



To: OGP Participating Governments
From: Linda Frey, Executive Director, OGP Support Unit
Date: May 27, 2014
Re: Financial Contributions to the Open Government Partnership

I am writing on behalf of the Open Government Partnership Steering Committee to advise you of a new policy to request annual financial contributions from all OGP participating countries, beginning in 2015. The Steering Committee adopted this policy at its May 5, 2014 meeting in Bali (see minutes [here](#)). In this memo, I will explain the rationale for this new policy and provide details on how it will work.

Rationale

The OGP Steering Committee has carefully considered the pros and cons of adopting a new financial model. There are two primary reasons it is now asking all participating countries to contribute financially to OGP.

First, there is increasing demand from OGP's rapidly growing membership for the services that the Support Unit provides, including: guidance on the OGP process, technical support on action plan implementation, opportunities for peer exchange, global recognition for successes, and Independent Reporting Mechanism progress reports. To improve our ability to consistently provide high-quality services to all countries, OGP has developed a new four-year strategy for 2015-2018 (see attached Executive Summary). In consultations over the past year, a number of countries indicated that they would be willing to make a modest, annual financial contribution to OGP in return for the increased value OGP is providing to their domestic reform efforts.

Second, OGP consistently strives to create a level playing field between all participants. One of OGP's founding principles is that all countries have something to share, as well as something to learn. In keeping with this principle, OGP is working to establish a diversified funding model that encourages collective ownership by all countries. OGP's current leadership group is also committed to delinking ability to pay from ability to serve on the Steering Committee. To ensure a diverse and inclusive leadership group, all OGP participating countries – whether or not they are on the Steering Committee – will henceforth be asked to contribute the same amounts to OGP as other countries of the same income level. Of course, any country is also welcome to exceed these minimum contributions, as explained below.

Level of Contributions

The OGP Steering Committee agreed a country's income level should determine the level of the required contribution. This is based on the World Bank's income classification ([full list here](#)). The Steering Committee will request the following annual contributions from



participating governments:

Income Tier	Minimum Contribution	Recommended Contribution
Tier 1 – Low Income	\$10,000	\$25,000
Tier 2 – Lower middle income	\$25,000	\$50,000
Tier 3 – Upper middle income	\$50,000	\$100,000
Tier 4 – High income	\$100,000	\$200,000

To encourage all countries to contribute, the OGP Steering Committee adopted the following resolution on May 5, 2014:

The Steering Committee resolves that governments that for two successive years have not made financial contributions to OGP at or above the minimum amount for their income tier will not be eligible to run for a seat on the OGP Steering Committee or participate in any formal vote of OGP members. The only exception to this rule would be if the Support Unit, in consultation with the Governance and Leadership subcommittee, determines that there are legitimate reasons for a government's failure to contribute that the government is making a concerted effort to overcome. While all participating governments are expected and encouraged to contribute, failure to make a financial contribution will not result in the suspension of a government's membership in OGP or any of its committees, nor will it affect said government's ability to participate in OGP events.

Timeline and Next Steps

We are communicating this decision now to give your government ample time to plan and budget to make your first contribution in 2015. We are also clarifying the process before the June 15th deadline for applications from to stand for Steering Committee election. In the future there will be no difference between the financial contributions required from government members of the Steering Committee and all other participating governments.

The Support Unit and individual Steering Committee members stand ready to help you make the case internally in whatever way would be most helpful. We are also prepared to help you work through any bureaucratic obstacles you may face, and current Steering Committee members have helpful experience in this regard. One suggestion is to consider requesting a multi-year commitment, or even paying several years upfront if that is an option. Please contact your Support Unit point of contact if you have specific questions on next steps.

In conclusion, we very much welcome your input at any point on how OGP can do more to support the critical work you are doing to advance open government in your own country. We thank you in advance for your continued support, engagement and commitment to the Open Government Partnership.