



Minister George Chaponda  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations  
Government of Malawi

January 7, 2016

Dear Minister Chaponda,

We welcome the Government of Malawi's participation in the Open Government Partnership, which now has 69 countries working to implement national commitments to promote greater transparency, accountability, and engagement of citizens in policy making.

As you are aware, the OGP Articles of Governance state that all participating countries are expected to produce a two-year action plan on a continuous biannual calendar. This rule is explained in the OGP Calendar Note which has been distributed to all OGP governments and I am including with this letter. This document states that "If a country is more than six months late [submitting an action plan] it will be moved to the following year's group and be considered to be starting a new action plan cycle (e.g. from the odd year grouping to the even year grouping)."

In accordance with this policy, this letter is to officially confirm that the Support Unit did not receive an action plan from the Government of Malawi by December 31, 2015. As we communicated in our letter of November 17th 2015, the participation of the Government of Malawi in OGP will now be reviewed by the Criteria and Standards subcommittee of the OGP Steering Committee. Any information you wish to provide the Criteria and Standards subcommittee in advance of their review can be submitted via the OGP Support Unit.

As a result, the Government of Malawi has a new deadline of June 30, 2016 to submit a two-year national action plan ending on June 30, 2016. This means Malawi is now been shifted from the "odd year" grouping of OGP countries to the "even year" grouping of OGP countries, who should submit new action plans in 2016, 2018, 2020 and so on. We have attached a revised Malawi calendar for the next four years which details the timeline for producing action plans, self-assessments and IRM progress reports. We will shortly make this letter and the new calendar public so civil society organizations in Malawi are aware of this change.

The OGP Support Unit and Steering Committee stand ready to support you in whatever way would be useful in creating the new action plan. Please do not hesitate to contact the OGP Support Unit if you require any assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Powell", is positioned above the typed name.

Joe Powell  
Acting Executive Director  
Open Government Partnership Support Unit