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Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, September 30, 2020

OGP Local 2020 Selection Committee

Dear Sirs,

As Prefect of the Province of Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, Ecuador, I am honored to express our intention to join the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Local Program, committing ourselves to comply with the OGP Values established in its Declaration¹.

The province of Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, is located in north-central Ecuador, and it was established on November 6, 2007. Its capital is the city of Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas. Our province is made up of 2 cantons and 10 parishes, and its population in 2020 will reach 550,000 inhabitants. Its main economic activities are commerce, livestock, industry and agriculture.

Since the beginning of our administration in May 2019, we have been working to strengthen the bases to implement open government, especially in the pillars of transparency and citizen participation. Regarding transparency, we carry out the Local Information System (SIL)² project, through which we have made geographic and statistical data available to the public, with different formats and under an open license. This system relates to 4 areas: Territorial, Citizen Service, Administrative-Financial, and Informative. During the recent COVID-19 pandemic, health data was also added, and it has contributed to orient and plan joint work in the territory to address this emergency. Thanks to our active promotion of this project, we have obtained recognitions such as the "V Management Award for Results in Development" from CoPLAC-MfDR and the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB) in 2019, and in October 2020 it will be recognized as an outstanding practice by the United Nations Global Pact - Ecuador.

In relation to citizen participation, we annually carry out the participatory budget process as established by our Provincial System of Citizen Participation. For 2020 the budget was discussed and assigned in assemblies held in the 10 parishes of our province; In addition, 10 assemblies in the 2 main cantons, 5 in the planning areas that we manage; and 7 in the communes of the ancestral Tsáchila nationality. In each of these meetings we have disseminated and practiced the principles of equality, interculturality, gender parity, responsibility, co-responsibility and solidarity.

With our adhesion to OGP Local we hope that our administration will incorporate transformative processes in public management that modernize, energize and integrate citizens into the Prefecture, and that strengthen transparency and the fight against corruption, aided by the technological innovation that was accelerated by the "new normal".

¹ Declaration of Open Government - <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/es/process/joining-ogp/open-government-declaration/>

² Local Information System - http://www.gptsachila.gob.ec/sil_gad/



By joining OGP Local, our objective is to implement open government, in collaboration and accompaniment of citizens, in 5 thematic areas: Digital Government, Open Information, Marginal Communities, Citizen Participation and Tourism. In each area we will work to:

1. Strengthen the processes of transparency and accountability, integrating and highlighting the interest of citizens.
2. Innovate existing citizen participation processes and establish new methodologies.
3. Develop an open government plan in the short and medium term to establish it in all processes and projects in our entity.
4. Encourage citizen engagement in the different projects implemented by the subnational government, where the citizen becomes the axis for the development of public policies.
5. Capacity building on internal and external stakeholders about the open government methodology.
6. Incorporate new processes that streamline, organize and make information available, both for planning and decision-making, as well as interaction with citizens.

To implement OGP Local, we already have a multidisciplinary team ready to carry out these tasks, which is currently part of the Local Information System (SIL) project and the Citizen Participation Unit. We plan to convert our OGP Local Action Plan into a multi-year investment project, to maintain its continuity. Additionally, we have allies from civil society and academia to carry out this task, such as Fundación de Ayuda por Internet (FUNDAPI), Instituto de Altos Estudios Nacionales (IAEN) and Universidad de las Fuerzas Armadas (ESPE) with whom we have signed agreements; as well as with provincial associations of businesses, merchants and artisans that we hope to involve to achieve our objective.

From the Prefecture of Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas we have considered turning our work into a reference and example of implementation of OGP Local not only in Ecuador but in Latin America, seeking to innovate our processes and systems. We are interested in participating and collaborating with other entities, inside and outside our country, that have implemented open government to learn from those experiences and share our advances by forming communities of practice. We will seek this in order to generate plans and strategies that articulate not only civil society, academy and the private sector, but also public officials in a single commitment that envisions a change within the public administration. We will also be happy to provide guidance based in our experience to other government entities in Ecuador, such as provincial, municipal and parochial governments to motivate them to introduce reforms and to set the implementation of open government as a goal in their administrations.

We consider that it is very important for the provincial government to have robust anti-corruption policies, mechanisms and practices, guaranteeing transparency in management of public funds, and to make this information available to the public for their observation. We believe that new technologies offer opportunities to share information, generate public participation and foster collaboration to develop accessible and useful online platforms to provide services, engage citizens and share information and ideas. Therefore, it is essential to involve civil society, academy and the private sector

to identify effective practices and innovative approaches to take advantage of new technologies, empower people and promote transparency.

I thank you on behalf of our province for your attention and I hope that you will give us the opportunity to demonstrate our ability to carry out important challenges such as the co-creation and implementation of our First Open Government Action Plan once we have received your gracious approval.

Duque Joo (Thank you in tsáfiqui, language spoken by our ancestral Tsáchila nationality)

Best regards,



Johana Núñez García

Prefect

Province of Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, Ecuador