



Official Communication from the Open Government Partnership Support Unit

19 September 2016

Minister Hong Yun-sik
Ministry of the Interior
Republic of Korea

Dear Minister Yun-sik,

We welcome the Republic of Korea's participation in the Open Government Partnership, which now has 70 countries working on national commitments to advance transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption and utilize technology to improve governance.

As you are aware the OGP's Independent Reporting Mechanism publishes regular progress reports on each participating country. The OGP Articles of Governance state:

"Should the IRM process find that a participating government repeatedly (for two consecutive action plan cycles) acts contrary to OGP process or its Action Plan commitments (addenda B and C), and fails to adequately address issues raised by the IRM, the SC may upon recommendation of the Criteria and Standards (C/S) subcommittee review the participation of said government in OGP."

On recommendation of the Criteria and Standards subcommittee of OGP, this letter is to inform you that the 2016 IRM report found the Republic of Korea to be acting contrary to OGP process in its last National Action plan cycle.

This was due to the finding by the IRM that the National Action Plan was developed with neither online nor offline engagement with civil society which was specific to OGP commitments. While the IRM report did find that consultations were conducted on broader government programs with clear links to OGP, the report was unable to confirm that government or civil society framed those consultations as part of the OGP process in any form. There was also no documentation presented to show that those consultations informed the content of the National Action Plan. That runs counter to the expectation in the Articles of Governance that each country must: *Develop country action plans through a multi-stakeholder process, with the active engagement of citizens and civil society.*

As the 2014 IRM report also found that the National Action Plan was developed with no engagement with civil society, this is the second consecutive action plan cycle that civil society was not involved in the development of the National Action Plan (see April 2014 letter [here](#)). According to the OGP Articles of Governance, the Criteria and Standards subcommittee will now review the Republic of Korea's participation in the Open Government Partnership. The Support Unit strongly encourages the

Republic of Korea to make a concerted effort to involve citizens and civil society in the development of the new National Action Plan, following the current guidelines. The review process will be completed once the Republic of Korea submits a new National Action Plan, ideally no later than October 31, 2016.

Please see the guidelines available on [this link](#) or contact the Support Unit if you need more information. The OGP Support Unit and Steering Committee stand ready to support the Republic of Korea with all appropriate technical knowledge, peer exchange opportunities and guidance. We thank you for your continued participation in the Open Government Partnership. We look forward to shortly receiving your second National Action Plan.

Please do not hesitate to contact the OGP Support Unit if you require any assistance in the finalization of your National Action Plan.

Yours sincerely,



Sanjay Pradhan
Chief Executive Officer
Open Government Partnership