

13 December 2017

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Minister of State for the Digital Sector attached to  
the Prime Minister  
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Minister of Justice  
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**Manish Bapna**

Executive Vice President and Managing Director  
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**Mukelani Dimba**

Head of Development  
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Dear Open Government Partnership co-chairs,

The Portuguese Government hereby expresses its intention to join the Open Government Partnership, recognizing the importance of this international multilateral initiative in supporting the actions of Governments and civil society to promote transparency, the strengthening of democratic mechanisms and citizenship, and the use of Information and Communication Technologies to enhance the relationship between the State and the citizen.

Portugal's commitment to the principles embodied in the Open Government Declaration, which we support and endorse, are materialized by a range of initiatives such as the promotion of open software and standards in the public sector, the diversity of public consultations and participatory budgeting processes – the Portugal Participatory Budget, presented in 2016, was the first nationwide participatory budget in the world –, the focus on the co-creation of public services through projects such as the SIMPLEX+ Program and the Public Administration Experimentation Laboratory (LabX), as well as the National Open Data Portal.

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This commitment is furthermore based on a series of legal diplomas that consecrate both digital and assisted digital channels as means for the State to interact with citizens, fostering mechanisms of transparency, interaction and accountability between all parties.

A recent example is the ICT2020 Strategy – Strategy for the Digital Transformation in Public Administration, published in July 2017 by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers nº 108/2017, which includes several measures to promote the transparency of the public sector, to foster citizen participation and to guarantee the inclusion of different segments of the population.

Portuguese commitment in the Open Government domain is also recognized at international level, as demonstrated by Portugal's maximum scores in the eligibility criteria for joining the Open Government Partnership.

In this context, we are certain that our participation in the Partnership will be an unequivocal sign of Portugal's commitment to the principles of Open Government, while allowing us to add value to the community that constitutes the Open Government Partnership.

Therefore, it is with great enthusiasm that we look forward to our future membership and to the consequent preparation of a National Open Government Action Plan to be developed on the basis of a broad consultation and participation of the civil society, designating for that purpose Mr. Pedro Silva Dias, CEO of the Administrative Modernization Agency as the Portuguese focal point.

Best regards,



Maria Manuel Leitão Marques

Minister of the Presidency and Administrative Modernisation