



February 20, 2018

The Honorable Maite Nkoana-Mashabane  
Minister of International Relations and Cooperation  
Government of South Africa

Dear Minister Nkoana-Mashabane,

We welcome the Government of South Africa's participation in the Open Government Partnership, which now has 75 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 all participating countries are expected to: "*publish a midterm self-assessment report at most 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. In addition, it states that: "*An end of term self-assessment report will be required after two years of action plan implementation*".

The Government of South Africa did not submit its Self-Assessment Report as of January 31, 2018, four months after the deadline of September 30, 2017. Please note that according to the [June 2017 Steering Committee decision](#), this is *no longer* considered having acted contrary to OGP process. However, the the Support Unit strongly encourages all governments to submit Self-Assessment Reports on time.

Self-Assessment reports are a key element of the Independent Report Mechanism, OGP's accountability arm and the main means of tracking progress in participating countries. The national IRM researchers use the government Self-Assessment Reports as a key part of their desk research. Other OGP stakeholders use the Self-Assessment reports to gain an understanding of the government's perspective on the OGP process and results achieved over the course of the year. For more guidance on developing Self-Assessment Reports, please consult the [OGP Point of Contact Manual](#).

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sanjay Pradhan".

Sanjay Pradhan  
Chief Executive Officer  
Open Government Partnership