United States of America
Midterm Self-Assessment Report
for the
Open Government Partnership

Second Open Government
National Action Plan
2013-2015

March 2015

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Introduction and Background

The United States released the Second Open Government National Action Plan (NAP) in December 2013, and added additional open government commitments to the plan in September 2014. The second NAP was created keeping in mind the four open government principles: transparency, civic participation, public accountability, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. Each of the 26 initiatives reflect one or more of those principles. The second NAP was also structured with initiatives falling into three of the Open Government Partnership's five grand challenge areas: increasing public integrity, managing public resources more effectively, and improving public services. This Self-Assessment Report describes the development process for the second NAP and the progress made implementing the initiatives one year into the two-year implementation period.

National Action Plan Process

The United States publicly shared the timeline for development of the second NAP via a blog post on the White House Open Government blog in September 2013. The development process was also discussed in meetings with civil society organizations and via Twitter.

In developing the second NAP, the United States held several consultation sessions with civil society. In-person meetings also included a conference call option. The first meeting included discussion of a broad overview of the process for creating the second NAP and how civil society would be involved in that process. Five additional meetings followed on specific topic areas, including the Freedom of Information Act, public participation, regulations, fiscal transparency, and natural resource transparency. Representatives from across U.S. agencies met with members of civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector to discuss possible efforts to include in the second NAP.

Throughout the first year of implementation of the second NAP, the United States continued to engage with civil society through in-person meetings, email, and phone calls; by sharing information through the newly created U.S. Open Government discussion group; and via agency websites, blog posts, and Twitter accounts. A standing monthly working meeting for open government leaders across the Executive Branch began inviting civil society organizations to join the meetings on a quarterly basis. Government leaders carrying out the commitments also engaged in targeted outreach to civil society stakeholders who work on related topics.

In preparation for the Self-Assessment Report, the United States joined with civil society for a series of meetings to check in on implementation progress at the halfway mark for the second NAP. Meetings focused on about a dozen specific topic areas and involved agency open government representatives as well as representatives from civil society, academia, and the private sector.

Independent Review Mechanism Recommendations

The United States addressed both general and specific recommendations provided by the Open Government Partnership's Independent Review Mechanism (IRM), which consists of an independent research team that reviews development and implementation of a NAP and issues a report on those

findings. Several recommendations from the IRM report released in October 2014 pertained to process and engagement, such as to continue the "robust implementation of consultation and participation at the agency level" and make a greater effort to involve a "wide variety of stakeholders" in the NAP creation and implementation processes. Agencies have remained the driving force behind development, implementation, and consultation for the NAP process. Agency open government professionals meet on a monthly basis and regularly share updates on their progress to implement NAP initiatives. Those meetings are opened up to civil society organizations on a quarterly basis. The United States continues to make efforts to reach outside the Washington, D.C. area to connect with stakeholders online and in person.

The IRM report also included specific substantive recommendations for future commitments:

- Regarding the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the IRM report recommended that the second NAP include "several new commitments … to make the process for FOIA access easier." The second NAP included five FOIA commitments directed toward modernizing and improving the FOIA process.

- The IRM report recommended including new whistleblower commitments in the second NAP, building on the "successful completion" of two whistleblower-related commitments in the first NAP. The second NAP included four new whistleblower commitments.

- In the first NAP, the United States included a commitment to increase transparency of foreign aid; the IRM report recommended continued implementation of that commitment, including a focus on the agency reporting process. The second NAP included an expanded commitment to increase transparency of foreign assistance and the State Department has worked with agencies to improve the quality of reported aid data and fill gaps in reporting of aid data.

- The IRM report recommended revision of a commitment related to Data.gov, the home of the U.S. Government's open data. The second NAP included a variety of commitments related to open data, including the launch of a refreshed Data.gov in January 2014. The site now features more than 134,000 data sets, which are used by government, civil society, academia, and the private sector to fuel innovation.

Implementation of National Action Plan Commitments

The second NAP includes 26 open government commitments. Each is discussed in greater detail below. Many of these initiatives were created with the intention of becoming a regular part of the work being done and, while may be achieved as intended for the purposes of this plan, will remain ongoing efforts.

Open Government to Increase Public Integrity

1. Improve Public Participation in Government	
Lead government actors	The White House, General Services Administration (GSA)
Other actors involved	Executive branch agencies and civil society organizations, primarily those focused on public participation
Main objective	a. Expand and simplify the use of the *We the People* petition site.

	b. Publish best practices and metrics for public participation.
Brief description	a. Introduce improvements to make petitioning the government easier and more effective, including a more streamlined process for signing petitions, a new Application Programming Interface (API) to allow third parties to collect and submit signatures from their own websites, a software development kit, and public engagement on improvements and expansion of the API. b. Identify best practices for public participation in government and publish best practices and metrics for public participation.
Relevance	This commitment relates primarily to civic participation as well as technology and innovation for openness and accountability.
Ambition	a. This commitment will make it easier for the public to directly and openly connect with the government to suggest policy changes. b. This commitment will improve the way government interacts with civil society in policymaking, decision-making, and general governance. It provides agencies with concrete steps to take to ensure the public can participate in these important efforts.

Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			a	b

Description of results	a. *We the People* introduced improvements in 2014 and the site launched the API to begin collecting signatures from third-party websites. The team has begun engaging with civil society on the API. b. In 2014, a team of more than 70 government leaders led by GSA identified best practices in public participation along with civil society. The government team co-created the Public Participation Playbook alongside civil society and launched the first iteration of this living document in February 2015.
End date	Both efforts will continue into 2015 and beyond.
Next steps	a. Throughout 2015, the *We the People* team will roll out the software development kit and continue public engagement on improvements and expansion of the API. b. The Playbook is intended to be a living document and will be regularly revisited and updated based on feedback from agencies and civil society. The team is currently working with colleagues from other countries and who work on state and local governance to collaborate on adapting the Playbook for their own use.

2. Modernize Management of Government Records	
Lead government actors	National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

Other actors involved	All Federal agencies
Main objective	Improve management of electronic records (including email) and establish standards to make it easier to find public records.
Brief description	a. Implement guidance and [Presidential Memorandum](#) addressing the automated electronic management of email records and managing email in accessible electronic format. b. Collaborate with industry to establish voluntary data and metadata standards to make it easier to search publicly available government records.
Relevance	This commitment relates to access to information and technology and innovation for openness and accountability.
Ambition	These efforts contribute to making government more open and accessible and will lead to increased effectiveness in government processes.

Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			b	a

Description of results	a. NARA is working with agencies to implement the guidance through its Bulletins on Managing Email dated [August 2013](#) and [September 2014](#) and the [OMB Guidance on Managing Email](#) (M-14-16) dated September 2014. Both remind agencies that email can be a Federal record that must be managed appropriately and describe a best practice approach for agencies to implement to complete this effort. b. NARA reached out to [public stakeholders](#) through its blog and in a public meeting and issued draft guidance on metadata standards in March 2014 and will continue to carry out objectives in the [Automated Electronic Records Management Report and Plan](#). NARA also [publicly shared drafts](#) of its Automated Electronic Records Management Report and Plan asking for civil society feedback before it was [issued](#) in September 2014.
End date	Both commitments will be complete in 2015.
Next steps	Continue supporting agencies as they implement the guidance and directives and work with agencies to implement the data and metadata standards.

3. Modernize the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)	
Lead government actors	Department of Justice (DOJ), NARA, GSA
Other actors involved	All Federal agencies, civil society organizations
Main objective	Improve the FOIA process for requesters and agencies.

Brief description	a. Launch a consolidated FOIA request portal to allow the public to submit a request to any agency from a single site, featuring tools to improve the experience. b. Standardize common aspects of the FOIA process for all agencies through a core FOIA regulation and common set of practices. c. Improve internal agency processes by scaling identified best practices and sharing lessons learned across government. d. Establish a FOIA Advisory Committee comprised of government and non-governmental FOIA experts to develop recommendations to improve FOIA administration and proactive disclosures. e. Improve FOIA training for Federal employees.
Relevance	These efforts will improve access to information, which can lead to increased public accountability. The advisory committee relates to civic participation and other commitments relate to technology and innovation for openness and accountability.
Ambition	This commitment will make government more open and also improves agency processes that will lead to increased transparency.
Description of results	a. GSA and DOJ worked throughout 2014 with an interagency task force to guide this project and gathered input from civil society and agency stakeholders. GSA and DOJ continue to work on this project to prepare for a launch of the first iteration of this project. b. DOJ initiated an interagency process to explore the feasibility of adopting a common FOIA regulation across all agencies, which resulted in creation of a government task force to explore the issue. DOJ also held meetings with civil society to gather their input. c. In 2014, DOJ launched a series of best practices workshops that focus on a specific topic in FOIA administration. All best practices, as well as related guidance and resources, are tracked on DOJ's website. d. NARA launched the FOIA Advisory Committee in June 2014 with equal membership of government and non-governmental FOIA experts. The committee has created three sub-committees, each of which is exploring a different FOIA issue, including one on proactive disclosures, and is working toward developing recommendations to improve FOIA administration. All of the committee's work is captured publicly on the NARA website. e. DOJ developed a full suite of new training materials that will integrate with agencies' existing e-learning systems. The training materials range from very basic "day one" resources to a high-level executive training video, to a comprehensive set of modules intended for FOIA professionals. DOJ met with agency and civil society stakeholders throughout this process.

Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
		a, b		c, d, e

End date	All efforts are on target to be complete in 2015.
Next steps	a. Launch the request site. b. Continue to work with the interagency task force, including drafting possible regulation language and regular engagement with civil society. c. Continue the best practices workshop series with new topics for 2015. d. Continue holding Advisory Committee meetings and working toward possible recommendations to improve FOIA administration. e. Agencies will begin integrating the newly available training resources into their current systems.

4. Transform the Security Classification System	
Lead government actors	NARA, Classification Review Committee, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Department of Defense (DoD), Department of Energy (DOE), Department of State, and Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI)
Other actors involved	Public Interest Declassification Board (PIDB), civil society stakeholders
Main objective	Declassify as much information as possible while protecting national security interests.
Brief description	a. Create a Security Classification Review Committee (CRC) to transform the classification system. b. Implement a systematic review process for declassification of no-longer sensitive historical information on nuclear programs ("Formerly Restricted Data" or FRD). c. Pilot new tools to provide classification reviewers with search capability for unstructured data starting with Presidential Records from the Reagan Administration's classified email system. d. Implement a referral and tracking system at the National Declassification Center (NDC) at NARA to automatically notify agencies when classified records are ready for declassification review.
Relevance	This commitment relates to access to information and technology and innovation for openness and accountability.
Ambition	Each of these efforts endeavors to provide increased access to information that no longer needs to be classified. Each also includes building in efficiencies to improve internal government processes.

Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
				a, b, c, d

Description of results	a. The CRC began meeting in early 2014 and has been reviewing classification transformation recommendations and supporting implementation of some of them. The CRC also supports the other efforts under this commitment.

	b. In 2014, DoD and DOE jointly developed and implemented a systematic review process for the declassification of no longer sensitive historical information on nuclear programs. FRD topics, including those identified by the public to be of interest, are reviewed for joint declassification by DoD and DOE and in some instances, by State. To date, 10 topics were reviewed; eight of those were declassified and made publicly available on the DoD Open Government website. c. The NARA and CIA pilot was successfully completed. The team is preparing to brief interested civil society organizations. d. The NDC implemented this system in early 2014.
End date	All efforts are on target to be completed in 2015.
Next steps	a. The CRC will continue reviewing recommendations on classification transformation and providing support to implementing agencies. b. This work will continue throughout 2015 as a DoD Open Government flagship initiative. In 2015, DoD, DOE, and other involved agencies such as State, will increase the number of topics considered and continue to improve the process, topic development, and the website. c. The pilot partners will complete a final report analyzing the technology and its potential use for classification and declassification and will discuss next steps. d. The NDC will begin integrating review of Presidential Records into the system.

5. Implement the Controlled Unclassified Information Program			
Lead government actors	NARA		
Other actors involved	CUI Advisory Council and Federal agencies using controlled unclassified information (CUI) markings		
Main objective	Standardize processes and procedures for managing CUI.		
Brief description	Issue implementation guidance and an enhanced CUI registry that designates what information falls under the CUI program.		
Relevance	This commitment relates to access to information.		
Ambition	This effort will consolidate and streamline the current patchwork of policies and intends to eliminate inconsistencies in marking documents.		
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			✓	
Description of results	NARA circulated a draft regulation for interagency review in 2014 that will undergo public comment in the Federal Register in 2015. The regulation includes implementation guidance and a CUI registry.		

End date	This final rule is on target to be published in 2015.
Next steps	NARA will publish the proposed regulation for public comment and will also meet with civil society stakeholders to discuss comments in person. NARA will continue to work with agencies to create phased implementation plans that agencies will execute in phases in the years ahead.

6. Increase Transparency of Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Activities				
Lead government actors	ODNI, DOJ, and other intelligence community agencies			
Other actors involved	Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board (PCLOB)			
Main objective	Declassify and make public as much information as possible about certain sensitive intelligence collection programs under the authority of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA).			
Brief description	a. Release annual public reports on use of national security authorities. b. Review and declassify information related to foreign intelligence surveillance programs. c. Consult with stakeholders and PCLOB.			
Relevance	This commitment relates to increasing access to information and public accountability.			
Ambition	These efforts both make government more open and considerably improve government by reshaping the intelligence community's approach to transparency on these sensitive issues.			
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
				a, b, c
Description of results	a. In June 2014, ODNI published an annual report. b. Information is routinely reviewed and, where appropriate, declassified, and is publicly tracked on IC on the Record. c. ODNI and DOJ have met with civil society organizations and continue to engage with PCLOB.			
End date	All efforts are complete.			
Next steps	ODNI will continue publishing an annual report and information that has been declassified and will continue consulting with stakeholders.			

7. Make Privacy Compliance Information More Accessible	
Lead government actors	Members of OMB's Chief Information Officer Council Privacy Community of Practice, Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), PCLOB

Other actors involved	
Main objective	Improve transparency and accountability of Federal privacy compliance information.
Brief description	a. Make it easier for the public to access, understand, and download publicly available privacy policies and compliance reports. b. Review publicly available privacy compliance reports and consider best practices to ensure reports are accessible, understandable, and provide meaningful information.
Relevance	This commitment relates most closely to public accountability and also includes an access to information component.
Ambition	This effort will give more structure and consistency to agency implementation of existing law and improve government processes.

Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
		b	a	

Description of results	a. OSTP and PCLOB have met with the Privacy and Civil Liberties Officers of agencies that submit privacy reports under Sec. 803 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 to discuss how the reports could be standardized, clarified, and improved. PCLOB discussed with agencies standardizing their reporting schedules and circulated a strategy for rolling out guidance to assist agencies in submitting the reports. b. OMB in coordination with the Chief Information Officer Council Privacy Community of Practice has begun an interagency collaboration to review reports and consider best practices for sharing and communicating the reports with the public.
End date	This commitment is on track to be completed in 2015.
Next steps	a. PCLOB will issue guidance for agencies that file Sec. 803 reports and begin hosting completed reports on its website. b. The Privacy Community of Practice will continue working toward issuing possible best practices and building an improved web presence for privacy reports.

8. Support and Improve Agency Implementation of Open Government Plans	
Lead government actors	OMB, OSTP, Interagency Open Government Working Group
Other actors involved	Civil society organizations
Main objective	Develop guidelines for agencies for 2014 Open Government Plan updates and ensure implementation of those plans.

Brief description	With input from civil society and the Interagency Open Government Working Group, develop guidelines for agencies for 2014 Open Government Plan updates and ensure implementation of those plans.			
Relevance	This relates to access to information, public accountability, and civic participation.			
Ambition	Guidance to expand types of information to be reported on in agency Open Government Plans as well as a focus on increased ambition of open government goals will both make government more open and improve government processes with an end result of increased transparency.			
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
				✓
Description of results	In February 2014, OSTP issued guidance for agencies as they drafted their 2014 plans. The guidance was developed closely with other government agencies. OSTP continues to support agencies as they implement the plans, including meeting with agency open government teams and asking agency teams to present their progress at Interagency Open Government Working Group meetings.			
End date	This commitment is complete.			
Next steps	OSTP will continue supporting agency implementation of plans, including meetings and presentations.			

9. Strengthen and Expand Whistleblower Protections for Government Personnel	
Lead government actors	ODNI, Federal agencies
Other actors involved	U.S. Congress, civil society organizations
Main objective	Ensure protection for government employees and contractors who act as whistleblowers and ensure those employees know their rights.
Brief description	a. Mandate participation in the Office of Special Counsel whistleblower certification program for covered agencies. b. Implement the President's October 2012 Policy Directive on protecting whistleblowers with access to classified information. c. Advocate for legislation to expand whistleblower protections. d. Explore executive authority to expand whistleblower protections if Congress fails to act further.
Relevance	This commitment furthers public accountability.
Ambition	This effort expands the Administration's policies to protect lawful whistleblowers.

Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			d	a, b, c

Description of results	a. Covered agencies were directed to report on their compliance with the Office of Special Counsel whistleblower program in their 2014 Open Government Plans. b. The Director of National Intelligence (DNI) issued a whistleblower protection directive in March 2014, Intelligence Community Directive 120, to ensure all personnel (including contractors where applicable) are aware of protections available and to review procedures for making protected disclosures. ODNI continues to work with agencies to implement this effort and participates in extensive outreach with civil society organizations at public events and other meetings. The Justice Department completed a report in April 2014 titled Department of Justice Report on Regulations Protecting FBI Whistleblowers that included policy and regulatory recommendations that DOJ is working to develop and implement. c. The Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 essentially codified requirements in PPD-19 and provided additional statutory protections for whistleblowers. The DNI issued additional implementation guidance following the legislation. d. Legislation was enacted in 2014; however, the Administration will continue to explore Executive authority as needed.
End date	These efforts are on target to be completed in 2015.
Next steps	Continued support to agencies as they participate in whistleblower training and implement PPD-19 and related legislative requirements.

10. Increase Transparency of Legal Entities formed in the United States	
Lead government actors	Department of Treasury, DOJ
Other actors involved	U.S. Congress
Main objective	Enhance the transparency of companies formed in the United States to help prevent criminal organizations from obscuring who really benefits from the businesses they operate and to combat corruption when criminal actors seek to illicitly deposit funds abroad.
Brief description	a. Advocate for legislation requiring disclosure of meaningful information at the time of a company's formation, including who owns the company and who receives financial benefits from the company. b. Work to enact a rule requiring U.S. financial institutions to identify beneficial owners of companies that are legal entities.
Relevance	This commitment relates to public accountability.

Ambition	This effort will increase accountability and bring transparency to companies.			
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			b	a
Description of results	a. The Administration proposed legislation in the President's 2015 budget and worked with Congress throughout 2014 on that proposed legislation. b. Treasury published a notice of proposed rulemaking that would require financial institutions to collect beneficial ownership information for company customers.			
End date	This commitment is on track to be complete in 2015.			
Next steps	Until such legislation is passed, the White House will continue to advocate for such legislation. Treasury is continuing to process and respond to comments and work toward a final rule.			

11. Use Big Data to Support Greater Openness and Accountability				
Lead government actors	OSTP, DOJ, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)			
Other actors involved				
Main objective	Ensure responsible uses of big data to promote greater openness and accountability across a range of areas and sectors.			
Brief description	a. Enhance sharing of best practices on data privacy for state and local law enforcement. b. Ensure privacy protection for big data analyses in health, including consulting with stakeholders to assess how Federal laws and regulations can best accommodate big data analyses and developing recommendations to promote and facilitate research through access to data while safeguarding patient privacy and autonomy. c. Expand technical expertise in government to stop discrimination.			
Relevance	This commitment supports access to information and public accountability.			
Ambition	These efforts aim to improve government processes to responsibly protect non-public information while providing the greatest public access possible.			
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
		c	a, b	
Description of results	a. DOJ published a *Resource Guide for Enhancing Community Relationships and Protecting Privacy and Constitutional Rights* to			

	support developing responsible privacy practices. DOJ continues to engage in outreach to those entities through training and conferences. b. HHS is working closely with the Privacy and Security Workgroup of the Health Information Technology Policy Committee, a Federal advisory committee that conducts all of its work in the open, to gather information, engage with stakeholders through public listening sessions, and finalize a report of its work. c. In June 2014, OSTP and Georgetown University held a workshop focusing on the use of big data, best practices for data sharing, and how to address potential privacy and civil liberties concerns that arise from using big data. In September 2014, the FTC held a similar workshop exploring the impact of big data use on American consumers, highlighting concerns about whether big data may be used to unfairly or unlawfully categorize consumers.
End date	This commitment is on track to be complete in 2015.
Next steps	a. DOJ continues to engage in outreach to state, local, and tribal law enforcement entities through participation in trainings and conferences on related issues. b. HHS will continue consulting stakeholders and will draft the recommendations related to this commitment. c. OSTP along with the Domestic Policy Council (DPC) will issue a follow-up report further exploring the implications of big data technologies for discrimination and civil rights. The new report will explore how big data interacts with issues such as employment and access to credit, including considering how the use of big data technologies can both perpetuate discrimination and prevent it. DPC and OSTP will develop recommendations on actions that can be taken to use big data to broaden opportunity and to prevent discrimination.

Open Government to Manage Resources More Effectively

1. Implement the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)	
Lead government actors	Department of Interior, State
Other actors involved	EITI Multi-Stakeholder Group, State of Wyoming, California State Lands Commission, Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, and Interstate Mining Compact Commission
Main objective	Implement EITI to increase transparency and accountability in payments that companies make and revenues governments receive for natural resources.
Brief description	Work toward EITI candidacy and publish first EITI report in 2015.

Relevance	This commitment relates to access to information and public accountability.			
Ambition	This effort will give the public more meaningful access to information about revenues received by the United States for the Nation's natural resources.			
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			✓	
Description of results	The United States submitted an application for candidacy to the EITI International Board in December 2013 and became a candidate country in March 2014. Interior launched the Natural Resources Revenue Data Portal in beta in December 2014 to begin providing access to information about revenues and payments. The site also includes innovative open data features to make it easier for the public to learn more about this information.			
End date	This commitment will be met in 2015.			
Next steps	Publish the 2015 EITI report and continue completion of candidacy requirements.			

2. Make Fossil Fuel Subsidies More Transparent	
Lead government actors	Treasury
Other actors involved	Group of 20 (G-20), civil society organizations
Main objective	Report publicly on fossil fuel subsidies to increase transparency and enhance accountability.
Brief description	Publish an annual report outlining Government spending on fossil fuel subsidies to share with the G-20 and other international bodies.
Relevance	This commitment relates to access to information and public accountability.
Ambition	This effort will give the public more meaningful access to information.

Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
				✓
Description of results	The report was published on the Treasury Department Open Government website in August 2014 and submitted to the G-20 that month. It was shared with the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation in November 2014.			
End date	This commitment is complete.			

Next steps	Continue annual reporting and meeting with civil society stakeholders in the United States and around the world. Carry out a peer review of fossil fuel subsidies with China in the G-20.

3. Increase Transparency in Spending	
Lead government actors	OMB, Treasury, GSA, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), DHS, Department of Education, Government Accountability and Transparency Board (GATB)
Other actors involved	Civil society organizations
Main objective	Increase transparency of where Federal tax dollars are spent.
Brief description	a. Join the Global Initiative on Fiscal Transparency (GIFT) and participate in the GIFT Working Group. b. Hold quarterly meetings with external stakeholders to discuss improvements to USAspending.gov website. c. Make Federal spending data available in open and machine-readable formats. d. Publish additional Federal contracting data. e. Provide strategic direction on ways to increase spending transparency and detect waste, fraud, or abuse. Specifically, GATB will update its annual plan. f. Launch a refreshed USAspending.gov. g. Issue data element definitions standards and standards for exchanging financial data. h. Pilot ways to help explore options for visualizing and publishing Federal financial data from across the government. i. Continue to engage stakeholders to discuss implementation of the DATA Act.
Relevance	This commitment relates to public accountability, access to information, and civic participation.
Ambition	This work makes government more open and will improve internal government processes with an effect of added transparency.

Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			a, c, d, f, g	b, e, h, i

Description of results	a. The United States has joined GIFT and will begin participating in the GIFT working group in 2015. b. While this effort is an important ongoing effort and will never truly be "complete," OMB and Treasury have begun holding quarterly meetings with stakeholders, including meetings in October 2014 and February 2015. c. There is a continued push to publish more information in a machine-readable format. For example, in February 2015 OMB for the first time

	publicly posted an [XML version](#) of the SF 133 Report on Budget Execution and Budgetary Resources. d. This effort is underway and is revisited regularly to address the introduction of new statutory and regulatory requirements. e. GATB updated its [annual plan](#) addressing these issues in April 2014. f. Treasury is currently testing the refreshed USAspending.gov website, which has been reimagined based on feedback from government and civil society stakeholders (see item b). GSA is also assisting with this effort and the site is on track to launch in mid-2015. g. Treasury published a [Federal Register notice](#) in September 2014 seeking stakeholder feedback on data exchange standards. Throughout the Fall, Treasury also conducted an intelligent data pilot with USAID, DHS and Education to map data and create a standard taxonomy. The Federal government has also been collaborating across communities on standardizing data element definitions. h. Treasury conducted a visualization pilot using sample Treasury data to demonstrate how the additional data elements required by the DATA Act could be visualized. Results from that pilot will be considered in the improvements to USAspending.gov. i. This effort similarly will remain ongoing; however Treasury has held multiple meetings and events, including a September 2014 Data Transparency Town Hall and stakeholder meetings; Treasury also launched an [open collaboration webpage](#) to post updates on the data standardization work and to solicit feedback on specific issues.
End date	This commitment is on track to be completed in 2015.
Next steps	a. Participate in the GIFT working group. b. Continue stakeholder meetings. c. Continue to explore additional data sets/reports that can be converted to machine-readable format. Continue to publish SF-133 in machine-readable format. d. Analyze new information to be made available, including expenditures under contracts and labor violations by contractors. e. This effort is complete. f. Launch refreshed USAspending.gov site by mid-2015. g. Analyze stakeholder feedback on data standards and work toward publication of data exchange standards and data definition standards beginning in May 2015. h. This effort is complete. i. Continue stakeholder engagement.

4. Increase Transparency of Foreign Assistance	
Lead government actors	State, along with USAID

Other actors involved	Millennium Challenge Corporation, HHS, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Peace Corps, Inter-American Foundation, African Development Foundation, DoD, Treasury, and civil society organizations			
Main objective	Publish additional foreign assistance data.			
Brief description	Add or expand foreign assistance data to ForeignAssistance.gov in a standardized, machine-readable, and timely way, and engage with civil society on website redesign and data use.			
Relevance	This commitment relates to access to public information, public accountability, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability.			
Ambition	This effort will increase transparency and accountability; perhaps more importantly, it will lead to improved aid effectiveness and better coordination of aid resources.			
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			✓	
Description of results	Currently the 10 reporting agencies represent 98% of the U.S. Government's foreign assistance portfolio. State is working with these agencies to help them improve their data quality and fill gaps in their data reporting, improving the usability and functionality of ForeignAssistance.gov, and consulting with agency and civil society stakeholders.			
End date	This commitment is in progress.			
Next steps	Launch the redesigned version of ForeignAssistance.gov, continue to improve data quality and reporting, and continue supporting interagency efforts.			

5. Continue to Improve Performance.gov	
Lead government actors	OMB
Other actors involved	Agencies covered by the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990
Main objective	Publicly report on agency goals to increase efficacy of government performance.
Brief description	Add new performance goals and implementation strategies, and enhance functionality of Performance.gov to make information more accessible and easier to use.
Relevance	This commitment relates to access to information and public accountability.

Ambition	This effort will increase transparency and accountability.			
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			✓	
Description of results	In February 2015, agencies updated Performance.gov with information from their new annual performance plans and reports. Agencies report each quarter on progress of the Agency and Cross-Agency priority goals, including progress against milestones, metrics, and next steps. The site also includes improved export functionality so users can access more data in an editable format.			
End date	This commitment will continue through 2015 and 2016.			
Next steps	Understand other content areas of Performance.gov to improve usability. Add additional performance data throughout 2015 and add a new cohort of Agency Priority Goals by February 2016.			

6. Consolidate Import and Export Systems to Curb Corruption				
Lead government actors	DHS Customs and Border Protection (CBP) along with other Federal agencies with authorities at U.S. borders			
Other actors involved	Civil society stakeholders, including industry, customs brokers, importers, software vendors, and others			
Main objective	Consolidate import and export systems consistent with Executive Order 13659 to create a "single window" by December 2016.			
Brief description	Consolidate the existing U.S. trade import and export processes into a "single window" system for import and export requirements to streamline transactions and promote transparency.			
Relevance	This relates to technology and innovation for openness and accountability.			
Ambition	This commitment aims to completely overhaul current government processes across multiple agencies, bringing efficiency to both government and non-governmental stakeholders, increasing transparency of the import-export process.			
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			✓	
Description of results	The "single window," or International Trade Data System, is being implemented through a trade processing system being built by CBP. CBP, in concert with other agencies within DHS, has been working with impacted agencies to meet system deadlines. Information will be filed one			

	time in an electronic format to be used many times by government agencies for a more efficient process.
End date	This commitment will be rolled out throughout 2015, but not fully implemented until 2016.
Next steps	DHS is directing a phased implementation and will coordinate with participating agencies to begin filing their transactions through the central system with an interim deadline in May 2015 and a mandatory transition deadline in November 2015. DHS will also continue extensive outreach to the trade community.

7. Promote Public Participation in Community Spending Decisions			
Lead government actors	OSTP, Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)		
Other actors involved	Strong Cities, Strong Communities initiative; National League of Cities; Participatory Budgeting Project; City of Chicago; City of New York; City of Vallejo, California; and others		
Main objective	Work with others who promote participatory budgeting to increase awareness and adoption of the approach.		
Brief description	Bring together subject-matter experts to create tools and best practices that communities can use to implement participatory budgeting projects. Raise awareness about participatory budgeting as a community tool and its uses and benefits.		
Relevance	This commitment relates to civic participation and public accountability.		
Ambition	This effort improves effectiveness of government and empowers citizens to participate in financial governance decisions.		
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
				✓
Description of results	OSTP convened the above participants for a day-long workshop at the White House to share information and practices, encouraging collaboration. HUD developed a Participatory Budgeting page for HUD grantees to raise awareness about the process and the ability of grantees to use Participatory Budgeting as a community engagement process for the allocation of relevant federal funds. Some interested communities are exploring participatory budgeting for the first time with Federal funds through their Community Development Block Grant or HOME Investment Partnerships Program community engagement processes.		
End date	This commitment is complete.		
Next steps	HUD will continue to provide educational resources and answer questions from communities who are interested in participatory budgeting as part of		

Note: The "Completion level" row header spans the two sub-rows (Not started / Limited / Substantial / Completed headers and the checkmark row).

their community engagement process for HUD funds. Additionally, the National Resource Network, a component of the Strong Cities, Strong Communities Initiative, will continue to work with the Participatory Budgeting Project to develop and share toolkits and other resources about participatory budgeting, particularly targeted at communities facing chronic economic challenges.

8. Expand Visa Sanctions to Combat Corruption				
Lead government actors	State, DOJ, Treasury			
Other actors involved				
Main objective	Deny safe haven in the United States to corrupt individuals.			
Brief description	Explore strengthening the Presidential Proclamation that denies safe haven to those who have committed, participated in, or were beneficiaries of corrupt practices in performing public functions.			
Relevance	This commitment relates to public accountability.			
Ambition	This effort aims to improve government practices and curb corruption.			
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
		✓		
Description of results	In February 2014, Congress added new language to the existing corruption visa ineligibilities covered under Section 7031(c) of the Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act. Based on that, the State Department is leading a discussion with U.S. Government stakeholders to ensure the strongest approach to be sure that safe haven is denied to corrupt individuals.			
End date	This commitment is on target to be completed in 2015.			
Next steps	Continue working with governmental stakeholders to determine the best course of action and implement any next steps.			

Open Government to Improve Public Services

1. Further Expand Public Participation in the Development of Regulations	
Lead government actors	OMB, EPA, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), GSA, NARA
Other actors involved	
Main objective	Make it easier for the public to participate in the rulemaking process.

Brief description	a. Make commenting on proposed rulemakings easier by launching an API to allow the public to comment on proposed regulations using third-party websites. b. Continue to proactively engage and meet with outside stakeholder groups for input on how best to improve Regulations.gov. c. Consider expanding CFPB's open source pilot to make regulations easier to read and understand.			
Relevance	This commitment relates to access to information, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability.			
Ambition	These efforts include changes to government practices that have the potential to improve government processes to build in efficiencies and bring greater transparency to the regulatory process.			
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			c	a, b
Description of results	a. The interagency eRulemaking team launched the API in July 2014. On July 21, 2014, the Office of the Federal Register updated its Commenting Feature on FederalRegister.gov to utilize the API to improve the way the public can comment on proposed regulations. b. Continued stakeholder engagement is integral to the mission of the eRulemaking team and to improvements with Regulations.gov. The team has continually reached out to stakeholders in civil society for input and feedback. c. CFPB has worked closely with GSA to explore opportunities to pilot this tool and will continue pursuing those opportunities in 2015.			
End date	This commitment is on track to be complete in 2015.			
Next steps	a. This commitment is complete. b. The eRulemaking team will continue to engage with stakeholders. c. CFPB and GSA will continue pursuing possible pilots of the CFPB tool.			

2. Open Data to the Public	
Lead government actors	OMB, GSA, USDA, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and Federal agencies
Other actors involved	Civil society organizations, technologists, industry, data users
Main objective	Make government data more accessible and useful for the public.
Brief description	a. Manage government data as a strategic asset by developing an inventory of data, publishing a list of datasets that are public or can be made public, and developing new mechanisms to solicit public feedback regarding open government data. b. Launch an improved Data.gov.

	c. Create an interagency group to promote open data efforts in public and private sectors and encourage new efforts to release agriculture and nutrition data as part of the Global Open Data on Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) initiative. d. Expand access to existing open government data about natural disasters.
Relevance	This commitment relates to access to information, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability.
Ambition	These efforts will make government more open.

Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			a	b, c, d

Description of results	a. Agencies have been developing inventories of their data and publishing data listings consistent with the OMB Open Data Policy (M-13-13). Progress is openly tracked on the Project Open Data Dashboard. b. The improved Data.gov website launched in January 2014 after a preview site received public feedback and usability testing. c. An interagency team has been assembled. Members collaborate on and continue to encourage new efforts to release agriculture and nutrition data as part of the GODAN initiative. d. FEMA launched new datasets and an API to make it easier for users to work with the data. FEMA has also hosted large workshops and collaborative meetings with civil society stakeholders to help spur the creation of tools and products to support disaster survivors, first responders, and impacted communities. FEMA launched a new interactive tool in beta in January 2015 to start visualizing its data.
End date	This commitment is on track to be completed in 2015.
Next steps	a. Continue working with agencies to achieve the goals of the Open Data Policy, including improved public engagement on open government data. b. This effort is complete. c. This effort is complete. d. FEMA will continue identifying new datasets to be launched and continue collaborating with outside stakeholders on innovative uses of data. In 2015, the agency will continue to work on new visualizations.

3. Continue to Pilot Expert Networking Platforms	
Lead government actors	Food and Drug Administration (FDA), EPA, USDA
Other actors involved	Members of the research community and civil society

Main objective	Expand government expert networking platforms.		
Brief description	a. FDA to expand its pilot program, ExpertNet. b. Work with the research community to assess the impact of expert networking and convene agencies to identify best practices.		
Relevance	This commitment relates to technology and innovation for openness and accountability.		
Ambition	This commitment will improve government and build in efficiencies while bringing openness to the process.		
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
		b	a	
Description of results	a. FDA has begun expanding its pilot to include other parts of the agency. b. In 2014, a working group began brainstorming and drafting best practices with civil society consultation.		
End date	This commitment is on track to be complete in 2015.		
Next steps	a. FDA will continue adding to its pilot. b. The working group will complete and publish best practices.		

4. Reform Government Websites			
Lead government actors	OMB, GSA		
Other actors involved	Federal agencies		
Main objective	Implement the Administration's Digital Government Strategy.		
Brief description	Continue implementing the existing Digital Government Strategy and revise and update OMB policies for Federal agency websites.		
Relevance	This commitment relates to technology and innovation for openness and accountability and increased access to information.		
Ambition	This commitment involves changes to government policy and introducing new guidance.		
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
				✓
Description of results	Agencies have been working to implement the Digital Government Strategy. Building on that, the White House released the U.S. Digital Service Playbook in August 2014 to guide agencies to provide better websites and digital services. The Administration also launched the TechFAR Handbook, explaining how agencies can innovate and execute		

	key plays from the playbook consistent with the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR). Finally, throughout 2014 and into 2015, the 10-year-old OMB Memorandum (M-05-04) on agency websites is being revised and updated to better reflect modern, customer-centric approaches to websites.
End date	This commitment is on track to be complete in 2015.
Next steps	The OMB policy update should be publicly released in early 2015. All other efforts are complete.

5. Promote Innovation Through Collaboration and Harness the Ingenuity of the American Public				
Lead government actors	OSTP, EPA, GSA, HHS, NARA, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Office of Personnel Management (OPM), USAID			
Other actors involved				
Main objective	Promote open innovation methods in government.			
Brief description	a. Create an Open Innovation Toolkit. b. Add new prizes and challenges on Challenge.gov. c. Increase crowdsourcing and citizen science programs.			
Relevance	This commitment relates to civic participation and technology and innovation for openness and accountability in government.			
Ambition	These efforts make government more open and also improve government services.			
Description of results	a. An interagency group of experts is developing the Open Innovation Toolkit in two parts: a Prizes and Challenges Toolkit and a Citizen Science and Crowdsourcing Toolkit. Both are underway. b. Challenge.gov continued to add new challenges in 2014. In January, 2014, the website won the Innovations in American Government award from the Harvard Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation. c. Agencies are increasing crowdsourcing and citizen science programs. For example, NASA held the third International Space Apps Challenge in 2014 with more than 8,000 participants gathering in 95 locations around the world. Additionally, NARA launched a new tool for captioning historical films and the EPA created an "Air Sensor Toolbox" that empowers communities to monitor local air pollution.			
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			a	b, c
End date	This commitment is on track to be complete in 2015.			

Next steps	a. Finalize and launch the Open Innovation Toolkit.
	b. Challenge.gov will continue adding new challenges and prize opportunities to the site.
	c. Agencies will continue identifying new citizen science and crowdsourcing efforts to encourage public collaboration.

6. Promote Open Education to Increase Awareness and Engagement				
Lead government actors	OSTP, Education, Department of Labor, State			
Other actors involved				
Main objective	Increase efforts to support open educational resources.			
Brief description	a. Hold a workshop on challenges and opportunities in open education. b. Conduct three open educational resource pilots overseas. c. Award $25 million through competitive grants to launch an online skills academy.			
Relevance	This commitment relates to technology and innovation for openness and accountability, access to information, and civic participation.			
Ambition	This commitment aims to improve government practices and government service delivery.			
Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
		a	b, c	
Description of results	a. OSTP has conducted stakeholder meetings with agency colleagues and with civil society and is working with State and Education to plan a mid-2015 workshop. b. State has begun implementation of the first pilot, which uses open educational resources (OER) as the foundation for facilitated discussions hosted by U.S. Embassies and Consulates. State has also begun implementation of the second pilot, which uses low-tech hardware in Kenya to enable Washington-Mandela Fellowship alumni to educate in their communities with OER. Initial preparations are underway for State's third pilot, with a projected launch in mid-2015. c. DOL and Education hosted a public virtual listening session in February 2015 to gather input on key design elements of the online skills academy. The results of this session and feedback generated following the session will inform the content of the online skills academy solicitation.			
End date	This commitment is on track to be complete in 2015.			
Next steps	a. The workshop is planned for mid-2015.			

	b. State will complete implementation of the three pilots and evaluate how these models can be spread to other locations. c. DOL plans to publish the Funding Opportunity Announcement by early Fall 2015.

7. Deliver Government Services More Effectively Through Information Technology	
Lead government actors	OMB, GSA
Other actors involved	Civil society stakeholders
Main objective	Improve digital service delivery.
Brief description	a. Continue recruiting top digital talent from the private and public sectors to take best practices and scale them across agencies, with a focus on the customer experience. b. Expand efforts to build digital services in the open and continue publishing best practices on collaborative websites. c. Develop an open source software policy that will support improved access to custom software code developed for the government.
Relevance	This commitment relates to technology and innovation for openness and accountability.
Ambition	These efforts aim to improve government practices and government service delivery.

Completion level	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
		c		a, b

Description of results	a. The new U.S. Digital Service within OMB and the 18F digital delivery team within GSA have dedicated staff who work to recruit top tech talent into government. In the last six months, these teams have recruited more than 120 engineers, designers, and product managers from inside and outside of government to work to improve government digital systems. b. Agencies have been using the Digital Services Playbook as they procure, build, and deliver digital services. Agencies have openly iterated on the Playbook with stakeholders to improve upon it and launched a revised version in January 2015. Today, 18F develops digital services in the open. c. An interagency team has begun working on a draft policy and has solicited input from civil society.
End date	This commitment is on track to be complete in 2015.
Next steps	a. Agencies will continue recruiting top talent to bring expertise to agencies.

| | b. The Digital Services Playbook will remain a living document, with new content added as identified by government and civil society. |
| | c. The interagency team will continue working on a draft policy in regular consultation with civil society. |

Peer Exchange and Learning

The United States has actively collaborated with other countries through peer exchange on National Action Plan creation and implementation. This has included in-person workshops and meetings, telephone and webinar discussions, and email exchanges with open government colleagues from other countries and civil society. Some countries the United States has worked closely with since launching this Plan include Brazil, Burma, Canada, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Liberia, Mexico, Morocco, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, and the United Kingdom. In some instances, the United States was asked to provide assistance, and in others, both countries sought out a meeting; in all instances, the United States had an opportunity both to share information and to learn much in return.

The United States held a day-long workshop peer exchange with Sierra Leone in August 2014. The two countries collaborated in breakout sessions on a variety of open government topics including open educational resources, freedom of information, records management, and fiscal transparency. The United States government and civil society colleagues joined Sierra Leonean counterparts for rich exchanges in practices and discussion of National Action Plan development and progress. The United States hopes to model this consultation with other countries.

Lessons Learned, Next Steps, and Conclusion

The development of the second NAP included valuable input from civil society and ideas from every corner of government. After reviewing the IRM report, the United States worked to incorporate some of the suggestions to enhance existing efforts.

Another lesson learned in drafting the second NAP is to ensure substantial lead time for consultations with government and civil society stakeholders. Looking ahead to the third NAP, the United States will begin the development process even earlier to ensure the broadest reach for consultations and that as many voices as possible can contribute to this work.

Throughout 2015, the United States aims to increase peer exchange and learning opportunities with both existing and prospective Open Government Partnership member countries while continuing to implement the commitments in the second NAP and developing and launching the third NAP.