



RESEARCH REPORT

# How the Open Government Partnership (OGP) can contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Vietnam



TOWARDS  
TRANSPARENCY

Hanoi, February 2019







Towards Transparency (TT) is a Vietnamese non – profit consultancy company founded in 2008 to contribute to prevention of and fight against corruption. In March 2009, TT became the official National Contact of Transparency International (TI) – the global movement with more than 100 national chapters worldwide. TT’s vision is a Vietnam free of corruption where people enjoy social justice, accountability and transparency in all aspects of life. TT’s mission is to reduce corruption in Vietnam by increasing demand and promoting measures for transparency, accountability and integrity in government, business and civil society at large.

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Acknowledgements: Generous support for this research was provided by the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Denmark. The view expressed in this publication are the authors’ alone and are not necessarily the views of the contributors.

We would like to thank Mrs. Nguyen Thi Kieu Vien - TT’s Executive Director, Rukshana Nanayakkara (TI-S), Jose Maria Marin Aguirre (TI-S) as well as other friends and colleagues who contributed to the research.

Design: AdmixStudio.com

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The government of Vietnam adopted ***“The National Action Plan (NAP) on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”*** in May 2017, which includes 17 SDGs and 115 specific targets for Vietnam towards 2030.<sup>1</sup>

Vietnam’s high economic growth and inclusive policy have allowed the country to achieve many Millennium Development Goals (MDG) although some targets were achieved only partially (World Bank and MPI 2016).<sup>2</sup> However, moving from MDGs to SDGs reflects a paradigm shift in development thinking. SDGs are more comprehensive tasks that require not only government’s efforts but also the contribution from the whole society, in terms of ideas, human and financial resources. It is not just the resource constraint but also the ability to introduce effective policies to mobilize social resources to tackle development problems that constitute hurdles to the achievement of the SDGs.

### ***Achieving SDGs will thus not be an easy task for the Vietnamese government.***

First, the government must now keep up with its past achievement in terms of growth and poverty reduction in the new context of declining financial support from multinational and international donors as the country reached a lower middle country status. Second, the government must deliver its commitment under the new global paradigm which shifts towards more comprehensive development goals. Third and most importantly, there are structural shortcomings in terms of institutional quality and governance effectiveness which reflect the on-going transitions from a centrally-planned to a market-based economy, from a lower-income to a middle-income country, and from an agriculture-based to a manufacturing-based economy. In this new context, the Government has recognized the role of communities, private sector and civil society in achieving the ambitious SDGs, and has called for the participation of all stakeholders. The government has also called for stronger measures to fight and prevent corruption.

Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires the government to be more effective and responsive to citizens. For this to happen, government and civil society must cooperate to embed transparency, accountability, and participation across all institutions. Moreover, good governance has been increasingly recognized as central to achieving inclusive growth, social justice and sustainable development – both as an enabler as well as a goal in its own right (OECD, 2016).<sup>3</sup>

***The Open Government Partnership (OGP) provides a readymade vehicle for countries to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)***, thanks to its built-in domestic policy platform and accountability mechanism (i.e. the OGP national action plans and the Independent Reporting Mechanism). First, OGP national action plans are at the core of a country’s participation in OGP. They are the product of a co-creation process in which government and civil society define ambitious commitments to foster transparency, accountability and public participation. They can be used to adopt and deliver concrete commitments compatible with SDGs. Second, the Independent Reporting Mechanism ensures a focus on results by holding governments accountable for implementation. As members of OGP, countries can also benefit from support from OGP Support Unit and various

1. On behalf of the Government of Vietnam, Deputy Prime Minister Vu Duc Dam stated clearly that “Ensuring sustainable development is the task of the government, ministries, businesses, and the people alike. The implementation requires responsibilities assigned to each ministry, agencies, and close cooperation among ministries, between the government and the people, and between Vietnam and other countries and international organisations. The Government will mobilise all resources and prioritise the implementation of sustainable socio-economic development tasks” (Vietnam Investment Review, 2017).

2. World Bank and Ministry of Planning and Investment of Vietnam (2016). Vietnam 2035: Toward Prosperity, Creativity, Equity, and Democracy. Washington, DC: World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/23724>

3. OECD (2016) Policy Shaping and Policy Making: THE GOVERNANCE OF INCLUSIVE GROWTH, <https://www.oecd.org/governance/ministerial/the-governance-of-inclusive-growth.pdf>.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OGP working groups' experts, in a wide range of areas such as anti-corruption, improving government-civil society interactions, natural resource governance, inclusive society, or a very practical one like how to develop an effective national action plan.

**Vietnam is not yet a member of OGP** and must first make a number of improvements before applying to join OGP membership. This report elaborates and illustrates how OGP could help Vietnam in achieving its ambitious development goals as reflected in SDGs. The report argues that Open Government Partnership (OGP)'s approaches and principles are very much complementary to the SDGs and offer great opportunities for its members to accelerate the process towards fulfilling the SDGs. Directly, OGP sets goals and targets specifically focused on openness and restates SDG Goal 16, which seeks to promote societies with justice, peace and inclusiveness for all through accountable institutions. Indirectly, OGP recognizes the central role played by good governance and open government in achieving inclusive growth, social justice and sustainable development, and links this openness to the improvement of the lives of the many vulnerable and poor people worldwide. Finally, OGP provides instruments to monitor and evaluate the SDGs implementation in an accountable and transparent way.

This report, commissioned by Towards Transparency, **aims to provide the Government of Vietnam and other stakeholders with evidence on "How OGP can contribute to achieving the SDGs"**. A mixed approach was adopted in the implementation of this research, combining an extensive desk study and primary data collection through over 30 in-depth interviews with relevant stakeholders. A consultative multi-stakeholder workshop was also organized to validate the key findings of the study, which can be summarized as follows:

- (i) The report demonstrates that **OGP principles and approaches are not something totally new in Vietnam**. Indeed, the Vietnamese policies and regulations already contain certain components and elements that are compatible with OGP. There are many OGP-congruent initiatives, projects and policies currently being implemented in Vietnam at various levels. Also, the 17 Vietnam SDGs (VSDGs), their 115 sub-targets and many policy actions are OGP-congruent and can readily benefit from following OGP principles. In particular, the report shows that there is a high level of compatibility between OGP principles and Vietnam's policies, laws and regulations. The paper highlights the fact that Vietnamese laws, regulations and policies on governance do contain substantial OGP-congruent elements in all aspects of OGP principles including: accessibility and availability of information; civic participation; anti-corruption; laws and policies to increasingly adopt new technologies for openness and accountability. The report also provides concrete examples of how OGP-compatible practices, such as the Provincial Competitiveness Index (PCI) and the Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index (PAPI), adopted in Vietnam, have contributed to improving the governance of Vietnam.
- (ii) The **OGP principles can help raise the quality of governance and institutions** which in turn help promote economic growth and prosperity. OGP principles,





in general, can have a positive impact on governance and institutions by building high quality institutions and improving quality of public institutions; generating resources to implement policies; and creating a mechanism to monitor and evaluate (M&E) progress towards SDGs. Concrete examples of how OGP-congruent initiatives are provided, which include the People's Score Project in Quang Tri Province and the project of GreenID, a local NGO.

(iii) The **OGP principles can assist Vietnam to achieve the 17 VSDGs.**

- a. OGP can help Vietnam achieve its SDG economic goals by creating business opportunities and promoting investment directly. Upholding integrity and fighting corruption can play a crucial role in promoting investment and increasing local people's income. OGP also helps to improve governance, thus contributing to promote sustainable and inclusive growth.
  - b. OGP can help Vietnam to achieve its SDG socio-political goals by helping build good institutions and mobilizing social resources, as SDG's ambitious goals require resources that go way beyond government financial and human resources. OGP would also support the fight against corruption in Vietnam, currently strengthened with the revision of the Law on Preventing and Fighting Corruption.
  - c. OGP can help Vietnam to achieve its SDG environmental goals by mobilizing the involvement of the whole society and the collaboration between the government, enterprises, consumers and the civil society. Adoption of modern technologies, open data and civil society involvement (OGP principles) can make a difference in protecting the environment and in ensuring the livelihood of local citizens.<sup>4</sup>
- (iv) Many actions proposed by the Vietnamese government and agencies under the National Action Plan are OGP-congruent. The NAP is already calling for participants of social political organizations and associations to implement SDGs.

The report concludes with recommendations for the government and local NGOs.

- The Government of Vietnam should take concrete steps to become eligible for OGP membership. To do that, the government should cooperate with relevant partners to build a coalition on open government, and allow OGP-congruent projects and initiatives to be scaled up and duplicated.
- Joining OGP is not an end in itself but a means for Vietnam to achieve its ambitious development goals. While joining OGP is important, implementing OGP principles is even more important. The government should therefore develop national action plans in line with OGP.
- For local NGOs who have been playing an important role in improving governance, they should be encouraged and given proper space to scale up good practices.

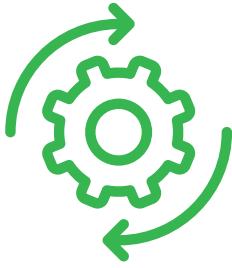
4. The National Strategy on Climate Change calls for funding from organizations, individuals and enterprises, domestic and foreign, to help communities cope with climate change.

1



# INTRODUCTION





# SDGs and Vietnam National Action Plan (NAP)

The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, first adopted in September 2015 that came into force on 1 January 2016, sets out 17 ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), each of which contains specific targets to be achieved up to 2030. These goals are considered bold and comprehensive with broad coverage of issues ranging from poverty to social development and governance (Figure 1). The Government of Vietnam (GoV) has demonstrated its strong commitment to delivering SDGs by endorsing “*The National Action Plan (NAP) on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*” which lays out in detail 17 SDGs and 115 specific targets that the country aims to achieve by 2030.<sup>5</sup>

**Figure 1 - UN Sustainable Development Goals**



Source: the United Nations, 2017

5. On 10 May 2017, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 622/QĐ-TTg promulgating the National Action Plan (NAP) to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Since the promulgation of the NAP, Vietnamese ministries and agencies have developed their action plans to this end. For example, most recently the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT) issued its action plan to implement the NAP with six specific actions (Decision 4917/QĐ-BCT dated 29 December 2017).



***While the Vietnamese government has been able to achieve several MDG targets (UNDP 2015), achieving SDGs is not a simple task.*** First, the government now has to keep up with its past achievement in terms of growth and poverty reduction in the new context of declining financial support from multinational and international donors as the country reached a lower middle country status. Second, the government has to deliver its commitment under the new global paradigm which shifts toward more comprehensive development goals. Finally and most importantly, there are structural shortcomings in terms of institutional quality and governance effectiveness which reflect the on-going transitions, including from a centrally-planned to a market-based economy, from a lower-income to a middle-income country, and from an agriculture-based to a manufacturing-based economy. In this new context, the government has now recognized the role of communities, private sector and civil society, and has called for the participation of all stakeholders in achieving the ambitious SDGs. The government has also called for stronger measures to fight and prevent corruption.





# Open Government Partnership (OGP)

6. Since its inception in 2011, OGP membership has expanded rapidly and currently there are 79 participating countries and 20 subnational governments participating in OGP including countries in the Asian region such as Indonesia (founding member), Papua New Guinea, Philippines, and Sri Lanka. See <http://www.opengovernmentpartnership.org>.

Good governance has been increasingly recognized as central to achieving inclusive growth and the Open Government Partnership (OGP) is an initiative designed to lead that effort. It is an international multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to secure governments' concrete commitments to improve government transparency, accountability and responsiveness to citizen.<sup>6</sup> With government and civil society working together in 79 countries to make governments more open and effective, the OGP presents a unique and a readymade vehicle to advance the 2030 Agenda. OGP action plans have been used to adopt concrete commitments aligned with SDGs across the participating countries, while the OGP Independent Reporting Mechanism focuses on results by holding governments accountable for implementation.

## Box 1: OGP Principles

OGP's goal is to promote quality of governance around the world in order to promote sustainable and inclusive development. OGP upholds and advocates the following open government principles:

### 1. Increase the availability of information about governmental activities by:

- Promoting increased access to information and disclosure about governmental activities at every level of government.
- Increasing efforts to systematically collect and publish data on government spending and performance for essential public services and activities
- Pro-actively providing high-value information, including raw data, in a timely manner, in formats that the public can easily locate, understand and use, and in formats that facilitate reuse.
- Providing access to effective remedies when information or the corresponding records are improperly withheld, including through effective oversight of the recourse process
- Seeking feedback from the public to identify the information of greatest value to them, and pledge to take such feedback into account to the maximum extent possible

### 2. Support civic participation through:

- Making policy formulation and decision making more transparent
- Creating and using channels to solicit public feedback
- Deepening public participation in developing, monitoring and evaluating government activities
- Protecting the ability of not-for-profit and civil society organizations to operate in ways consistent with commitment to freedom of expression, association, and opinion
- Creating mechanisms to enable greater collaboration between governments and civil society organizations and businesses

### 3. Implement the highest standards of professional integrity throughout governments by:

- Setting-up robust anti-corruption policies, mechanisms and practices
- Ensuring transparency in the management of public finances and government purchasing and strengthening the rule of law
- Maintaining or establishing a legal framework to make public information on the income and assets of national, high ranking public officials
- Enacting and implementing rules that protect whistleblowers
- Making information regarding the activities and effectiveness of our anticorruption prevention and enforcement bodies, as well as the procedures for recourse to such bodies, available to the public, respecting the confidentiality of specific law enforcement information
- Increasing deterrents against bribery and other forms of corruption in the public and private sectors, as well as to sharing information and expertise

### 4. Increase access of new technologies for openness and accountability through:

- Developing accessible and secure online spaces as platforms for delivering services, engaging the public, and sharing information and ideas
- Seeking increased online and mobile connectivity, while also identifying and promoting the use of alternative mechanisms for civic engagement
- Engaging civil society and the business community to identify effective practices and innovative approaches for leveraging new technologies to empower people and promote transparency in government
- Supporting and developing the use of technological innovations by government employees and citizens alike

Source: Open Government Partnership Declaration, 2011. Available at: <https://www.otvorenauprava.me/en/ogp-declaration/>





The participation in OGP is a voluntary cooperative process that requires engagement by both national governments and civil society organizations. The OGP was formally launched on 20 September 2011 by eight heads of state and nine civil society leaders. The eight founding governments (Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, the Philippines, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States) endorsed the Open Government Declaration and announced their country action plans. In September 2015, members of the OGP Steering Committee met in the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York City to endorse the Joint Declaration on Open Government for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Since then, many more OGP participants have signed the joint declaration, committed to promote the OGP as a platform to encourage transparent, accountable, participatory, and technology-enabled implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

OGP membership is voluntary but not automatic. Governments interested in participating in the OGP must first meet the OGP eligibility criteria. In order to be eligible to participate in OGP, governments must demonstrate a minimum level of commitment to open government principles in four key areas (Fiscal Transparency, Access to Information, Asset Disclosures, and Citizen Engagement). To participate in OGP, countries must score at least 75% of the total possible points available to them (i.e. 75% of 16 points = 12 points). According to a study conducted by Towards Transparency (2017), Vietnam currently has yet to be eligible for participating in OGP but it is not too far away from meeting the OGP minimum eligibility standards since its final total score is currently 4 points lower than the required minimum of 12 points.<sup>7</sup>

Vietnam's OGP eligibility scores		
1	Fiscal Transparency	0/4
2	Access to Information	4/4
3	Asset Disclosure	2/4
4	Citizen Engagement	2/4
<b>Total</b>		<b>8/16</b>

7. To be eligible for OGP membership, each country must earn 75% of applicable points or more in the evaluation of their performance in Fiscal Transparency, Access to Information, Public Officials Asset Disclosure, and Citizen Engagement. They will also need to pass a "Value Check Assessment" with two critical indicators, including: i) CSO entry and exit, and ii) CSO repression. Currently, officials' assets are listed only publicly at their offices and at the constituencies' meetings. See <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/resources/eligibility-criteria>

Fiscal transparency is the area where Vietnam scores zero due to its failure to publish its budgetary proposals publicly and its audit reports timely. This failure is expected to be addressed in the coming years after the Ministry of Finance indicated that the fiscal proposal would be made publicly available while the budget audit report would be made available in a timely manner as indicated in the State Budget Law. If this is to be the case, it is likely that Vietnam would be able to obtain two points for fiscal transparency, thus making Vietnam theoretically eligible for OGP membership.



# How can OGP help Vietnam reach SDGs: Research agenda and methodology

OGP's values and principles are very much complimentary to the SDGs and offer great opportunities for its members to accelerate the process towards completing the SDGs. Directly, OGP sets goals and targets specifically focused on openness and restates Goal 16, which seeks to promote societies with justice, peace and inclusiveness for all accountable institutions. OGP also indirectly recognizes the central role played by good governance and open government in achieving inclusive growth, social justice and sustainable development, and links openness and transparency to government for improving the lives of the many vulnerable and poor worldwide. Finally, it provides instruments for accountably and transparently monitoring and evaluating the SDGs' implementation.

Although the potential contributions of OGP towards achieving the SDGs are widely advocated by international organizations, and the GoV's commitments to delivering on SDGs are publicly made, there is a severe lack of research and discussions regarding how OGP can help Vietnam achieve its ambitious SDGs. Therefore, a locally relevant research is needed, which aims to provide strong evidence on the potential as well as the benefits of OGP in Vietnam's specific context. This research is expected to offer an in-depth analysis of how OGP as a platform can support the country to achieve the SDGs by 2030. To reach that goal, this research will focus on examining intersectionality and complementariness of OGP and SDGs.

This research adopts an approach that combines (i) an **extensive desk study** - reviewing not only SDGs/OGP related legal materials within Vietnam such as the National Action Plan but also experience from other countries applying OGP to promote SDGs and experience from local NGOs that implement certain aspects of OGP to achieve SDGs; and (ii), **primary data collection** through 30 in-depth interviews with relevant stakeholders. A set of semi-structured questionnaires was designed for in-depth interviews with selected stakeholders, including government agencies, international organizations, donors, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Vietnamese civil society (CSOs), enterprises (e.g. Realtime Analytics), and academics. Each questionnaire was tailored to account for specific, different roles played by each stakeholder in the progress of achieving SDGs by 2030.

The remainder of the paper is structured in five sections. The paper will first demonstrate a high level of compatibility between OGP and Vietnam governance policies, which falls under section two. We argue that OGP principles are not something totally new in Vietnam. Instead, the Vietnamese policies and regulations already contain certain components and elements that are compatible with OGP. We support our argument with evidence that there are many OGP-congruent initiatives, projects and policies currently being implemented in Vietnam. Sec-





only, in section three we show that the OGP principles can help raise the quality of governance and institutions which in turn help promote economic growth and prosperity. Concrete examples of OGP-congruent initiatives are provided to support our argument. In section four, we analyze how the OGP principles can assist Vietnam to achieve the 17 VSDGs and specific evidence is presented. Section five shows that many Actions proposed by the Vietnamese government and agencies under the National Action Plan are OGP-congruent. In the final section recommendations for the government and for local NGOs in Vietnam are presented. The government of Vietnam is encouraged to take concrete steps towards achieving the minimum criteria so as to become eligible to join OGP.

# COMPATIBILITY BETWEEN OGP PRINCIPLES AND VIETNAM'S GOVERNANCE POLICIES

## 2



It is widely acknowledged and clearly stated on the global OGP online platform that OGP and SDGs are compatible. The 2030 Agenda incorporates OGP principles of transparency, civic participation, accountable public institutions, and technological innovation. The OGP Declaration encourages integrating open government principles into the official indicators that will measure the Agenda's progress.<sup>8</sup> OGP could thus help achieving Sustainable Development Goals in three ways:<sup>9</sup>

1

*First, open government principles are explicitly addressed in Goal 16, which aims to “build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels,” and in other targets across other goals.*

2

*Second, the principles of open government are embedded across numerous SDGs where transparency, public participation and accountable public institutions are instrumental to achieving a particular target.*

3

*Third, implementation of the 2030 Agenda rests on core OGP principles.<sup>10</sup> At the national level, it calls on countries to conduct regular evaluations of progress against the goals and targets and incorporate input from all stakeholders. More specifically, open data, which is closely related to the transparency objectives of the OGP, has been increasingly recognized as important for development.*

To provide evidence of compatibility between OGP's principles and Vietnam's laws and regulation, in the following subsections, we focus on a number of specific laws and regulations to highlights the fact that Vietnamese laws, regulations and policies on governance do contain substantial OGP-congruent elements. Specific examples of how OGP-compatible practices, such as the Provincial Competitiveness Index (PCI) and the Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index (PAPI) contribute to improving the governance o Vietnam are also discussed.

8. The “Open Government for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” Declaration is a political statement made by OGP steering committee members. The Declaration affirms that the rule of law, principles of transparency and open government and citizen participation are important tools for effectively implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the SDGs.

9. <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/stories/achieving-sustainable-development-goals-through-accountability-and-transparency>. For example, goals related to income, poverty, water, education, energy and cities all include targets for the provision of public services and universal access to these services. Open government is often an essential element of high quality and universal service provision. Services from education to infrastructure, which are indispensable for poverty eradication, are strengthened by citizen input and oversight.

10. The 2030 Agenda calls for follow-up and review processes that are “open, inclusive, participatory and transparent for all people and [that] will support the reporting by all relevant stakeholders. By promoting more open, inclusive and participatory decision-making, OGP can help create the right enabling environment for successful implementation of the SDGs.



# 2.1

## Accessibility and availability of information

OGP's key principle of accessibility and availability of information about government policy and activities is addressed in a number of Vietnamese key laws and regulation. First, transparency in the policy and legislation making process is enforced through the revised Law on Promulgation of Legal Normative Documents 2015 (Law on Laws), which requires that all legislative development proposals,<sup>11</sup> draft legal documents and comments of relevant stakeholders must be published on the National Assembly's Digital Information Portal for at least 60 days (Article 57). These documents are required to be posted on the websites of the drafting agencies and ministries. This transparency requirement in the law and policy making process makes it possible for the public and citizens to access not only the draft legal documents but also experts' comments and other studies posted on the Portal. The Law also stipulates that legal documents have to be published on national or provincial gazettes (paper and digital) no later than three days after signing or announcement.

Moreover, the Law on Access to Information, which came into effect on 1 July 2018, provides citizens with the legal rights to access any information that is not restricted, banned or regulated specifically by laws. Restrictions to information access can only be specified by laws. In addition, citizens can initiate law suits in case their rights are violated. According to the Law, citizens can access public information made available at public offices or make requests for information in writing.<sup>12</sup>

Thirdly, another major step towards greater availability of public information is the Decree 81/2015/ND-CP on disclosure of state-owned enterprises' information. Under this Decree, state-owned enterprises or SOEs (defined as 100% state-owned) have to release information in paper and on their websites regarding their business strategies, five-year and annual business plans, biannual and annual financial statements, etc. (Article 10). Given SOEs' huge assets, this has been considered an important step forward in terms of public information disclosure.



11. In Vietnamese context, “legislative development proposals” means law-making proposals.

12. It should also be noted that Vietnam's Ordinance on Grassroot Democracy guarantees the access to information at local level.

## 2.2

# Civic participation

OGP's principle of civic participation has been increasingly promoted in Vietnam. First, the Communist Party has recently issued a Resolution calling for more collection of views from businesses and citizens in the process of implementing the Party's directions and Government's laws.<sup>13</sup>

Secondly, public consultation has become a key law-making principle in Vietnam thanks to the Law on Laws which specifies that social organizations and individuals have the right to participate in the law-making process (Article 6) and that drafting agencies have the responsibility to consult with relevant stakeholders. In practice, public consultation in law-making process has become more routine, especially in the making of business-related laws and decrees.

Thirdly, since 2014 the Government has been actively seeking public participation in socio-economic governance, stipulated in the Resolution 19. Particularly, the Government calls on business and professional associations to conduct independent surveys and studies on quality of public services and report on regulatory bottlenecks so that the Government can assess and find a solution (see Government of Vietnam 2017).

Finally, at provincial levels, various policies and measures have been adopted to motivate civic participation in local governance. Dialogues with businesses and citizens have been widely conducted, both because of national government's requirements (i.e. Resolution 19) and due to local leaders' initiatives to better understand people's and businesses' views and needs in order to improve the quality of governance. Thanks to the business and household surveys such as the Provincial Competitiveness Survey - PCI ([www.pcvietnam.org](http://www.pcvietnam.org)) and the Public Administration Performance Index Survey - PAPI ([www.papi.org](http://www.papi.org)), dialogues between local governments, citizens and businesses have become more substantial and focused. Citizens, businesses and civil society have become more involved in local governance due to information and evidence made available by these surveys and the like.



13. The Resolution No. 11-NQ/TW dated 3 June 2017 on Improvement of Market Institutions with Socialist Orientation.



## 2.3

# Fighting corruption



In line with OGP, corruption has long been considered a national illness for Vietnam.<sup>14</sup> In recent years, strengthened anti-corruption measures have been adopted by the Communist Party and the Government.<sup>15</sup> During the research period, the Law on Preventing and Fighting Corruption was being reviewed and revised with an aim to strengthen anti-corruption measures such as banning appointment of relatives, declaration of conflict of interest, integrity in the public sector, and broader coverage of asset disclosure. Under the draft law, all public administration staff would have to disclose their assets when they start their job. This is a reflection of the Party's policy to intensify asset disclosure and monitoring as part of the Resolution No. 04-NQ/TW dated 30 October 2016 on Enhancing the Party's Development. So, it can be said that OGP principle of professional integrity in the public sector is very much in line with Vietnamese Government's anti-corruption policy.

14. Anti-corruption measures have not proved to be working in Vietnam, however. According to the Corruption Perception Index Vietnam's score and ranking are quite low though Vietnam made some improvement last year with a score of 35 (2 points higher than previous year) and a rank of 107/180 countries (six places higher) Corruption Perception Index 2017, [https://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption\\_perceptions\\_index\\_2017](https://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption_perceptions_index_2017)

15. The arrest and trial of Mr. Dinh La Thang, a former member of the Politburo, in 2017 was a strong signal about the top leaders' determination in the fight against corruption in Vietnam.



## 2.4

# Adoption of new technologies for openness and accountability

OGP' principle of increasingly adopting new technology for openness and accountability is very much welcome and compatible with current efforts of the government. In particular, the Vietnamese Government has made efforts to develop e-Government and accelerate the use of information technology (IT) to deliver public services. This is exactly what OGP's principle calls for and the government has used its online platform to promote and strengthen access and availability of information as discussed above. In 2015, the Government issued the Resolution 36a/NQ-CP on e-Government aiming toward 100% public services to be provided online at Level 3 by the end of 2016 and to become a top 3 in ASEAN in terms of Online Service Index and UN's E-Government Development Index. Other efforts include (i) a national public service portal being developed through which outcome of public service requests will be made available online at the Government's Digital Information Portal and (ii) an online website to post information disclosed by SOEs as required by law.





3

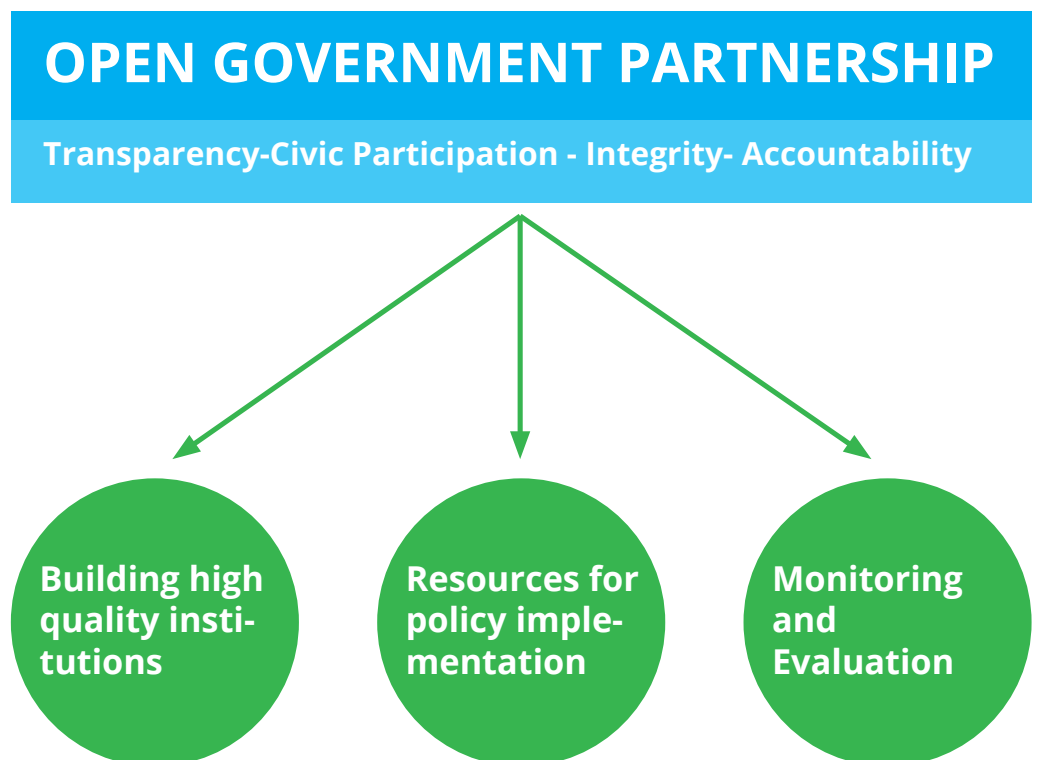
# HOW OGP PRINCIPLES HELP TO ACHIEVE VIETNAM'S SDGs



The SDGs are very ambitious and cannot be achieved through government actions alone, especially for developing countries. Governments need to engage the private sector and civil society as partners to implement the new agenda successfully. There are many reasons to believe that OGP principles can help the Government of Vietnam achieve Vietnam's SDGs quicker and more comprehensively. OGP principles, in general, can have a positive impact on governance and institutions in at least three noticeable ways (as illustrated in Figure 2):

- building high quality institutions and improving quality of public institutions;
- generating resources to implement policies; and
- creating a mechanism to monitor and evaluate (M&E) progress towards SDGs.

**Figure 2 – Broad link between Open Government Partnership principles and SDGs**







# OGP helps build high quality institutions and improve public administration

## a OGP helps build high quality institutions

It is widely recognized that high quality institutions are critical for sustainable and inclusive development. Recently, Vietnamese government has strongly emphasized the importance of building institutions. At the Vietnam Economic Forum held on the 11 January 2018 in Ha Noi, Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc repeatedly mentioned institutions as a key factor in the government policies while citing the book *“Why Nations Fail”* by two famous authors Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson.<sup>16</sup>

OGP principles, namely transparency, civic participation, integrity and open data, are the key ingredients for the development of good market institutions and public policies.

**Firstly**, transparency helps the government build better institutions by promoting and harnessing public knowledge and contribute to the institution-building process. For example, the Investment Law and the Enterprise Law were passed in 2014 following a series of public consultations with enterprises and other stakeholders all over Vietnam. Comments and inputs received from businesses and lawyers helped improving drafts of the two laws and policy changes to make investment and business in Vietnam easier. For the first time, under the Investment Law, legal business provisions made it clear in which industry/sector citizens and organizations can and cannot invest and under what conditions. This has removed a lot of uncertainty in the business environment.

**Secondly**, participation of social organizations and citizens can help improve the quality of governance and public policies. The involvement of social organizations, research institutions and experts bring about ideas and evidence for the policy formulation process. One illuminating example is the policy discussions on macroeconomic issues organized by the National Assembly Economic Committee. According to Mr. Nguyen Truong Giang, a deputy of the XIV National Assembly, the discussions led to the recognition in the National Assembly and the wider government apparatus that budget deficit was a serious issue despite reassurances by some government leaders in 2012.<sup>17</sup> The change in the policy stance led to more tightened fiscal policies in the following years, which led to macroeconomic stability.

**Thirdly**, professional integrity can make institutions more inclusive. Integrity in public offices can help raise the quality of human resources. Singapore is a very good example of how anti-corruption policies can help build high quality public sector and institutions. In Vietnam, Ha Noi People’s Committee’s action to implement Administrative Disciplines Year 2017 resulted in an improvement in both Provincial Competitiveness Index (PCI) score and people’s satisfaction with the quality of administrative services.<sup>18</sup> In 2017, Ha Noi’s PCI score increased from 60.74 to 64.71 and its PCI ranking went up to 13, the highest ranking so far.<sup>19</sup>

16. Tu Giang (2018, 11 Jan), “Prime Minister: Institution, Institution and Institution”, The Saigon Times. [Retrieved accessed at <http://www.the-saigontimes.vn/267722/Thu-tuong-The-che-the-che-va-the-che.html>]

17. Nguyen Vu, (2013, July 7) “Policy consultation – a method to help the National Assembly become more professional”, People’s Representative Digital Newspaper. [Retrieved from <http://dai-bieunhandan.vn/default.aspx?tabid=76&News-Id=287743>]

18. Ngan Khanh, “The measurement is people’s satisfaction”, New Ha Noi Online Newspaper, 6 February, 2018, accessed at <http://hanoimoi.com.vn/Tin-tuc/Ban-doc/891446/thuoc-do-la-su-hai-long-cua-nguoi-dan>

19. PCI Vietnam data, accessed at <http://pcivietnam.org/ho-so-tinh/ha-noi/>



**Fourthly**, openness and accountability create incentives for public authorities to perform better both in terms of developing high quality institutions and implementing them in reality. In Vietnam, since the beginning of the new Cabinet led by Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, a new mechanism to raise openness and accountability has been implemented. A Prime Minister's Working Group to monitor the fulfillment of ministerial tasks was formed in September 2016 in order to identify shortcomings in the ministries' operations. The Working Group holds regular meetings with ministries to discuss their work's progress with the participation of relevant stakeholders and reporters. There have been public reports on the fulfillment of specific tasks by ministries and comments by government leaders and experts on what ministries should do to both carry out their tasks and improve the quality of regulations under their responsibility. Consequently, there have been positive signs about ministries making more efforts to fulfill their tasks and implement regulatory reforms to improve the business environment. One vivid example is the revision of the Decree 38/2012/ND-CP on the implementation of the Law on Food Safety. Under the pressure from media, business associations and government leaders, the Ministry of Health finally agreed to change the way it regulates food industry towards a more practical and less costly regulatory regime. It is considered a remarkable progress in food safety regulation.<sup>20</sup>

## **b** OGP helps improve the quality of public administration

Transparency, openness and accountability can improve the quality of public administration since government agencies tend to think more carefully about what they make public. Transparency creates conditions for monitoring of public services by the general public and pressure for improvement in public services and policies. This can be illustrated by the Master Plan to Simplify Administrative Procedures in the fields of the State Governance ("Project 30") conducted by the Government during the 2007-2010 period. For the first time, all administrative procedures (APs) in Vietnam have been inventoried in the national database, simplified and posted at public offices and online in the website.<sup>21</sup> As a result, citizens can know their rights to public services and which documents they need for each service. The Project 30 was assessed as an impressive step towards better public administration in Viet Nam (OECD 2011).

20. Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (2017, December 1), "New decree to replace Decree 38/2012/ND-CP: "Revolution" in food safety regulation". [Retrieved from [http://vasep.com.vn/Tin-Tuc/1428\\_50272/Nghi-dinh-moi-thay-the-Nghi-dinh-382012-Cuoc-cach-mang-trong-quan-ly-ve-an-toan-thuc-pham.htm](http://vasep.com.vn/Tin-Tuc/1428_50272/Nghi-dinh-moi-thay-the-Nghi-dinh-382012-Cuoc-cach-mang-trong-quan-ly-ve-an-toan-thuc-pham.htm)]

21. <http://csdl.thutuchanhinh.vn/Pages/trang-chu.aspx>

To create a digital platform for increased participation in monitoring the quality of public services, the Government has created dedicated websites to collect citizens' and business' comments and feedback.<sup>22</sup> On these websites, citizens can post feedback and complaints about public services. Responses are posted by categories and by line ministries. Through these websites, citizens can also have a better understanding about the quality of public services and reasons why some services are not satisfactory.

In Indonesia, there is a similar government activity named LAPOR! Initiative with more digital tools. This initiative allows citizens to submit complaints or reports on public services throughout the country via text message, e-mail, or apps. This centralized system tracks and reports on the responsiveness of individual ministries to complaints, thereby enhancing the quality of public institutions (Bapna, Lagunes, and Robinson 2015).

At local level, the Quang Tri Province's People's Score project provides a good example of how transparency and open data can bring positive changes to the quality of public services. Under this project, citizens are surveyed by telephone and tablet and their views are made public. Comparisons are made and lessons are learnt on how to better meet their needs. As a result, the quality of public services provided by district level one-stop shops have been improved (Box 1).

22. For citizens the website is <https://nguoidan.chinhphu.vn/> and for businesses the website is <https://doanhnghiep.chinhphu.vn/>

## Box 1 - People's Score Project in Quang Tri Province

The people's score initiative (**M-score**) is a project supported by Oxfam in Vietnam and implemented in Quang Tri Province to collect citizens' views about the quality of public services at district level in Quang Tri Province. Since 2015, over 15 000 people have been interviewed by telephone about the quality of public services, including health care. In this project, modern technology has been adopted to reach out to people and to make it easier for them to raise their voices. Besides collecting information from users through telephone interviews using a standard questionnaire, a tablet-app has been developed to collect the views of service users at one-stop shop (OSS) for public administration services.

Thanks to the project, the quality of public services in Quang Tri has improved considerably. The people's satisfaction and civil servant attitude scores increased from 7.5 and 7.7 in 2014 to 8 and 8.3 in 2017. Improvement in public administration services in Quang Tri is also recorded by PAPI. Quang Tri's PAPI rank rose from 41st place in 2015 to 29th place in 2017, a significant improvement in two years (Quang Tri Province, Oxfam in Vietnam, and Real Time Analytics 2018).

In 2017, the use of **M-score** was expanded to health care in Quang Tri. Patients and visitors at the Provincial General Hospital have been interviewed in various ways. Over four thousand health care users have participated in tablet-based surveys and over three thousand users have been interviewed by telephone. Their answers have been used to analyze the quality of health care and what local government and service managers should do to improve the service quality and user satisfaction. The survey shows that over 50% of users were happy with the services (i.e. 5-star or 4-star score). The survey also points out that users were least satisfied with cumbersome procedures and healthcare staff behaviors. Sanitary condition is also a factor that users dislike (Quang Tri Province, Oxfam in Vietnam, and Real Time Analytics 2018). Based on the survey results, recommendations were made to 1/ ensure continuation and improvement of the survey conduct and, 2/ to take measures to improve the healthcare services and increase users' satisfaction. Following these encouraging initial results, Quang Tri Province has decided to extend the survey to three district-level hospitals in Gio Linh, Hai Lang and Dakrong districts. More citizen voices will be heard and new policy priorities will be set to improve the quality of public services.

Source: Quang Tri, Oxfam in Vietnam, and RtaAnalytics (2018)





## OGP can help generate resources to implement development policies

Applying OGP principles in government activities can help generate resources to implement development priorities in several ways. First, OGP can help mobilize social resources to advance socio-economic development programs. For a lower-middle income country like Vietnam, achieving sustainable development goals is challenging and public resources will not suffice. As OGP promotes transparency and integrity, which leads to greater trust in the government, practicing OGP will both create room for contribution from the public and attract social resources.

The New Rural Development Program promulgated by the Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc (*Decision 1600/QĐ-TTg approving the National Target Program on new rural development for 2016-2020 period*) has seen considerable contribution from social organizations, businesses and citizens. Various factors have played a role in this contribution but openness and participation are determinant factors. For example, Nguyen Van Tuan (2012) shows that households contribute over 10% of the investment in rural development in Thuy Huong Commune (Ha Noi), one of the pilot communes of the New Rural Development Program. Among the determinants of the households' willingness to contribute, information dissemination and explanation, participation in the planning process and awareness of the investment amount, awareness of spending items and participation monitoring are all positive and significant factors. Three years after the implementation of the New Rural Development Program in the Thuy Huong commune, its poverty rate went down from 15% to 4% thanks to infrastructure investment made possible partly by the contribution of local residents.

The contribution of non-governmental organizations (NGO) in poverty reduction is well recognized in Vietnam. On 21 December 2017, the Ceremony for Recognition of Contribution by foreign NGO in Poverty Reduction was organized by Vietnam Union of Friendship Associations (VUFO).<sup>23</sup> These NGOs have provided Vietnam's with valuable financial resources, technical assistance and technologies to help people improve their livelihood and income. One notable case is the Green Innovation and Development Center (GreenID) which is well-known for its contribution to the formulation of energy policy and to the promotion of sustainable development in different localities in Vietnam.

23. VUFO, "Recognizing contribution by foreign NGOs in 2013-2017", accessed at <http://vufo.org.vn/Ghi-nhan-dong-gop-cua-cac-to-chuc-phi-chinh-phu-nuoc-ngoai-giai-doan-2013---2017-10-3475.html?lang=vn> (Vietnamese).

## Box 2 – NGO and sustainable development – the case of GreenID

Energy planning and investment are very important in achieving sustainable development. In Vietnam, the participation of civil society and citizens in the development of the National Electricity Development Plan led to changes in the Electricity Master Plan towards more sustainable development. A key player in this process is Green Innovation and Development Centre or GreenID ([www.greenidvietnam.org.vn](http://www.greenidvietnam.org.vn)). GreenID is a Vietnamese non-profit organization (NPO) which promotes sustainable development in Vietnam and the larger Mekong region.

Under GreenID coordination, many energy experts made comments and suggestions on how to adjust the Electricity Master Plan VII. They pointed out the risks of over reliance on mineral-based electricity as Vietnam is increasingly a net importer of coal while the stock of oil and gas is about to run out. Many efforts by GreenID and stakeholders in its network led to the revision of the Electricity Master Plan VII with lower capacity target and adjustment of the electricity mix towards less mineral-based electricity and more renewable sources (Decision No. 428/QĐ-TTg by the Prime Minister on Adjustment of the National Electricity Master Plan for the period 2011-2020 with vision to 2030 dated 18 March 2016). Accordingly, the coal-based electricity share went down from 42.7% to 33.4%. Though the change did not reflect fully GreenID's recommendation of 31.5% share of coal-based electricity (GreenID 2016), it clearly indicates the contribution of civil society in energy development and sustainable development in Vietnam. The experts also recommended against the nuclear energy project which led to the cancellation of a nuclear power project in Ninh Thuan Province in 2016. The contribution by GreenID and independent experts were well recognized in the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT)'s report to the Government on the revision of the Electricity Master Plan VII (Official Letter No. 13649/TTr-BCT dated 31/12/2015 of the MOIT on the adjustment of the Electricity Master Plan VII).

*Community energy planning towards efficiency and sustainability* is a new initiative in Vietnam thanks to the advocacy and technical support of local NGOs, including GreenID. Since 2012, Local Energy Planning (LEP) has been piloted by GreenID and the Vietnam Sustainable Energy Alliance (VSEA)<sup>24</sup> in Thai Binh Province (Nam Cuong and Bac Hai communes, Tien Hai district). LEP is a process in which local people and authorities will work together to build a common plan to address issues related to energy and environment in their community with the support from experts. LEP aims to improve the efficient use of natural and local resources through promoting the use of renewable energy and sustainable solutions. At the same time, LEP provides more accurate estimates of local energy needs from national sources.

LEP process starts with surveys of needs and available alternative energy sources. Then, LEP experts help local communities to develop energy plans to meet their everyday needs in which local and natural energy sources are to be utilized in combination with electricity from the grid. Efficiency was also improved by introduction of energy-saving equipment and appliances. For example, household biogas models have been adopted by over forty local residents. Solar energy has been adopted for purifying and providing clean water to local citizens in these communities. They have also made use of improved models of cooking stoves to save energy. After two years of LEP, survey results showed that the program brought about various economic and environmental benefits to the communities. Households could save 112,000 VND/month in energy cost. They could have access to clean water for a very low price of 5,000 VND per 20-litter tank or one third of the market price. 77% of households that applied the model said that it contributed to improve and protect the environment. Around 86,5% of surveyed households said LEP helped improve health of the people because improved cook stove reduced smoke, leading to decrease in air pollution inside kitchen and diseases related to eyes and respiratory system. Cooking time was also reduced.

Source: GreenID 2016

24. VSEA is a network organized by GreenID



OGP is a forum where member countries can share experience and good practices to improve the quality of governance and institutions. Governments' self-commitment to OGP principles can be seen as a declaration about their intentions to build good governance and thus can be a mechanism to build reputation and national image. In turn, good regulation for high quality governance will attract investment and other business opportunities for the country. In Vietnam, Hoa and Lin (2016) show that transparency as an indicator of provincial governance quality is a significant determinant of FDI inflows in provinces. Similarly, in China the study of Cole, Elliott, and Zhang (2009) confirms that provinces with relatively high levels of government efficiency and actively involved in fighting corruption attract more FDI. OGP principles practiced effectively can thus lead to increased foreign investment, and consequently more jobs and income for local citizens.





## OGP as a mechanism to monitor and evaluate SDGs progress

Every government policy initiative requires monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanisms in order to track the progress and to understand the factors behind success and failure. In this regard, OGP can be very important as it provides an effective M&E mechanism through the Independent Report Mechanism (IRM) which is a key means by which all stakeholders can track OGP progress in participating countries. The IRM under OGP produces annual independent progress reports for each country participating in OGP. The progress reports assess governments on the development and implementation of OGP action plans, progress in fulfilling open government principles, and make technical recommendations for improvements.<sup>25</sup>

**Firstly**, OGP principles of transparency, openness and citizen engagement create necessary conditions for public monitoring of the progress towards SDGs. Measuring and monitoring progress is important in any policy cycle and achieving policy goals. This idea has been increasingly adopted by the Government in recent years. Since 2014, the Government of Vietnam has annually issued Resolution 19 in which specific targets in terms of improving the business environment have been adopted ministry by ministry.<sup>26</sup> These targets are detailed, measurable and reported by the World Bank Doing Business indicators, the World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Index and some other internationally comparable qualitative indicators. This makes it easy for the general public to monitor the progress and renders ministries more accountable for their duties.

**Secondly**, as shown by experiences of OGP member countries, the OGP independent reporting mechanism provides a tool for monitoring progress towards SDGs. As OGP action plans are specific actions to achieve better governance, they also contribute to the achievement of SDGs. Hence, monitoring OGP action plans contributes to monitoring the progress towards SDGs, especially the SDG 16.

25. <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/about/independent-reporting-mechanism>

26. It is interesting to note that during the last few year, implicitly for the purpose of re-emphasis, the number 19 has been reserved by the government for its resolution on such issues as governance, business environment.



# 4

## OGP'S RELATION TO VIETNAM'S 17 VSDGs

For our purpose, to analyze the relationship between OGP and specific SDGs it is useful to group the 17 SDGs in some groups of goals: (i) economic goals; (ii) socio-political goals; and (iii) environmental goals (See Annex 1 for further details). However, this categorization is relative since SDGs are very much inter-related, inter-sectoral and no single goal can be independent of others.



# OGP and economic goals

The following SDG goals are categorized as economic goals: No Poverty (SDG 1), Zero Hunger (SDG 2), Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7), Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8), and Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9). These goals can be achieved more easily if investment is made more quickly, economic growth is high and people's income increases faster. These factors can be promoted by OGP in several ways, as follows:

## **a** OGP creates business opportunities and promotes investment

OGP advocates the principle of open data and promotion of the use of new technologies for data dissemination and usage. In the age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, data is the most valuable resource.<sup>27</sup> Adopting OGP, governments and public institutions can open up data such as geographical information, statistics, weather information, data from publicly-funded research projects, and libraries' digitized books. The open data can generate business opportunities and investments. Broader and more rapid access to scientific papers and data will make it easier for researchers and businesses to build on the findings of public-funded research. This will help boost a country or region's innovation capacity in fields like pharmaceuticals and renewables. There are scientific studies that have shown that open data can result in real business benefits.<sup>28</sup> In addition, a new market for public service information will thrive if data is available and products/services are developed by businesses by adding value to the original public service data provided by a government. Businesses, in other words, can build new innovative applications and e-Services based on data made available by the government with minimal cost to itself.

In Vietnam, open data is still very limited but the Government has realized the need for action in this area. At a workshop on digital government and open data on 16 January 2018, Mr. Mai Tien Dung, Chairman and Minister of the Office of Government, emphasized that e-government and open data were an irreversible trend which will be part of *Vietnam's e-Government towards Industry 4.0*.<sup>29</sup>

Efforts by various stakeholders, including local governments, to measure citizens' assessment of governance and public services and to publish the collected data for increased accountability have increased and helped create business opportunities and jobs. Real-time Analytics (RTA)<sup>30</sup>, an innovative research-based consulting firm, is a good example. The company has applied advanced survey methods with the application of IT and tablets to collect data for governance improvement purposes, including the Public Administration Performance Index (PAPI)<sup>31</sup> and the Quang Tri Province's People's Score Project.

Upholding integrity and fighting corruption can also play a crucial role in promoting investment, and increasing growth and income for local people. Mauro (1995) found that corruption reduces investment and lowered growth rates for a

27. Economist, (2017, 6th May) "The world's most valuable resource is no longer oil, but data", [Retrieved at <https://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21721656-data-economy-demands-new-approach-antitrust-rules-worlds-most-valuable-resource>]

28. It has been estimated that open data will give the European Union a much higher return on its €87 billion (USD \$106 billion) annual investment in R&D. Open Government Partnership, "Open data and economic growth: which link, if any?", 20 JULY 2012, accessible at: <https://www.opengov-partnership.org/stories/open-data-and-economic-growth-which-link-if-any>.

29. Minh Ngoc, "Open data and digital government in Vietnam: Inherent need for national development", Baophapluat.vn, 10 February 2018, <http://baophapluat.vn/thoi-su/du-lieu-mo-va-chinh-phu-so-tai-viet-nam-nhu-cau-tat-yeu-doi-voi-phat-trien-dat-nuoc-379614.html>

30. <https://cms.rta.vn/>

31. [www.papi.org.vn](http://www.papi.org.vn)



sample of 67 countries. For Vietnam, the study by Nguyen Ngoc Anh et al. (2016) showed that had the Corruption Perception Index levels improved by just one unit between 2000 and 2012, then the Vietnamese economy would have grown from an average of 6.73 % during this period to 6.94 %. If corruption levels had fallen one standard deviation (i.e., the CPI increased from 2.6 to 5.0), then Vietnam could have achieved a growth rate of 7.22%. At provincial level, Dang (2016) analyzed the impacts of corruption on private investment, job creation and household income across provinces and found that if corruption prevalence and corruption burden could be reduced, more private investment would be made, more jobs created and higher household income generated.

## **b** OGP helps improve governance, thus promoting sustainable and inclusive growth

OGP principles can help raise the quality of governance and institutions that are critical factors for sustainable and inclusive growth. Many empirical studies have confirmed the role of institutional quality in long-term growth. For example, Barro (1991) shows that growth rate is positively associated with political stability and inversely related to market distortions. Knack and Keefer (1995) finds that the impact of governance on growth remains significant even when investment has been accounted for, making governance an important factor for growth. Dawson (1998) demonstrates that free market institutions have positive effects on growth through total factor productivity directly and investment indirectly. In another attempt to estimate the effect of institutions, especially democracy, on growth Rodrik (2000) uses data of 90 countries over the 1970-1989 and concludes that a higher level of democracy is associated with a smaller variance of long-run growth, or more sustainable growth in other words.

Country-specific examples which show the positive impacts of the adoption of OGP principles on economic growth, income increase and poverty reduction are also numerous. In Indonesia, a new method of providing subsidized rice to poor households was applied in an open-government manner in 2013. The National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction (TNP2K) printed the price and the amount of rice to which beneficiaries are entitled on the cards themselves. This gave the beneficiaries the information and knowledge about their rights when dealing with officials who managed the subsidy program. Overall, the cards led to a 26% increase in the subsidies that eligible households received, most likely because cards gave them more bargaining power with the local officials who distributed rice (Banerjee et al. 2018). In other words, the information printed on the card created transparency and accountability in the subsidy system and helped achieve a better poverty reduction.

In Vietnam, the Center for Development and Integration (CDI), a non-governmental organization established in 2005, has worked with local communities and individuals to promote budget transparency and efficiency. Specifically, in Quang Tri Province CDI has introduced to local government officials, People's Council members and citizens a set of public investment appraisal indicators. This tool helped the province to appraise proposed investment projects: four projects deemed unnecessary were abandoned. As a result, the province could save VND 120 billion (about USD 5.8 million), which would be better used for other important public services such as healthcare and education. The participation of civil society in governance has helped improve the quality of public administration and contributed to the achievement of economic development goals.<sup>32</sup>

32. Interview by the researchers with CDI representatives held on 9 February 2018



## OGP and socio-political goals

Socio-political goals include: Good Health and Well-Being (SDG 3), Quality Education (SDG 4), Gender Equality (SDG 5), Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6), Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10), Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11), Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16). This group of goals have a direct link with OGP as many of the SDG 16 targets embody the spirit of OGP. However, these goals are very ambitious and require resources that go way beyond government financial and human resources.

SDG 16 has 12 targets that are specifically governance focused, such as: Promote the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice for all (16.3); Reduce corruption and bribery (16.5); Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels (16.6); Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels (16.7); Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms (16.10). These targets are in line with OGP principles of transparency, integrity, civic participation and public access to data with modern technology. International experiences show that OGP action plans usually contain initiatives and actions to achieve the OGP 16. For example, 36% of Indonesia current OGP commitments are about developing e-government and 21% are about improving the quality of public service delivery.<sup>33</sup> These commitments, for example *Development of Online Citizen Aspiration and Complaints System (LAPOR)* into National Public Complaints Administration System (SP4N), will help Indonesia achieve all the OGP 16 targets regarding the rule of law and justice, fighting corruption, effective and accountable institutions.

In Vietnam, the fight against corruption is being strengthened with the revision of the Law on Preventing and Fighting Corruption, including some new legal provisions, such as asset disclosure. This momentum of the fight against corruption could help the country towards achieving both the SDG 16 and an OGP action plan should Vietnam decide (and is accepted) to join OGP. As mentioned earlier, the Government has also taken steps to build e-government and use digital platforms to collect complaints and feedbacks from the public, and to disseminate information about laws and how government agencies comply with them. These actions will contribute to realising both SDG 16 and OGP principles.

In healthcare sector, as illustrated by Quang Tri People's Score project, OGP can help improve the quality of public healthcare services by providing citizens/users with a chance to raise their voice about the quality of services; publishing their views will in turn create pressure on services providers.

At national level, Vietnam's Ministry of Health (MOH) has also started to measure people's satisfaction with the quality of health services in all centrally managed hospitals.<sup>34</sup> The results are expected to be published annually and best performers will be rewarded. Though the results of the assessment have not been available this is a sign of the Government moving towards OGP principles in healthcare.

34. Open government Partnership country page <https://www.opengov-partnership.org/countries/indonesia>

35. Decision No. 1333/KH-BYT on the Plan to measure patients' satisfaction with attitude of healthcare staffs and quality of hospitals dated December 11, 2017.

Education (SDG 4) is a sector where social contribution has played a very important role. The contribution comes not only in the form of private supply of education services but also in policy advisory activities and support for public education providers in remote and mountainous areas. For example, the Mountainous Underprivileged Students Fund, or casually “Rice with Meat Fund”, has helped many primary and lower secondary schools in Northern mountainous provinces with food and infrastructure, including classrooms and living space for students and teachers alike.<sup>35</sup> These achievements were made possible by donations from companies, organizations and individuals across the country and from abroad. What makes people donate for the Fund is the transparency and effectiveness in the way the Fund supports poor students to get better education. The Fund helps achieve multiple development targets, including education, equality, and poverty reduction.

In Mexico, open government and open data have helped improve the quality of education where parents and students could have access to information about education outcomes of schools in their localities. The digital platform *Mejora tu Escuela* (“Improve Your school”) published data on school performance which was previously hidden away by powerful education staff. The website has been visited by millions of viewers who want to know about the quality of their children’s schools and who not only raise issues about quality of schools but also suggest solutions. Under public scrutiny, many schools have taken steps to improve quality (Hasan 2013).

35. The Fund has helped schools in 8 mountainous provinces including Lao Cai, Bac Kan, Thanh Hoa, Thai Nguyen, Yen Bai, Ha Giang, Dien Bien and Lai Chau ([www.tnvc.vn](http://www.tnvc.vn)).





## 4.3

# OGP and environmental goals

SDGs environmental goals include Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12), Climate Action (SDG 13), Life below Water (SDG 14), Life on Land (SDG 15). These are vital goals for Vietnam. Whether Vietnam can achieve them depends very much on the involvement of the whole society and the collaboration between the government, enterprises, consumers and civil society. This is also an area where the Government has shown willingness to seek participation from civil society. In fact, the role of communities in coping with climate change has been highlighted in the National Strategy on Climate Change.<sup>36</sup> The Strategy also calls for funding from organizations, individuals and enterprises, domestic and foreign, to help communities cope with climate change.

In recent years, forest protection and management in Vietnam have been supported by the Forest Management Information System (FORMIS) developed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development's Directorate of Forestry.<sup>37</sup> With access to Internet and the FORMIS, forest farmers can clearly see the status of their forest land and that of public forest land. They can appreciate unmistakably the boundary of the land plots, which helps reduce conflicts. A further step to upgrade the website and allow farmers to report on what happens in real-time in the forests could be useful in protecting forests against fire or illegal logging.<sup>38</sup> Again, this is where adoption of modern technology, open data and civil society's involvement can make a difference in protecting the environment and ensuring the livelihood of local people.



36. Prime Minister's Decision No. 2139/QĐ-TTg dated 5/12/2011.

37. <http://maps.vnforest.gov.vn/>

38. ActionAid Vietnam is working with the Directorate of Forestry to carry out this activity but the function is not available yet.

# OGP AND SPECIFIC TARGETS/ ACTIONS UNDER NAP

In this section, we go deeper into the Vietnam National Action Plan and the proposed actions by the government to implement and achieve SDGs. The purpose of this section is to highlight the OGP compatibility with many actions proposed by the government to achieve VSDGs. For the sake of brevity, we will not cover all 17 targets and 115 sub-targets. Instead, we will focus on a selected number of targets. For each selected target, we first analyze the channel through which OGP can help achieving SDGs and we pinpoint specific actions that the Vietnamese government has proposed and/or already implemented. The idea is to show that OGP can be implemented in Vietnam. Examples from other countries are also provided.



5



## Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Despite progress under the MDGs, more than 1 billion people (approximately 17% of the world's population) still live at or below \$1.25 per day.<sup>39</sup> Certain groups are disproportionately represented among the poor and face additional constraints—such as limited access to productive resources and markets—in escaping poverty. These include women, persons with disabilities, children, and indigenous people. For Vietnam, the poverty rate using the new national poverty line 2011-2015, declined from 14.2 percent in 2010 to 4.5 percent in 2015. However, numerous reports pointed out that poverty now exists in various forms (multi-dimensional) and in pockets of certain populations. In its NAP, the government of Vietnam has set out the following targets:

### Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

**Target 1.1:** By 2020, eliminate extreme poverty for all citizens everywhere, using the poverty line with per capita income below USD 1.25/day in Purchasing Power Parity (in 2005 constant price); by 2030, reduce poverty at least by a half, using the national multi-dimensional poverty criteria

**Target 1.2:** Implement appropriate social protection systems, measures for all citizens across the country, including floors and, by 2030, achieve substantial coverage for the poor and the vulnerable

**Target 1.3:** By 2030, ensure that all citizens, particularly the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to access economic resources and basic services, the right to use land and natural resources, the right to own and control over other forms of property, to access appropriate new technologies and financial services, including micro finance (International target 1.4)

**Target 1.4:** By 2030, improve the resilience of the poor and the vulnerable and, at the same time, reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme weather events and other economic, social, environmental shocks and disasters (International target 1.5).

Under OGP, by making the institutions that formulate policy and administer public services more transparent, accountable, and effective, open government principles can accelerate poverty-eradication efforts. Open government provides a mechanism for citizens to ensure that public resources are spent on community priorities, in turn enabling the poor to benefit from the services they need most. Moreover, by empowering citizens and advocacy groups to monitor pro-poor spending and the delivery of public services, open government practices can improve the accountability of poverty-alleviation programs. Transparency in development aid is essential for planning and managing aid resources, as well as ensuring that donor and recipient governments can be held accountable for the results of their poverty-eradication efforts.<sup>40</sup> The following OGP-congruent actions have been proposed in the NAP:

- *Make continued efforts to review, amend, improving poverty reduction policies, particularly policies for ethnic minority groups; gradually move towards providing conditional support linked to target groups, locations and beneficiary time-bound*

39. [https://sdgcompass.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Goal\\_1.pdf](https://sdgcompass.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Goal_1.pdf)  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1674927815000489>

40. Open Government Guide - Aid. Transparency & Accountability Initiative. 2013. <http://www.opengovguide.com/topics/aid/>

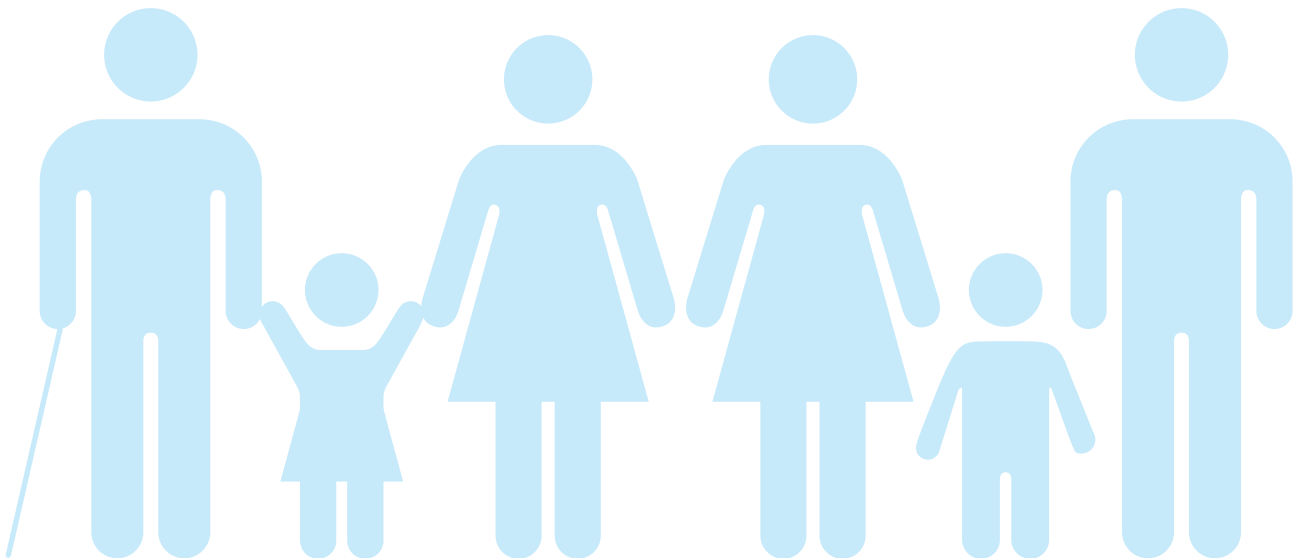


targets in order to **encourage the poor to take an active, proactive part in the program.**

- **Make increased efforts to oversee, monitor implementation of participatory poverty reduction policies.**
- **Issue guidelines on the enforcement and oversight over the implementation of newly enacted social protection legislation. Implement inclusive policies for all citizens.**
- **Strengthen coordination between ministries and sectors, and at the same time mobilize the participation of social organizations and mass media in order to communicate on and advocate for equal rights of all citizens to access economic resources and basic services, own and control other forms of property as provided for by the Constitution.**
- **Enhance the oversight by socio-political organizations, social and professional associations, and local communities over the enforcement of legislation and the handling of violations.**

### International Experience

- *The Philippines* is promoting grassroots participatory planning and budgeting processes in order to identify priority poverty-reduction projects that will be funded by national government agencies.
- *Chile* aims to fully implement the right to information and access to justice in order to enhance citizen participation, especially of vulnerable communities, in environmental decision-making.
- Typical commitment from these countries includes (i) **Public Services.** Publish and promote information on the public services the poor use, including how to flee grievances when public services are denied. (ii) **Aid.** Publish more detailed information on aid flows, including project performance information, sub-national location, results and project documents. (iii) **Environment.** Establish technologically and culturally appropriate procedures for ensuring poor and marginalized groups are included in public engagement on environmental decisions. (iv) **Land.** Codify and implement protocols for meaningful consultation with those potentially affected by large-scale land investments.





## NAP under Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

The aim of the 2030 Agenda is to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition around the world within the next 15 years. Goal 2 also incorporates economic aspects, such as doubling the agricultural productivity and income of small-scale farmers by 2030. Furthermore, it features provisions on sustainable agriculture to prevent increased food production from harming the environment.<sup>41</sup> Vietnam has achieved considerable success with most of the food indicators since 1990. Percentage of undernourished population declined from 32.1 per cent in 1990-92 to 11.4 per cent in 2012-14 and is expected to decline further to 10.3 per cent by 2014-16.<sup>42</sup> Per capita calorie food deficit declined from 368kcal to 95kcal during the same period. While achieving positive results on most of the indicators, 21.4 per cent of the population still suffer from inadequacy of nutrition. Irrigation for the arable land has also increased from 53 per cent to 71.7 per cent during the period of 2010-12.

### Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture<sup>43</sup>

Target 2.1: By 2030, eliminate hunger and ensure access by all citizens, particularly the poor and the vulnerable including the elderly and infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food throughout the year.

Target 2.2: By 2030, reduce all forms of malnutrition and meet the nutritional needs for all target groups who are children, adolescent girls, pregnant women, lactating mothers and elderly people (International target 2.2).

Target 2.3: By 2030, increase by 1.5 time agricultural productivity and income of agricultural labour.

Target 2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food/foodstuff production and apply resilient agricultural production modalities, increasing productivity and output, that help maintain eco-systems, and strengthen the capacity for adaptation to climate change and other disasters and progressive improve land and soil quality.

Target 2.5: By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals; promote access to genetic resources and a fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and relevant native knowledge in accordance with the country's international commitments.

41. <http://unsdsn.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/130919-TG07-Agriculture-Report-WEB.pdf>. In view of the rapidly growing global demand for food, it is estimated that food production worldwide will need to have doubled by 2050. Some 70% of people who are undernourished rely directly or indirectly on agriculture for their livelihoods, hence smallholder farmers are at risk of undernourishment. Although the situation has improved in numerous countries, undernourishment affects nearly 800 million people worldwide – most of them women and children.

42. [http://www.actionaid.org/sites/files/actionaid/ruot\\_bao\\_cao\\_nong\\_nghiep\\_-\\_ta\\_0.pdf](http://www.actionaid.org/sites/files/actionaid/ruot_bao_cao_nong_nghiep_-_ta_0.pdf)

43. <http://ictupdate.cta.int/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2017/03/ICT-Update-Issue-84-ENGLISH.pdf>

Public programs and services that address hunger and promote food security, from free school lunches to food relief in the aftermath of natural disasters, can be made more efficient through greater transparency, accountability, and **public participation**. Increased transparency provides information about services, making programs more accessible to citizens. It also facilitates monitoring by citizens and advocacy groups to ensure quality and to detect fraud. Open government can also play a critical role in **consumer protection** by ensuring that the food products are not only for human consumption but also lead to improved nutrition. Finally, transparent, inclusive, and accountable governance concerning the commercial use of **land and sea** is essential for **sustainable agriculture and fishing practices**.

The following OGP-congruent actions have been proposed in the NAP:

- **Improve information sharing communications** and advocacy on nutrition among mothers, children through the general educational system, the public health system and mass media.
- Continue to effectively implement the National Food Safety Strategy for 2011-2020 and Vision to 2030.
- **Increase the awareness of citizens**, particularly of agricultural producers and businessmen, regarding sustainable agricultural production.
- Develop production areas that are disease-free, apply high tech and advance techniques, and focus on **application of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)**; and develop garden, farm economies.

### Examples from other countries

- *United States*, in partnership with the United Kingdom, has established the Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN). The initiative supports global efforts to make agricultural and nutritionally relevant data available, accessible, and usable for application worldwide.
- *Indonesia* is improving transparency and accountability in its Land Administration Office. The office will publish public data on the types of services provided, processes required for service provisions, estimated time to complete a service, costs for service provision, and the progress of service requests.
- Typical commitments from these countries include (i) **Land**. Implement the “Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests” by the Food and Agriculture Organization in the context of national food security. (ii) **Public services**. Publish and disseminate information on public services citizens are entitled to, especially relating to hunger, food security, and nutrition programs. Provide public data on the distribution and use of such services at a granular level. (iii) **Fisheries**. Require national fishing authorities to publish detailed and timely information on commercial fishing licenses and catch quotas. (iv) **Land**. Strengthen regulations to ensure participatory processes for land- and resource-use planning. (v) **Consumer protection**. Develop consumer protection laws in line with the UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection to ensure access to information food safety and nutrition.



# 5.3

## NAP under Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

To quote the UN source,<sup>44</sup> “the main tenet of SDG Goal 3 is that ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being for all is essential to sustainable development”. And “Significant strides have been made in increasing life expectancy and reducing some of the common killers associated with child and maternal mortality” thanks to improved and increasing access to clean water and sanitation, reducing malaria, tuberculosis, polio and the spread of HIV/AIDS. Vietnamese data from the population-based surveys indicates that the country has made very impressive progress towards achieving this goal under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) especially relating to the issue of reproductive health.<sup>45</sup> However, more efforts are needed to fully eradicate a wide range of diseases and address many different persistent and emerging health issues. These are reflected in the Box – Goal 3 below with issues ranging from maternal and child health, to AIDS, water-borne disease to non-communicable diseases, traffic related and universal coverage of health insurance.

OGP can help achieve these targets as it is a powerful vehicle for improving national health systems for more accountable and effective health service delivery. Many of these targets call for **increased transparency of health-related data for planning and monitoring by service providers**. Specifically, Vietnam’s NAP calls for measures and activities that are directly related to OGP (or OGP-relevant):

- **“Promote health information, communications and advocacy, with a focus on direct communication at the household level through medical practitioners’ village/ hamlet networks, to inform, increase the awareness and modify the behavior of people, with an emphasis on ethnic minority communities, relating to the benefits of regular pregnancy checks and child delivery within healthcare facilities”.**
- **“Carry out information, communications and advocacy activities on the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, hepatitis and neglected tropical diseases, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases in all places and for all target groups”.**
- **“Improve information/data systems on the use and abuse of additive substances, which will clarify concepts on additive substances and harmful alcohols”.**
- **“Strengthen information, communications and advocacy activities on the prevention of the abuse of additive substances and harmful alcoholic drinks”.**
- *Step by step, develop a statistical reporting system for diseases, deaths as a result of the impacts of hazardous/toxic chemicals and environmental pollution.*
- *Enhance the **implementation of information, communication and advocacy** on prevention and control of tobacco harms.*

44. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health/>

45. Reproductive health problems are a leading cause of ill health and death for women and girls of childbearing age in developing countries. <https://www.unfpa.org/sexual-reproductive-health> and <http://www.un.org.vn/en/unfpa-agencypress-center1-101/3902-sexual-reproductive-health-and-family-planning-viet-nam-s-priorities-for-post-2015-sustainable-development-agenda.html>

### Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Target 3.1: By 2030, reduce by a half the maternal mortality rate to below 45 per 100,000 live births; reduce the under-one child mortality rate to below 10 per 1,000 live births and the under-five child mortality rate to below 15 per 1,000 live births (International targets 3.1 and 3.2).

Target 3.2: By 2030, end the of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria epidemics and neglected tropical diseases; and prevent and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases (International target 3.3).

Target 3.3: By 2030, reduce by 20-25% the death rate before 70 years of age as a result of non-communicable diseases, through prevention and treatment measures as well as the promotion of mental health and well-being (International target 3.4).

Target 3.4: Increase efforts in preventing and treating the abuse of addictive substances, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol (International target 3.5).

Target 3.5: By 2030, continue to control and annually reduce traffic accidents based on three criteria: the number of accidents, the number of deaths and the number of injuries (International target 3.6).

Target 3.6: By 2030, ensure universal access to reproductive and sexual healthcare services, including family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into relevant national strategies, programmes (International target 3.7).

Target 3.7: Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to essential healthcare services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all citizens (International target 3.8).

Target 3.8: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, soil pollution and contamination (International target 3.9).

Target 3.9: Strengthen the implementation of whose Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (International target 3.a).

Many other measures focus on improving public-accountability systems in health service delivery through social audits and public scorecards to ensure that citizens are getting quality health care services. Citizens' feedback loops, underpinned by robust information transparency on health service performance, can provide a powerful upward pull towards better quality and more citizen-centric service delivery. Interestingly, these OGP-laden measures are already reflected in Vietnam's NAP. For example:

- **Enhance information, communications- and advocacy on the impacts of risks and improve guidance/ consultancy on the incidence of poisoning as a result of hazardous/toxic chemicals and air/water/soil pollution.**
- **Promote the role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and its member associations, social organizations, communities in the implementation and enforcement of environmental protection legislation.**
- **Promote the role of communities in monitoring and overseeing the implementation of policies, laws, information, communications and -advocacy on reproductive health, sexual health and family planning.**
- **Mobilize resources and the participation of communities, citizens and social organizations during the implementation of information, communications and advocacy and awareness raising on the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, hepatitis and neglected tropical diseases, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.**

Undertake information, communication and advocacy at various levels of government, within sectors, **with mass organizations and with citizens** to ensure that laws, policies, guidelines, warnings on NCDs prevention and control are implemented.

### Examples from other countries

- *Brazil* is strengthening the integrity and accountability mechanisms of its national health care system, Sistema Único de Saúde (SUS). This involves strengthening the national audit system and increasing the use of National Health Cards, designed to deepen accountability linkages between the SUS, public health care users, medical professionals, and health facilities.
- *Honduras*: The government of Honduras is implementing a transparency and participation initiative for citizens to monitor the delivery, distribution, and use of medicine and medical supplies.



46. To quote: “Despite considerable progress in school enrolment, millions of children remain out of school, especially where educational systems struggle to keep up with population growth. Even when more children are enrolled, many do not acquire the basic skills. Quality education is hampered by the lack of trained teachers and adequate school facilities.” <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2017/goal-04/> and <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002456/245656E.pdf>

47. The focus is on (i) The continuation of high priority for disadvantaged groups and areas through restructuring public investment in education, together with the encouragement of private sector involvement in delivering education services, and through reinforcing the existing policies and initiatives or promulgating new policies to ensure inclusive and gender equality education development; (ii) The renovation of General Education with a focus on the competency-based teaching and learning, improvement of teachers' and education managers' education capacity, and the promotion of IT application in teaching and learning; and (iii) The improvement of education management, renovating educational planning, budgeting and monitoring and evaluation, improving the legal framework to increase the autonomy of education management and service delivery, and strengthening the coordination between sectors and administrative levels to improve policies and mechanisms related to education development.





## NAP under Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long opportunities for all

Quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all are central to ensuring a full and productive life to all individuals and to the realization of sustainable development. This makes education a contributing factor in making the world more secure, sustainable and interdependent. Goal 4 aims to ensure that all children, adolescents and adults have access to education and training appropriate to their needs and the context in which they live. Goal 4 focuses on the link between basic education and vocational training and emphasizes equity and quality of education in a life-long learning approach.<sup>46</sup>

Vietnam (Ministry of Education and technology -MOET) has conducted the Education Sector Analysis (ESA) in recognition of the importance and vitality of an inclusive and quality-based education system for sustainable development, with a view to inputting the Education Development Strategic Plan 2011-2020 (EDSP) and providing key recommendations for the development of Viet Nam's Education Sector in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).<sup>47</sup> The GoV targets under Goal 4 are presented in Box Goal 4.

### Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong opportunities for all

Target 4.1: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary education and lower secondary education (International target 4.1).

Target 4.2: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they become ready for primary education (International target 4.2).

Target 4.3: By 2030, ensure that all men and women have equal access to quality and affordable technical, vocational training and tertiary education, including university education (International target 4.3).

Target 4.4: By 2030, substantially increase the number of workers who have relevant skills as required by labor markets, in order for them to have decent jobs and become business owners (International target 4.4).

Target 4.5: By 2030, ensure equal access to education and training and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, ethnic minority people and children in vulnerable situations (International target 4.5).

Target 4.6: By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both male and female, achieve literacy and numeracy (International target 4.6).

Target 4.7: By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire necessary knowledge and skills to promote sustainable development.

Target 4.8: Build and upgrade education facilities that are child-, disability- and gender-sensitive and provide a safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environment for all (International target 4.a).

OGP can at *minima* help Vietnam achieving these targets through three aspects with the corresponding actions proposed by the Government in NAP:

Open data in the education sector can be used to identify underperforming institutions, diagnose problems, and plan reforms.

- *Continue to implement the National Education Development Strategy 2011-2020 effectively, and **monitor implementation**, making regular adjustments.*
- *Accelerate reform of the network of tertiary educational institutions, giving due importance to the quality of education and ensuring a system of tertiary education that is effective and in keeping with regional and global trends.*

Open budget processes can help ensure that resources for education are prioritized and are being spent on the intended beneficiaries.

- *Mobilize resources from society for investments in the construction and upgrading of educational institutions*

Engaging the community in monitoring schools can help build trust and ensure an outcome-focused approach to the improvement of public education. Actually, Vietnam's NAP has called for "Ensure community **social oversight**/judgment of the quality and effectiveness of education".

## Examples from other countries

- *Indonesia* is improving financial transparency in the education sector by opening up data on the School Operational Assistance Fund, which allocates national funds to schools. Citizens can access on the Ministry of Education's website data on how the funds are being spent by each school every trimester, which potentially could improve accountability in the education sector.
- *Mexico* is improving the dissemination of information about the availability of scholarships and grants in order to promote greater educational equality and access to education. Public scrutiny of data can ensure that resources are used efficiently by preventing the duplication of educational grants.

Typically, the **commitment of other countries in OGP** include simple acts such as publishing (i) budget information on school construction resources received by education units; (ii) school performance, teacher information, and budget-allocation data at the most-granular possible level for primary and secondary education; (iii) graduation and employment rates for colleges and universities, including private establishments; and (iv) key documents and data on school construction. As pointed out above, OGP could be a platform to improve schooling and education system. In Vietnam, actually a number of these commitments have already been 'voluntarily' committed and implemented. The "three-disclosure" regulation by the MOET is an example of increased transparency toward higher education institutions in Vietnam.<sup>48</sup>

48. Circular No. 09/2009/TT-BGDĐT on 7 May 2009 by the Ministry of Education and Training requires all education units to disclose three important information (i) commitment on quality of education and actual quality (ii) conditions and resources available to ensure education quality; and (iii) finance. It is commonly referred to as three disclosures.



## NAP under Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Access to drinking water and sanitation is a human right and, together with water resources, a key determinant in all aspects of social, economic and environmental development. Under Goal 6, the following targets have been adopted by the GoV (Box Goal 6).

### Goal 6: Ensure the full supply of and sustainably manage water resources and hygienic systems for all citizens (6)

Target 6.1: By 2030, ensure full and equitable access to safe and affordable water for all citizens.

Target 6.2: By 2030, ensure access to adequate and equitable sanitation facilities and conditions for all citizens, with particular attention paid to the needs of women, girls, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups; end open-air defecation practices; 100% of households have hygienic toilets (International target 6.2).

Target 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality and successfully control sources of pollution; end the use of hazardous chemicals in agricultural, industrial and aquatic production that pollutes water sources and degrades biodiversity; treat 100% of hazardous waste water; halve untreated urban waste water; increase the safe reuse of water (International target 6.3).

Target 6.4: By 2030, substantially increase water use efficiency across all fields/sectors and ensure a sustainable supply of clean water in order to address water scarcity, and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity. Ensure that water exploitation does not exceed the exploitation thresholds for rivers and exploitable reserves of water layers.

Target 6.5: By 2030, implement integrated water resources management by river basin, including trans-boundary water sources, through international cooperation.

Target 6.6: By 2030, protect and restore water-related eco-systems.

Adopting open data and participatory planning for water point mapping efforts can improve the planning, distribution, and monitoring of water supplies. Proactively publishing data on water use and management, access point locations, consumption, quality, investment, etc. can engage the wider community in service improvement efforts by collectively identifying issues and planning appropriate reforms. Publishing information on the location of urban and rural water supplies can enhance accessibility. Allowing citizen voices, especially those of marginalized groups, in policy planning can direct infrastructure investments where they are needed the most. The following OGP-congruent actions have been proposed in the NAP:

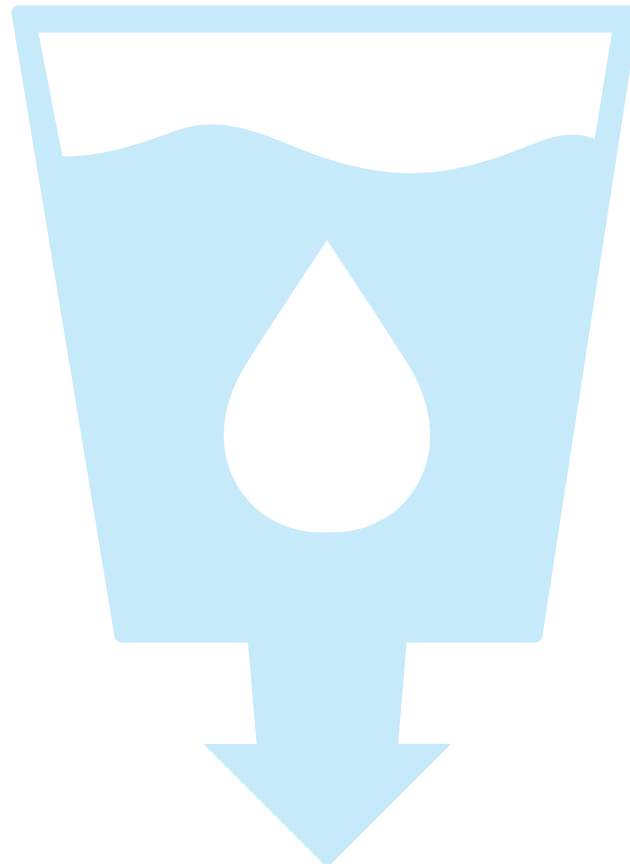
- **Strengthen information, communications and advocacy in order to improve public awareness** of the needs for protection, responsible utilization of clean water.



- Support and strengthen **the participation of social, community-based organizations in improving sanitation management**
- Strengthen activities for **inspection, oversight**, prevention of environmental pollution, and apply strong sanctions for violations.
- Undertake **information, communications and advocacy in order to increase public awareness** of the need for protection of water resources.
- Promote **the role of communities** in the protection and rehabilitation of eco-systems.

### Examples from other countries

- *Tanzania* implemented a Water Point Mapping System that makes up-to-date information on the status and location of rural water supplies available to citizens in order to make water services more accessible, efficient, and accountable.
- *In Brazil*, the government is organizing and disclosing data on the execution of the Water for All program through a universal data platform. This will allow the public to continuously monitor the program's progress and results and enhance its accountability.
- Typical commitment includes: (i) **Public services**. Systematically track and publish performance indicators on use and management of water and sanitation services as open data. (ii) **Citizen engagement**. Encourage the use of in-person workshops and digital tools to engage with the public on water and sanitation service provision from policy formulation through implementation. (iii) **Budgets**. Engage citizens in the process of prioritizing budget allocations for water and sanitation.





## NAP under Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

As stated in the UN declaration, Goal 7 advocates universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services. Energy nowadays is no longer simply a production input, it is an essential prerequisite to achieving many sustainable development goals. It helps eradicating poverty, increasing food production, providing clean water, improving public health, enhancing education, creating economic opportunity and empowering women.

In contrast with the situation in the world where 1.6 billion people worldwide have no access to electricity, while 2.5 billion rely on traditional biomass as a source of energy, Vietnam has largely solved the problem of providing access to clean energy for all. However, there are evidence that electricity is becoming a heavier burden in Vietnamese households' finances. In 2010, the average electricity bill exceeded 6% of income for 2.4% of households, but that number reached 5.5% of households in 2014 (Ha-Duong and Nguyen (2016)).<sup>49</sup> The government of Vietnam has been taking active steps in diversifying its electricity portfolio mix.<sup>50</sup> Under SDG framework, the GoV has reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable energy development (See Box Goal 7).

### Goal 7: Ensure access to sustainable, reliable and affordable energy sources for all citizens (4)

Target 7.1: By 2030, fundamentally 100% households have access to electricity; by 2025, fully 100% households have access to electricity; by 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.

Target 7.2: By 2030, substantially increase the share of renewable energies in the total national consumption of primary energies, more specifically to reach 31% by 2020 and 32.3% by 2030.

Target 7.3: By 2030, double the national rate of improvement in energy use efficiency. Reduce the rate of power utilization by 10% compared to the baseline scenario.

Target 7.4: By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services to all citizens, particularly in less developed regions, isolated and remote regions, mountainous and island regions.

49. According to Ha-Duong and Nguyen (2016) the fraction of households without access to electricity is below two percent, the median level of electricity usage in 2014 was 100kWh per month per household, the fraction of households declaring unsatisfied electricity needs is below three percent. <https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/hal-01692453/document>

50. [http://www.vn.undp.org/content/vietnam/en/home/library/environment\\_climate/greening-the-power-mix.html](http://www.vn.undp.org/content/vietnam/en/home/library/environment_climate/greening-the-power-mix.html) and <http://vneconomictimes.com/article/society/eu-vietnam-sign-joint-declaration-on-sustainable-energy-cooperation>

OGP can help Vietnam achieve SDG Goal 7. First, by streamlining the public policies that will ensure access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy. For example, improving energy efficiency will require a framework of cross-sectoral collaboration, with strong transparency and accountability mechanisms, for government, private sector and civil society to work together to assess needs, measure and disclose energy use, evaluate policy options, and develop national energy-efficiency strategies. Further, open data can be key in monitoring, identifying gaps, and improving implementation. Specifically, the GoV has proposed tasks and measures that are OGP-consistent. Typical commitments under OGP include three areas: (i) **Open data**. Proactively publish production, consumption, trade, prices, and emissions data in open format with geographic metadata across all energy sources, including petroleum, natural gas, coal, electricity, and renewables; (ii) **Extractive industry**. Publish timely, comprehensive reports on oil, gas and mining operations, including detailed revenue and project information; (iii) **Citizen engagement**. Create a national-level citizen-engagement process on energy policy. Under its SDG Goal 7, GoV has called for engagement with the public:

- *Mobilize **social organizations**, particularly scientific technological organizations, to participate in power initiatives; and oversee the implementation of the above plans and strategies.*
- *Enhance information, communications and advocacy in order to improve public awareness of the need for economical and efficient energy use for productive and domestic activities.*

## Examples

- *The United States will publicly publish an annual report outlining government spending on fossil-fuel subsidies and share it with the G-20 countries and other relevant international bodies.<sup>51</sup> Regular public reporting on U.S. government spending on fossil-fuel subsidies could increase transparency and enhance accountability related to the effects of this policy.*
- *Indonesia is improving the management of renewable and nonrenewable sources of energy by using greater transparency to combat corruption, collusion, and nepotism in the energy and extractives sectors. The government will disclose information on the procurement of upstream gas and mining as well as the results of social responsibility programs as part of a wider effort to apply Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative standards to natural resource governance.*

51. 25 Energy Efficiency Policy Recommendations. International Energy Agency (2011), [https://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/25recom\\_2011.pdf](https://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/25recom_2011.pdf)





# NAP under Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable

**Goal 11: Promote sustainable, resilient urban and rural development; ensure safe living and working environments; ensure reasonable distribution of population and work force by region**

Target 11.1: By 2030, ensure access for all citizens to adequate, safe and affordable basic services and housing; abolish slums; build, upgrade, improve sub-standard housing areas

Target 11.2: By 2030, ensure access for all citizens to safe, affordable, convenient and sustainable transport systems; improve traffic safety, notably by expanding public transport with special attention paid to the needs of women, children, persons with disabilities and elderly people

Target 11.3: By 2030, enhance national capacity for inclusive, sustainable urban planning and development with the participation of communities (International target 11.3).

Target 11.4: Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard world cultural and natural heritage and intangible cultural heritage that have been recognized by the United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Target 11.5: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected, and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to GDP, caused by natural and other disasters, with due attention paid to the protection of the poor and vulnerable


Target 11.6: Reduce adverse environmental impacts on people in urban areas, including by strengthening the management of air quality, urban waste and other sources of waste

Target 11.7: By 2039, ensure universal access to green, safe and friendly public spaces for all citizens, particularly women, children, elderly people and people with disabilities

Target 11.8: Support effective economic, social and environmental linkages between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening regional and national development planning work

Target 11.9: By 2030, substantially increase the number of urban centres and human settlements adopting and integrated planning schemes and policies towards the to promote e inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change and resilience to disasters

Target 11.10: Develop sustainable rural areas and ensure harmony between economic development, urbanization, inclusion, environmental and ecological protection; develop technical infrastructure and improve the quality of life for rural people from economic, cultural, social, environmental and democratic perspectives



With increased urbanization as a result of economic growth, the need for effective local government has never been greater. Using open government tools and techniques to enhance transparency, accountability, and public participation can directly improve citizens' lives because many crucial public services are administered at the local level. Increased transparency and public participation in policy deliberation and decision-making by community members can also enhance the responsiveness and accountability of local government. For example, participatory budgeting allows citizens to prioritize public spending to respond to community needs. In this case, in Vietnam there is a very good example in which citizens participate in local budget transparency project implemented by CDI. There are also a number of measures proposed in its SDG by the government of Vietnam that are in line with OGP:

- *Issue guidelines on the planning of green urban areas, a set of indicators on green urban areas in order to guide urban development. Develop a set of criteria on the planning of green spaces, public spaces in urban areas; and issue technical/ economic norms for green tree parks.*

Greater citizen participation in monitoring and evaluating health, education, housing, police, water and food distribution services using tools such as public scorecards and social audits can improve the quality of public services and development outcomes.

- *Promote the participation of social organizations, communities in conservation and protection of world natural and world cultural heritage.*

### Examples from other countries

- *In Paraguay*, fifty Municipal Development Councils are being developed across cities in Paraguay to deepen citizen participation at the local level. The councils provide a participatory forum for citizens to develop, monitor, and conduct hearings on plans for local development initiatives.
- *Macedonia* is supporting the implementation of citizen-generated initiatives and replicating innovative practices through “micro civic laboratories” to improve local services. The government is also developing the Municipal Internal Act on Transparency to strengthen transparency across municipal councils in order to increase citizens access to information on municipal government business.
- Typical commitments from these countries include: (i) **Budgets**. Enable participation of citizens and civil society organizations in local budget preparation to draw on the local community's knowledge and oversight. (ii) **Public services**. Involve citizens in the commissioning, design, delivery, and assessment of public services in cities. (iii) **Police and public security**. Establish integrity provisions for city police officers, in line with international best practices.



## NAP under Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goal 12 calls for the implementation of the UN's ten-year framework on sustainable consumption and production patterns. It advocates environmentally sound management of chemicals and all waste as well as a substantial reduction in waste generation through measures such as recycling. Goal 12 also aims to halve food waste, encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices, and promote sustainable public procurement practices. This goal is increasingly relevant for Vietnam. Following rapid industrialization and urbanization, the country is currently facing many environmental issues. Most notable are deforestation and soil degradation, water pollution and overfishing, groundwater contamination, degrading environment in big cities, loss of biodiversity, air pollution, solid waste problems (See The World Factbook CIA, 2015). Realizing the urgent need to promote a shift towards more sustainable industrial development pathways and sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns, the Vietnamese government has paid special attention to the promotion of green growth. The government has thus approved the Vietnam Green Growth Strategy for the period 2011–2020, with a vision to 2050, as “a decisive tendency in sustainable economic development.” In line with this strategy, the government has made the following ambitious SGD Goal 12 targets:

### Goal 12: Ensure sustainable production and consumption (9)

Target 12.1: Implement a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable production and consumption in accordance with international commitments.

Target 12.2: By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources; reasonably exploit and economically, sustainably utilize mineral resources.

Target 12.3: By 2030, halve per capita amount of food waste and reduce food losses along the production and supply chains, including by minimizing post-harvest losses.

Target 12.4: By 2020, adopt and implement a lifecycle management approach to chemicals and wastes in accordance with international commitments that Viet Nam has signed, in order to reduce soil, water, air pollution and their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

Target 12.5: By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation and increase the economic value of waste resources through prevention, reduction, recycling, reuse, and recovery of energies from waste treatment.

Target 12.6: Encourage the business community to adopt sustainable practices, including the use of cleaner production technologies, effective use of natural resources and environmental protection; implement social accountabilities with regards to the poor and the vulnerable; and integrate sustainability information into periodical reports.

Target 12.7: Ensure sustainable public procurement practices.

Target 12.8: By 2030, ensure that citizens everywhere have relevant information on and proper awareness of sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.

Target 12.9: Improve taxation and pricing policies on fossil fuels and, at the same time, adopt appropriate policies to protect the poor and other individuals and groups who are vulnerable to likely negative impacts.



Open government principles highlighted in Principle 10<sup>52</sup> of the Rio Declaration, including access to information, participatory decision-making, and access to justice, can help advance Goal 12. In particular, it could help in the following ways and directly relevant for a number of tasks under Goal 12 of Vietnam's NAP.

Legal frameworks requiring proactive disclosure and access to information can help the public identify environmental risks and issues.

- *Issue policies that encourage production and business entities to apply modern environmental management systems, according to ISO 14000 standards.*
- ***Issue regulations on waste auditing and product lifecycle assessment.***
- *Amend, improve mechanisms, policies that encourage the business community to implement sustainable practices and integrate **sustainability reporting** within periodic reports.*
- *Carry out annual evaluation, classification of sustainable development businesses in Viet Nam.*
- *Periodically consolidate information on, evaluate the implementation of sustainable public procurement and relevant mechanisms and policies. Recommend revisions of, amendments to such mechanisms, and policies whenever necessary.*
- *Review, revise and amend existing regulations on public contracting and investment, specifically integrating green procurement standards in the selection of contractors that supply goods and services to works, projects funded by State budget resources.*

Establishing participatory mechanisms allows citizens to have a voice in environmental decision-making and monitoring to ensure sustainability. Open access to justice allows citizens and advocacy groups to redress grievances where their interests are at stake.

- *Promote the role and responsibility of the information, communications and advocacy agencies in raising public awareness of the directions, policies and strategies for sustainable development of the country; disseminate the contents of and information on sustainable development.*

### Examples from other countries

- *Bulgaria* is integrating preventive environmental tools into corporate policies in order to increase corporate awareness of environmental management systems such as ISO 14001, EMAS, eco labeling, energy labeling, and EcoDesign for products.
- *South Africa* will develop an integrated and publicly accessible portal of environmental management information that provides aggregated environmental data across sectors. The goal is to increase transparency and strengthen compliance with environmental regulation while simultaneously providing citizens with greater access to comprehensive information on the environment.

52. In 1992 the Rio Declaration was adopted and contained in part Principle 10 stating that: "Environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided." <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/unep-implementing-principle-10-rio-declaration>



# NAP under Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Climate change is acknowledged as a key challenge for global sustainable development. SDG Goal 13 calls on countries to incorporate climate protection measures in their national policies and assist each other. Goal 13 advocates strengthening resilience to climate-related natural disasters and reaffirms the commitment undertaken by developed countries to mobilize every year USD 100 billion jointly from all sources by 2020 to help developing countries adapt to climate change. The Goal 13 is directly relevant for Vietnam as the country is a natural disaster-prone country and particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change.<sup>53</sup> The government has adopted numerous policies and measures to address this challenge.<sup>54</sup> These measures are reflected in the government commitment under Goal 13 and its specific measures under NAP.

## Goal 13: Respond in a timely and effective manner to climate change and natural disasters

Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and capacity in responding to natural and other disasters.

Target 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national development policies, strategies, planning schemes and plans.

Target 13.3: Improve Educate, raise awareness, and strengthen-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

Robust and inclusive mechanisms for public participation can help citizens prioritize adaptation needs and resources to protect vulnerable and at-risk populations. Opening and sharing science and policy data globally can facilitate an evidence-based approach to understanding, preventing, and adapting to climate change.<sup>55</sup>

- *Increase basic scientific survey, research activities and apply technologies that enable adaptation to climate change.*
- *Promote scientific research, encourage technology transfer and effectively apply advanced scientific/ technological achievements in order to support adaptation to climate change, improve economic competitiveness and move towards the development of a low-carbon economy.*

53. <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/institutional-document/33916/files/viet-nam-environment-climate-change.pdf>

54. [https://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/application/pdf/viet\\_nam\\_summary\\_cca.pdf](https://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/application/pdf/viet_nam_summary_cca.pdf)

55. Typical commitments under OGP are in (i) **Environment**. Develop public-disclosure programs that release emission and discharge data from the corporate sector. Ensure data is published in usable and understandable formats to effectively explain risks to local communities. (ii) **Land**. Embed participatory land- and resource-use planning policies in legal and institutional frameworks, which ensure compliance with standards of environmental and social sustainability. (iii) **Public contracting**. Link open contracting data with other sources of data, such as environmental and sustainability data.

Greater transparency enables citizens and advocacy organizations to monitor climate change policy and track climate financing to ensure accountability of results. Moreover, open access to justice would allow citizens and advocacy groups to secure climate justice and redress grievances where community interests are at stake.<sup>56</sup>

- *Prepare, implement information, communications and advocacy to improve awareness, responsibility of cadres, public servants, civil servants and other strata of society with regards to climate change issues.*
- *Introduce basic knowledge on responses to climate change, mitigation of disaster risks, into the curricula of the various levels of education and training; develop training programmes. Formulate, adopt policies on developing high-quality human resources to deliver inter-disciplinary experts on response to climate changes, and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.*
- *Undertake information, communications and advocacy to improve community awareness of disaster risk mitigation.*
- *Develop community capacity on disaster response, preparedness and prevention.*

### Examples from other countries

- *France* has committed to promoting transparency and involving civil society in COP21 Conference's planning, agenda, and negotiations. The government will develop a participatory platform for citizens mobilization and collaboration for COP21 and beyond.
- *Greece's* Ministry of Environment, Energy, and Climate change is opening up geospatial data across government. To ensure accessibility, the ministry is preparing legislation and developing processes to ensure geospatial data can easily be accessed, retrieved, and combined with other data sources.



56. Can you hear me? Citizens, Climate Change & Open Government. Davis. Mitchell. Prikken. Involve. (June 2014). [http://www.involve.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Involve\\_Climate-Change-and-Open-Local-Government.pdf](http://www.involve.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Involve_Climate-Change-and-Open-Local-Government.pdf)



# 5.10

## NAP under Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Oceans are facing ever-greater problems created by pollution and over-exploitation which results in environmental damage, biodiversity loss, ocean acidification and increased plastic waste. Besides industrial over-fishing and the commercial use of marine resources, climate change is placing marine ecosystems under increased pressure. A continuously growing global population will be even more dependent on marine resources in future.

Goal 14 advocates reducing significantly all kinds of marine pollution and minimizing ocean acidification by 2025, as well as sustainably managing and protecting marine and coastal ecosystems by as early as 2020. Goal 14 is directly relevant for Vietnam as the country is among the global largest top-ten fish producers. The country is now facing the problem of overfishing, primarily due its fishing fleet's overcapacity. Vietnam's fisheries are largely small-scale and about 85% of fishing vessels in the country operate in near-shore areas, with approximately 80% of the total catch caught at a depth of less than 50m.<sup>57</sup> While in Vietnam there are relevant law and general policies, nothing overarching specifically recognizes artisanal, small-scale or community fisheries.<sup>58</sup> The commitments made by GoV are listed hereafter in Box Goal 14.

57. Earnings from fishing activities are decreasing, and often are not enough to cover fishing costs, threatening food security, livelihoods and social stability. Addressing the overexploitation of fisheries resources in Vietnam presents a formidable challenge with eight million people whose livelihoods depend on fisheries as the household's primary income source, an additional 12 million who get part of their income or subsistence from fisheries, and with few alternative sources of employment in many coastal communities.

58. <https://opendevopmentmekong.net/topics/sdg14-life-below-water/> and <https://opendevopmentmekong.net/dataset/?id=current-fisheries-and-aquaculture-policies-relevant-to-rflp-in-viet-nam>



## Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably utilize the ocean, the sea and marine resources for sustainable development

Target 14.1: By 2030, prevent, significantly reduce and successfully control marine pollution of various forms, particularly pollution from land-based activities, including solid waste, waste water and organic substances pollution.

Target 14.2: By 2030, strengthen the management and protection of marine, and coastal and island ecosystems in order to avoid adverse impacts on and improve the health and resilience of oceans.

Target 14.3: Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels, in the context of climate change.

Target 14.4: By 2020, effectively manage harvesting, and end excessive exploitation, as well as overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) and destructive fishing practices according to existing regulations; implement science-based management plans in order to restore marine reserves in the shortest time feasible, and at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yields, as determined by their biological characteristics.

Target 14.5: By 2030, ensure that the area of marine and coastal reservation zones reaches 3 - 5% of the total natural area, based on available scientific information and in line with national and international laws.

Target 14.6: By 2030, strictly prohibit all forms of fisheries subsidies that may lead to overfishing or that may contribute to illegal, unreported, unregulated (IUU) fishing, and create enabling conditions for WTO's fisheries subsidies negotiations.

Persistent overfishing is emblematic of a failure of national and international governance. Lack of transparency and government openness is increasingly recognized as part of the problem. Open government is one way to empower communities and other marine resource stakeholders to guarantee sustainable ocean stewardship. Transparency on commercial fishing licenses, catch quotas, penalties, fines, and subsidies can facilitate research, public debate and the quality of decision-making. Publishing timely information is also crucial for monitoring violations and detecting fraud. Transparency in pollution monitoring and sea-life harvesting regulations, for example, have aided public initiatives to identify violations of rules, while also improving firms' clarity and understanding of those rules.<sup>59</sup>

- *Develop mechanisms to encourage citizens and communities to take part in the oversight and management of marine pollution.*
- *Survey, evaluate the environmental carrying capacity of sea, island areas in regions that are highly or extremely prone to pollution risks; **make public** sea, island areas that are no longer capable of absorbing waste.*

*A good example is the case of Spain that took the step to increase and improve maritime stakeholders' participation in the Ministry of Infrastructure's plans for maritime reclamation and pollution mitigation. The aim is to have consultative meetings before producing the draft plans, which should enable the inclusion of perspectives that are often overlooked when determining policy.*

59. Open Government Guide – Fisheries. Transparency & Accountability Initiative. (2013). <http://www.opengovguide.com/topics/fsheries/>



# 6

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS





OGP is the way forward to building a modern and effective governance system in the age of Industry 4.0 and a new development paradigm of achieving SDGs. OGP principles are fully compatible with the governance policies and regulations that the Government of Vietnam is trying to implement, including stronger measures to prevent and fight corruption, administrative reform and e-government, enhanced access to information and promotion of democracy and civic participation.

In Vietnam, SDGs with comprehensive goals and targets are not an easy task to achieve due to resource constraints and shortcomings in state management effectiveness. In this context, OGP can help build inclusive institutions and accountable governance that in turn can help create economic growth, improve wellbeing and protect the environment in a sustainable manner. In particular, transparency, accountability, open data, curbing corruption and promoting citizen engagement will provide resources and policy advices to achieve SDGs more effectively and fully.



The following recommendations are suggested:

- As the very first step, in order to be able to meet OGP eligibility, the Government should conduct a feasibility study. The Government should appoint a ministry/agency to conduct an official study on the feasibility of joining OGP for Vietnam.
- As the second step, the government needs to take concrete actions to improve its eligibility scores. The study by Toward Transparency (2017) shows that there is high possibility for Vietnam to improve its score to meet the minimum standards. The government can work with relevant partners who have been working on open government for the past few years to form a multi-stakeholder coalition and allow for the OGP-congruent projects and initiatives to be scaled up and duplicated.
- Joining OGP is not an end in itself but a means for Vietnam to achieve its ambitious development goals. While joining OGP is important, implementing OGP principles is even more important. As the third step, the government should therefore develop national action plans in line with OGP.
- CSOs in Vietnam have been playing an important role in improving governance, thus they should be encouraged and given proper space to scale up good practices.

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## ANNEX 1.

### Matrix of Global OGP commitments in line with Vietnam's NAP targets

No.	OGP Commitments	Relevant targets in NAP of Vietnam	Division of responsibility	Note
1	Increase the availability of information about governmental activities	<p><b>Target 3.6</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the role of communities in monitoring and overseeing the implementation of policies, laws, information, communications and -advocacy on reproductive health, sexual health and family planning.</li> <li>Mainstream reproductive health priorities into relevant national strategies and programmed.</li> </ul>	MOH	(International target 3.7)
		<p><b>Target 14.4: By 2020, effectively manage harvesting, and end excessive exploitation, as well as overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) and destructive fishing practices according to existing regulations; implement science-based management plans in order to restore marine reserves in the shortest time feasible, and at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yields, as determined by their biological characteristics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modernize the management of the marine fishing business. Develop appropriate management mechanisms in order to direct sustainable exploitation, conservation and development of marine resources. Renovate the development of fishing cooperatives and cooperative unions to serve fishermen's interests, sustainably protecting the marine environment and ecosystems, linking communities, economic development and social cohesion in coastal and, island regions. Promote the establishment of large businesses, and business groups with sufficient strength to exploit offshore resources and cooperate in ocean exploitation with other countries in the region.</li> </ul>	MARD	(International target 14.4)
		<p><b>Target 16.5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fundamentally reform the existing salary/wage regimes for cadres, public servants and civil servants.</li> <li>Improve ethics standards of public servants; and make transparent assets and remuneration of cadres and public servants. In a prompt and early manner, prevent, detect, and deal with persons who commit acts of corruption. Clearly assign responsibilities and accountabilities of agencies, organizations, units and individuals concerned.</li> <li>Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of responsible institutions in combatting corruption and bribery.</li> </ul>	MOHA	(International target 16.5).



No.	OGP Commitments	Relevant targets in NAP of Vietnam	Division of responsibility	Note
		<p><b>Target 16.6: Develop transparent, effective and accountable institutions at all levels</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Build a Vietnamese system of laws that are synchronous, unified, feasible, open, transparent, stable, accessible, with low compliance costs and suitable to socio-economic development objectives.</li> <li>● Develop and implement operating principles on the division, coordination, and control of State powers; increase governance effectiveness; increase openness, transparency, and accountability in the organization and operation of State agencies and other institutions of the country's political system.</li> <li>● Continue to prepare and improve legal provisions governing the relationships between the State and citizens.</li> <li>● Improve, implement and enforce legislation, ensure legal certainty and clarity, ensure inter-operability and close linkage between preparation and implementation/ enforcement of legislation.</li> </ul>	MOJ	(International target 16.6).
		<p><b>Target 16.9: Ensure that all citizens have access to information and protect their fundamental freedoms as provided for by Vietnamese legislation and international treaties to which Viet Nam is a party</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prepare, adopt and implement guidelines on the implementation of the Law on Access to Information.</li> <li>● Operate information portals and websites at state institutions at national and local levels effectively; develop and operate databases with information that these institutions are expected to provide to citizens as stipulated by the Government; strengthen, improve secretarial, filing/archiving, statistical work; equip technical facilities with ICT and other necessary inputs to enable requesters to see, read, listen to, take notes of, copy, photograph records and documents, both online and at the offices of relevant institutions.</li> <li>● Improve the provision of information through spokesmen's activities of State institutions and through the mass media.</li> <li>● Undertake information-communication-advocacy work in order for citizens to be aware of their basic rights to freedom and, in practice, enjoy their rights as provided for by law.</li> </ul>	MOJ	(International target 16.10)

No.	OGP Commitments	Relevant targets in NAP of Vietnam	Division of responsibility	Note
		<p><b>Target 17.2: Improve the quality and value-added- of the exports. Strive to reach an export growth rate of over 10% per annum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the role of trade promotion agencies, associations of occupations/professions in accessing information on export markets. Organize, develop a distribution system for Vietnamese goods in foreign markets.</li> </ul>	MOIT	Due to trade promotion agencies, associations of occupations/professions are stated-own organizations, especially at local levels
		<p><b>Target get 15.8: By 2020, take effective measures to prevent, control and abolish the invasion of alien organisms in national land and water eco-systems; and strengthen the management of biological safety relating to genetically modified organisms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote cooperation, lesson learning and experience sharing in order to improve technical, professional capacities of agencies, units at various levels in the management of biological safety relating to genetically modified organisms.</li> </ul>	MONRE	(International target 15.8).
2	Support civic participation	<p><b>Target 1.1: By 2020, eliminate extreme poverty for all citizens everywhere, using the poverty line with per capita income below USD 1.25/day in Purchasing Power Parity (in 2005 constant price); by 2030, reduce poverty at least by a half, using the national multi-dimensional poverty criteria</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make increased efforts to <i>oversee, monitor implementation of participatory poverty reduction policies</i></li> </ul>	MOLISA	(International targets 1.1 and 1.2)
		<p><b>Target 1.3: By 2030, ensure that all citizens, particularly the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to access economic resources and basic services, the right to use land and natural resources, the right to own and control over other forms of property, to access appropriate new technologies and financial services, including micro finance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen coordination between ministries, sectors and at the same time, <i>mobilize the participation of social organizations, mass media</i> in order to communicate on and advocate for equal rights of all citizens to access economic resources and basic services, own and control other forms of property as provided for by the Constitution.</li> <li><i>Enhance the oversight by socio-political organizations, social and professional associations, and local communities</i> over the enforcement of legislation and the handling of violations.</li> </ul>	VNFF	(International target 1.4).

No.	OGP Commitments	Relevant targets in NAP of Vietnam	Division of responsibility	Note
		<p><b>Target 4.4: By 2030, substantially increase the number of workers who have relevant skills as required by labour markets, in order for them to have decent jobs and become business owners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage the business sector to participate in formulating and implementing vocational training, evaluation, certification programmes in order to increase its practical value and provide training in accordance with the needs of society and labour markets.</li> </ul>	MOLISA	(International target 4.4).
		<p><b>Target 5.5: Ensure women’s full, effective participation in and equal opportunities for leadership at all policy-making levels in the political, economic and social life</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formulate a scheme which promotes women’s equal participation in leadership positions at all policymaking levels.</li> <li>Improve the current mechanism in selection, appointment, promotion of cadres at all levels with the objective of ensuring gender equality.</li> <li>Carry out information, communication and advocacy work in order to increase awareness and change the behaviour of leaders, policymakers and the entire society with regards to gender equality and the role of women in politics.</li> <li>Introduce requirements for and tracking of female cadres’ working within annual evaluations and reviews of agencies/ institutions.</li> <li>Recommend revisions, amendments to existing regulations on personnel planning, appointment, promotion, and training based on the principle of ensuring gender equality. Ensure non-discrimination in terms of ages between men and women in personnel planning.</li> <li>Promote women to management, leadership positions of regional and international structures, organizations.</li> </ul>	MOHA	(International target 5.5).



No.	OGP Commitments	Relevant targets in NAP of Vietnam	Division of responsibility	Note
		<p><b>Target 5.7: Ensure that all women, particularly poor women in rural areas and women from ethnic minority groups, have equal rights to economic resources and equal rights to use land and own other forms of property, inheritance, financial services and natural resources as provided for by national law</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review, recommend revisions, amendments to existing legal documents, policies in the direction of ensuring equality in access to economic resources.</li> <li>Formulate and issue policies that create the conditions enabling women to access information and loans, for developing the household economy and supporting consumption.</li> <li>Formulate and issue policies that support women in developing small businesses and micro businesses and undertaking various forms of collective economy (cooperatives, cooperative groups, joint venture groups etc.) that are managed by women.</li> <li>Formulate training programmes on economic empowerment pathways for women, with particular attention paid to training on the application of information providing technologies (policies, laws, new technologies...).</li> <li>Provide training on innovation and creativity, on skills to start up, launch and manage businesses for women; organize forums, workshops, discussions relating to Viet Nam's international commitments in various sectors, particularly new generation free trade agreements (FTAs).</li> </ul>	MOJ MPI MOLISA	(International target 5.a).
		<p><b>Target 6.1: By 2030, ensure full and equitable access to safe and affordable water for all citizens</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Step up the socialization of activities on water sources protection, management, development and supply of clean water in urban and industrial areas. Improve the environment and policies to facilitate investments in clean water production and supply in urban and industrial areas.</li> </ul>	MOC	(International target 6.1).
		<p><b>Target 6.2: By 2030, ensure access to adequate and equitable sanitation facilities and conditions for all citizens, with particular attention paid to the needs of women, girls, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups; end open-air defecation practices; 100% of households have hygienic toilets</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Socialize investments in public toilet services. Adopt preferential mechanisms for businesses to make investments in clean water, sanitation, public toilet projects.</li> <li>Support and strengthen the participation of social, community-based organizations in improving sanitation management.</li> </ul>	MOC	International target 6.b

No.	OGP Commitments	Relevant targets in NAP of Vietnam	Division of responsibility	Note
		<p><b>Target 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality and successfully control sources of pollution; end the use of hazardous chemicals in agricultural, industrial and aquatic production that pollutes water sources and degrades biodiversity; treat 100% of hazardous waste water; halve untreated urban waste water; increase the safe reuse of water</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Socialize investments in the implementation of programmes, projects in improving, rehabilitating ponds, lakes, canals, rivers in urban centres, population areas, particularly projects that are components of the National targeted programme on pollution regulation treatment and environmental improvement.</li> <li>• Strengthen international cooperation in capacity building support for sectors, fields, programmes relating to water and sanitation, including water exploitation, desalination, water use efficiency, waste water treatment, recycling and reuse technologies.</li> </ul>	MOC	International target 6.3
		<p><b>Target 7.1: By 2030, fundamentally 100% households have access to electricity; by 2025, fully 100% households have access to electricity; by 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobilize social organizations, particularly scientific-technological organizations, to participate in power initiatives; and oversee the implementation of the above plans and strategies.</li> </ul>	MOIT	(International target 7.1)
		<p><b>Target 7.2: By 2030, substantially increase the share of renewable energies in the total national consumption of primary energies, more specifically to reach 31% by 2020 and 32.3% by 2030</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobilize increased financial resources, domestic and external, for the production of renewable energies; improve mechanisms and policies to encourage the private sector to invest in the production of renewable energies, adopt policies to create enabling conditions for all organizations, individuals to invest in renewable energy development, as consumers, producers and beneficiaries.</li> </ul>	MOIT	(International target 7.2).

No.	OGP Commitments	Relevant targets in NAP of Vietnam	Division of responsibility	Note
		<p><b>Target 10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the political, economic and political inclusion of all citizens, irrespective of age, sex, disability, ethnic origin, nationality, religion, economic status or other conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prepare and issue policies that encourage the inclusion of all citizens in political, economic and social spheres, emphasizing equalities in terms of age, sex, ethnic origin, nationality, religion, economic status and other conditions.</li> <li>● Institutionalize grassroots-level democracy regulations as provided for by legislation; government at all levels, particularly at the commune/ward level, dialogue with citizens and allow them to exercise their rights to take direct decisions on: (i) Policies on the level of contribution to public infrastructures and welfare works; (ii) Preparation of village memorandums of understanding, community commitments to cultural practices and lifestyles, social order and security, abolition of backward customs/ habits, superstitious practices and social evils; (iii) communities affairs (in accordance with existing legal provisions).</li> </ul>	MOHA	(International target 10.2).
		<p><b>Target 11.3: By 2030, enhance national capacity for inclusive, sustainable urban planning and development with the participation of communities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Develop processes for communities to participate in the preparation of urban planning schemes, urban development projects, urban management work generally.</li> </ul>	MOC	(International target 11.3).
		<p><b>Target 11.4: Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard world cultural and natural heritage and intangible cultural heritage that have been recognized by the United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mobilize resources from the private sector in order to make investments in the conservation of world natural and world cultural heritage sites.</li> <li>● Promote the participation of social organizations, communities in conservation and protection of world natural and world cultural heritage.</li> </ul>	MOCST	(International target 11.4).

No.	OGP Commitments	Relevant targets in NAP of Vietnam	Division of responsibility	Note
		<p><b>Target 11.5: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected, and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to GDP, caused by natural and other disasters, with due attention paid to the protection of the poor and vulnerable</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage organizations, households, individuals to proactively implement disaster preparedness and prevention measures, to invest in construction works, conduct research and apply science and technology in disaster preparedness and prevention. Protect the legitimate rights and interests of organizations, individuals who take part in disaster preparedness and prevention activities.</li> <li>Give priority to and encourage businesses which participate in business insurance, disaster risk insurance; provide support to businesses.</li> </ul>	MARD	(International target 11.5).
		<p><b>Target 13.3: Improve Educate, raise awareness, and strengthen-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce basic knowledge on responses to climate change, mitigation of disaster risks, into the curricula of the various levels of education and training; develop training programmes. Formulate, adopt policies on developing high-quality human resources to deliver inter-disciplinary experts on response to climate changes, and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.</li> <li>Strengthen management and planning capacities for response to climate change, with a particular focus on women, young people, local communities and frequently neglected groups.</li> </ul>	MONRE	(International target 13.3).
		<p><b>Target 14.1: By 2030, prevent, significantly reduce and successfully control marine pollution of various forms, particularly pollution from land-based activities, including solid waste, waste water and organic substances pollution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop mechanisms to encourage citizens and communities to take part in the oversight and management of marine pollution</li> </ul>	MONRE	(International target 14.1).
		<p><b>Target 16.5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen the role of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, mass organizations, citizens and the mass media in the detection, prevention and control of corruption and waste.</li> <li>Strengthen the capacity of businesses in the prevention of corruption in their business transactions.</li> </ul>	VNFF VCCI	(International target 16.5).



No.	OGP Commitments	Relevant targets in NAP of Vietnam	Division of responsibility	Note
		<p><b>Target 16.7: Ensure that decision-making processes are responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative at all levels</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Create conditions to enable citizens to take part in the management of the State and society; to oversee the implementation/enforcement of policies; improve social feedback; ensure openness, transparency in receiving and responding to citizens' feedback, comments and complaints.</li> <li>● Undertake broad information, communications and advocacy on citizens' rights to participate in the management of the state and society and in discussions and give recommendations to State institutions on grassroots, local and national issues.</li> <li>● Implement the Law on the Enactment of Legal Normative Documents effectively.</li> <li>● Strengthen the role of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front and its member associations, the Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and other institutions and organizations in taking part in decision-making processes.</li> </ul>	<p><b>MOJ</b> <b>VNFF</b></p>	<p><b>(International target 16.7).</b></p>
		<p><b>Target 17.5: Encourage and promote public partnerships and public-private partnerships, building on the experiences and resource strategies of past partnerships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Improve the system of policies and institutions governing public partnerships, public-private partnerships.</li> <li>● Promote partnerships with social organizations and with the private sector, in technical assistance and financial support, including sharing of knowledge, experience, financial resources for sustainable development.</li> <li>● Promote tripartite cooperation between Viet Nam, developed countries and developing countries, in order to be able to receive and to share technical assistance and financial support in an effective manner.</li> </ul>	<p><b>MPI</b></p>	<p><b>(International target 17.17)</b></p>
	<p><b>Implement the highest standards of professional integrity throughout our administrations</b></p>	<p><b>Target 2.5: By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals; promote access to genetic resources and a fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and relevant native knowledge in accordance with the country's international commitments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Study, formulate and promote mechanism for accessing genetic resources; implement experimental models on the sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources, the impact on local communities pay attention to the benefits of communities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>MARD</b></p>	<p><b>(International target 2.5).</b></p>

No.	OGP Commitments	Relevant targets in NAP of Vietnam	Division of responsibility	Note
		<p><b>Target 3.3: By 2030, reduce by 20-25% the death rate before 70 years of age as a result of non-communicable diseases, through prevention and treatment measures as well as the promotion of mental health and well-being</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake information, communication and advocacy at various levels of government, within sectors, with mass organizations and with citizens to ensure that laws, policies, guidelines, warnings on NCDs prevention and control are implemented.</li> <li>Develop a strong system of preventive medicine, early detection, diagnosis, treatment and management of NCDs from the national to the commune levels throughout the country. Increase citizens' awareness of safe, healthy lifestyles in order to improve health and minimize exposure to NCDs.</li> </ul>	MOH	(International target 3.4).
		<p><b>Target 10.4: Formulate, adopt and implement policies, especially fiscal, salary/ wages and social protection policies, in order to progressively achieve greater equality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the system of laws and policies governing salaries/ wages and social welfare in order to progressively achieve greater equality.</li> <li>Ensure openness, transparency, accountability and participation in the implementation of salary/ wage and social protection policies, particularly those policies relating to the poor and in vulnerable situations.</li> <li>Review, revise, improve existing fiscal laws and policies in order for them to become inclusive and ensure that all citizens are equal in accessing assistance programmes with resources from the State budget.</li> <li>Ensure openness, transparency, accountability and participation in the implementation of fiscal policies, especially those policies relating to the poor and invulnerable situations.</li> </ul>	MOLISA MOF	(International target 10.4).
		<p><b>Target 12.7: Ensure sustainable public procurement practices</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issue regulations on green public procurement. Give priority (within State procurement) to utilization of goods that have tagged with ecological labels and goods that are recyclable.</li> <li>Implement regulations specifying that works and projects financed from public investments must apply green economy standards (standards on energy consumption, materials utilization, ecologically suitable designs, and consideration of climate change impacts).</li> <li>Periodically consolidate information on, evaluate the implementation of sustainable public procurement and relevant mechanisms and policies. Recommend revisions of, amendments to such mechanisms, and policies whenever necessary.</li> </ul>	MOF	(International target 12.7)

No.	OGP Commitments	Relevant targets in NAP of Vietnam	Division of responsibility	Note
		<p><b>Target 16.3: Promote the rule of law, and ensure equal access to justice for all citizens</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Improve citizens' knowledge of a State subject to the rule of law, and their right to enjoy equal access to justice.</li> <li>● Improve the enforcement of non-discriminatory policies and laws, for the benefit of sustainable development</li> <li>● Promote the role of peoples-elected bodies, public opinion and citizens at large in overseeing the judiciary.</li> </ul>	MOH	International target 16.b
		<p><b>Target 16.5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Make increased efforts to detect and strongly punish acts of corruption and waste.</li> <li>● Strengthen oversight, exercise democracy, set up mechanisms for citizens to oversee activities relating to State budget and assets.</li> <li>● By 2020: Complete the establishment of the apparatus, standardize business processes, improve the quality and effectiveness in the detection, handling of corruption cases and recover assets obtained through corruption.</li> <li>● By 2030: Set up a unified, centralized inspection system and increase the authority of the inspection agencies in order to promote their role and enable them to take proactive actions in combating corruption.</li> </ul>	GI	(International target 16.5).
		<p><b>Target 15.2: By 2020, fundamentally reduce the transfer of forest lands to other usages; by 2030, strengthen the implementation of sustainable management of forests of various types, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, promote afforestation and reforestation, increase the forest cover to approximately 44 – 45% of the country's land area</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Accelerate the decentralization of State management over forests to district and commune governments. Clearly define responsibilities and authorities of forest owners, various levels of government, law enforcement agencies and villages/hamlets in cases in relation to forest loss, destruction occur in respective localities.</li> <li>● Strengthen the capacity of and consolidate forest inspection teams in protected forests and prioritize response to violations of forest legislation and to natural disasters such as forest fires and pests. Give attention to the control of on-the-spot exploitation of forest products.</li> </ul>	MARD	(International target 15.2).

No.	OGP Commitments	Relevant targets in NAP of Vietnam	Division of responsibility	Note
		<p><b>Target 15.7: Prevent and address the illegal exploitation, trafficking and consumption of protected flora and fauna under extinction threats and their products.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement mechanisms of inter-agency coordination between environmental police forces, market management, customs, forestry inspection, fishery inspection agencies to securing management detect/ address illegal acts of exploitation, trafficking and consumption of wild plants, animals.</li> </ul>	MARD	(International target 15.7)
	Increase access of new technologies for openness and accountability	<p><b>Target 1.1: By 2020, eliminate extreme poverty for all citizens everywhere, using the poverty line with per capita income below USD 1.25/day in Purchasing Power Parity (in 2005 constant price); by 2030, reduce poverty at least by a half, using the national multi-dimensional poverty criteria</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a database system for monitoring multi-dimensional poverty, taking into account performance by gender, age groups and geographical location.</li> </ul>	MOLISA	(International targets 1.1 and 1.2)
		<p><b>Target 3.4: Increase efforts in preventing and treating the abuse of addictive substances, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve information/data systems on the use and abuse of addictive substances, which will clarify concepts on addictive substances and harmful alcohols.</li> </ul>	MOH	(International target 3.5).
		<p><b>Target 3.8: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, soil pollution and contamination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance information, communications- and advocacy on the impacts of risks and improve guidance/ consultancy on the incidence of poisoning as a result of hazardous/toxic chemicals and air/water/soil pollution.</li> <li>Step by step, develop a statistical reporting system for diseases, deaths as a result of the impacts of hazardous/toxic chemicals and environmental pollution.</li> </ul>	MONRE	(International target 3.9).
		<p><b>Target 5.8: Promote the use of enabling technologies, particularly information and communication technologies (ICT), in order to promote the empowerment of women. Create enabling conditions for women to access and utilize ICTs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the capacity of women to access ICT.</li> <li>Progressively introduce ICT to the working lives of farmers, in order to narrow the digital gap between urban and rural areas.</li> <li>Formulate appropriate training programmes for women in rural and ethnic minority regions.</li> <li>Promote initiatives that utilize the creative capacity of female students; promote the universal use of ICTs in general education.</li> </ul>	MIC	International target 5.b



No.	OGP Commitments	Relevant targets in NAP of Vietnam	Division of responsibility	Note
		<p><b>Target 7.2: By 2030, substantially increase the share of renewable energies in the total national consumption of primary energies, more specifically to reach 31% by 2020 and 32.3% by 2030</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance international cooperation in order to create enabling conditions for accessing renewable energy research and technology, including renewable energies, energy effectiveness, cleaner and advanced fossil fuel technology, and at the same time, promote investments in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology.</li> </ul>	MOIT	International target 7.a
		<p><b>Target 7.3: By 2030, double the national rate of improvement in energy use efficiency. Reduce the rate of power utilization by 10% compared to the baseline scenario</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a system of updated information on energy use by sectors/businesses through the integration of selected criteria/indicators on energy use in Annual Business Surveys.</li> <li>Enhance information, communications and advocacy in order to improve public awareness of the need for economical and efficient energy use for productive and domestic activities.</li> </ul>	MOIT	(International target 7.3).
		<p><b>Target 7.4: By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services to all citizens, particularly in less developed regions, isolated and remote regions, mountainous and island regions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Step up scientific research efforts and application of new technologies, particularly in the search, exploration of oil, coal sources; reorganize scientific - technological research, training institutions in the direction of both centralizing them and specializing them; synchronously develop scientific-technological potentials, apply and adapt foreign technologies, with a view of moving towards creating new technologies in the national energy sector.</li> <li>Deploy a “village with 100% renewable energy” initiative, in order to promote research, investments and application of renewable energies; develop the scientific-technological capacity through training efforts.</li> </ul>	MOIT	(International target 7.b)
		<p><b>Target 8.10: Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to financial, banking and insurance services for all citizens</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renovate the banking governance system in keeping with advanced international practices, norms, standards, with special attention paid to modernizing risk management and improving the effectiveness of the internal control and audit systems. - Strengthen institutional capacities and financial mechanisms in order to allow the Viet Nam Assets Management Company (VAMC) to have sufficient authority to address bad debt and contribute to the implementation of capacity building objectives of credit organizations.</li> </ul>	SBV	(International target 8.10).

No.	OGP Commitments	Relevant targets in NAP of Vietnam	Division of responsibility	Note
		<p><b>Target 9.5: By 2030, ensure that ICT infrastructures are developed in all territorial regions of the country, particularly in isolated, remote, border, mountainous and island regions. Ensure that 100% of households have access to the ICT systems</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Make investments in the development of ICT technology infrastructures for isolated, remote, mountainous and island regions.</li> <li>● Provide support to poor households, near-poor households by creating necessary conditions for them to access ICT infrastructures.</li> </ul>	MIC	(International target 9.c).
		<p><b>Target 12.5: By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation and increase the economic value of waste resources through prevention, reduction, recycling, reuse, and recovery of energies from waste treatment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Establish a country-wide waste database; develop national technical standards, codes on the environment and technical guidelines on how to reduce, classify, reuse and recycle waste.</li> </ul>	MONRE	(International target 12.5)
		<p><b>Target 16.8: By 2030, provide legal identity for all citizens, including birth registration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Develop and put into operation an electronic civil status database at all registration offices.</li> </ul>	MOJ	(International target 16.9)
		<p><b>Target 17.4: Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources, to support the achievement of sustainable development goals in Viet Nam</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mobilize international assistance for strengthening statistical capacity to ensure the availability of quality and adequately disaggregated data in order to meet the needs for monitoring, oversight and evaluation of sustainable development goals.</li> </ul>	MPI	(International target 17.18)

## ANNEX 2.

### List of Abbreviations

<b>APs</b>	Administrative procedures
<b>CDI</b>	Center for Development and Integration
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil society organizations
<b>EDSP</b>	Education Development Strategic Plan 2011-2020
<b>ESA</b>	Education Sector Analysis
<b>FORMIS</b>	Forest Management Information System
<b>FTA</b>	Free trade agreements
<b>GAP</b>	Good Agricultural Practices
<b>GI</b>	Government Inspectorate
<b>GODAN</b>	Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition
<b>GoV</b>	Government of Vietnam
<b>GreenID</b>	Green Innovation and Development Center
<b>ICT</b>	Information and communication technologies
<b>IRM</b>	Independent Report Mechanism
<b>IT</b>	Information technology
<b>IUU</b>	Illegal, unreported and unregulated
<b>LEP</b>	Local Energy Planning
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitor and evaluate
<b>MARD</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
<b>MDGs</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>MOC</b>	Ministry of Construction
<b>MOCST</b>	Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism
<b>MOET</b>	Ministry of Education and technology
<b>MOF</b>	Ministry of Finance
<b>MOH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MOHA</b>	Ministry of Home Affairs
<b>MIC</b>	Ministry of Information and Communications
<b>MOIT</b>	Ministry of Industry and Trade
<b>MOJ</b>	Ministry of Justice

<b>MOLISA</b>	Ministry of Labour - Invalids and Social Affairs
<b>MONRE</b>	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
<b>MPI</b>	Ministry of Planning and Investment
<b>NAP</b>	National Action Plan
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-governmental organizations
<b>NPO</b>	Non-profit organization
<b>OECD</b>	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
<b>OGP</b>	Open Government Partnership
<b>OSS</b>	One-stop shop
<b>PAPI</b>	Public Administration Performance Index
<b>PCI</b>	Provincial Competitiveness Index
<b>RTA</b>	Real-time Analytics
<b>SCP</b>	Sustainable consumption and production
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SOEs</b>	State-owned enterprises
<b>SUS</b>	Sistema Único de Saúde
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>VAMC</b>	Viet Nam Assets Management Company
<b>VCCI</b>	Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry
<b>VNFF</b>	Vietnam Forest Protection and Development Fund
<b>SBV</b>	Vietnam's State Bank
<b>VSDGs</b>	Vietnam SDGs
<b>VSEA</b>	Vietnam Sustainable Energy Alliance
<b>VUFO</b>	Vietnam Union of Friendship Associations







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