



February 9, 2016

The Hon. Rimbink Pato, LLB OBE MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs & Immigration
P.O.Box 422, WAIGANI, NCD
Papua New Guinea

Dear Minister Pato,

We welcome Papua New Guinea's participation in the Open Government Partnership, which now has 69 countries working to implement national commitments to promote greater transparency, accountability, and engagement of citizens in policy making.

As you are aware, the OGP Articles of Governance state that countries are expected to demonstrate commitment to open government in four key areas in order to participate in OGP (fiscal transparency, access to information, disclosures related to public officials and citizen engagement). The Support Unit works with objective, third-party indicators to award points to countries for progress in each of these areas. Countries must earn 75% of possible points to become eligible to join OGP, and must remain above 75% to continue participating in OGP.

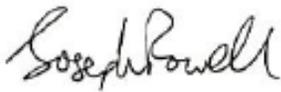
In the 2015 annual review of eligibility, the Support Unit observed that Papua New Guinea has fallen below the 75% minimum threshold to maintain eligibility. Data from the [2015 Open Budget Survey](#), indicates that your government has not published the Audit Report in at least the last year. The Audit Report is one of two critical budget documents (the other is the Executive's Budget Proposal) that determine how many points countries earn in the fiscal transparency category. Papua New Guinea's score fell from 13/16 points to 11/16 points in the 2015 review of eligibility (countries must score 12/16 or above).

The Articles of Governance note that "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." Papua New Guinea has one year (until December 31, 2016) to take steps to raise your eligibility score. If Papua New Guinea still is below the eligibility threshold of 12/16 then Papua New Guinea will be referred to the Criteria and Standards subcommittee to review Papua New Guinea's participation in OGP.

The Support Unit advises your government take immediate steps to publish an Audit Report from the previous 18 months, and to notify the Support Unit when the document has been made public. Papua New Guinea can also improve the eligibility score in the areas of disclosures related to public officials and access to information. As Papua New Guinea is developing a new action plan in 2016, we suggest you consider a commitment on publishing Audit Reports annually moving forward.

The OGP Support Unit and Steering Committee stand ready to support you in whatever way would be useful in creating the new action plan. Please do not hesitate to contact the OGP Support Unit if you require any assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Powell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'J' and 'P'.

Joe Powell
Acting Executive Director
Open Government Partnership Support Unit