March 21, 2016



Dear Minister Mitchell,

We welcome the Government of Trinidad and Tobago'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.

Open Government Partnership

As you are aware, the OGP Articles of Governance state that all participating countries are expected to: publish an interim self-assessment report approximately three months after the end of the first year of action plan implementation. All OGP participating governments are expected to develop Self-Assessment Reports that assess the government's performance in meeting its OGP commitments as outlined in its National Action Plan. Furthermore, Articles of Governance outline that a country will be considered to have acted contrary to OGP Process if "the Self-Assessment Report is not submitted within 4 months of the due date."

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago did not submit its Self-Assessment Report as of January 31, 2016, four months after the deadline of September 30, 2015 and therefore, is considered to have acted contrary to OGP process in this action plan cycle.

In order to avoid the possibility of a future review by the Criteria and Standards subcommittee, we recommend that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago make every effort to meet its upcoming OGP deadlines. Please review your country's <u>individualized calendar</u> along with the OGP Calendar Guidance section in the <u>Government Point of Contact Manual</u> for full information on requirements and timelines. As you will see, the next important deadline for Trinidad and Tobago is the publication of a new National Action Plan, which is due by June 30, 2016.

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,

Joseph Powell

Acting Executive Director

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OGP Support Unit