



**Gombe Open Government Partnership (OGP)  
State Action Plan (SAP 1) 2024-2026**

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## List of Acronyms

1. AC4D - Advocacy Center for Development
2. ANGO – Association of NGOs
3. AKHCI - Ahmed Kawu Heart for Children
4. BPED – Budget Planning & Economic Development
5. Centre LSD – African Centre for Leadership, Strategy & Development
6. CJILA – Crystal Justice Initiative for Legal Advancement
7. CIRDOC – Civil Resource Development and Documentation
8. CMEHCI – Concerned Minds for Environment, Health & Community Initiative
9. CSOs - Civil Society Organizations
10. DPCO – Development Partners Coordination Office
11. DPO – Due Process Office
12. FOMWAN – The Federation of Muslim Women Associations in Nigeria
13. FOYAE – Foundation for Youth Awakening & Empowerment
14. FIRS – Federal Inland Revenue Service
15. FTCs – Fiscal Transparency Champions
16. GADA – Gender Awareness & Development Association
17. GSIRS – Gombe State Internal Revenue Service
18. GSWB – Gombe State Water Board
19. GSBIO – Gombe State Business & Investment Office
20. ICAN – The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria
21. JEHDI – Jewel Health & Development Initiative
22. JONAPWD – Joint National Association of People With Disabilities
23. LGAs – Local Government Areas
24. MB&EP – Ministry of Budget & Economic Planning
25. MDAs – Ministries, Departments and Agencies
26. MoE – Ministry of Education
27. M&E – Monitoring & Evaluation
28. MoF – Ministry of Finance
29. MoH – Ministry of Health
30. MoJ – Ministry of Justice
31. MoWA&SD – Ministry of Women Affairs & Social Development
32. NAP – National Action Plan
33. NSC – National Steering Committee
34. NOA – National Orientation Agency
35. OAG – Office of the Accountant General
36. OAU – Office of the Auditor General
37. OGP – Open Government Partnership
38. PEI – People Empowerment Initiative
39. PI - Performance Indicator
40. OSMT – OGP Secretariat Management Team
41. RECHDI – Responsible Citizenship & Human Development
42. SBS – State Bureau of Statistics
43. SAP – State Steering Committee
44. SHA – State House of Assembly
45. SPSs - Social Protection Systems
46. State2State – State Accountability, Transparency and Effectiveness Activity
47. SOCU – State Operation Coordination Unit
48. SSG – Secretary to the State Government
49. TEMIN – Teenagers Empowerment Initiative
50. TWG – Technical Working Group

51. TI – Technology and Innovation

52. USAID – United States Agency for International Development

53. WowiCAN – Christian Association of Nigeria Women Wing.

## Foreword

Gombe State Government had joined the Open Government Partnership (OGP) in July 2022 as part of its commitment to ensure accountability, transparency and citizens' engagement in governance. The State Government, had in that respect, made concerted efforts to institutionalize these OGP principles within the operational processes in all sectors of the state. Our membership of the OGP demonstrates our commitment in establishing effective procedures for the actualization of good governance for effective service delivery, and ensuring more effective citizens' participation in governance processes. This we continue to demonstrate through our dialogue and stakeholders consultations mechanism for input and Feedback on all projects and programmes, with increased Capacity for Revenue Generation by the State and enhanced inclusiveness (women, young people, persons with disability and marginalized groups) thereby addressing systematic barriers, and improving inclusive service delivery in all governance and decision-making processes in the State.

The maiden OGP Action Plan 2024-2026 will focus on the three commitment areas which include, Fiscal Transparency, Service Delivery and Citizens' Engagement. These Commitment Areas have been broken down into activities and measurable targets for implementation by the relevant MDAs and CSOs. I wish to express my deep appreciation to Centre LSD for its commitment and continuous support throughout the process leading to Gombe State joining the OGP and beyond, USAID State2State, and to all Government officials, the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Development Partners, Communities and Religious Leaders and Global OGP for the support and collaboration in the processes of development of this first ambitious State Action Plan (SAP I). We look forward to the continuing support of our partners as we move to the next level of implementation.

In conclusion, it is my hope that the co-creation and co-implementation of the State Action Plan by the State and non-state actors will further enhance the relationship between the citizens and government, and ensure the citizens' belief and trust in the governance process in our dear State.

**Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya OON, (Danmajen Gombe),  
The Executive Governor of Gombe State.**

## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

Efforts to get Gombe State signed up to OGP started way back in 2018 before the administration of His Excellency, Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya (Dan majen Gombe), the Executive Governor of Gombe State. However, this was not achieved owing to lack of strong political will until July 2022 when the State formally signed into the OGP. At the heart of this success, has been the sustained effort of Centre LSD, the USAID funded State2State Activities and the collaborative efforts of the State Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), the Civil Society Organizations, the USAID State2State, the National Orientation Agency (NOA), and the National OGP Secretariat which did not stop at just getting the state to sign into OGP but also getting the state to develop and approve the First OGP State Action Plan (SAP I) in December, 2023.

Since inception in 2019, this administration has demonstrated strong will and commitment to accountable, transparent, and effective governance which made it easier for us to join the global OGP community. For instance, Gombe State was ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in ease of doing business in Nigeria 2011 till date, 5<sup>th</sup> in Transparency and Accountability ranking 2023, Due Process Award of Excellence 2023, and 6<sup>th</sup> on States Fiscal Transparency League Table 2023. These are a few among many landmark evidences of the state's commitment to achieving tangible, prudent, responsible and sustainable governance reforms.

Consolidating on these gains and commitment of the government, and with the ongoing efforts of State2State, other Development Partners, and the Civil Society in the state, this first State Action Plan 2024-2026 seeks to strengthen and increase Fiscal Transparency and Open Procurement, Service Delivery, and enhance Citizens' engagement in public budget and Governance processes towards a more inclusive public governance reforms in the State. Specifically, it speaks to three (3) key commitment areas cutting across the four core Open Government Partnership Principles of Transparency, Accountability, Participation, and Technology and Innovation.

Our strong Political will and Leadership, with the commitment of our citizens will sure galvanize the broad-base support necessary for the effective and successful implementation of this plan with the ultimate goal to deliver the best public service to our dear Gombawa and residents of our dear State looking ahead!

**Alhaji Salihu Baba Alkali**  
**Honourable Commissioner, Ministry of Budget Planning & Economic**  
**Development, Gombe State**

## Overview of the Gombe State Action Plan:

Gombe OGP multi-stakeholder forum, State Steering Committee (SSC), with equal membership from government and non-state actors, was established with a governance arrangement consisting of two substantive Co-Chairs (State and Non State representatives), reflecting the principle, practice, and spirit of co-creation that embodies the Open Government Process. The State Steering Committee (SSC) is comprised of representatives from government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), the Civil Society Organizations, Organized Private Sector, and Professional Associations, who collaborated to co-create this two-year State Action Plan (SAP), with the State Ministry of Budget Planning and Economic Development serving as the State Coordinating Secretariat. The SAP I seeks to strengthen and mainstream transparency mechanisms, as well as citizen participation in the administration of public resources across all sectors.

This SAP is focused on the following broad themes – Fiscal Transparency, Service Delivery, and Citizens’ Engagement. The three key criteria that led the SAP I’s design and development include:

1. Sustain the core principles of OGP.
2. Address critical issues with the potential to drive transformative reforms in public governance.
3. Citizens and stakeholders’ Budget inputs and feedback during the state consultative processes at all levels (State, Zonal, Local, Ward Levels, and Public Hearing).

The SAP I identifies the outcome, milestones, and activities that will produce the expected impact. This is motivated by the desire to have a measurable impact on ordinary citizens by identifying the factors that impede effective public engagement and improved service delivery – focusing on the three thematic Areas (Fiscal Transparency, Service Delivery and Citizens’ Engagement) in the span of the Plan (2024-2026).

## SECTION 2: COMMITMENTS

Thematic Area; Fiscal Transparency - Improving Transparency in Procurement Process

<b>Thematic Area:</b>	<b>FISCAL TRANSPARENCY</b>	
<b>Commitment 1:</b>	Improving Transparency in Procurement Processes in Gombe State	
<b>Start and end date:</b>	1 <sup>ST</sup> January, 2024 to 31 <sup>ST</sup> December, 2025	
<b>Lead MDA:</b>	Due Process Office	
<b>Responsible Persons:</b>	Babayola Mohammed Isa	
<b>Designation:</b>	Director General Due Process Office	
<b>Email and Phone:</b>	<a href="mailto:Babayolamohammed0@gmail.com">Babayolamohammed0@gmail.com</a> 08023309945	
<b>Other Actors Involved in implementation:</b>	<b>State Actors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Finance</li> <li>• Ministry of Health</li> <li>• Ministry of Education,</li> <li>• Ministry Works, Housing and Transport</li> <li>• State Universal Basic Education Board</li> <li>• State Primary Health Care Development Agency</li> <li>• Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation</li> <li>• Ministry of Trade and Industry</li> <li>• Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs</li> <li>• Ministry of Youth and Sports Development</li> <li>• Office of the Accountant General</li> <li>• Office of the Auditor General</li> <li>• Ministry of Rural Development</li> <li>• Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry</li> <li>• Gombe State Business and Investment Office</li> <li>• Gombe State Water Board</li> <li>• and other MDAs</li> </ul>
	<b>Non-State Actors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Responsible Citizenship and Human Development Initiative (ReCHDI),</li> <li>➤ Jewel Health and Development Initiative (JEHDI),</li> <li>➤ Hope Foundation for the Disabled,</li> <li>➤ Dandalin Matasa Initiative for Rapid Development</li> <li>➤ Concern Minds for Environment Health Community Initiative,</li> <li>➤ Crystal Justice Initiative for Legal Advancement</li> <li>➤ Bearing in Mind Action to Save Lives Initiative</li> </ul>
<b>General problem/challenge to be addressed by the commitment:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political interference in the procurement process</li> <li>• Low level of transparency in the procurement process</li> <li>• Bureaucratic bottlenecks around the procurement process</li> <li>• Inadequate public inclusion and trust</li> <li>• Non-inclusion of People with Disabilities in procurement process</li> <li>• Low level of gender inclusion in procurement process</li> <li>• Partial implementation of the procurement law</li> </ul>	
<b>Main Objective:</b>	To reduce corruption by strengthening government Transparency and Accountability in procurement processes and enhance citizens' participation for effective service delivery.	
<b>Brief description of commitment:</b>	Ensuring full operationalization of open contracting processes and use of E-procurement contract process.	
<b>Specific OGP challenge to be addressed by the commitment:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Capacity in the public contracting process, making it vulnerable to manipulations.</li> <li>➤ Ineffective feedback mechanism from the Government to the public.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lack of proactive disclosure of information in a format that is accessible to all citizens by MDAs.</li> <li>➤ Complying to Global Procurement best practices (E-procurement).</li> </ul>
<b>Rationale for commitment:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ It will promote transparency in public procurement process and increase availability of information about government procurement processes (E-procurement).</li> <li>❖ It will enhance CSOs and civic participation in engaging contractors, and all contract process there by providing feedback to the Government about performance of contracts, and Citizens concerns. This will address irregularities as well as instill confidence in potential bidders.</li> <li>❖ Having more and better quality contracting documents will improve accountability and professional integrity in government procurement process to achieve value for money.</li> <li>❖ It increases access to new technology for openness and accountability in government procurement process.</li> </ul>

<b>Expected Impact:</b>	Openness in procurement processes	
	<b>Results</b>	<b>Performance Indicator</b>
<b>Expected Outcomes: 1</b>	Increased access to procurement documents and other relevant information by the citizens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of MDAs Complying with BPP guidelines on open procurement standard.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	Increased citizens' participation in the procurement process.	Number of citizens and CSOs participating in procurement process.
<b>3</b>	Improved government response to the public on identified deficiencies in the procurement process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of procurement deficiencies and complaints reported by CSOs and other stakeholders.</li> <li>▪ Number reported complaints responded and addressed by the government.</li> </ul>

S/N	Planned Activities	Start Date	End Date	Output Results	Performance Indicators
1	Publication of Procurement Plan by all MDAs within stipulated time.	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2024	31 <sup>st</sup> December , 2025	E-copies of Procurement Plan of all MDAs.	Number of MDAs who comply with Procurement Plan publication within stipulated time.
2	The provision of an online portal with provision for feedback to government and provision for community engagement to sensitize citizens on procurement process.	January 2024	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2025	User friendly online feedback Procurement portal.	Number of Feedback captured on the portal from stakeholders including citizens, contractors, etc.
3	Conduct Quarterly Stakeholders Procurement Review Meeting with Due Process Office to ensure information is open, correct, complete and updated.	Quarterly	Quarterly	Quarterly Review meetings held and documented.	Number of Quarterly meetings held.
4	Annual establishment of Procurement Focal Points at all LGAs.	January 2024	December 2024	Activated and Functional Fiscal Transparency Focal Points at all the 11 LGAs. Champions	Number of LGAs Focal Points who are functional in creating procurement awareness, and providing supportive feedback to 11LGAs champions and 114 ward champions trained.

				selected and trained on the open procurement processes at the local government/ ward level to further derive the process at the community level.	
5	Appoint Fiscal Transparency Champions (FTC) at LGAs and Ward Levels.	January 2024	December 2024	Fiscal Transparency Champions identified, selected and commissioned at Ward levels.	Number of Fiscal Transparency Champions who are actively engaging with Stakeholders and providing feedback.  Number of issues identified.
<b>Source of Funding:</b>		Gombe State Government, Development Partners, CSOs, and the Private Sector.			



Thematic Area:		Service Delivery
Commitment 2:		Strengthening Social Protection System (Poverty Alleviation)
Start and end date:		1 <sup>st</sup> January, 2024 – 31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2025
Lead MDA:		Ministry of Budget Planning & Economic Development
Responsible Persons:		Alh. Salihu Baba Alkali
Designation:		Commissioner, Ministry of Budget Planning & Economic Development
Email and Phone Number:		<a href="mailto:sbalkali@yahoo.co.uk">sbalkali@yahoo.co.uk</a> 09053304005/ 08065175711
Other Actors Involved in implementation:	State Actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development</li> <li>ii. Ministry of Health</li> <li>iii. Ministry of Education</li> <li>iv. Ministry of Youth and Sport Development</li> <li>v. Ministry of Justice</li> <li>vi. Ministry of Agriculture &amp; Animal Husbandry and Cooperatives</li> <li>vii. Ministry of Water, Environment and Forest Resources</li> <li>viii. Ministry of Trade Industry and Tourism</li> <li>ix. Ministry of Information, Culture and Ethical Orientation</li> <li>x. Ministry of Science, Technology &amp; Innovation etc.</li> <li>xi. State Bureau of Statistics</li> <li>xii. State Operation Coordinating Unit/NG CARES</li> </ul>
	Non-State Actors:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. New Age Initiative for Youth Development</li> <li>ii. Lawanti Community Development Foundation</li> <li>iii. Motherhen Development Foundation</li> <li>iv. Foundation for Community Empowerment Initiative</li> <li>v. Teenagers Empowerment Initiative</li> <li>vi. Voice of Hope</li> <li>vii. People Empowerment Initiative</li> <li>viii. JONAPWD</li> <li>ix. Doma Education Development Foundation</li> <li>x. Women CAN</li> <li>xi. Ahmed Kawu Heart for Children Initiative</li> <li>xii. Federation of Muslim Women in Nigeria (FOMWAN)</li> </ul>
General problem/challenge addressed by the commitment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Harmonization of Social Protection Programs and a robust framework to address multifaceted nature of poverty and its alleviation.</li> <li>- Limited reach to intended beneficiaries and mis-priority of interest in the implementation of Social Protection.</li> </ul>	
Main Objective:	To reduce poverty indices in the state and improve economic stability.	
Brief description of commitment:	Social Protection System is paramount to support the poorest and most vulnerable people.	
Specific OGP challenge addressed by commitment:	Increasing transparency in the implementation of social protection programs.	
Rationale for commitment:	To increase and promote synergy and coordination through an inclusive and shock-responsive social protection system that guarantees a better and productive life for all citizens.	
Expected Impact:	To significantly reduce poverty rates, promote social inclusivity, and enhance overall economic stability, thereby fostering a society marked by reduced disparities.	
S/N	Results	Performance Indicator

1	Tangible reduction of poverty rates	Percentage decreased in the poverty rate compared to the baseline, measured annually.			
2	Increased social inclusivity	Additional number of beneficiaries of social inclusion initiatives against the baseline.			
3	Enhanced economic stability	Per-capita income growth rate stability among house-hold measured quarterly or annually.			
S / N	Planned Activities	Start Date	End Date	Output Results	Performance Indicators
1	Capacity building training of SSC on effective engagement for effective service delivery.	1 <sup>st</sup> April, 2024	31 <sup>st</sup> June, 2024	SSC Capacity and skills on OGP implementation increased.	Number of Capacity-building Training conducted.  Number of SSC members trained and effectively engaging.
2	SSC to participate in Peer Learning visit to identified successful OGP States.  Conduct comprehensive desk review and analysis of the poor and vulnerable from the state social register.	1 <sup>st</sup> January, 2024	31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2024	Assessment report highlighting gaps and weaknesses in the register	Number of identified poor and vulnerable persons.
3	Develop program guidelines in line with poverty alleviation interventions	1 <sup>st</sup> April, 2024	29 <sup>th</sup> September, 2024	Program guidelines developed	Number programs Policy guidelines developed.
4	Strengthen Data Quality of Social Protection information management system	12 <sup>th</sup> October, 2024	31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2026	Improved data quality collection system and database.	Quality Database.
5	Strengthen institutional capacity and coordination	3 <sup>rd</sup> January, 2024	31 <sup>st</sup> May, 2026	Improved capacity, coordination, synergy mechanisms.	Number of inter-agency coordination meetings held Number of Trainings held.
6	Conduct regular monitoring and impact evaluations.	1 <sup>st</sup> June, 2024	31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2026	Evaluation reports assessing program effectiveness and recommendations for improvement	Number of Programs assessed.
<b>Source of Funding:</b>	Government, Development Partners, CSOs, and the Private Sector				

## Thematic Area: Citizen's Engagement - Improving Participatory Budgeting Process

<b>Thematic Area:</b>	<b>Citizens Engagement</b>	
<b>Commitment 3:</b>	To Improve Participatory Budgeting Process	
<b>Start and end date:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan., 2024 - 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec., 2025	
<b>Lead MDA:</b>	Ministry of Budget Planning and Economic Development	
<b>Responsible Persons:</b>	Alh. Salihu Baba Alkali	
<b>Designation:</b>	Honourable Commissioner	
<b>Email and Phone:</b>	<a href="mailto:sbalkali@yahoo.co.uk">sbalkali@yahoo.co.uk</a> 08065175711	
<b>Other Actors Involved in implementation :</b>	<b>State Actors</b>	Ministry of Budget & Economic Planning Ministry of Finance Office of the Auditor General (State & Local) Development Partner Coordination Office Ministry for Local Government & Community Development Ministry of Information, Culture and Ethical Orientation Ministry of Women Affairs & Social Development Due Process Office State House of Assembly Office of the Accountant General
	<b>Non-State Actors</b>	Wildan Care Foundation Foundation for Youth Awakening Empowerment Gender Awareness and Development Association Voice of Hope Advocacy Center for Development Good Governance Coalition Association of Non-Governmental Organizations Media
<b>General problem/challenge addressed by the commitment:</b>	Inadequate citizen's engagement and participation in the budget preparation, implementation and monitoring processes.	
<b>Main Objective:</b>	To ensure that Gombe State budgeting process is inclusive, transparent and accountable.	
<b>Brief description of commitment:</b>	To enhance citizens' awareness and participation in budgeting process and implementation starting with pre-budget statement, executive budget proposal, and budget defense to ensure citizens' engagement on audited account.	
<b>Specific OGP challenge addressed by commitment:</b>	Inadequate transparency, accountability and citizens participation in budgeting process	
<b>Rationale for commitment:</b>	Inadequate citizens participation in budget process hence the need for Inclusivity and transparency through active participation.	
<b>Expected Impact:</b>	Improved ownership and participation of citizens in the budgeting process that will lead to better delivery of public goods and services by government.	
	<b>Results</b>	<b>Performance Indicator</b>
<b>Expected Outcomes: 1</b>	Increased citizens participation in budgeting process.	Number of citizens inputs and nominated projects

		captured in the budget document.
2	Increased citizens charter budgeting process.	Number of citizens demand charter developed.
3	Increased number of feedback enabled platforms.	Number of feedback enabled platforms.
4	Number of public consultation in timely and publicly available timely publication of the quarterly budget implementation report with Fiscal Responsibility Law.	Number of copies distributed and feedback received.

S/N	Planned Activities	Start Date	End Date	Output Results	Performance Indicators
1	Town hall meetings on Citizen Charter of Demand from the grass root.	11 <sup>th</sup> March, 2024.	14 <sup>th</sup> June, 2024.	Improved awareness on the budget cycle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of advocacies and town hall meetings organized.</li> </ul>
2	Conduct advocacy to relevant MDAs and Community sensitization for Traditional & religious institutions to canvass for support of the communities.	11 <sup>th</sup> March, 2024	14 <sup>th</sup> June, 2024	Individuals and communities are more aware of and effectively participating in the budgeting process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of sermons delivered by religious leaders and community participation in the budget process.</li> </ul>
3	Mass media jingles, social handles, discussions, interviews, articles and public enlightenment on the roles of citizens in budgeting process.	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan., 2024	31 <sup>st</sup> Dec., 2025	Citizens will be more enlightened through wider variety of channels to a larger audience on the budgeting process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of citizens reached with the enlightenment.</li> </ul>
4	Periodic OGP media awareness raising through Phone-in programmes with selected media outlets to better understanding and to stimulate citizens engagement in the budgeting process.	1 <sup>st</sup> , Jan., 2024	31 <sup>st</sup> Dec., 2025	Increased awareness of the budgeting process via the phone in programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of phone in programmes organized and citizens response and engagement.</li> </ul>
5	Quarterly analysis of citizens' feedback for Government attention and responses.	8 <sup>th</sup> April, 2024	5 <sup>th</sup> Jan., 2026	Quarterly analysis report detailing citizens feedback on Government responses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of quarterly meetings held.</li> <li>Number of feedbacks received/or addressed.</li> </ul>
<b>Source of Funding:</b>	Gombe State Government/State2State/CSOs/ the Private Sector				

## SECTION 3: STATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION FRAMEWORK

### Context:

The OGP governance framework in Gombe State seeks to model the national mechanism. The process requires inclusive-stakeholder engagement and equal representation of State and non-state actors in the Steering Committees. Against this background, Gombe has a twenty-one-member State Steering Committee which is made up of eleven government agencies, as well as ten Civil Society Organizations, private sector institutions, and professional bodies whose mandates cut across the OGP thematic areas. It is important to state that the membership of the State Steering Committee is for two years, spanning the lifecycle of the State Action Plan (SAP1), with fresh elections scheduled for the end of every implementation phase. This will give other Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Civil Society Organizations, and private sector actors the opportunity to become members of the State Steering Committee.

### State Steering Committee:

The State Steering Committee (SSC) is drawn from the Civil Society, Private Sector Institutions and Government Agencies, and will meet quarterly unless there is an urgent need to convene the SSC meeting. The roles of the SSC are to:

- I. Set high-level strategy, policies, and procedures.
- II. Provide targeted outreach and support to encourage members, government institutions, and non-state actors to meet their OGP commitments.
- III. Help with fund raising.
- IV. Represent OGP and promote its accomplishments on the international stage.
- V. Set a strong example by upholding OGP values and principles and make ambitious commitments.
- VI. Recruit and brief new Steering Committee members during the second phase of the State Action Plan.
- VII. Connect the OGP Secretariat to key potential partners; and, Approve the Budget of the OGP Secretariat and annual work plan.

### Co-chairs for the OGP state Plan:

Two co-chairs will lead the SSC. It comprises one government Co-chair and one Co-chair from the Non-State Actors. The two Co-chairs and the State Secretary will also serve as the Governance and Leadership Sub-committee of the SSC. Their responsibilities are to:

1. Ensure vitality of OGP leadership by recruiting and orienting new members and new co-chairs of the State Steering Committee.
2. Work with the OGP Secretary to plan and run Steering Committee meetings.

3. Ensure sufficient funding for the OGP to achieve strategic objectives
4. Provide financial, legal, and ethical oversight.

#### OGP Secretariat Management Team:

The OGP Secretariat will be led by the Secretary of the SSC supported by a minimum of four advisers, namely the, (i) Civil Society Adviser, (ii) Public Sector Adviser, (iii) Communications Adviser and (iv) Legislative Engagement Adviser. There will be four support staff on Finance and Administration, Monitoring and Evaluation/Independent Review, Technology, and Innovation. The Roles of the Advisers shall include:

1. Build and maintain trust and credibility with Civil Society Organizations.
2. Design effective engagement Strategy and Work-Plan.
3. Design and jointly implement Civil Society Programming and Activities.
4. Support Civil Society Partners to constructively engage the OGP Process.
5. Build Partnership between the private sector, businesses and the OGP Platform.

#### Support staff:

The Secretariat is made up of the Executive Secretary and support staff that work directly with them. They cover crosscutting areas such as technology and innovation, monitoring and evaluation, administration, and finance. The Executive Secretary will be at liberty to hire more support staff if the need arises, subject to the availability of funds.

#### Working Groups:

Working Groups will be established along the OGP working groups – Three thematic areas. Co-Chairs selected by each working group will lead the Working Groups made up of Representatives of Ministries, Agencies, and Departments, CSOs and private sector depending on expertise. They will be elected every two years by the members of the working groups. The Working Groups will also be required to develop their terms of reference and guidelines with the support of the OGP Secretariat.

#### Funding:

In its design, funding, and implementation, OGP is not treated as a stand-alone “project.” For the process to be successful, there is need for it to be largely funded through the government’s annual budget, including contribution from agencies that have primary responsibility on commitment areas. However, Development partners and Civil Society Organizations and the private sector organizations with interest in promoting good governance, accountability and transparency focused reforms in Gombe State will continue to support the process by providing financial and technical assistance to the OGP Secretariat and to sub-nationals in line with the co-creation spirit of the OGP.

## SECTION 4: IMPLEMENTATION

To ensure effective implementation of the State's OGP commitments, the SAP I will adopt the use of the following tools:

### Mainstreaming Tools:

- Technology and Innovation
- Media & Communications
- Monitoring and Evaluation

The SSC will establish three specific working committees tasked with the responsibility of integrating these tools into the commitments under the thematic areas and work closely with the MDAs, Civil Society Organizations, and private sector organizations in the use and implementation of these tools. The tools remain relevant in achieving all commitments and objectives under SAP I.

## SECTION 5: CONCLUSION

While this SAP is the first for the State, however, it is evident that the commitment and strong political will and leadership of the Government, the Civil Society Organizations, Development Partners, and the Private Sector will no doubt ensure and guarantee effective, successful and result-based implementation of the Plan.

The ultimate of the ambitious commitments in the Plan is reaching out to the Citizens with better service delivery in such an inclusive, responsive, and sustainable manner in line with OGP core principles, and in accordance with Gombe State 10 Year Development Plan (DEVAGOM 2020-2030) leaving no one behind!

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