



ABUJA MUNICIPAL AREA COUNCIL

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The OGP Local 2020 Selection Committee,

Application to join the OGP Local Program: Call for Expression of Interest

On behalf of the Government of Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), one of the 774 Local government areas in Nigeria with a projected population of 1.9 million people at the Federal Capital City of Nigeria, I write to join the Open Government Program. This current administration is driven by values that promote innovative ideas, inclusion, collaboration, gender development, and multi-stakeholder partnership. Since the inception of this administration in May 2016, we have made deliberate effort to promote open governance policy in all our day to day actions, promoting the highest standard of professionalism in administration and government procedures.

2. To promote civic engagement in governance, we are committed to promoting openness in our engagement with citizens to improve services, manage public resources, promote innovation, and create safer communities. AMAC indicated interest to join the Open Government Partnership because we are confident in our transparent processes and feedback from the client. AMAC has subscribed to the various program of the federal government in the area of accountability, transparency, and open governance process. Upon inception of the second administration in May 2019, an office was created for the members of civil society for an enabled engagement and exchange of information with members of the council. The establishment of the office started a quarterly roundtable meeting with civil society organizations and the media for deliberations on the Council's processes and prevailing practices in community development. We created various social media channels which operate 24/7 for members of the public and taxpayers to connect with the council, get more involved in the activities of the council, to share their observations about our public service delivery and as a feedback channel. This has made governance closer to the people.

3. We have an open budget process. On a yearly basis, we carry out a needs assessment to determine what is needed by the society the outcome of the assessment is used to draw up the budget for the year. This needs assessment is carried out by the councilors of the various wards with members of their constituents and stakeholders.

The Councilors organize public hearing and invite civil society organizations and media to prepare them for the budget-making process and implementation strategy of the council. We also publish the budget summary of the Council which is made available on the Council website and other social media handles.

4. Since the inception of the second tenure in May 2019, Gender inclusion in decision making has been at the forefront of our governance policy strategy. We are giving more women the opportunity to hold leadership positions in the Council. At the beginning of this administration, the first female Council Secretary was appointed since the creation of the Council in 1989. Additionally, 35% of women were appointed as members of the executive of the council, which gave me, the Chairman, the recognition as a HeForShe Ambassador decorated by the Country Director, UN Women Nigeria in November 2019, and also an SDG Ambassador in promoting Community Development and women empowerment.

5. In line with our fiscal sustainability plan, at the inception of the first administration, we publish our income and expenditure on the notice board at the Council premises for members of the public. Also in July 2020, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with BudgIT, a non-governmental organization working on transparency and accountability in governance to partner with AMAC to;

- a. Design an Open AMAC portal www.openamac.ng that is being managed by BudgIT that serves as a backup repository for the municipal public finance data which includes the budget, audited report, etc.
- b. Train AMAC staff on how to use the portal and on Principles of budgeting.
- c. Take AMAC on the approach to ensuring transparency, accountability, and good citizens' understanding of the public expenditure in AMAC such as the budgeting approach, accrual budgeting, and incremental budgeting.
- d. Encourage the AMAC to take steps that will institutionalize proactive disclosure of public data and information, including the enactment of relevant laws such as the Fiscal Responsibility Act, Freedom of Information Act, Public Procurement Act and, Subnational Open Government Partnership also an Open Data system.
- e. Partner with the AMAC to develop and execute relevant engagement programs.

6. At AMAC we recognize that open government is a process that requires on-going and sustained commitment to due process. To ensure public participation in governance and for the purpose of transparency and accountability, the Abuja Municipal Area Council operates an FOIA unit under the Information & Public Relations Division of the Council. As stipulated by the Act, the AMAC FOIA unit has been complying with requests from various bodies and institutions especially the media wanting to know the financial and administrative activities of the Council. The unit has satisfactorily handled a number of such requests. Some staff of the unit have also attended various workshops and training to acquaint them on guidelines on the implementation of the FOIA.. We are reputed with prompt response to requests for information on the implementation of our annual budgets and the promptness in making information on our expenditures available and accessible to citizens and stakeholders.

7. We have also increased access to openness and accountability in governance by implementing the highest standards of professional integrity throughout our administration. . The Federal government through the independent corrupt practices and other related offenses Commission (ICPC)which now gave birth to an Anti-corruption transparency unit with a Desk Officer to ensure the promotion of open government, identify areas of corruption, and access to information by the public and stakeholders. the ACTU committee cut across departments and units of any particular organization of the government t. The unit is not created for witch-hunting any Rather a kind of check and balance.
8. Having mentioned a few of our achievements in the past four years between the periods of May 2016 to September 2020. It is our expressed desire to join the global community of Open Government Partnership in order to peer review our efforts with other governments in expectation to achieve the international development standard of governance of a municipal Council. I assure you of AMAC's commitment to upholding the principles of OGP and look forward to contributing to making governance open and accessible to all.
9. We hope to join the OGP in order to compare our efforts with other governments in the world while also improving on the better ways to serve our people. I reassure you of the AMAC unwavering interest and commitment to this course and I look forward to contributing our part in making governance and accessible both at the local and global space.
10. Accept the assurances of my highest respect and courtesy.


Hon. Abdullahi Adamu Candido
Executive Chairman
AMAC