



July 10, 2017

Abid Briki
Minister of Public Service and Governance
Government of Tunisia

Dear Minister Briki:

We welcome the continued engagement of the Government of Tunisia in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and the progress made in its second National Action Plan.

As you may be aware, [OGP's eligibility criteria](#) dictates that governments must meet a set of minimum performance criteria on four key elements of open government to be eligible to join the Partnership: fiscal transparency, access to information, public officials' asset disclosure and citizen engagement. The OGP Support Unit completed the 2017 update of the the eligibility data for all countries earlier this year.

OGP uses the International Budget Partnership's (IBP) Open Budget Survey to assess the Fiscal Transparency metric of the eligibility criteria. In order to meet this criteria, the Executive's Budget Proposal and Audit Report must be published within established deadlines. The latest updated information shows that the Government of Tunisia did not publish the Audit Report on time (within eighteen months of the end of the previous fiscal year), causing Tunisia's eligibility score to drop below the eligibility threshold. In this regard, the Articles of Governance state:

"Should a participating government fall below the minimum eligibility criteria (see Addendum A, updated each year by the OGP Support Unit), that government should take immediate and explicit steps to address issues so that it passes the threshold within one year".

In order to pass the threshold to regain eligibility, the Government of Tunisia needed to publish the 2015 Audit Report by June 30, 2017. Despite not meeting this deadline, we welcome and value the effort of the Ministry of Finance to prepare a preliminary report. More importantly, we acknowledge the efforts to leverage the OGP National Action Plan process to develop commitment eight on "Promoting Financial and Fiscal Transparency" which directly addresses this hurdle and reform the audit system to ensure the timely publication of critical finance documents.

As a result of the progress and efforts demonstrated to remedy the situation, it is the technical recommendation of the Criteria and Standards subcommittee that the Steering Committee extends the deadline by one year, providing the Government of Tunisia until June 30, 2018 to raise above the necessary threshold of eligibility and remain an active member of the Partnership. This would require timely publication of a Parliament approved 2016 Audit Report.

In the spirit of holding all member countries to the same standard, and ratifying the necessity of staying above the eligibility criteria to ensure that governments are open, responsive and accountable to all citizens, the Criteria and Standards subcommittee will recommend to the Steering Committee to automatically designate the Government of Tunisia as "inactive" should it be unsuccessful in meeting this new deadline.

We encourage the Government of Tunisia to continue progressing in a positive direction and leverage its current action plan as impetus to drive forward ambitious reforms, including those that foster greater fiscal transparency. We look forward to providing you all the necessary support, along that of the OGP Steering Committee, OGP Support Unit, OGP Working Groups and other partners to ensure the timely publication of budget documents and achievement of other reforms.

Sincerely yours,



Radu Puchi
State Secretary
Primer Minister's Chancellery
Government of Romania



Nathaniel Heller
Executive Vice President, Integrated Strategies
Results for Development

OGP Criteria and Standards Subcommittee Co-chairs