

10 February 2020

Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh
Advisor to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue
Ministry of Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs
Government of Pakistan

Dear Dr. Shaikh,

We welcome the Government of Pakistan's participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP), which now comprises 78 countries working to implement open government commitments to promote greater transparency, accountability and citizen engagement in policy making.

As you are aware, the Government of Pakistan joined OGP in December 2016 at the OGP Global Summit in Paris, hosted by the Government of France. The OGP Articles of Governance state that all participating governments are expected to co-create an action plan outlining a concrete set of open government reforms, in line with OGP Participation and Co-Creation standards.

OGP rules and procedures state that if governments are more than four months late in submitting their action plan, they will be considered to have acted contrary to the OGP process for that action plan cycle. For governments that act contrary to process for two consecutive cycles, the Criteria & Standards (C&S) Subcommittee of the Steering Committee (OGP's governance body) will place them under Procedural Review. This review process involves enhanced support by the C&S Subcommittee, the OGP Support Unit and the OGP Steering Committee in order to try to resolve the issues that have caused the delays in submitting the action plan. If a government fails to address the situation that led it to acting contrary to process, the C&S Subcommittee will then review the participation status of such country and may recommend that it be designated "inactive" in OGP by the full Steering Committee.

The Government of Pakistan was placed under Procedural Review on 15 January 2019, since it did not submit an action plan for two consecutive cycles in 2017 and 2018 (copies of all previous correspondence on this matter are enclosed). In its letter dated 4 October 2019, the OGP Support Unit urged the Government of Pakistan to submit its action plan before 31 December 2019 in order to prevent being designated inactive in OGP. However, as of 1 January 2020, the Government of Pakistan had not submitted its action plan, acting contrary to process for a third consecutive cycle. In line with the OGP Procedural Review process, the C&S Subcommittee is now recommending that the country be designated as inactive in OGP. The Steering Committee will review this recommendation and make a determination on Pakistan's participation status at its next meeting taking place in Berlin on 25-27 February 2020.

OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

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For countries designated inactive, the Steering Committee and Support Unit will continue to provide assistance to help the country regain active status. While inactive, governments are not eligible to vote or run in Steering Committee elections, and may only attend OGP events as observers for learning purposes. Inactivity will also be noted on the OGP website and public information materials, where appropriate (e.g., in a list of participating OGP countries). The specific terms of the resolution will be agreed by the Steering Committee and shared with you upon its final deliberations.

The OGP Support Unit and Steering Committee stand ready to support the Government of Pakistan with all appropriate technical knowledge, peer exchange opportunities and guidance so that you can re-engage in the OGP process, finalize the Action Plan and maintain full participation status in the future..

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Massen', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Paul Massen
Chief, Country Support
Open Government Partnership

