

OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

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10 August 2020

The Honorable Sam Basil, MP
Minister for National Planning and Monitoring
Government of Papua New Guinea

Dear Minister Basil,

We welcome the Government of Papua New Guinea'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 may be aware, OGP's eligibility criteria dictates that governments must meet a certain minimum threshold in key areas of open government in order to join and remain in the Partnership. The OGP Support Unit updates the eligibility scores for all countries based on the most up-to-date versions of objective, third-party indicators to determine a countries' progress on each of the following dimensions: Fiscal Transparency, Access to Information, Public Officials' Asset Disclosure and Citizen Engagement.

Papua New Guinea's eligibility score had fallen below the minimum requirement in 2019 due to not publishing its Audit Report on time, as assessed by the International Budget Partnership (IBP). A copy of the letter notifying this occurrence is enclosed for your records. In this regard, the OGP Articles of Governance state:

"If a Participating Country's Core Eligibility score falls below the minimum performance criteria, as reported to the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee by the Support Unit, it should take immediate and explicit steps to address the situation so that it meets the criteria within one year of that determination. If a country fails to meet the Core Eligibility Criteria within that one-year period, the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee will place the country under Procedural Review..." (Article II.B.3)

The most recent eligibility scores update completed in June 2020 shows that the Government of Papua New Guinea has not published its 2016 Audit Report on time (as assessed by the IBP Open Budget Survey, no later than eighteen months after the end of the reporting year). Therefore, the Government of Papua New Guinea remains below the minimum eligibility score that is required for all OGP members. **Consequently, in line with the OGP Articles of Governance, the government of Papua New Guinea has been placed under Procedural Review.**

OGP is encouraged to see that Papua New Guinea has leveraged its 2018-2020 OGP action plan to advance reforms to raise its OGP eligibility score in areas of access to information and fiscal transparency. Furthermore considering that Papua New Guinea has extended the implementation of its 2018-2020 action plan in line with the OGP guidelines provided to address the implications of COVID-19 on OGP processes, the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee has agreed to grant an additional year for the country to raise its eligibility score. **This means that Papua New Guinea must take the necessary steps to raise above the minimum eligibility criteria by 31 July, 2022. If Papua New Guinea fails to raise its score by this date, it will risk being designated as inactive in OGP.**

We stand ready to provide you and your team with any assistance necessary to help raise Papua New Guinea's OGP eligibility score. If you have any questions or require any further support, please do not hesitate to contact the OGP Support Unit.

Yours sincerely,



Sanjay Pradhan
Chief Executive Officer
Open Government Partnership

Attachment: Letter to Minister Richard Maru dated July 16, 2019

16 July 2019

The Hon. Richard Maru, OBE, MP
Minister of National Planning and Monitoring
Government of Papua New Guinea

Dear Minister Maru,

We welcome Papua New Guinea's participation in the Open Government Partnership, which now comprises 79 countries, 20 local participants, and thousands of civil society organizations working to implement open government commitments to promote greater transparency, accountability, and the engagement of citizens in policy making.

As you may be aware, OGP's eligibility criteria dictates that governments must meet a certain threshold on Fiscal Transparency, Access to Information, Public Officials' Asset Disclosure and Citizen Engagement in order to join and remain in the Partnership. The OGP Support Unit has recently updated the eligibility scores for all countries based on the most up-to-date versions of objective, third-party indicators that are used to determine the extent of countries' progress on each of these dimensions.

OGP uses the International Budget Partnership's (IBP) Open Budget Survey to assess the Fiscal Transparency metric of the eligibility criteria - specifically, the timely publication of the Executive Budget Proposal and Audit Report. The [latest information](#) shows that the Government of Papua New Guinea has not published its Audit Report on time (as assessed by the IBP, no later than eighteen months after the end of the reporting year) and has consequently fallen below the minimum eligibility score. In this regard, the OGP Articles of Governance state:

"If a Participating Country's Core Eligibility score falls below the minimum performance criteria, as reported to the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee by the Support Unit, it should take immediate and explicit steps to address the situation so that it meets the criteria within one year of that determination. If a country fails to meet the Core Eligibility Criteria within that one-year period, the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee will place the country under Procedural Review..." (Article II.B.3)

This means that Papua New Guinea must take the necessary steps to raise above the minimum eligibility criteria by 31 July, 2020. Some areas in which Papua New Guinea could raise its eligibility score are Access to Information, Fiscal Transparency and Asset Disclosure. We are encouraged to see that Papua New Guinea has leveraged its 2018-2020 OGP action plan to advance some of these reform areas, including through commitment 1.1 "*Legislation on Access to Information*" and commitment 3.1 "*Provision of Accurate, Timely and Accessible Fiscal Data*".

We look forward to the successful implementation of this commitment and stand ready to provide you with any assistance necessary to help raise Papua New Guinea's OGP eligibility score. If you have any questions or require any further support, please do not hesitate to contact the OGP Support Unit.

Yours sincerely,



Sanjay Pradhan
Chief Executive Officer
Open Government Partnership