

Tangier-Tétouan-Al Hoceima RC

29<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Open Government Partnership Selection Committee,

Dear Madams and Sirs,

I am deeply honoured to express, on behalf of the Tangier-Tétouan-Al Hoceima Regional Council (RC TTA), our intention to join the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Local Program and to reiterate Morocco's commitment within the OGP initiative to consolidate its achievements in terms of transparency and participatory democracy.

Morocco's new constitution and its regionalization process seeks to address development challenges, by strengthening decentralized government including councils of regions, through an action framework founded upon good governance, transparency and participation.

The Tangier-Tétouan-Al Hoceima Regional Council, as a leading region in Morocco, holds several prerogatives implemented through: The Regional Development Programme and the Regional Territorial Development Scheme. To implement these strategic programmes, the RC is engaged in several initiatives aiming to strengthen the communication with its consultative bodies and the citizens and developing tools and systems that enhance transparency of decision making. The RC is also in the process of adopting a funding mechanism that will enhance the transparency and credibility of funding Civil Society Organizations.

The RC is keen to join the OGP initiative to reinforce best practices within the region and contribute to the promotion of the principles of good governance, transparency and accountability. Thus, the RC's interest in joining OGP stems particularly from the potential such membership offers in the following areas:

- Promoting the values of transparency and empowerment of citizens;
- Contributing to building strong examples of successful regional institutions;
- Consolidating good governance and transparency in the region harnessing the positive power of technology;
- Building the capacities of elected members, staff and civil society organisations (CSOs) involved in the regional development process;
- Strengthening coordination with other tiers of local government and public administration at the national and regional level;
- Learning from other OGP members and exchanging experiences; and
- Strengthening the position of the region in multilateral and bilateral cooperation with international donors and international organisations.

For our candidacy, we have set several goals - from improving citizen participation through communication and public consultation, to promoting budget transparency and the OGP values and principals, and to developing social inclusion strategies. Our goal is to work with citizens and civil society organizations to implement these engagements. Our aim, by joining this



esteemed community, is also to actively exchange best practices and lessons learned from each other's successful experiences with the rest of the cohort.

## **TRANSPARENCY, CO-CREATION AND PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY**

The Tangier-Tétouan-Al Hoceima RC has adopted transparency, co-creation, and participatory democracy among its key objectives since its election.

In this regard, the RC developed and launched The Regional Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy (RGSI), which constitutes a success story, both in terms of the process and the outcomes. Indeed, the process of developing this strategy lasted 2 years (2018 – 2020), during which a smooth and structured co-creation process was implemented. This process included a participatory diagnostic of the GSI situation in the region that involved all stakeholders from the public and private sector, CSOs and international donors. The second phase consisted in organising a participatory and inclusive workshop using the WSR methodology (Whole System in the Room) and several workshops to foster the consensus on the outcomes of the diagnostic and develop common objectives and an action plan. Finally, the RC hosted a regional forum to communicate about the RGSI and the strategy was officially launched.

The RC also co-created the regional OGP action plan with regional Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) for the period 2020-2022, through two mechanisms: co-creation workshops and an online co-creation platform ([www.ouvert.crtta.ma](http://www.ouvert.crtta.ma)). Co-creation workshops with CSOs were organised in March 2020. With the support of the CSOs, citizens were mobilised from different sectors and communes. Following these constructive workshops, the RC launched an online co-creation platform where the action plan resulting from the co-creation workshops was presented and was subject to the vote and suggestions of improvement from citizens. As a result of this dynamic participatory approach, the RC has developed a co-created action plan, aligned with the national OGP action plan, composed of 10 commitments covering different areas.

Finally, the RC also promotes citizen participation through petitions. The council, with the help of its partners, has made available to the public an audio-visual material illustrating the process in a schematic and accessible way. The RC's goal is to improve citizens participation and develop a coherent approach to citizen engagement.

## **CAPACITY AND RESOURCES FOR CO-CREATION**

The RC has already developed a co-created action plan that is in line with OGP principles and the Moroccan national OGP action plan overseen by the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Reform of Public Administration. During this process of co-creation, the region mobilised important financial and human resources.

In terms of financial resources, the region has committed to developing all the projects that are included in its co-created OGP action plan, including two pioneering platforms for the transparency of public procurement and the monitoring and evaluation of the Regional Development Programme (PDR). The capacity of the RC includes a strong and independent Consultative Body with Civil Society - a key partner throughout the entire OGP application process and its implementation phase. The CBs are true partners in defining and deciding on policy choices at the regional level by issuing advisory opinions that reflect the interests of the communities they represent. In addition, other CSOs could be added to the OGP task force according to the topic and the extent of the projects implemented.



## OGP VALUES, STRATEGIC ORIENTATIONS AND VALUE PROPOSITION

The RC is committed to provide added value in three key areas. Firstly, by sharing proven experience in conducting and implementing co-creation processes and participatory democracy with CSOs. Furthermore, the RC developed guides and specific documents for CSOs on petitions and policy proposals including detailed procedures that can fit the needs of similar institutions. Secondly, by leading the promotion of OGP principles among similar institutions in Morocco and in the MENA region. And finally, by sharing its experience as an open government with other regional and local jurisdictions in specific networks, such as:

- The Association of Regions in Morocco (since 2015).
- The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions Network (CPRM) (since 2002).
- The United Regions Organisation / Forum of Regional Governments and Global Associations of Regions (ORU FOGAR since 2017).
- The International Association of French Speaking Regions (since 2005).
- The Network of Marine Protected Areas Managers in the Mediterranean (since 2017).
- The Mediterranean Climate House (since 2017).

## POLICY AREAS AND FUTURE AMBITION

The RC of the TTA region commits itself to work on the following policy areas:

- Open data: The RC has a digital platform for a MEL system to monitor, evaluate, and learn from its performance about the Regional Development Programme projects.
- Gender and Social inclusion: The RC is committed to move towards an inclusive and open region keen on rehabilitating marginalized communities by the effective implementation of its Regional Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy (RGSi).
- Public procurement: The RC wishes to increase the transparency of their public spending through their digital platform on "Open-contracting". This includes CSOs participation, citizen engagement and the creation of accountability mechanisms for receiving and acting upon citizen feedback.
- Citizen participation: for an increased and better civic participation, the RC wants to reinforce participatory democracy and public consultation mechanisms in the region.
- Communication: The RC developed a communication strategy covering both internal and external communications. This strategy aims to institutionalise the way the RC communicates and set a roadmap on how the institution could adapt its communication methods to reach different audiences.

We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude in considering us to be part of the Open Government Partnership Local Program. We hope to join the global initiative of OGP in order to peer review our efforts with other governments in the world and share our expertise with them. I assure you of the Tangier-Tétouan-Al Hoceima RC interest and commitment in this process and I look forward to receiving a positive response. Finally, if you would like to know more about our beautiful region, please visit our website: <https://www.crtta.ma/fr/accueil-2/>.

Best regards,

Fatima El Hassani

President of the Tangier-Tétouan-Al Hoceima RC

