

5 March 2020

The Honorable Nigel Clarke, MP
Minister of Finance and the Public Service
Government of Jamaica

Dear Minister Clarke,

We welcome the Government of Jamaica'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.

I am glad to inform you that the OGP Steering Committee was pleased to receive your letter dated 24 February 2020, and recognized the high level commitment to develop Jamaica's first OGP action plan.

Since the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee reviewed and approved the roadmap outlining the steps that will be undertaken to develop the action plan, Jamaica was not placed in inactive status. However, in desiring to maintain a consistent and fair approach to enforcing OGP requirements asked of all participating countries, and considering that the government of Jamaica has acted contrary to OGP process by not delivering an OGP action plan for three consecutive cycles, the Steering Committee resolved that failure to deliver an action plan by 31 December 2020 will automatically result in Jamaica being designated as inactive in OGP. The resolution is attached for your reference.

While we encourage the swift development of Jamaica'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.

The Support Unit will be in contact with you and your team to provide the necessary support to successfully deliver Jamaica's first OGP action plan this year and maintain its active status in the Partnership.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Sanjay Pradhan
Chief Executive Officer
Open Government Partnership



OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

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4 November 2019

The Honorable Nigel Clarke, MP
Minister
Ministry of Finance and the Public Service
Government of Jamaica

Dear Minister Clarke,

We welcome Jamaica's participation in the Open Government Partnership, which now comprises 79 countries, 20 local participants, and thousands of civil society organizations. Since its founding in 2011, OGP has become the foremost global forum for advancing transparency, accountability, and public participation in government.

I write to you in regard to my previous correspondence dated 15 January 2019, which is attached for your reference. As of November 2019, the Open Government Partnership (OGP) has not received an update on the status of the action plan co-creation process by the Government of Jamaica. The Support Unit reiterates its desire to explore options to support the Government of Jamaica remain an active member of OGP.

As mentioned earlier, the Support Unit has referred the Government of Jamaica to the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee of the OGP Steering Committee as part of its ongoing review of Jamaica's participation in OGP. If the Government of Jamaica fails to submit an action plan by 31 December 2019, the Subcommittee will be forced to recommend to the full Steering Committee that Jamaica be designated as inactive in OGP, in accordance to OGP policy.

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

We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this further.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Sanjay Pradhan
Chief Executive Officer
Open Government Partnership



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

25 February 2020

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) Steering Committee welcomes Jamaica's participation in OGP since 2016, and is pleased to have received the letter from the Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Nigel Clarke, dated 24 February 2020, indicating Jamaica's high-level commitment to develop its first OGP action plan.

The Criteria and Standards Subcommittee reviewed and approved the roadmap shared in this letter to develop, publish, and adopt Jamaica's OGP action plan by late August 2020, including important milestones such as establishing a Multi-stakeholder Working group and commencing consultations by May 2020.

However, in desiring to maintain a consistent and fair approach to enforcing OGP requirements asked of all participating countries, and considering that the government of Jamaica has acted contrary to OGP process by not delivering an OGP action plan for three consecutive cycles, the OGP Steering Committee hereby resolves that failure to deliver an action plan by 31 December 2020, will automatically result in Jamaica being designated as inactive in OGP.

Should Jamaica be designated as inactive, the following conditions would apply:

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.

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 may apply:

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

END RESOLUTION