

28 June, 2018

The Honorable Rimbink Pato
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration
Government of Papua New Guinea

Dear Minister Pato,

We welcome Papua New Guinea's participation in the Open Government Partnership, which now comprises 76 countries, 20 local participants, and thousands of civil society organizations working to implement open government commitments to promote greater transparency, accountability, and engagement of citizens in policy making.

As you may be aware, OGP's eligibility criteria dictates that governments must meet a certain threshold on fiscal transparency, access to information, public officials' asset disclosure and citizen engagement in order to join and remain in the Partnership. The OGP Support Unit completed the 2018 update of the the eligibility data for all countries earlier this year.

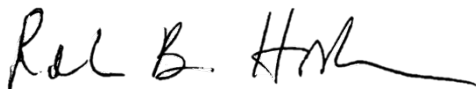
OGP uses the International Budget Partnership's (IBP) Open Budget Survey to assess the Fiscal Transparency metric of the eligibility criteria. The latest updated information shows that the Government of Papua New Guinea did not publish the 2016 Audit Report on time (within eighteen months of the end of the reporting year), causing Papua New Guinea's eligibility score to drop below the eligibility threshold. In this regard, the Articles of Governance state:

"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".

This means that Papua New Guinea must take the necessary steps to raise above the minimum eligibility criteria by 30 June 2019. As the government of Papua New Guinea prepares its OGP Action Plan to be delivered by 30 August 2018, we encourage the government to leverage this process to drive forward ambitious reforms, including those that relate to the eligibility criteria, that would enable the government to address the current situation.

The OGP Steering Committee and Support Unit stand ready to provide you with any assistance necessary to remedy the current situation.

Sincerely yours,
Criteria and Standards Subcommittee Co-chairs



Robin Hodess
Director of Governance & Transparency
The B Team



Stefano Pizzicannella
Department for Public Administration
Government of Italy