



Estado de Santa Catarina
Gabinete do Governador

28th September 2020

OGP LOCAL 2020 SELECTION COMMITTEE

Dear Sirs,

On behalf of Santa Catarina State Government, please accept this letter of support to the application for the OGP Local Program submitted by the Office of the Comptroller General of our State.

Santa Catarina is an entrepreneurial State with a track record of collaboration among society and public sector, which has contributed to the opening up the government. In the last years, the government has taken numerous steps to institutionalize the open government agenda. We are committed to take our open government efforts to the next level.

Open government results are the product of citizens' demands citizenry, our political commitment with a government that delivers for its people, as well as the long-term work of a strong ecosystem of actors committed to the open government agenda in the state. We benefit from the partnership and experience of civil society organizations, the state university, the network of state and federal public sector accountability bodies, as well as a broad set of public officials working across different levels of government.

In this spirit, we implemented a broad administrative reform in 2019, with multiple initiatives that open up the public sector. These include the creation of a body - the Comptroller General of the State – CGE. This is the first time that the state executive has a body with competence over transparency and the effective fight against corruption throughout the state executive.

Co-creation and co-production of public policies and programs have a long track record in Santa Catarina, including in the open government space. There are a number of programs and policies that are codesigned with active citizen participation and others for which participation is key from inception through implementation and monitoring. Examples span a large number of sectors and include, but are not limited to 27 legally established sectoral councils that enable participation in government affairs.

In terms of open government, State initiatives include the Good Practices Award, with a focus on transparency (co-created with Social Observatory of Brazil or OSB, Network of Public Management Control); Database COVID-19 (co-created with Social Good Brazil); Youth Observatory (co-created with OSB) and Open Data Initiative (in course). In addition, Santa Catarina participates in Transparency International – Brazil's Integrity Program in States.



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We pledge to lead by example and contribute to advancing open government for other members of the cohort by sharing best practices in areas in which state has made progress, as Anti-Corruption, Digital Governance, Fiscal Openness, Public Service Delivery and Right to Information.

By becoming a member of the OGP Local Program, we expect to learn by doing with our global partners as well as use this knowledge to advance our open government journey at the state-level and across our state.

We hope to benefit from mentorship and peer to peer exchanges and opportunities, as well as from OGP's political support. By making this formal commitment to the international community, we reaffirm the government's intention to make the state more open, promoting and strengthening initiatives of transparency, accountability and citizen participation.

Through our participation in OGP Local Program, we wish to advance the following thematic policy areas: Anti-Corruption, Open Contracting and Public Procurement, Fiscal Openness, Public Service Delivery and Open data. Our diverse network of partners in civil society, academia, the private sector shares our vision for prioritizing work in these areas and will contribute valuable expertise and resources to implement ambitious commitments.

In this special moment that the world is facing unprecedented challenges from COVID-19, we are working hard on the transparency area related to pandemic response and recovery, including fiscal and health issues. However, there is still much to be done and we are aware of crucial role of open government actions to improve government responsiveness to needs, mainly involving citizen's engagement. We expect that by working together with other members of the cohort of the Local program we will also be better able to continue to work transparently and build back better.

In turn, in collaboration with our national government, allied state governments and civil society partners in Brazil, we hope to contribute towards expanding the open government movement in our and other Brazilian states. Just as we expect to lever the role of the state-level government, as well as our civil society partners' capillarity across the state, to promote open government across 295 municipalities in the state.

To reach this goal the Office of the Comptroller General of the State will be the responsible for the OGP Local program. The co-creation and implementation of an OGP action plan will be a key component of the strategy of the agency. The process will involve the agency's Cabinet as well as three Units (Promotion of Social Accountability, Information Access and Transparency and Open Data). These Units have a dedicated staff, mandate, networks and resources to implement the action plan process. In particular, we expect to align CGE's social accountability work plan with OGP's guidance and action plan processes.

Other areas at CGE and the state government, including the Secretariat of Integrity and Governance, International Articulation Secretariat and the Project Management Office, will help to deliver the action plan, in accordance with OGP's values, principles, and guidance.



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The proposal was developed in dialogue with two leading non-governmental partners, also committed with co-creation and monitoring our Open Government action plan. One of them, the Social Observatory of Brazil – an organization that brings together citizens, private sector, among others, to implement social accountability processes at the state and local level (it works in 144 cities in 17 Brazilian states, including 30 cities in Santa Catarina).


The other partner, Research Group Politeia at the Public Administration School of the State University. The Group has a unique focus on coproduction of information and accountability that span across its research, training and extension activities. Along with the state government and the United Nations Development Programme - UNDP, the group has developed the “Diagnosis of Social Capital”. Politeia also coordinate with the participation of civil society organizations the Extension Program “Floripa Cidadã”.

Both groups convene and participate in a range of open government activities and fora. They will contribute to ensure that our OGP processes are inclusive of diverse segments of society across the state. Their support is an integral component of our submission and value add to our state and the OGP movement.

We believe that Santa Catarina can be a strong partner and our processes an important asset in strengthening the OGP Local program and the OGP. Our ambition is to create synergies between a strong open government ecosystem working already across a broad range of issues and OGP’s international work. We believe that a formal partnership will take our work to the next level and provide OGP with a low risk, high rewards partner, capable of co-creating ambitious commitments and delivering on them with diverse segments of society – from CSOs to private sector to academia – and a cross range of sectors. In this way, Santa Catarina can help broaden OGP’s constituencies.

In these terms, I support the application of our jurisdiction and endorse the commitment to uphold the principles of open and transparent government.

Sincerely,



Carlos Moisés da Silva
Governor of the State of Santa Catarina