

PROPOSAL TO UNDERTAKE THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF TAIWAN'S OPEN PARLIAMENT NATIONAL ACTION PLAN, JUNE 13, 2022

BACKGROUND

10th Legislative Yuan adopted the 1st Open Parliament Action Plan in 2020, which covers the following five major pillars: transparency, openness, participation, digitalization, and literacy. The Open Parliament Action Plan was developed based on the model of the Open Government Partnership (OGP). As part of the co-creation stage, the Open Parliament Multi-stakeholder Forum (OP-MSF) was established to coordinate the creation of the Action Plan. 2020-2024 Open Parliament Action Plan consists of five key themes: "Transparency: Open Parliament Principles and Values," "Openness: Convenient Access to Information on Parliament," "Participation: Convenient Public Participation in Parliament," "Digitalization: Digital Parliament," and "Literacy: Parliamentary Literacy and Education." The Action Plan covers twenty (20) commitments planned to be implemented from January 2021 to December 2024.

THE OBJECTIVE OF AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW

The overall purpose of the assignment is to provide a comprehensive assessment of the characteristics of Taiwan's Open Parliament Action Plan 2021-2024 and to identify the strengths and challenges to inform a stronger implementation process in line with the OGP Independent Review Mechanism (IRM) methodology.

TECHNICAL PROPOSITION

Methodology

The assessment methodology for Taiwan's Open Parliament Action Plan 2021-2024 will follow the OGP IRM methodology for Action Plan Review, relevant templates, and publishing guidelines. The utilization of an Action Plan Review methodology will deliver a technical assessment of the Action Plan and its alignment with the open governance agenda. To do this, the following key topics will be covered:

- ⇒ How does the action plan respond to stakeholder priorities, consultations or recommendations?
- ⇒ What are the policy areas that are covered in the Open Parliament Action Plan? How are they linked to open governance?

- ⇒ What is the ambition or quality of the action plan?
- ⇒ What is the CSOs/Gov perspective on the strengths and weaknesses of this action plan development process?
- ⇒ What are the overall shortcomings or weaknesses in the Action Plan?
- ⇒ What are the contributing factors or barriers that limit ambition, diversity, policy objectives, or design quality of commitments?

The assessment will be designed to respond to the key assessment questions, understand how commitments can potentially contribute to the envisaged results and how are they aligned with the open government lens. To do this, a critical desk review in combination with qualitative methods will be utilized that will provide an in-depth understanding of the nature of the action plan and its commitments, co-creation by the Parliament and Civil Society Organizations, assessment of the implementation progress against 2021 milestones, and identification of strengths and challenges to inform stronger implementation process. In addition, the assessment will identify the commitments which are promising and can potentially provide transformative results.

Approach

The assessment will be conducted by an international (Lead Researcher) and a local expert. The international expert will oversee and manage the entire assessment, while the local expert will assist in the data collection and assessment process. A panel of experts within the Asia/Pacific region shall be recruited to contribute to the quality assurance by providing a peer review of the assessment report.

At the outset, the international expert will recruit the local expert to acquire assistance for critical desk review and carry out the field phase with relevant stakeholders. The Local expert must not have been involved in the development of the Action Plan. The IRM methodology will be applied to select the local Taiwanese Independent Researcher to ensure a neutral and unbiased assessment process. The selected candidate shall be approved by the parliament. As an initial assessment draft is finalized, the quality check will shall be peer-reviewed by expert panel and evidence-based feedback on the draft report will be sought from the Open Parliament Multi-Stakeholder Forum (OP-MSF) and key civil society stakeholders. On the second round, the draft report will be released online in English for public comment, and the final version will be published online in English.

Assumptions

To achieve a high-quality independent report the following assumptions are considered and require agreement from both parties:

- ⇒ This Initial Independent Review report is not an OGP IRM report but is based on OGP's 2021 IRM methodology and process. The review and the report will not have official recognition by the OGP and the IRM.

- ⇒ The Initial Independent Review will not commence until the Lead Researcher has engaged an independent Local Researcher to carry out local interviews and contribute to the draft report. In line with OGP practice, the independent Local Researcher will sign a conflict-of-interest statement that their research will be 100% independent and not subject to external influence.
- ⇒ To allow the Local Researcher to commence interviews immediately, the Taiwan Parliament will facilitate face-to-face meetings with the multi-stakeholder forum and other stakeholders as soon as this proposal has been accepted.
- ⇒ If changes are made to the Taiwan Open Parliament Action Plan over the implementation period, deliverables and fees will be reviewed accordingly.
- ⇒ Mirroring the OGP IRM quality assurance process, the Lead Researcher will seek evidence-based feedback on the draft Initial Independent Review Report from the Taiwan Parliament. Any changes to the draft Initial Report, based on this feedback, will be made by the Lead Researcher.
- ⇒ The intellectual property of this Initial Independent Review Report will be owned by the Lead Researcher who will publish it online under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license (CC BY 4.0),¹ allowing legal re-use by the public with appropriate credit.
- ⇒ The Lead Researcher will submit regular invoices to the Taiwan Parliament for both the International Lead Researcher and the independent Local Researcher. These will be based on agreed process deliverables and submitted at agreed stages of the research.
- ⇒ Direct payment to the Lead Researcher and the independent Local Researcher will be transferred within two weeks of receipt of each invoice.

DELIVERABLES

All project deliverables are listed below:

Deliverable	Description
Deliverable #1	Final proposal submitted to the National Development Council
Deliverable #2	Detailed Assessment methodology along with research plan
Deliverable #3	Draft Initial Independent Review for evidence-based feedback from the Parliament and Multi-stakeholder forum
Deliverable #4	Draft Initial Independent Review published online for Public Comment
Deliverable #5	Final Initial Independent Review published online along with public comments

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TIMELINE

The following timeline sets out the estimated start and end dates, representing elapsed time calculated for each activity. It assumes the project contract has been signed and the International Researcher can commence the project on 4 July and is anticipated to publish the finalized Assessment Review by the end of December.

#	Description/Date	Starting Date	End Date	Duration
1	Assessment design phase	4 July	29 July	4 weeks
2	Assessment methodology (research plan, guidelines)	1 August	12 August	2 weeks
3	Desk research	8 August	2 September	4 weeks
4	Data collection phase	5 September	30 September	4 weeks
5	Data analysis	12 September	7 October	4 weeks
6	Reporting	10 October	23 December	11 weeks

Please see the detailed estimate timeline attached in MS. Excel format.

FEES AND PAYMENT

Estimated fees for the Initial Independent Review, including contingency costs, are set out below. If changes are made to the National Action Plan over the implementation period, deliverables and fees will be reviewed accordingly.

Service	Price USD
Lead Researcher: 168 hours (21 days) USD 80/hour	13440
Local Researcher: 120 hours (15 days) USD 50/hour	6000
Peer Reviewers: 6 days USD 1000/day	6000
Tax:	3360
Contingency costs	500
TOTAL	0
<i>A field mission/trip of the international lead researcher (tentative on availability, English-speaking interviews, etc.) including Airfare (USD 1000) and accommodation for 5-6 days (USD 1800)</i>	2800
TOTAL (including Field mission)	32100