

# **OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (OGP): BACKGROUND AND PROGRESS**



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# WHAT IS IT IN THE OGP?

- **Open Government Partnership (OGP)** is a unique partnership of civil society advocates and government leaders founded and driven by a unity of purpose to promote transparent, participatory, inclusive and accountable governance.
- OGP implements open government commitments that enhance greater transparency, accountability and citizen engagement in policy processes and programming
- OGP membership obliges governments, in consultation with non-state actors such as civil society, citizens, media and private sector, to carry out context-relevant reforms in pertinent thematic areas of the country's choice in cycles of two years.
- A country is required to develop a National Action Plan (NAP) as a prerequisite for joining the partnership and maintaining an active status.



# OGP, THE CASE OF MALAWI

- OGP Secretariat in Malawi is at OPC
- Malawi joined OGP In 2013 but became an inactive member.
- 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 State President Commitment to regain active membership of OGP.
- **Malawi 2063: An Inclusively Wealth and Self-reliant Nation** identifies seven enablers that require reforms in order to catalyse the realization of desired socio-economic outcomes.
- **Enabler 2: Effective Governance Systems and Institutions** expresses well the interests of the OGP.
- Malawi sees the OGP as an instrument for the operationalization or implementation of relevant reforms that will contribute to the attainment of the desired outcomes of the Malawi 2063.
- 2023-2025 OGP National Action Plan (NAP) was launched on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2023



# ROLES OF OGP SECRETARIAT IN MALAWI

- Official contact point for the OGP in Malawi;
- Responsible for coordinating the OGP processes and activities in the country;
- Engaging and convening stakeholders on a regular basis;
- Ensuring compliance and performance on commitments;
- Identifying internal best practices related to local OGP commitments;
- Encourage implementation of agreed recommendations of the Independent Reporting Mechanism team
- Coordinate the production of country performance (self-assessment )report



# ROLES OF IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

- Develop detailed operational/process plans for accomplishing the desired results/milestones under their commitment and share the same with OPC and the Steering Committee;
- Implement measures and activities to achieve results under their respective OGP commitments;
- Prepare biannual implementation and progress reports using the self-assessment template and submitting them to OPC;
- Present biannual implementation and progress reports to the Multi-Stakeholder Group;
- Uptake of agreed recommendations of the Multi-stakeholder group



# 2023-2025 OGP THEMATIC AREAS AND NATIONAL ACTION PLAN (NAP)

- Anti-Corruption- Beneficial ownership, transparency and open contracting
- Right to Information- Increasing access to information on political party financing
- Natural Resources- Enhancing transparency in natural resource governance
- Digital Governance- Accelerating adoption of digital governance in government and use of ICT among Malawians
- **Open Parliament – Enhancing Transparency and parliamentary oversight on Government borrowing**



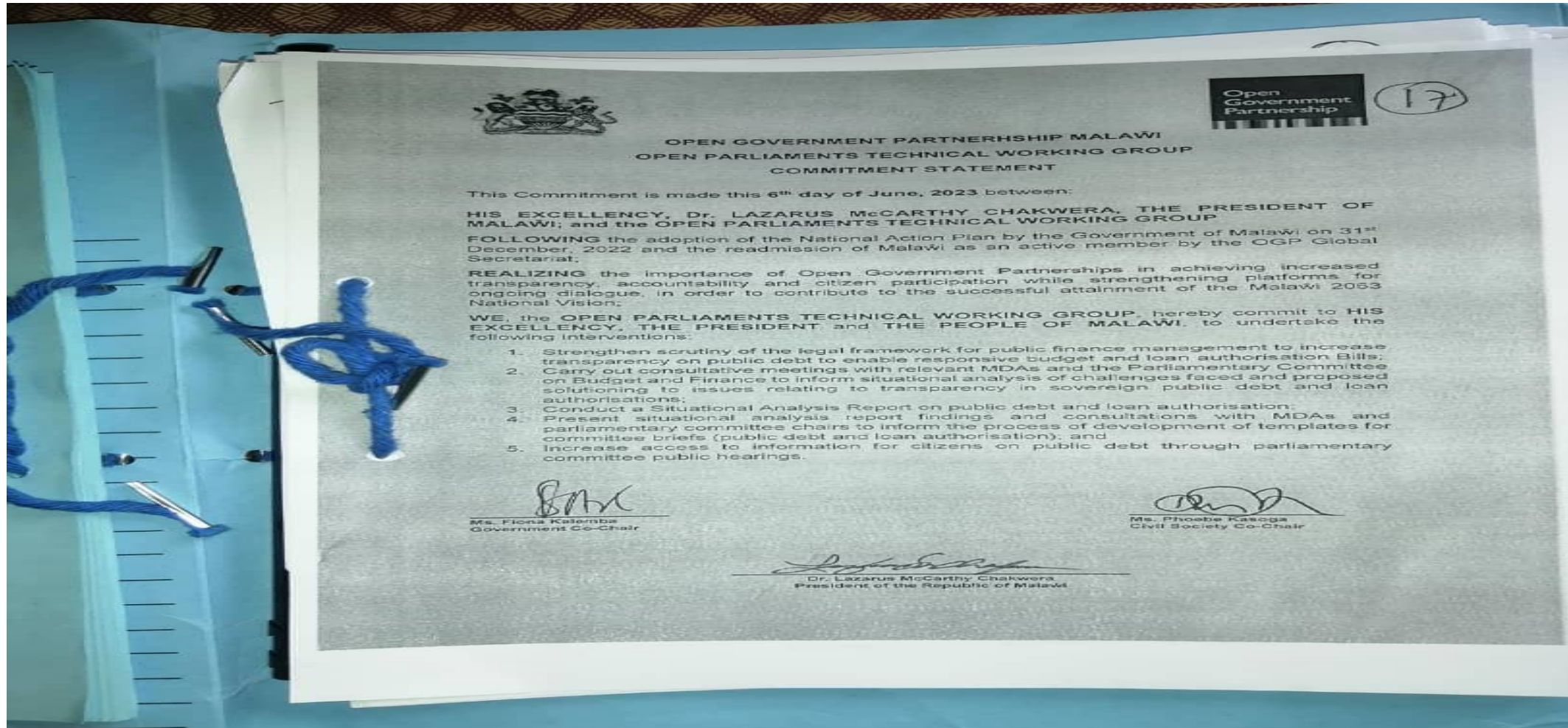
# 2023-2025 OPEN PARLIAMENT COMMITMENTS

- Strengthening scrutiny of the legal framework for public finance management to increase transparency on public debt to enable responsive budget and loan authorization Bills
- Carry out consultative meetings with relevant MDAs and the Parliamentary Committee on Budget and Finance to inform situational analysis of challenges faced and proposed solutioning to the issues relating to transparency in sovereign public debt and loan authorizations
- Conduct a Situational Analysis Report on public debt and loan authorization
- Present situational analysis report findings and consultations with MDAs and parliamentary committee chairs to inform the process of development of templates for committee briefs (public debt and loan authorization)
- Increase access to information for citizens on public debt through parliamentary committee public hearings





# OPEN PARLIAMENT COMMITMENTS



# OPEN PARLIAMENT WORKPLAN

- Review procedures for passing of loan authorization Bills (Standing Orders)
- Conduct orientation Sessions for Budget Committee and Legal Affairs Committee on loan authorization Bills procedures and implications of public debt
- Conduct Orientation Sessions for TWG Members on Reviewed Procedures
- Train Relevant TWG Members of Staff on Legislative Drafting
- . Conduct Briefing Meetings on the OGP and Loan Authorization Bills (Govt, CSOs, Parliament Staff)
- Conduct interface Meetings with Ministry of Finance on the situational analysis of the challenges and issues relating to the transparency in the debt



# PLANNED OPEN PARLIAMENT ACTIVITIES (CONT'D)

- Present the Situational Analysis Report Findings
- Hold Meeting to Present the Situation Analysis Report Findings
- Produce Fact-Sheets on Debt analysis situation
- Organize sensitization meetings with members of Staff on Loan Authorization Bills
- Conduct Public Hearings on Debt with CSOs, general public, MDAs and Development Partners
- Produce infotainment programs/ kits on Gotv 817 and Kiliyekiliye Channels on parliamentary committees and public hearings
- Conduct Quarterly Technical Working Group (TWG) Meetings



# PLANNED OPEN PARLIAMENT ACTIVITIES (CONT'D)

- Conduct meetings with all Members on the reviewed procedures on loan authorization
- Tracking the implementation of projects financed by loan authorization Bills (Parliamentary Committees)
- Conduct a Debt Sustainability Analysis
- Conduct Bill Tracking and post-legislative scrutiny
- Analysing the fiscal implications of financial and loan authorization Bills



# PROGRESS ACHIEVED

- Organized meetings with Heads of Sections on the OGP and financial & loan authorization bills.
- Organized sensitization meetings with the Committee of Chairpersons on financial and loan authorization Bills,
- Conducted sensitization meeting with Budget Committee.
- Engaged a consultant to conduct the debt situation analysis in the country. Draft Report produced.
- Referral of loan authorization bills to the Budget Committee for further scrutiny has commenced. Eg Bill No. 14 of 2023: International Fund for Agricultural Development (Additional Financing for Financial Access for Rural Markets, Smallholders and Enterprise Programme) Loan Authorization and Bill No. 15 of 2023: International Fund for Agricultural Development (Additional Financing for the Programme for Rural Irrigation Development) Loan Authorization
- Parliamentary programs/kits are broadcasted on Govt 817 and kiliyekiliye Channels including on Facebook. This is work in progress
- Conducted two TWG meetings
- Sensitized the Legal Affairs Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2024



# CHALLENGES

- Resources
- Timeframes



# WAY FORWARD

- Draft Debt Situation Analysis Report to be presented to Management for consideration
- Draft Debt Situation Analysis Report to be presented to the Budget and Legal Affairs Committee
- Table Office Section to prepare Money Bills procedural rules to be considered by the Legal Affairs Committee



**THE END**

