

5 March 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, and communicated by the OGP Support Unit in its letter dated 10 February 2020 (attached for your reference), the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee recommended to the full OGP Steering Committee to designate Pakistan as inactive in OGP due to acting contrary to OGP process by not delivering an Action Plan for three consecutive cycles. This recommendation was in line with the desire to maintain a consistent and fair approach, and uphold all participating countries to the same requirements. This inactivity recommendation was tabled for decision at the recent Steering Committee meeting that took place in Berlin on 25-27 February 2020, in which the Steering Committee reached a decision by consensus to regretfully designate Pakistan inactive in OGP for a one-year period, effective immediately.

As outlined in the inactivity resolution (attached for your reference), the inactivity status would be immediately lifted upon the submission of an OGP action plan. Nonetheless, while we encourage the swift development of Pakistan's action plan, we would like to underscore the importance and value of a strong co-creation process that adheres to the necessary time to engage all stakeholders in the process, including extensive consultation with citizens and civil society, and in line with OGP's Participation and Co-Creation Standards. Please note that failure to re-engage within this period would most likely lead to Pakistan no longer being considered and OGP member.

We reiterate our full support to aid you in the completion and implementation of the OGP action plan, and to regain active status in the Partnership.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Maassen
Chief, Country Support
Open Government Partnership



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



Resolution of the OGP Steering Committee Regarding the Status of the Government of Pakistan's Participation in OGP

25 February 2020

The OGP Steering Committee welcomes Pakistan's participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) since 2016, and recognizes the efforts made to develop a draft OGP action plan in 2017. The OGP Steering Committee further acknowledges the potential delays to the OGP process caused by the political transition in 2018.

However, considering that the Government of Pakistan has acted contrary to the OGP process by not delivering an action plan for three consecutive cycles (2017, 2018, 2019), **the OGP Steering Committee, under the provisions set out in the Articles of Governance, hereby resolves to designate the Government of Pakistan as inactive in OGP.**

For countries placed on inactive status by decision of the OGP Steering Committee after acting contrary to the OGP process, the inactive status lasts up to a maximum of one year, or:

- Until the country publishes an action plan, developed in line with OGP Participation and Co-Creation Standards, or
- The country works with the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee and the OGP Support Unit to set a clear timeline to start a new action plan cycle and re-engage with civil society for producing the new action plan.

This inactivity status will be immediately lifted upon the submission of an OGP action plan. The OGP Steering Committee further agrees to offer all the necessary support in order to help Pakistan remain engaged in the Partnership.

If, however, a country remains on inactive status for a year without communicating to the OGP Support Unit that it wants to continue to participate in OGP, the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee will recommend that the OGP Steering Committee instructs the OGP Support Unit to remove such country from the list of participating countries.

In addition, the following inactivity conditions apply:

- While inactive, Pakistan will continue to receive Steering Committee and Support Unit assistance, and the IRM will assess its future action plan.
- While inactive, Pakistan will not be eligible to vote or run in Steering Committee elections, and may only attend OGP events as observers for learning purposes.
- While inactive, Pakistan's inactivity will be noted on the OGP website and public information materials, where appropriate (e.g., in a list of participating OGP countries).
- Any country, whether in active or inactive status, may at any time decide itself to withdraw from OGP.

END RESOLUTION