

City of Mendoza, September 29, 2020

Dear OGP Local 2020 Selection Committee:

In my position as Mayor of the City of Mendoza, Province of Mendoza, Argentine Republic, I assume the commitment to implement the principles and values of the Open Government Declaration of the Alliance for the Open Government (OGP) and I express the interest of the Executive Municipal Department of the City of Mendoza, together with the Civil Society Organizations (CSO) that make up the Open Government ecosystem, in joining the OGP as a local government.

Transparency, participation, collaboration, innovation and accountability are fundamental pillars to face the triple impact management of the City of Mendoza, where environmental care, social inclusion and economic development interact synergistically improving the quality of life of all its neighbors. Within this framework, admission to the Open Government Alliance will allow us to continue co-designing fair, sustainable and inclusive high-impact policies, while improving the experience of residents and the quality of municipal services, in addition to encourage a more active and committed citizenry.

The challenge posed by the COVID-19 pandemic led us to develop resilience in our government based on a more efficient, innovative, responsible service focused on the priorities that reality demanded for citizens. This, without neglecting the necessary approach to vulnerable social sectors in order to guarantee the satisfaction of the human rights of the entire population. The pandemic required adapting management by implementing new technologies based on data, georeferencing and AI. Thus, the City of Mendoza took the opportunity to incorporate better and greater Open Government practices in order to get closer to the citizen, guarantee the provision of essential services and empower the neighbors. These good Open Government practices will remain after the pandemic context is over.

Experience related to Open Government initiatives: I can summarize it in the following:

a. Access to Public Information and Transparency: First Municipal Ordinance (N° 3660/06) on Access to Information in the Province of Mendoza and second in the country. Provincial Law N° 9070/18 on Access to Public Information is currently in force, through Municipal Ordinance N° 3986/19, which adheres to the aforementioned law. Decree N 305/2020 establishing the Transparency Plan at the municipal level and Ordinance N 4011/2020 on transparency and integrity in municipal contracting were also approved.

b. Open Data Portal: updated in 2020 by Decree No. 36/2020, the data available in it are in open, accessible, reusable, automatable formats and, several of them, georeferenced (DOCX, CSV and KMZ).

c. Citizen Participation Portal (Participa Mendoza): it has three spaces for bonding with the neighbor: i) Debates, ii) Proposes and iii) Decides.

d. Transparency Portal: has 12 microsites: Open Data Portal, Municipal Digest, File Consultation, Institutional Organization Chart, Municipal Affidavit, Mendoza Participates, Contracting of goods and services, Contracting of Public works, Budget and Accountability, Traffic fines, Citizen's Folder (Consultation and Payment of Fees and Printing of Tickets), Map of public transport and a direct link for submitting requests for access to information with publicity of all the official answers.

e. Collaboration with CSOs, companies and entrepreneurs, successive collaborative spaces have been held. We can mention a) Community Linkage: its main objective is the promotion, strengthening and interrelation of CSOs, b) District 33: a municipal space that encourages entrepreneurship and innovation in conjunction with the private sector, c) Committee on Climate Change (created in 2020) advises the Mayor and is made up of public and private universities, experts on the subject and municipal authorities and d) Climate Change Laboratory: space for experimentation, design and innovation of sustainable public policies.

f. Good governance: working agreements between municipal (internal) areas and with other municipalities (project "Unicipio") are concluded on a regular basis; with the Provincial Government (Civic Park case); and with the National Government (such as the "Pro.cre.ar Urban Development" or the "2020 Federal Open Government Survey"); There is also permanent coordination with public and private universities through the Ciudad Universitaria program.

Good practices and lessons learned: I can mention four policy topics where our municipality can contribute with other members of the cohort. i) **Budget and accountability:** the local government makes available information related to municipal management resources and expenditures; all for download, in 5 categories: Tax Responsibility, Municipal Tax Information, Budgetary - Tariff, Tax Information, Accounting Balances. ii) **Citizen services:** a) One-stop Window : the municipality has a new email address for sending documentation, initiating procedures and advice: ventanillaunica@ciudadmendoza.gov.ar, b) Virtual office is another digital and online tool that makes it more accessible to collect municipal fees and track records, c) Attention to the neighbor and proximity: virtual channel open for inquiries, contributions and complaints from neighbors 24 hours a day; iii) **Procurement of goods, services and public works:** all tenders of goods, services and public works are periodically published on the official website, as well as their award, and progress in execution; iv) **"Environment and climate change":** a) Land Management Plan, an instrument for land management implemented through a process of citizen participation, b) Climate Change Committee, a consultative body that advises the Municipal Mayor on environmental issues with the participation of 7 public and private universities, in addition to experts on the topic, c) Climate Action Plan: within the framework of the Argentine Network of Municipalities against Climate Change.

Future directions of open government action and its alignment with the strategic and thematic priorities of OGP: the City of Mendoza designed a 2020/2023 Open Government Action Plan in which three Open Government projects are presented to work with different CSOs: (i) **"Mendoza City Climate Change Lab"**: a platform for experimentation, design and innovation for the development of sustainable public policies to provide local triple-impact solutions to the global scourge involved in climate change; in conjunction with UNCuyo, UM, UMaza, National Center of Science and Technology, Bar Association and College of Architects. (ii) **"Eyes on Alert"**: a new tool that allows neighbors to collaborate through an app in the fight against crime or denounce a situation of danger (crowdsourcing), achieving better planning of public control operations for the prevention and intelligent and geolocized positioning of police patrols. In conjunction with neighbors, chambers, and other social actors. (iii) **Transparency Plan:** an effective and concrete tool that will generate an ecosystem of transparency at the municipal level. It will be implemented through the Directorate of Open Government and Citizen Participation, generating an open and accessible channel for the active participation of the citizen incorporating spaces for the co-design of public policies, strengthening institutions and consolidating civil and political rights of citizens.

Capacity and resources for joint creation and implementation: we make available the following: (a) all areas of the Executive Department and the Honourable Deliberative Council, coordinated by the Directorate of Open Government and Citizen Participation, who will adopt the values of Open Government to perform their public function and thus guide the entire administration on that path; (b) annual budget, which shall provide for all Open Government policies that the municipality plans to carry out, having particular importance the commitments that will derive from the Local OGP Program and the Goals Plan with citizenship; c) Open Government projects at the local level developed by CSO: Latin American Center for Human Rights, Nuestra Mendoza Foundation, Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Universidad Juan Agustín Maza and Universidad de Mendoza - Transparency and Integrity Laboratory.

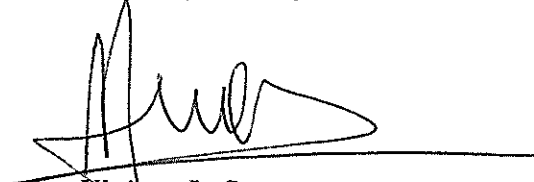
Benefits or value propositions: our jurisdiction would obtain, by joining OGP, the following benefits: (a) involve CSO to work collaboratively with the municipality and to be agents of change contemplating that they multiply contacts networks, retain information, empower and engage citizens; (b) strengthen local actions for the consolidation of a more open, inclusive and transparent administration, as well as integrating and involving citizens in the exercise of active citizenship, as local affairs tend to have greater receptivity and sensitivity in the public by the proximity of municipal government; (c) promote the approach of municipal affairs in a collaborative manner, linking CSO referents, university specialists, and private sector entrepreneurs in order to co-prototyp, test, co-design joint solutions to local problems with a comprehensive and interdisciplinary look; (d) consolidate progress in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), mainly in relation to SDP 17 by multiplying the impact on the other SDGs from the contribution of CSO.

Peer learning and sharing experiences: I think it is important to highlight our full willingness to participate in peer learning and share spaces for collaboration with other governments at the global level, which will allow us to make greater impact on the empowerment of citizens. Participation in forums, sharing information and experiences, the generation of a global community for the promotion of openness of governments, are common values that transcend national, subnational and local administrations.

Diffusion of Open Government practices with other jurisdictions: I am convinced that all municipalities in Mendoza Province and the Argentine Republic should move forward on Open Government, just as our municipality had. To do this, we would like to share with them our initiatives by making a specific situation diagnosis of each one, and from there to collaborate with our experience.

Clarity on the mechanisms available for co-creation and monitoring: The CSO they adhere to are all academic and civil specialists in transparency, citizen participation, accountability and innovation, so they will provide the necessary tracing and monitoring the implementation of the proposed projects and objectives.

Yours faithfully,



Ulpiano L. Suarez
Mayor
City of Mendoza