

To: Open Government Partnership Criteria and Standard Subcommittee

Dear members of OGP Criteria and Standard Subcommittee

Please note below developments which planned to be initiated and carried out concerning submitted proposals.

1. Timeline for the next National Action Plan

Considering the fact that the current Action Plan ends at the end of December and drafting of a new plan takes time with consultations, expertise and etc. it's planned to initiate the drafting of New Action Plan in mid-October for 18 month period with the purpose of putting Azerbaijan implementation cycle in line with other OGP countries. Action Plan could be adopted either end of December or beginning of January.

2. Consultation with civil society

Consultation process for the drafting of New Action Plan will be open, participatory and with broad engagement of civil society as it was practiced before. Anti-Corruption Commission may initiate the establishment of OGP Coalition of NGO's and carry out all these processes in close cooperation with civil society institutions in case if by that time there won't be any other effective framework/platform to carry out this process. As soon as the process is launched civil society institutions will be invited to submit their proposals. There is no limit or circle of organizations we intend to consult. It will be open to everyone and any organization including our international partners who also can contribute and be part of a process.

3. Peer exchange and technical support

We also intend and rely on resources and assistance of OGP network, OGP support unit and all international stakeholders that have specific expertise, experience and success in this field and ready to consider all constructive proposals.

4. Commitments to improve the operating environment for civil society

We believe Action Plan developed under such framework will reflect needs of all stakeholders, recommendations by IRM and OGP and will be another indication of political will in strengthening civic participation in Azerbaijan. Open process and strong intention to implement OGP principles will create effective platform for discussions and result in agreed commitments. Concerning raised concerns on operating environment for civil society, as we noted in one of previous correspondence the aim of introduced reforms in NGO legislation was to bring more clarity and transparency into the activities of NGO's especially grant related issues. Ministry of Justice will be involved into the process as their representative is the member of Anti-Corruption Commission's working group on improvement of legislation. Apart from that its representatives will be invited to public hearings and discussions of new Action Plan. At this point we can't say which commitments or measures will be reflected in new Action Plan as this need to be discussed and agreed with all stakeholders. Officials from respective government bodies have their views on the situation and consider it in line with international practice. We aim to develop commitments and reach the situation in which there is no room for concerns. Therefore we'll consult and take into consideration constructive proposals of all stakeholders including issues concerning NGO registration and grants.

5. Working with the OGP Steering Committee

We are keen on to meet with members of the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee and discuss the specific issues on commitments during OGP summit in Mexico. We highly appreciate

the support offered by Support Unit and Criteria and Standards Subcommittee members and are looking forward to work together for better results.

Best Regards,

V.Huseynov

Vusal Huseynov

National Point of Contact

Executive Secretary

Anti-Corruption Commission

Azerbaijan Republic