

Resolution of the OGP Steering Committee regarding the status of the Government of Azerbaijan's participation in OGP, June 28, 2017, Washington D.C., USA

The Steering Committee recognizes and appreciates recent positive steps taken by the Government of Azerbaijan, particularly regarding OGP process concerns, such as the consultation process to develop the 2016-2018 National Action Plan (NAP), the establishment of a multi-stakeholder OGP forum and the creation of a “one stop shop” for grant registration. However, the core issues of concern raised in the original letter, validated by the Criteria and Standards subcommittee, remain unresolved. While some improvements have been made, there are still substantial challenges in the overall operating environment for civil society.

As a consequence, the OGP Steering Committee resolves that the Government of Azerbaijan will continue to be designated as “inactive” for a period of 12 months, under the terms of the Policy on Upholding the Values and Principles of OGP as articulated in the Open Government Declaration.* The Steering Committee further mandates the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee to outline by September 15, 2017, an updated set of requirements to improve the unresolved issues related to the operating environment for civil society in Azerbaijan; after these requirements have been developed and shared with stakeholders, the 12-month inactivity extension period will begin. The updated set of requirements will be drafted in consultation with the Government of Azerbaijan, local civil society, and external experts. At the end of this period, the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee will produce a final assessment report.

**Under the terms of the Policy on Upholding the Values and Principles of OGP as articulated in the Open Government Declaration, the government in question would have to undergo a new Criteria and Standards subcommittee review process to ascertain that steps were taken to remedy the situation that triggered the Policy.*

- *If at any point during that year the Criteria and Standards subcommittee determines that the original concerns have been addressed by the Government of Azerbaijan, it shall recommend to the full Steering Committee that the country be placed back in active status immediately.*
- *While inactive, Azerbaijan will continue to receive Steering Committee and Support Unit assistance, including from OGP Working Groups and peer exchange visits.*
- *While inactive, the Government of Azerbaijan will not be eligible to vote in Steering Committee elections, and can only attend OGP events as observers for learning purposes.*
- *While inactive, Azerbaijan's inactivity will be noted on the OGP website and public information materials, where appropriate (e.g., in a list of participating OGP countries)*