



PRESIDÊNCIA DA REPÚBLICA
Controladoria-Geral da União

SAS Quadra 1, Bloco “A”, Ed. Darcy Ribeiro – 70070-905– Brasília, DF, Tel: (61) 2020-7241

Dr. IR. Kuntoro Mangkusubroto
Government of Indonesia
Alejandra Lagunes
Government of Mexico
Rakesh Rajani
Twaweza
Suneeta Kaimal
Revenue Watch Institute
Chairs
Steering Committee
Open Government Partnership - OGP

Brasília, June 13th 2014.

Dear Chairs of the OGP Steering Committee,

It is my deep pleasure to formalize Brazil’s intention to run for reelection to the Steering Committee in 2014.

As one of the founding members of the Open Government Partnership, Brazil has been part of every major policy discussion in the Steering Committee of the initiative and has presented its experience in related subject areas, such as access to information, social participation and increased transparency, as well as defended the values and principles upon which the partnership was founded.

As one of the first co-chairs of OGP, Brazil hosted the first peer engagement meeting, gathering in Brasilia in December 2011 representatives from of all of the 46 countries that later joined the initiative in April 2012 at the 1st High-Level Conference of OGP, also hosted by Brazil.

Brazil has been a very active member of the OGP Steering Committee, having attended every meeting of the Steering Committee and appropriate subcommittees and *ad hoc* groups, presenting proposals for discussion, fostering dialogue and understanding among Steering Committee members, bringing different perspectives into the debates and to policies, and chairing the Steering Committee in the biennium of 2011-2012 and the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee since September 2012.

Since the earliest stages of preparations for the launch of OGP, the high-level political engagement of our President has been a defining characteristic of the Brazilian participation in OGP. President Dilma Rousseff authorized our participation in the preparatory works in January 2011 for the creation of the partnership, attended the launch event in New York in September that same year, and was a proud host of the April 2012 1st High-Level Conference of OGP in Brasilia. She has also addressed the





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partnership and the principles of open government and raised its profile in different events, such as by addressing OGP in her lecture at Harvard University in April 2011 and the issues of access to information, social participation and anticorruption in her speech at the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly in 2013.

Brazil’s engagement in OGP, and the high-level political support the initiative was granted, was a key element in the passing of the country’s Law on Access to Information. The Law was in Congress for debates for two year, when it was approved in October 2011. The feat, not only a milestone in the consolidation of democracy in Brazil, was likewise responsible for the improvement in our OGP eligibility score, allowing us to achieve a maximum score in all four criteria.

Our national action plans have been consistently improving and allowing for greater participation, both of civil society and citizens and of government agencies. In the second national action plan, currently under implementation, we have adopted 52 commitments, spread across every grand challenge area of OGP and addressing the most various issues, from environment to education, to public services to corporate social responsibility. We have grown from 10 civil society organizations to more than 80 organizations and social movements involved in the consultation process.

Our first national action plan has an implementation rate of 94%, and those commitments that are yet to be delivered are incorporated to the 2nd action plan, so they will continue to feature in our obligations under OGP. Our commitments now involve eighteen ministries, as opposed to only five government agencies which was the scenario in the first action plan. Moreover, President Dilma Rousseff has institutionalized open government with the establishment of an Interministerial Committee on Open Government, a permanent forum to address the issue and adopt the national action plans, and, in a more recent Decree of May 2014, public consultation and social participation were crystalized as the method for policy-making in the Executive Branch.

With regards to international collaboration, we have shared our expertise in different areas with countries like El Salvador, Tanzania and Peru, as well as assisted countries like Argentina and Tunisia, now OGP participating countries, with their efforts to join the partnership. Likewise, we have learned so much with fellow OGP countries, such as the Philippines, in budget participation, and Canada, in access to information.

All of these technical cooperation efforts have been conducted with the long-standing and steady institutional support of our Ministry of Foreign Affairs, our major ally since the very inception of the initiative, as demonstrated with the participation of its Minister





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in different OGP events and the engagement of our diplomacy and embassies around the globe in OGP outreach activities.

Brazil has been an ambassador for OGP in various international forums, like the Conference of States Parties of the UN Convention against Corruption, the UN Human Rights Council and the G20, raising the profile of the initiative and encouraging different stakeholders to be involved with and to join OGP, as appropriate.

In terms of human and financial resources, our Office has dedicated staff to OGP, officials who have been following up the initiative since its inception and that possess a deep understanding of its structures and dynamics. We have contributed financially to OGP, with in-kind contributions during our chairmanship, while hosting high-level events and dedicating staff to assist the OGP Support Unit, and financial contributions, including a biannual disbursement.

Our engagement in the Open Government Partnership has been a key factor in many reforms and advances we have made on the subject in the past three years, and we consider the experience we have accumulated in this period in the Steering Committee of OGP an important asset to the Partnership and to its consolidation.

Therefore, it would be an honor for us to continue to serve in the Steering Committee of the Open Government Partnership and to continue to help the initiative grow into a truly game-changing platform for social innovation.

In the case of Brazil’s reelection, the country will continue to be represented in the Steering Committee of OGP by myself, with the support of our Office’s Chief International Affairs Advisor, Ms. Roberta Solis Ribeiro, as well as of its Directorate for Transparency and Social Participation, led by Mrs. Claudia Taya.

Yours sincerely,

Jorge Hage Sobrinho

Minister of State, Head of the Office of the Comptroller General of Brazil

