



*Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri*

IL MINISTRO PER LA PUBBLICA AMMINISTRAZIONE

Dear Members of the OGP Steering Committee,

Italy is glad to present its candidacy to serve as Co-Chair of the OGP Steering Committee for 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Over the last years, Italy made remarkable progress in making open government principles, transparency, participation, integrity, digital citizenship, applicable and tangible values in the daily work of public administrations and brought these issues at the core of Government activities.

The goal of making public institutions open and close to citizens is at the center of our commitment, all the more nowadays when the SARS-Cov2 pandemic showed how fragile this process still is. In some parts of the world, the reaction of Governments and public administrations was sometimes opposite to openness and transparency, due to the emergency situation caused by the pandemic.

This is why we need to strengthen our commitment to pursue and support open government values both at national and international level, since we believe that only by establishing a renewed trust between citizens and public administrations, shall we be able to successfully overcome the current crisis to the benefit of everyone.

Italy has been a member of the OGP since 2011 and presented 4 action plans that progressed significantly in terms of quality of commitments. Italy became a member of the Steering Committee in 2018 and is about to serve its second term. This is why, we strongly feel the need to enhance our role by serving as Co-Chair in the Steering Committee and be able to make our contribution to the progress of OGP and its success in bringing forward open government values

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Members of the Steering Committee  
OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

The next two years will be crucial for the Partnership: in 2021, we shall celebrate OGP's 10th anniversary, in 2022, the beginning of its second decade, the review and improvement of a number of mechanisms will be implemented for the first time; all this will take place while governments around the world are working hard to overcome the Covid-19 crisis, and this will be successful only if the process is open, transparent, accountable and participatory.

Being aware of this context, Italy will put monitoring and transparency applied to the funds allocated by governments and supranational institutions at the center of its agenda, to ensure anticorruption and participation of citizens to decision-making on how that money is spent. On this issue, we plan to invite civil society to cooperate and will support their growth in terms of coordination and ability to impact at local and global level.

This issue about citizen participation will be a priority to make sure it increasingly becomes a founding element of public policies and decisions, overcoming the current limit of formal obligation. In this context, Italy shall support all processes aimed at making access of stakeholders to decision-makers transparent and regulated.

Finally, Italy shall focus on the issue of the culture of open government, in the awareness that it is crucial that OGP themes become the object of training and the cultural evolution of citizens, public employees and decision-makers. The main goal is to make sure that administrative systems and governments are open, transparent, participatory and close to citizens thanks to a cultural transformation which also embraces the population going beyond the smaller inner circle of practitioners.

In its role as Co-Chair, Italy shall support the international participation in OGP, especially in the European region, where we shall call for greater coordination and exchange of good practices on open government themes in the area. Just like the 'European Open Government Leaders' Forum' we organized in Milan in 2018, we can bring again together dozens of Ministers and civil society leaders to discuss the priorities listed above and how to make the processes of participation in the OGP and the implementation of actions more resistant to political transitions.

Italy shall also discuss the agenda of OGP commitments in all the international contexts where it is involved to develop potential synergies and collaborations with other organizations, entities and bodies.

The pandemic obliged us all to find new ways of working together and cooperating. Italy shall focus on this further so that the OGP Steering Committee can fully benefit from the new working methods, striking the right balance between physical and remote meetings and making sure that all the members, both from governments and civil society, play a major role in this process of change.



Italy is now facing the final implementation year of its 4<sup>th</sup> NAP. In the last eight years, many aspects of the OGP themes matured within central and local administrations and at political level. On the one hand, some commitments led to permanent changes, on the other, we started to feel the need to include commitments into a broader, more comprehensive and forward-looking framework.

This is the reason why, next year we shall work to build a National Open Gov Strategy, strengthening means and human resources for this task, in close cooperation with the Open Government Forum, with the aim of designing a multi-year process of transformation and evolution of central and local administrations towards greater transparency and openness vis-à-vis citizens and civil society.

Italy's commitment within the Partnership will be part of this strategy and will become the implementation mechanism, mainly through the national action plans and with the help of all the tools and initiatives made available by OGP. This will also be an opportunity to test how OGP national plans and the IRM can be integrated into a multi-year national strategy. This, hopefully, will pave a new way that many other countries can follow when pursuing open government objectives.

The Minister for Public Administration shall co-chair the Steering Committee with the support of the Department for Public Administration, relying on an ongoing exchange with the Prime Minister. The establishment of a national strategy for the open government necessarily implies the involvement and collaboration of the whole government and administrations. This "global" commitment, that will bring open government themes at the core of government activities, will imply the promotion of the OGP at the international level, both through the direct involvement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its diplomatic network, and also through the international relations that each Ministry directly manages. We will use an approach where Italy can serve as an example and good practices are exchanged.

Yours faithfully,

  
Fabiana DADONE