governing DoD security sector assistance activities.

Enhance Delivery of Security Sector Assistance to Prevent Corruption

Careful attention is required to ensure that U.S. security sector assistance does not facilitate corruption or empower corrupt actors and, where possible, that it helps to prevent or combat corruption. To that end, the United States will examine opportunities to build additional anti-corruption safeguards into security assistance. DoD will review relevant training curricula to identify and implement additional opportunities for specific anti-corruption training elements. The United States will also support greater assessment and mitigation of corruption risk, alongside other risks, within security sector assistance. The Department of State will build on the recent identification of anti-corruption points of contact in every U.S. embassy to deepen U.S. support for local open governance efforts. The United States will seek to ensure that security sector assistance supports, wherever relevant, improvements in security governance, to complement the provision of equipment and tactical training. The United States is particularly committed to addressing corruption in places where it is fueling or facilitating violent extremism as part of broader U.S. counterterrorism and countering violent extremism programming.

Increase Open Scientific Collaboration on the Arctic

Understanding the rapid changes that are affecting the Arctic—as well as the impacts of these changes on the rest of the world—requires a cooperative, global approach based on open intergovernmental partnerships and research collaboration involving participants from Arctic and non-Arctic nations. On September 28, 2016, the U.S. Government will host the first ever White House Arctic Science Ministerial to bring together ministers of science, chief science advisors, and other high-level officials from countries around the world, as well as representatives from indigenous groups, to expand joint, inclusive collaborations focused on Arctic science, research, observations, monitoring, and data-sharing. The goals of the event are to advance promising science initiatives and create a context for increased international and open scientific collaboration on the Arctic over the longer term.

Support Capacity Building for Extractives Transparency

Building on U.S. leadership with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), the U.S. EITI team will launch activities to share best practices with other EITI implementing countries and improve the capacity of the EITI implementing country constituency to more effectively participate in EITI Board proceedings that directly impact in-country implementation of the EITI Standard, as well as improve capacity at the local level for more effective collaboration within each country's EITI multi-stakeholder groups. Specifically, the U.S. EITI team will:

- Develop implementing country sub-constituency guidelines for enhanced decision-making and advocacy at the EITI Board level.
- Facilitate capacity building and training for implementing country board members and national coordinators.

- Initiate peer-to-peer best practice exchanges between U.S. EITI team members and EITI implementing countries through regional and in-country training.
- Use technology to increase transparency and public accessibility of natural resource revenue and related data through user-centered data portal design and development.
- Select and deploy an improved communication platform for virtual meetings.

Support Responsible Investment and Business Practices for Companies

Consult with the Public on the Responsible Business Conduct National Action Plan
In September 2014, President Obama committed to work with the private sector and other stakeholders to develop a National Action Plan to promote and expand responsible business conduct. This effort marks the first time the U.S. Government has undertaken a whole-of-government process to focus, improve, and expand its efforts to promote responsible business conduct. Following robust consultation with stakeholders, the Administration expects to publish a Responsible Business Conduct National Action Plan by the end of 2016.