



Despacho

San Juan de Pasto, march 5, 2018

DG -07-2018

OGP Steering Committee

Dear Sirs,

As Governor of Nariño, Colombia, I hereby apply to take part in the Subnational Government program of the Open Government Partnership. I look forward, if our government's candidacy is accepted, to receive assistance and advice from the OGP to implement best practices in the field of open government.

Demographically, the region of Nariño is located in south-western Colombia. It includes sixty-four municipalities and has a population of 1.7 million. The main city of the department is Pasto and its population is of 302,310 inhabitants. Its geographic limits are, to the north, the department of Cauca, to the east, the department of Putumayo, to the south, the Republic of Ecuador, and to the west, the Pacific Ocean. Our main economic sector is the agriculture (potatoes, cocoa, corn, wheat, barley, coffee, beans, plantains, panela cane, oil palm and some other vegetables). Flour and oil are our most important agroindustry field. Not everything is good in our department, according to the UN, in 2013 Nariño was the main producer of coca leaf, due to the armed conflict, drug trafficking, the strategic drug trafficking routes, and the scarce governmental presence, we are working to change that fact improving the conditions of citizens' life.

Our government is committed to open government, having it as one of the three fundamental pillars, together with collaborative economy and social innovation, of the departmental development plan 2016-2019. Colombia joined the OGP back in 2011, Nariño is currently included in one of the sub-regional commitments of the Colombia National Action Plan 2017-2019. Our commitment is to create and implement the Nariño's Departmental Open Government Public Policy to make Open Government practices sustainable in space and time (<http://gana.nariño.gov.co/politica-publica>).

Since our government took power, in 2016, we have worked hard in the creation of a tech environment in Nariño. In april 2016 the Secretary of IT, Innovation and Open Government was created and institutionalised for the first time in the history of the department. Before of that the Nariño's government had just a systems office. We strengthened the IT infrastructure by establishing an own budget for the Secretary as well as increasing its staff size (the unit's staff grew from 5 people to 27). As part of the new staff, we created an open government multidisciplinary team, with 6 people working just to implement the open government in the region.

We are proposing a new way of governing. Our intention is to modernize the public administration by taking advantage of the possibilities of IT to stimulate new ways of participation, expecting to transform a traditional democracy into an open one.

We are also conscious of the peculiarities of our territory and we know that we cannot forget the digital divide, so we have to create and promote analog participation tools. The Open Government of Nariño has to be a space of communication between citizens and government, a mechanism to combat the loss of prestige and distrust in the government and to reinforce the participation culture in the region. It is a tool for accountability in which government management, budgets, contractual processes and so on are made visible.

We want to offer a quality data opening exercise that allows citizens to monitor and superintend the work carried out by the administration. We expect to reach the highest level of citizen participation, transparency and collaboration in the region up to now, but we also want it to become a model that is replicated throughout the country.

At the beginning of 2016 we developed a new website just for the open government pillar, <http://gana.narino.gov.co/>. Hence, the information can be found clear and organized by the three main topics of the open government: participation, transparency and collaboration, that are totally related to open government principles articulated in the Open Government Declaration.

Since that we have carried out a strong digital and analog communication strategy called “amigos de la ciudadanía”, in which the use of the developed tools is sought but it is also the creation of a culture in open government, so that citizens themselves demand the opening of information by their governments, not only in this legislative period but in a general and permanent way. The public servants play a crucial role so we are also working in sensitizing them in the importance of the open of quality public information and accountability.

We have developed several platforms and activities for a better service for the citizens of Nariño, on what we call the anti-corruption Kit of Nariño. We have different ongoing projects that make it easier for citizens and businesses to access and use the public information, all the information about them can be found in our website:

Sueldos públicos, citizens can find the property annual sworn statement of all the secretaries and office directors of the government of the department. It includes movable and immovable property, bank accounts, credits, debts, information about them participation in commercial companies, and them salary.

Busco Hechos is a search engine that allows citizens to consult the monthly updated management reports of all the dependencies of the government of Nariño.

GANAControl offers updated information about the budget and public procurement of the government of Nariño. The information shown is easy to understand and it is displayed on a visually attractive way.

Informe semanal is a weekly video report made by myself. It summarizes the government management of that week. It broadcasts on the local TV channels, radio stations of the municipalities and departmental government social networks, including a youtube channel. The number of reports corresponds to the weeks that have passed since we took power.

GANAPIenso, our citizen participation platform, it allows people to upload projects, proposals and topics that are discussed and approved by the votes and comments of the citizens.

GANADatos is an open data portal. It contains data that has been generated by all government dependencies. It is setted for public use, research, development of applications and services, and also to strengthen citizen oversight to ensure accountable service delivery. In september 2016, we signed the Open Data Charter, committing ourselves to respect and honour its principles.

Lo estamos haciendo, this georeferencing platform allows people to consult the ongoing projects of the dependencies of the Nariño's Government.

GANA Municipal is a participatory budgets project. People of the municipalities decide how they want to invest stated funds by voting to them favourite invest projects. The resources for it come from the General System of Royalties of the departmental government

Furthermore, we are involved in the development and use of new tools, as the GANA APP that is about to be launched; the Open Government Canvas, LIGA, a mechanism inspired by the Business Model Canvas and the feeling methodology (<http://lohiceconfeeling.com/>) that can be replicated anywhere. It seeks the necessary elements for planning and acting when working on the construction of an Open Government policy; initiatives to bring the open government and data closer to the citizens as workshops, hackathons, the portable "amigos de la ciudadanía" module in which we inform citizens about our progress in open government and recollect analog information, the book NariñoVis or the Newspaper Le tengo el dato based on open data and built, just like everything we do, with a design thinking approach.

These actions contribute to the creation of a transparency and open government culture inside our departmental government, but from the beginning to now, we have known that we cannot do this alone. That is why we have sought, not just local and national but also international, allies such as local universities (Universidad Mariana, ESAP and Universidad de Nariño), the attention centre to people with disabilities CORDINAR (it includes several associations formed by people with different kind of disabilities), FablabPASTO, the Ipiales Mayor's Office, the La Unión Mayor's Office, the Pasto Football team, the Meta Departmental Government, the Secretary of State for Transparency, the National Ministry of ICT, the National Federation of

Departments (FND), the Political Innovation Network in Latin America (Red de Innovación Política en América Latina), Medialab Prado, UN Women, AECID, OECD, AGA (OGP's colombian division), the prefecture of Carchi (Ecuador) and so on. At this moment we are looking for alliances with the community action boards (Juntas de acción comunal) and with some other citizen's groups as women's associations.

Taking part in the OGP'S project will help us to reinforce the work we do with these organizations and facilitate their contribution to the construction of a citizen-first government and to gain the knowledge we need to make a strong open government culture in Nariño.

I appreciate your attention and hope that you will find our application engaging and that our government will be given the opportunity to take part in this project. I look forward to receive a positive response.

Best regards,


Camilo Romero Galeano

Governor of Nariño.

Departmental government of Nariño.