

Bogotá D.C., September 30, 2020

Ladies and Gentlemen:  
**OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (OGP)**  
Directive Committee

**Subject:** Bogotá's application to the Open Government Partnership (OGP)

Respectful regards,

It is an honor for the capital district of Bogotá to apply to the local Open Government Partnership program. Having their support, guidance and experience is essential to make Bogotá a leading city in the implementation of an open, transparent, inclusive government focused on citizen intelligence to democratically solve our challenges.

Bogotá is the capital of Colombia and the economic, social and administrative epicenter of the country. With around 8 million inhabitants, it is the most populated city in Colombia, and it concentrates an important agenda of the economic, financial and cultural sectors. It is located in the geographic center of the national territory at 2,600 meters above sea level, specifically, on the eastern edge of the Sabana de Bogotá, in the highest plateau of the Colombian Andes.

We are currently facing important challenges, which are typical for a capital city, and that also constitute our government's priority, related to urban mobility, citizen security, inclusion and gender equity, the provision of health services, the reduction of multidimensional poverty, climate change, business development and a sustainable relationship with the region.

Although the results of the Bogotá Transparency Index<sup>1</sup> for 2019 show an improved performance of the processes and practices related to administrative management, with a result of 77.7 out of 100, we have challenges that still persist in terms of timely publication of relevant information for citizens, in the adoption of criteria for the release and use of data, in accountability, in the creation of favorable environments to reduce corruption and in citizen participation in the city planning processes.

It has been identified that the District's management model does not incorporate sufficient citizen relation practices to democratically formulate plans, programs and projects that meet the current needs of the citizenship. For this reason, since 2015 different sectors of the government, citizenship, economics, and academia have joined forces that chart the way for the opening of the government with actions such as the obligation to carry out

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<sup>1</sup> The Bogotá Transparency Index (BTI) is an initiative of the civil society that seeks to contribute to the prevention of acts of corruption in the administrative management of Bogotá, it is measured every two years since 2016.

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Tel: 381 3000  
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participatory budgets, enable sections of transparency and access to the information on its web pages, the creation of the Bogotá open data portal and the issuance of local regulations and campaigns to fight corruption and promote integrity.

Given the above, it is essential to promote transparent and democratic relationships, through citizen participation and multiple social, economic and academic actors, to co-create and jointly implement appropriate, viable and innovative solutions that transform the relationship between government and citizenship for the development of the city.

In this sense, since January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2020, our Mayor Claudia Nayibe López Hernández assumed the leadership of Bogotá and, in accordance with her electoral campaign proposals, incorporated the commitment to make the Open Government a reality for Bogotá.

With the approval of the District Development Plan 2020-2024 *"A new social and environmental contract for the Bogotá of the XXI century"*, this commitment was transformed into a government mandate included in its purpose 5: *"Build the Bogotá-region with an open government, transparent and with conscious citizenship"*. In this order, today we are leading the design and implementation of an Open and inclusive Government model, with the purpose of enabling a transparent and democratic relationship between the district administration and the citizens, to jointly assume our challenges as a city, creating trust and public value.

To achieve this, we based our governance plan on five principles: 1) a transparent government that is permanently accountable; 2) a public function oriented towards the citizenship, based on dialogue and communication in a two way street; 3) an incident participation for sustainable development; 4) a model based on dialogues for peace and reconciliation; and 5) join the frontal fight against corruption with a culture of integrity in public management.

Additionally, we are creating a virtual platform to support the Open Government model, which allows us to not only promote the use of ICTs and public innovation, but also create channels for digital democracy in virtual and deliberative face-to-face spaces, in order to achieve effective citizen surveillance, the use of public information, an impact on budget investments, collective intelligence and a better user experience in the procedures and services that we provide to citizens.

In this framework, we have worked in the process of designing and formulating our application commitments before the OGP, for which an inter-institutional committee has been organized between the Secretaries of Government, Planning, Mobility, Habitat, Health, Women and Gender, Security and the District Institute for Community Action and Participation. Likewise, five representatives of the civil society, economic associations and academia accompanied us in the co-creation, consultation and monitoring of the Action Plan for the Implementation of our commitments: the Transparency for Colombia Foundation, the Bogotá Chamber of Commerce, the District Territorial Planning Council, the Corona Foundation and the Laboratory of Innovation, Creativity and New Technologies of the National University of Colombia.

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This way, our purposes, in accordance with the values of the Open Government Partnership, are based on the promotion of transparency, citizen empowerment and the fight against corruption, through the use of new technologies. Specifically, we are interested in nominating Bogotá with five commitments in the first action plan, which obey matters of high interest to the government and the citizens of Bogotá. These are:

1. Bogotá 50/50: Gender parity route for an open government sensitive to gender equality.
2. TIPS: Territories of Innovation and Participation in Health.
3. ICT at the service of citizen management and construction of actions for coexistence and security.
4. Citizens informed and aware of road safety.
5. Re-signifying public space with collective intelligence.

To comply with the above-mentioned commitments, we will have transversal strategies related to citizen training and qualification for the generation of capacities in digital democracy, participatory budgets, a public innovation laboratory in Bogotá, digital transformation of the territory and the promotion of a culture of integrity in public service. Likewise, our purpose is to build common networks of trust and work with neighboring municipalities, trying to bring the open government to the regional scale. This way, we will implement a new form of governance that implicates institutional integrity and transparency, as well as a permanent two-way dialogue to strengthen the bonds of trust between the Capital District and its citizens.

We hope that this is the beginning of a great alliance where the OGP will join us in this commitment of building a more democratic, innovative and inclusive Bogotá.

Cordially,

  
**MARGARITA BARRAQUER SOURDIS**  
Secretary General of Bogotá's Mayoral Office