

Open Government Partnership

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1 March 2022

Dr. Conan Castro Ramírez
Legal Secretary of the Office of the President
Government of El Salvador

Dear Dr. Castro Ramírez,

We welcome the Government of El Salvador's participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP), which now comprises 78 countries and 76 local governments working to implement open government commitments to promote greater transparency, accountability and citizen engagement in policy-making.

As outlined in my letter dated July 12 2021, El Salvador has been placed under Procedural Review by the Criteria & Standards Subcommittee due to failing to meet the minimum OGP eligibility criteria for two consecutive years. In addition, El Salvador acted contrary to process in the 2018-2020 action plan cycle due to i) not meeting the minimum participation and co-creation requirements during the implementation of its action plan, ii) failing to collect, publish and document a repository on the national OGP website/webpage, and iii) no evidence of progress being found regarding the implementation of the commitments included in this action plan. A copy of previous correspondence is attached for your reference.

El Salvador was encouraged to submit a new OGP action plan by December 31, 2021 in order to avoid a new instance of acting contrary to process and thus risking being designated as "Inactive" in OGP. Unfortunately, the OGP Support Unit has not received the new action plan and El Salvador is therefore being recommended for inactivity by the Criteria & Standards Subcommittee. The OGP Steering Committee will review this recommendation and make a final determination on El Salvador's participation status at its next meeting on March 24, 2022.

Countries designated as inactive continue to receive OGP assistance towards regaining active status. However, inactive members are not eligible to vote or run in Steering Committee elections, and may only attend OGP events as observers for learning purposes. Inactivity will also be noted on the OGP website and public information materials, where appropriate. The specific terms of the resolution will be agreed by the Steering Committee and shared with you once its deliberations are finalized.

The OGP Support Unit and Steering Committee stand ready to support the Government of El Salvador in whatever way possible to remain an active member of the Partnership.

Best regards,



Sanjay Pradhan
Chief Executive Officer

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July 12, 2021

Dr. Conan Castro Ramírez
Legal Secretary of the Office of the President
Government of El Salvador

Dear Dr. Castro Ramírez,

We welcome the Government of El Salvador's participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP), which now comprises 78 countries working to implement open government commitments to promote greater transparency, accountability and citizen engagement in policy making.

As you are aware, all OGP participating governments are expected to co-create an Action Plan outlining a concrete set of open government reforms, in line with OGP Participation and Co-Creation standards.

For its 2018-2020 action plan, the Government of El Salvador did not meet the OGP minimum requirement for public influence during implementation - "Inform" - as assessed by the Independent Reporting Mechanism ("IRM") in their [report](#). In addition, the IRM found that during this period, El Salvador failed to collect, publish and document a repository on the national OGP website/webpage in line with IRM guidance, and found no evidence of progress made in the implementation of the action plan's commitments.

El Salvador has therefore acted contrary to the OGP process for the 2018-2020 cycle. Considering that El Salvador has already been placed under Procedural Review during this cycle, no further consequences apply at this time. A copy of the letter notifying of this status is enclosed for your records.

However, please be advised that acting contrary to OGP process for a third consecutive cycle (i.e. during its 2021-2023 cycle) could result in El Salvador being designated as *Inactive* in OGP. To avoid the possibility of inactivity, we respectfully recommend that the Government of El Salvador makes every effort to submit its next action plan by December 31, 2021, and meet the minimum requirements set forth in the OGP Participation and Co-Creation standards. We further encourage El Salvador to leverage the next action plan to address the opportunities outlined in the IRM report, and to put into place reforms that help raise El Salvador's eligibility score in OGP above the minimum requirements.

The OGP Support Unit and Steering Committee stand ready to support you in whatever way would be useful.

Yours sincerely,



Sanjay Pradhan
Chief Executive Officer



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July 12, 2021

Dr. Conan Castro Ramírez
Legal Secretary of the Office of the President
Government of El Salvador

Dear Dr. Castro Ramírez,

We welcome the Government of El Salvador's participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP), which now comprises 78 countries working to implement open government commitments to promote greater transparency, accountability and citizen engagement in policy making.

As you are aware, OGP's eligibility criteria dictates that governments must meet a certain minimum threshold in key areas of open government in order to join and remain in the Partnership. The OGP Support Unit updates the eligibility scores for all countries on an annual basis, based on the most up-to-date versions of objective, third-party indicators to determine a countries' progress on each of the following dimensions: Fiscal Transparency, Access to Information, Public Officials' Asset Disclosure and Citizen Engagement.

According to the latest update completed by the Support Unit in June 2021, El Salvador currently scores 2 out of 4 in Fiscal Transparency; 4 out of 4 in Access to Information; 2 out of 4 in Asset Disclosure; and 3 out of 4 in Citizen Engagement. Therefore, the Government of El Salvador currently scores 11 out of 16 (69%) in OGP's eligibility criteria, below the minimum 75% required for all participating countries.

This is the second consecutive year that El Salvador's eligibility score has fallen below the minimum requirement. A copy of the letter dated August 10, 2020 notifying of the first occurrence is enclosed for your records. In this regard, the OGP Articles of Governance state:

"If a Participating Country's Core Eligibility score falls below the minimum performance criteria, as reported to the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee by the Support Unit, it should take immediate and explicit steps to address the situation so that it meets the criteria within one year of that determination. If a country fails to meet the Core Eligibility Criteria within that one-year period, the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee will place the country under Procedural Review..." (Article II.B.3)

Consequently, in line with the OGP Articles of Governance, the government of El Salvador has been placed under Procedural Review and must take the necessary steps to raise above the minimum eligibility criteria. If El Salvador fails to raise its score by the next annual update (typically completed by June of each year), it will risk being designated as *inactive* in OGP.

If you consider any of these scores to be inaccurate or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the OGP Support Unit. We stand ready to provide you and your team with any assistance necessary to help raise El Salvador's OGP eligibility score.

Yours sincerely,



Sanjay Pradhan
Chief Executive Officer
Open Government Partnership

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10 August 2020

Dr. Conan Castro Ramírez
Legal Secretary of the Office of the President
Government of El Salvador

Dear Dr. Castro Ramírez,

We welcome the Government of El Salvador's participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP), which now comprises 78 countries working to implement open government commitments to promote greater transparency, accountability and citizen engagement in policy making.

As you may be aware, OGP's eligibility criteria dictates that governments must meet a certain minimum threshold in key areas of open government in order to join and remain in the Partnership. The OGP Support Unit updates the eligibility scores for all countries based on the most up-to-date versions of objective, third-party indicators that are used to determine the extent of countries' progress on each of the following dimensions: Fiscal Transparency, Access to Information, Public Officials' Asset Disclosure and Citizen Engagement.

The most recent update completed in June 2020 shows that the Government of El Salvador has not published its 2017 Audit Report on time (as assessed by the International Budget Partnership's Open Budget Survey, no later than eighteen months after the end of the reporting year) and has consequently fallen below the minimum eligibility score that is required for all OGP members. In this regard, the OGP Articles of Governance state:

"If a Participating Country's Core Eligibility score falls below the minimum performance criteria, as reported to the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee by the Support Unit, it should take immediate and explicit steps to address the situation so that it meets the criteria within one year of that determination. If a country fails to meet the Core Eligibility Criteria within that one-year period, the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee will place the country under Procedural Review." (Article II.B.3)

In line with the Articles of Governance, El Salvador must take the necessary steps to raise above the minimum eligibility criteria by 31 July, 2021 to avoid being placed under Procedural Review.

We stand ready to provide you and your team with any assistance necessary to help raise El Salvador's OGP eligibility score. If you have any questions or require any further support, please do not hesitate to contact the OGP Support Unit.

Yours sincerely,



Sanjay Pradhan
Chief Executive Officer
Open Government Partnership