



## **Memorandum of Understanding between International IDEA and the Open Government Partnership**

This is an engagement agreement outlining parameters for collaboration between International IDEA and the Open Government Partnership. This is version 1.0. It was agreed on by the two partners on July 18, 2018. It is not intended to be a binding agreement, just an understanding between organizations to collaborate to maximize our impacts and add the most sustained value to the field of transparency and accountability.

### **1. About International IDEA**

The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) is an intergovernmental organization with a mandate to advance democracy worldwide.

#### **Mission**

Our mission is to support sustainable democratic change by providing comparative knowledge, assisting in democratic reform, and influencing policies and politics.

#### **Approach**

We believe that democracy is a universal human aspiration and an experience that is pursued and lived in different ways around the world. It comes in multiple forms. These forms are in constant evolution. There is no single and universally applicable model of democracy. There is no end point in improving democracy. Fundamentally, democracy is a system in which the government is controlled by the people and citizens are considered equals in the exercise of that control. Beyond the basic tenets of citizens' choice and citizens' political equality, the critical choices are best made and the quality of democracy is best gauged by those directly concerned: the citizens themselves. We systematically nurture an open and pluralistic understanding of democracy. This is respectful of the



national context, and is in line with our non-prescriptive and non-intrusive approach, as well as with the priorities set by national actors.

### **Comparative knowledge on democracy**

We capture diverse experiences of democracy from the around globe. We assess their potential relevance across countries and regions to incorporate them into our expanding body of comparative knowledge on democracy. In the development of comparative knowledge, we explore the challenges to democratization posed by undemocratic practices. We support and conduct research in areas that are highly relevant for policymaking or reform processes.

We seek to provide decision makers with accurate information on existing options and their likely implications. We make comparative experiences available to actors across the political and institutional spectrum. This facilitates inclusive processes in which political will for change can emerge. This enables us to help actors to address challenges presented by trends that may adversely impact on and threaten democracy. Through this we are also able to better understand and capture how economic dynamics and technological change affect democracy.

Our efforts to support democratic change build on our convening potential. We facilitate dialogue at the country, expert and international levels.

- At the country level, we engage at the request of governments, parliaments or constitutional/electoral bodies. As a convener and facilitator of dialogue at the country-level, we make knowledge-based policy options available to actors in national reform processes.
- At the expert level, we convene dialogues in order to improve the design and implementation of politics in support of democracy. This enables us to test and pilot the instruments and tools of such new policies.
- At the international level, we engage in multilateral forums and initiatives to build global understanding and synergies on key democracy issues. This enhances the focus on democracy building within the broader international agenda, particularly peace building and state building.

## **2. About OGP**

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) has a simple but powerful goal: that governments should truly serve and empower their citizens. OGP's vision is that more governments become more transparent, more accountable, and more responsive to their



own citizens, with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of governance, as well as the quality of services that citizens receive. OGP brings together reformers from government, civil society and other sectors to create a coalition to advance this shared vision.

Set up in 2011 by 8 governments and 9 civil society leaders, the Partnership now connects over 75 national and 20 local governments and thousands of civil society organizations, business leaders, and other stakeholders. Together, they have made over 3,000 commitments across policy areas - ranging from access to information, anti-corruption, climate change, among several others.

A recent refresh of OGP's strategy seeks to sharpen focus on the following key areas to support reformers' efforts in OGP countries to build a national and global movement for open government, and ultimately demand reforms on issues they prioritize:

1. Enhance country support to national and local participants in OGP to co-create and implement ambitious open government reforms
2. Strengthen OGP's global geopolitical positioning as a positive force against the rise of closed government, including restrictions on civic space, corruption and distrust in government
3. Promote stronger thematic leadership on critical open government reforms
4. Enhance knowledge, learning, innovation and capacity building across the Partnership

Anti-corruption remains a priority theme for OGP in line with the goals set out in the strategic refresh. And under anti-corruption, fighting abuse by anonymous companies is a key point of focus. Working alongside key partners like International IDEA, OGP seeks to provide implementation support to countries develop and implement ambitious commitments tackling issues related to political finance, money in politics and civic space.

### **3. Areas of collaboration**

International IDEA and OGP will work together as strategic partners in order to achieve the shared vision of more transparent governments and institutions in an effort to fight corruption and promote sustainable development. International IDEA's work will complement OGP's mission of making governments more open and accessible to citizens. In partnership we will seek to foster multi-stakeholder collaboration between governments, civil society and the private sector in order to achieve our similar missions. The key thematic areas that will anchor the collaboration will include political finance, money in politics, citizen engagement and gender.

After discussion between senior staff from both organizations we have agreed on the following illustrative collaborative activities:



### **3.1. Coordinating Engagement and Advocacy efforts at the Global Level**

*Priority: High*

*Investment: Medium*

*Timeframe: Long*

International IDEA and OGP intend to work together to build relationships with key decision makers at the international policy level in order to advocate for key issues of mutual concern such as transparent political finance (including the introduction of systems for digital reporting and disclosure of political finance information), reducing political corruption and protecting civic space and freedoms. The objective is to keep these issues high on the international agenda, and to see the development of norms and implementation of country-level policy commitments that advance each area. This will include collaboration around making stronger connections between complementary discussions of relevant issues at OGP summits and regional meetings, and other international fora. This work will include building and demonstrating private sector support for open government reforms through the international fora they already engage in.

### **3.2. Joint collaboration at the Country Level**

*Priority: High*

*Investment: High*

*Time frame: Long*

OGP participating countries produce National Action Plans at regular intervals, many of which will include a focus on political finance, money in politics, citizen engagement and gender. International IDEA and OGP will look for opportunities at the country level to advance this further through support for the development of ambitious open government reforms and assistance for their credible implementation. This can include liaising, sharing information and contact networks in country, developing research and conducting technical support to these processes. In doing this, International IDEA and OGP intend to leverage on each other's country and regional presence, seeking opportunities for joint in-country activities and network sharing.

### **3.3. Joint conceptualization of open government approach to political finance**

*Priority: Medium*

*Investment: Medium*

*Time frame: Medium*





International IDEA and OGP intend to collaborate on the development of the approach within OGP for managing the Open Government approach to political finance. This initiative will build suitably on both organizations respective expertise within these fields. Following the development of enhanced internal procedures on this topic, the two organizations will look for and develop opportunities to build external publications based on this stream of work, including a policy brief on the matter.

### **3.4. Communications**

*Priority: Medium*

*Investment: Medium*

*Time frame: Long*

International IDEA and OGP intend to work to align communication priorities where appropriate to maximize communications reach and impact, as well as to share information to their respective networks and contacts in their working countries and regions. Illustratively, this may include joint publications from International IDEA and OGP and the cross posting of material. International IDEA and OGP will coordinate on reviews, approvals of text and branding of joint press releases, public statements as well as the posting and dissemination of information including events and invitations. The goal of this work will be to support in-country development of policy frameworks that are transparent and accountable and increasing the reach of both organizations in their similar missions.

### **4. Implementing arrangements and financial obligations**

International IDEA and OGP will implement activities hereto or hereupon agreed through separate, specific arrangements in accordance with this MoU and with the budgetary and regulatory requirements of each organization. Each such arrangement will specify the actions to be taken and the resources, financial and of any other nature to be contributed by each party, when appropriate.

This MoU shall not impose any financial obligations on either party. No clause herein shall be understood as a commitment of any kind from either party to contribute funds for implementing any activities in pursuance of this MoU. Financial obligations incurred by the parties as a result of joint activities resulting from this MoU shall be subject to authorizations from their respective bodies, availability of funds, and the corresponding financial and budgetary regulations.

The Parties may engage in separate or joint resource mobilization efforts to support implementation of any joint activities developed in pursuance of this MoU.



## **5. Intellectual property**

Unless otherwise agreed in writing or specified under a separate Letter of Agreement or Cooperation Agreement, the intellectual property right (hereinafter "copyright") to all new materials developed jointly under this MoU, including electronic or computer-stored contents of the same, shall follow the following provisions:

- 5.1. The products will be owned jointly by the parties. Both Parties will be known as the Joint Copyright Owners.
- 5.2. International IDEA will be responsible for the production (including copy-editing, layout, proofreading, printing and dissemination) of the products, following International IDEA's editorial standards. Both institutions will jointly approve the first proof (i.e. the content draft) of the products, as well as the final proof (i.e the final layout) of the products prior to any publication.
- 5.3. The approval as noted above shall be provided as soon as possible and in no event later than 30 days from the date of initial request for approval. If no communication is received within such period, approval will be deemed. Any costs incurred as a consequence of changes required to material previously approved shall be borne by the party(ies) giving approval and requiring such change.
- 5.4. The visual identity of the products (design of cover and text) will follow that of International IDEA and OGP's co-branding guidelines.
- 5.5. The names and logos of both institutions will appear on the front cover and title pages, if applicable.
- 5.6. If applicable, the products will have an ISBN, issued by International IDEA upon approval of final PDFs.
- 5.7. There is no commitment to print the products.
- 5.8. Both institutions are permitted to distribute the Work in electronic format only under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribute-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported licence. Commercial distribution is not permitted.

## **6. Use of names and emblems**

Neither party will use the name, emblem or registered trademarks of the other party, or of its subsidiaries, or any abbreviation of such names, emblems or registered trademarks, in connection with its activities or in any other way, without the other party's express prior written approval for each particular case.

Both parties state that they are familiar with the other party's ideals and objectives and understand that the other party's name and emblem cannot be associated with any political or sectarian cause or in any other way that is not consistent with the nature, reputation and neutrality of the organizations.



The parties agree to acknowledge the cooperation stipulated in Section 3, when appropriate. To that end, the parties will consult one another regarding the means and form of such acknowledgement.

Unless otherwise specified in the agreements resulting from this MoU, the logos and names of both parties shall be displayed in equal size and standing on the front cover of all material developed jointly and published jointly under this MoU.

## **7. Privileges and immunities**

The Parties may, without prejudice to this MoU, pursue collaborative work with other global, regional and national institutions in support of their broad work programmes and priorities. Nothing in this MoU and/or in the specific agreements concluded thereunder shall be deemed to be a waiver, expressed or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of the Parties.

## **8. Coordination and notification**

International IDEA's Political Participation and Representation Programme and the OGP Support Unit shall be the bodies entrusted by each institution with coordinating this MoU, and shall receive all correspondence concerning matters envisaged in this MoU. All notices and communications shall be addressed to them through the addresses and emails indicated below or at any other address that subsequently has been duly indicated:

For International IDEA

Name: Rumbidzai Kandawasvika-Nhundu

Position: Senior Programme Manager

Unit: Political Participation and Representation, Global Programme

Phone: +46 (0) 86983700

Email: R.Kandawasvika-Nhundu@idea.int

For OGP

Name: Tonu Basu / Paul Maassen

Position: Manager, Thematic Priorities / Chief, Country Support

Unit: Country Support

Phone: +447424746002 / +32492976043

Email: [tonu.basu@opengovpartnership.org](mailto:tonu.basu@opengovpartnership.org) / [paul.maassen@opengovpartnership.org](mailto:paul.maassen@opengovpartnership.org)





## APPENDIX

### 2018-2019 OPERATIONALIZATION PLAN

In support of 3.1 Coordinating Engagement and Advocacy efforts at the Global Level

- OGP and International IDEA will collaborate to advance norms and standards on shared priorities, including political finance, money in politics, and gender. The priority events for 2018-2019 could include, but not be limited to:
  - Representation in the age of populism? Ideas for Global Action (Brussels June 2018)
  - OGP Global Summit (Tbilisi, July 2018)
  - Partner event - International Anti-Corruption Conference (Copenhagen, October 2018)

In support of 3.2 Joint Implementation on a Country Level

- Countries of common interest where IDEA and OGP will work together to support ambitious commitments on shared priority areas include, but will not be limited to:
  - **Chile:** Developing its fourth OGP action plan, Chile is making some good progress on key anti-corruption areas. International IDEA and OGP will work with partners to identify areas of electoral and political finance reform.
  - **Honduras:** International IDEA will work with OGP to support exploration of commitments on electoral reforms.
  - **Kyrgyz Republic:** A new OGP country, Kyrgyz Republic is developing its first OGP Action Plan. OGP will work with International IDEA to include new actors in the OGP process to work on relevant commitments.
  - **Moldova:** OGP will work with International IDEA to include new actors in the OGP process to work on relevant commitments.
  - **Mongolia:** International IDEA and OGP will explore linkages between International IDEA's current project there and entry points for commitments into OGP action plans. Mongolia will be developing its third OGP action plan.





- **Paraguay:** Paraguay is developing its fourth OGP action plan. International IDEA and OGP will explore engagement on areas of political finaas political participation of women and youth.
- **Sri Lanka:** Developing its second OGP action plan in 2018. IDEA and OGP will explore entrypoints related to political finance and gender reform.

The OGP and International IDEA regional teams could explore strategic collaboration on activities in any of the key thematic areas, as defined in section 3, at the country or regional level.

### **In support of 3.3 Joint conceptualization of open government approach to political finance**

OGP and International IDEA will jointly work on knowledge resources to build capacity of countries to make commitments in areas related to money in politics and citizen engagement. Drawing from existing expertise, International IDEA and OGP will jointly prepare thematic briefs on the topics.



## 9. Settlement of disputes

Any dispute, controversy or claim that may arise over the interpretation or implementation of this MoU shall be settled by direct negotiation and mutual consent between the parties. Should this not provide a satisfactory solution to both parties, the parties shall submit the dispute to an arbitration procedure agreed upon by them.

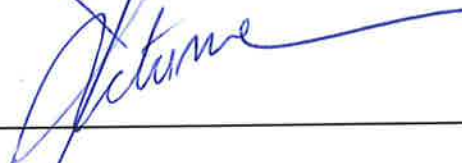
In WITNESS WHEREOF the duly authorized representatives of the Parties have signed this MoU in two equally valid originals in Tbilisi, Georgia on July 18, 2018.

**OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP**



**Sanjay Pradhan**  
Chief Executive Officer

**INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR  
DEMOCRACY AND ELECTORAL  
ASSISTANCE**



**Yves Leterme**  
Secretary General

