

REGUEB on September 29, 2020

Republic of Tunisia
Ministry of Local Affairs and Environment
Municipality of Regueb

OGP Steering Committee,

Dears Sirs,

The municipality of Regueb is committed to respect the principles of the Open Government Partnership at the local level. It undertakes to devote its principles through implementing a number of projects and reforms aiming at enhancing transparency and integrity, engaging citizens in municipal work, and harnessing new technologies and mechanisms to improve services and open data to the public.

The municipality of Regueb is also committed to be in compliance with a national legal framework devoting these principles, namely, the municipality must apply the provisions of the constitution's articles of 2014 relating to open government principles. Among the most important constitutional articles we can mention that:

- **Article 32:** the state guarantees the right of media and the opportunity to access to the information. Instead, it seeks to guarantee the right to access to communication network.
- **Article 139 of the Tunisian constitution:** Local groups adopt the mechanisms of participatory democracy, and principles of open governance, to ensure a wider participation of citizens and civil society in preparing development and territorial development programs and following up on their implementation in accordance with what is stipulated by law.

In addition, the municipality must be in compliance with the provisions provided by the Local Authorities Code which consecrate the principles of the open governance at the local level, precisely such as:

- **Article 29** - The preparation of development programs and territorial preparation is obligatory subject to mechanisms of participatory democracy. And the local community council guarantees all residents and civil society effective participation in the various stages of preparing development and territorial development programs, following up on their implementation and evaluating them.
- **Article 30:** The local community maintains a register that includes the components of civil society concerned with local affairs upon their request. It must also keep a special record of the opinions and questions of the cohabitants and the components of civil society, and the answers to them. An electronic system can be adopted to keep the same record. A summary of the observations and their outcome is presented at the opening of each community council session.
- **Article 75:** The operation of all local public utilities is based on the following principles and rules: equality Between its users and contractors, Continuation of Services, adaptation, the sustainable development, Transparency, Accountability, Neutrality, integrity, Efficacy, Preserving public money, and open Governance.

Also, this legal framework includes several laws enhancing the transparency and the integrity in the public sector, namely:

- **Organic Law No. 22 of 2016 dated March 24, 2016** relating to the right to access information. This law aims to guarantee the right of every natural or legal person to access information.
- **Law No. 46 of 2018 dated August 1, 2018,** relating to the declaration of assets and liabilities and preventing illicit enrichment and conflict of interests in public sector, which aims to support transparency and consolidate principles of integrity, impartiality and accountability, combat illicit enrichment and protect public money.

Based on these requirements, the municipality of Regueb aspires to consecrate the principles of open government at the local level, such as promoting and enforcing the participatory approach by motivating and supporting citizens to participate in municipal work and highlighting the importance of their role in decision-making. With the seek to develop the municipality and keep pace with technological advancement by digitizing

some public services that the municipality provided to its clients, enhancing access to the archive and making good use of new technologies to enhance interaction and follow-up of public policy, while strengthening transparency and fighting corruption, ensuring equality and fair participation for all races, and striving to improve the quality of provided municipal services.

The municipality of Regueb is committed to use all its available capacities and resources in order to instill a co-creation and coordination framework to adopt and consecrate the open government principles in the municipal action.

Indeed, Within the framework of the implementation of the eleventh commitment of the third OGP national action plan of Tunisia for the period 2018-2020 aiming to instaurate the open government at the local level and which the municipality of Regueb is a part , a joint steering committee has been established, headed by the mayor and comprising 8 members divided equally between representatives of the city's civil society, public officials of the municipality and members of the municipal council. This committee has been created by a decision of the mayor. It is working on preparing and implementing an open government action plan at the local level by developing and implementing reforms and projects in line with the region's specifics and requirements, with the aim of bringing the administration closer to the citizen by involving him in controlling these commitments and following up on their implementation and thus consecrating the principles of open government at the local level. In this regard and in order to facilitate the work of this committee and to establish a favorable framework for this initiative, several measures have been adopted by the municipality, namely:

- A contact point has been designated at the municipality level among the members of the steering committee to coordinate with the structure in charge of the monitoring of The Open Government Partnership Program at the national level.
- An administrative assistant was assigned to manage and treat the complaints received by citizens in the Regueb's region,
- An administrative assistant and his deputy were assigned to handle access to information requests sent by the citizens,
- An administrative assistant was assigned to manage a registry to record the citizens' opinions, suggestions and questions about the municipal work and activities
- An administrative assistant was assigned to take in charge the management of repository of the civil society associations working at the municipal level.

In this context, based on the participatory approach and thank to the mechanisms of co-creation and coordination, the municipality of Regueb completed the preparation of the initial version of its open government action plan as a part of the implementation the 11th commitment included in the 3rd OGP action plan of Tunisia. It should be noted that the first draft of this action plan is put online through the national portal of the public participation www.e-participation.tn for the purpose of consulting the public to prepare the final version. The municipality of Regueb has a several successful experiences in recent years, especially in the field of citizen participation in decision-making such as:

- ✓ Preparing the annual municipal investment program from 2016 to 2019 by adopting a participatory approach with various civil society organizations and stakeholders at the local lever. The collaborative work is consecrated in the financial diagnosis and the technical diagnosis of the city and regions, and raising awareness of citizens to the necessity of participation and municipal work.
- ✓ Working to create a public space in Al-Jumhuriya district, in cooperation with the National University of Cities, the Center for Local Development and Good Governance, and civil society organizations in Al-Regueb municipality. The functional program of the project was defined in a participatory manner through field consultations.
- ✓ Take proactive measures to prevent the spread of the Corona virus epidemic by setting up a call center that includes many volunteers from civil society working with the municipality. In this context, public spaces and administrative institutions were sterilized on a daily basis, and awareness campaigns were carried out to raising awareness of citizens about the seriousness of the situation and the need for prevention, and to take the necessary precautions with the periodic distribution of aid and donations. The municipality was keen to implement the national plan for comprehensive and targeted quarantine.

The municipality complies with a set of legislations that reinforce the principles of participation, transparency, control and accountability for municipal work, as it applies and complies with the provisions provided by the organic law n ° 22 of 2016 dated March 24, 2016 related to the right of access to information, which aims to enshrine the right to access information for the public and thus improve the quality of the public services and support Public participation in setting public policies, monitoring their implementation and evaluation. In this context, and in compliance with the provisions of this law, an administrative assistant was assigned to be responsible for answering all requests to access information sent to the municipality. With regard to strengthening accountability, integrity and transparency, and in compliance with the provisions of Law No. 46 of 2018 dated August 1, 2018 Concerning declaring gain and interests and combating illicit enrichment and conflict of interest in order to support transparency and establish principles of integrity, impartiality and accountability and protect public money, the mayor declared his gains before assuming his position, as well as the honorable members of the municipal council, the general secretary, the agent of the procurement, and the financial clerk (the municipality's accounting) at the National Anti-Corruption Commission.

Considering the importance of dealing with complaints, which is the main focus of evaluating the performance of local collectivities, in accordance with the decision of the Minister of Interior and the Minister of Finance dated on December 29, 2015, related to setting measures of performance's assessment, the municipality of Regueb assign an administrative assistant for handling complaints, and he is also responsible for maintaining and managing a register or book of complaints directed by the public

The Municipality of Regueb also aims, through its participation an membership to the OGP Local, to strengthen the mechanisms of communication with various local, national and international organizations and stakeholders in order to share experiences, successful experiences, best practices and the most important achievements in the field of open government at the local level that would develop municipal work and improve the quality of municipal services provided. These goals can be embodied by publishing reports of the most important activities and projects completed on the Web site of the municipality, sharing recommendations and proposals, and coordinating to prepare cautious periodic meetings or remotely to ensure a broader practice of open government on the local scale.

It also aims to further adopt the principles of open government in the municipal work by developing and implementing projects, reforms and initiatives in the field of citizen participation in the elaboration, monitoring the implementation of public policies at the municipal level, and by digitizing a number of municipal services through web or mobile technologies to bring them closer to the citizen and facilitate access to them. And promoting the culture of proactive dissemination of information and data related to the municipal work to the public, in addition to the promotion of a culture of openness of municipal administration and reinforcing the capacities of the public officials in this field.

Sincerely,

Mayor of Regueb Municipality



Le Président de La Commune
Med Salah Messaoudi