

Cordoba, 05th October 2020

Dear OGP Local team,

From the Province and the Municipality of Cordoba we understand that the open government approach provides an opportunity to consolidate bonds of trust between the governments and citizens, enhances participatory and collaborative channels and generates synergies that allow various problems to be made visible and thus be able to design and co-create innovative solutions with sustainable and high-impact outcomes. In that sense, we are convinced that one of the greatest contributions of OGP is the possibility to co-create an action plan with civil society organizations in order to enhance one of the main challenges that the province and the municipalities face nowadays: to develop an Open Government with a sense. It means an open government oriented to achieve sustainable development in our communities. All this, will be accompanied by a commitment from both the Province and the Municipality of Cordoba to develop more transparent and responsive public administrations, adapting our services to the needs of citizens, improving the quality and scope of public goods, and strengthening relations with the different stakeholders in our territories.

We are aware that local governments are natural spaces for the development of the Open Government paradigm and main actors in the commitment to sustainable development. This is evident due to our closeness to citizens, our capacity to promote innovative and collaborative policies, and our responsibility in the provision of public goods and services to our community. Therefore, being part of OGP Local will provide us with tools, technical knowledge and institutional support to strengthen and connect our two main agendas: open government, through helping us to increase transparency, participation and collaboration in our political institutions, and sustainable development, through helping us to cocreate with our stakeholders compromises towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Henceforth, strengthening solid, transparent and more participatory and collaborative institutions will become fundamental pillars of our political actions towards sustainable development in our territory. Moreover, as we already experienced in the Province, OGP will provide us with the possibility of being part of the Open Government Community and to learn from other international experiences around the globe. We are convinced about the great contribution that it means knowing about successful cases of implementation of policies framed within the philosophy of open government. These experiences always help us to improve our public actions and guide us in the process of thinking new paths to the specific needs and main challenges we are facing in both the Province and the City of Córdoba.

As we stated before, one of our main goals is to work towards an Open Government with a sense: oriented to a collaborative territorialization of SDGs in our local communities. In this framework, OGP Local will provide us with the possibility to co-create an action plan which will deepen open government processes in our 427 municipalities and comunas, oriented to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The first step to advance in achieving these goals will be to work together in a consortium formed by the Province of Cordoba and the Municipality of Cordoba. This approach, based on the association between the provincial and the local government, will imply promoting spaces for the co-creation of different initiatives oriented to an open government with a sense. Therefore, the municipality of Cordoba will become the first municipality that will advance towards implementing open government actions aimed at

achieving sustainable development, based on diverse processes of participation and collaboration. Then, the City of Córdoba will become the pilot that will lay the foundations to advance along the same path in the rest of the jurisdictions of the province. In that sense, the experiences resulting from this collaboration between the Province and the Municipality of Córdoba will be an impulse to promote a process of opening of municipal governments based on their own territorial priorities and demands.

It is important to re-emphasize that this process will be based on a joint construction with the different organizations of our various locations. We accept the challenge of working, not only in alliance between levels of government, but also with citizens to strengthen the commitment to Open Government. Henceforth, together with non-governmental organizations, we will continue our commitment to the formulation of policies that involves participation and collaboration between actors. In this regard, the organizations that are key parts and will accompany us in this process are going to be FUNDEPS, a local organization that works to strengthen democratic institutions by promoting citizen participation and accountability, which seeks to contribute to the improvement of public policies and the management of the public, enabling greater respect and protection of human rights; PARES, a local organization that helps, from a gender-sensitive and youth perspective, to design and implement processes of public deliberation, transparency, participation and collaboration between government and society, through mechanisms and tools appropriate to the specific context; and CIPPEC, a national organization that works to develop policies to promote development, equity, equal opportunities and solid and effective public institutions. It is worth mentioning that our aim is to increase the level of participation of local organizations in this process in order to form representative dialogue roundtables and collaboration not only at the provincial level, but also in the different municipalities and communes we will be working with. In that sense, we already count with the support of organizations such as AGA, AVINA and the National University of Córdoba, that are committed to helping us on this path towards an open government with a sense.

This process will be carried on, on the part of the provincial government, through the Ministry of Coordination, together with its Institutional Strengthening Secretariat. The transversal characteristic of this Ministry will provide us with the possibility to connect and work together with all provincial ministries. Moreover, the Ministry is able to articulate with the Ministry of Government that, due to its competence, works directly with agents from local governments. In that sense, the Province counts with enough institutional and practical resources to face dialogues with every municipality in our territory. In addition, the team that will work with OPG Local is made up of professionals with a vast theoretical and practical knowledge in the agenda of Open Government and with experiences in articulating international actors and networks for open government politics. Regarding the Municipality of Córdoba, this process will be carried on by the Secretariat for Planning, Modernization and International Relations, which has under its authority the Modernization Directorate, responsible, among other things, for managing the Open Government Portal and implementing solutions framed within transparency, citizen participation and collaboration. For this, it has an interdisciplinary team that has project management capabilities in the implementation of agile methodologies (Scrum Master), coordination of interdisciplinary teams, research, data analysis, analysis of political processes, communication skills, knowing how to listen, preparing reports, among others skills.

It is worth mentioning that both the provincial and the municipal governments of Córdoba, count with the support of a set of alliances and spaces for dialogue and civic participation that will support our work in OGP Local. Regarding the provincial government, it has Provincial Councils that configure institutional spaces through which the main policies are articulated with social organizations like the Public-Private Council of Industrial Competitiveness, the Provincial Council of Social Policies for Women or the Council of Communities of Indigenous Peoples, among others. Moreover, we count with the support of OECD, which has become a key actor in the process of territorialization of the SDGs based on collective strategies co-created with interest groups. Likewise, the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies is another actor that will become strategic and that will help us to build a multilevel coordination between national, provincial and municipal levels. In addition, we will work in accordance with the GRI (Global Reporting Initiative) methodology and standards, that support us in preparing management reports with sustainability guidelines. Regarding the municipal government, it integrates a vast set of networks of local governments of regional and global scope that will also become key actors in this process. In that sense, the City of Córdoba is part of regional networks such as Mercociudades and the Ibero-American Union of Municipalities, global networks like the World Association of the Major Metropolises and the Global Alliance of Smart Cities of the G20, and transnational networks such as the United Cities and Local Governments. In turn, the city is part of the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy. Likewise, at the national level, in the Argentine territory, the City of Córdoba integrates different working groups such as the Cities Committee of the Argentine Council for International Relations, the Argentine Network of Municipalities against Climate Change and the Local Innovation Network. Finally, it is worth noting that, as a center of reference worldwide in the field of participatory democracy, the City of Córdoba is a Regional Antenna for Argentina.

To conclude, it is relevant to remark that we are very pleased to become part of OGP Local, and that this process will imply a great contribution for both jurisdictions, the Province and the Municipality of Córdoba. In addition, working together and aligning our policies in order to meet specific objectives will consolidate bonds of trust between both levels of governments and our citizens, enhancing participatory channels and generating synergies that allow various problems to be made visible. Hence, building up this consortium and counting with the support of such relevant civil society organizations like PARES, FUNDEPS, CIPPEC, AVINA, AGA and the National University of Córdoba, will become a bridge to design and implement innovative solutions in a participatory and collaborative manner, seeking to reach all together more sustainable societies in our localities.



Martín Llaryora

Mayor of the Municipality of Córdoba



Juan Schiaretta

Governor of the Province of Córdoba