



Request to postpone submission of Israel OGP action plan

To: Sanjay Pradhan  
Chief Executive Officer  
Open Government Partnership

Israel has been a member of the OGP since 2012, and strongly believes that the OGP is an effective and valuable platform where government and civil society organizations can partner in sustaining democratic norms, promoting greater transparency and accountability, and strengthening citizen engagement in policy making.

Israel's ICT Authority (in partnership with JDC Elka of Israel's civil society) are currently and diligently working on Israel's 4<sup>th</sup> action plan, which was scheduled for submission at the end of 2021. However, due to reasons outside of our power, we were unable to deliver the action plan. Israel has gone through four electoral processes in the past two years, where the Israeli government was only elected in March 2021 and inaugurated in the summer, when almost all ministers and ministries' staff were replaced. At that point, Israel has functioned without state budget for almost three years, and as of now, although the state budget was agreed upon, ministries has yet to receive funds, which greatly influenced the capacity to create and submit new, quality action plan.

In addition, Israel has not submitted its action plan at the end of the year also due to the desire to do the process right and in accordance with the OGP standards. Despite the challenging circumstances, we have managed to put into motion a meaningful process with partners and stakeholders from central government and civil society. Both the Government and CSOs have been working together in the past year in order to make sure that the process is done in a collaborative manner and with a goal of bringing into the process all the stakeholders that can contribute to the quality of our new commitments.

Some of the work we have done in the past year includes an extensive round of interviews with stakeholders from central government and civil society to try and get better understanding on relevant areas for commitments, in addition to trust-building process and constant feedback on the joint process. Our goal was to create a solid, effective, and authentic co-creation process between government and civic society.



A new, local website was created (available in three languages) and being regularly updated with all data of the ongoing process: <https://govextra.gov.il/ict-authority/ogp-en/home/>

We had two successful launch events – one for the government and one for civil society – in the purpose of introducing and recruiting partners from central government and civil society to the process. [102 ideas for commitments were submitted](#) following the events from central and local governments, civil society, academia, non-profit and private sectors. The deadline for submission was December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. We are now about to meet with the MSF going over submissions, deciding on relevant ones and thematic groups are scheduled to start working soon after.

Due to the unique political situation, we are requesting an extension to the original deadline, with the goal of delivering Israel's action plan as soon as possible. Despite Israel's past issues with developing and implementing two consecutive National Action Plans, we are dedicated to developing a new action plan in a collaborative manner in partnership with our CSOs who are supportive and on-board in the current process.

I want to express Israel's commitment to the Open Government Partnership. I am certain that the joint work we invested in the process so far, will lead to a collaborative, beneficial, effective, and substantial process which will then lead to an action plan with concrete reforms across a broad range of issues.

Shahar Bracha

Acting CEO, Government ICT Authority, Israel