

Letter of Support

OGP Steering Committee,

The Municipality of Maipú, its Mayor and our staff are enthusiastic about this application to the Open Government Partnership. We share the OGP principles and believe that being part of a rich network will allow us to take several steps forward to improve citizen trust and engagement in our local government.

Trust in Chilean politicians is declining due to repeated corruption cases. Citizens' claims for change are so deep that a constitutional process is ongoing in the country. In Maipú the reality is not different, the last administration has many [accusations of corruption](#), lack of investment in public goods and excessive municipal debt which have undermined the trust in the Municipality and even jeopardised the feeling of being proud to live in Maipú.

Maipú is located in the Metropolitan Region and is the second largest commune in the country with almost 600.000 inhabitants. It has a rich local identity highlighted by historic events such as the Maipú battle and has the second largest ethnic group among the population. There are more than a thousand active civil society organisations. It is the only Chilean municipality that owns a potable water service delivered to more than 200.000 households.

Participation is a key aspect of our political project. The political program for the campaign was built in 150 public gatherings, and in 8 months we have deployed a participation and transparency agenda. We endorse the [Open Government Declaration](#), and our current open government strategy is based on: 1) continuing the work done in the campaign by elaborating high participatory standards that allows to define with the community the priorities of our agenda and to agree on short term actions 2) reduce the municipal deficit in a participatory and transparent way which so far has allowed to involve the community in a very active way 3) and be accountable on the implementation of this agenda.

Our administration takes very seriously the commitments made with the community, so we always take into account our limited resources before making any promise. Moreover, we have strengthened our technical capabilities to deliver public goods by working with the guidance of the Inter-American Development Bank to implement a local Centre of Government for Results from January 2022. We have the challenge to link our open government strategies with this strategic effort on good governance.

At the beginning of our administration in June 2021, the fiscal deficit was estimated at 40 million dollars, about a quarter of the yearly budget. We implemented several actions like cutting non-essential expenditure, reducing actual contracts, renegotiating the debt and cutting overtime hours payments. Simultaneously, we made an alliance with the [Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic](#) to audits our finances and expenditures. This cost reduction also included ending a clientelism network, where the former administration funded social benefits directly to several local leaders with no transparency.

On the other hand, we established a partnership with the [National Council for Transparency](#) in order to develop a pilot exercise to explain our budget in a non-technical format. First, a preparatory pilot co-creation process was developed with 30 representatives from local organisations to agree on key information to deliver to the general public, such as the 2022 budget, the debt reduction and 2022 priority projects. This was followed by a meeting to report these agreements to our staff and finally we had a public event to communicate them to the public. Transparency and responsible expenditure are main priorities for the administration; therefore we want to scale this pilot exercise and make it a permanent instrument of open budget.

Besides addressing with transparency the budget, we are also implementing an ongoing dialogue with the community. Since the first month, we have two weekly gatherings to regularly cover the 21 neighbourhoods where representatives of civil society communicate their problems, put them on a map and prioritise them. The priorities are then communicated by the mayor to municipal managers.

One of the more active civil society organisations is the Ethnic Council, which is composed of different communities, Mapuches are the largest one. An important commitment established in the campaign period was to incorporate the Ethnic Council as a part of our local government. This commitment was accomplished by a very careful process in which they elected two representative members to be in charge of the municipal office for indigenous matters. This was a paradigmatic shift of how to enhance and active participation in public matters, in inclusion and in the respect of self-determination of indigenous groups.

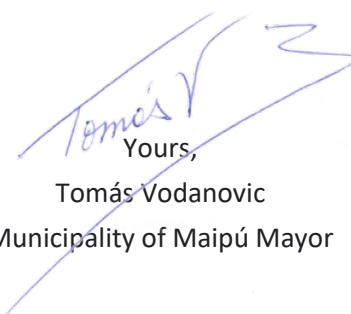
These examples show the deep commitment of our administration to implement participatory processes with those that will be affected by the decision-making processes in our Municipality. In this regard, we have incorporated 20 new staff to the civil society and participation office, and we have developed a multi-stakeholder group to address mobility existing problems in the community, established an Elderly Council, supported local assemblies to support the constitutional process and have a Civil Society organisation council that we take very seriously. Our capabilities include having a participation office, more than 100 staff dedicated to relationship with the community, participation, and transparency. Also, the OGP Local process is going to be led by the mayor cabinet staff.

In only eight months we have deployed several instruments of transparency, accountability, and participation. Whereas to accomplish our goal and recover trust in our local government still much work is needed, like improving participation instruments, being able to make transparency a permanent process, and motivating more people to participate. We believe that the community of Maipú will strongly benefit from being part of OGP. We are enthusiastic about joining the network and co-design commitments with our community in a realistic and truthful approach implementing OGP standards on participation, co-creation, transparency and accountability

This is why we decided to build a partnership with the NGO TRIBU who are experts in open government at the local government. Since 2019 they have put together the “Program Municipios Abiertos” (“Open Local Governments Program”) which so far has worked with 4 local governments. Tribu has also developed a participatory process for the new constitution and is embedded in several participation networks.

In light of the above, our interest in being part of the Open Government Partnership can be summed up in the following elements. First, it appeals because we will learn from novel experiences on open government which will give us more tools and allow cross-fertilisation of ideas between our teams improving our participation processes. Then it will help us to institutionalise these tools, which are aligned with part of the fifth commitment of the actual Chilean National Action Plan of open government. These objectives need to be matched with efficiency and good public management. Together, these would not only make people trust but also allow them to feel proud of Maipú again.

Thank you for your consideration,



Yours,
Tomás Vodanovic
Municipality of Maipú Mayor

March 14, 2022, Santiago de Chile

Santiago, Chile; March 16th, 2022

Dear OGP Local:

[Tribu](#) is a non-profit, independent and non-partisan organization that exists to reimagine democracy and taking that new vision to reality through research, action and dialogue. The organization was established in 2016 and it is based in Santiago, Chile. Spanning projects in open government, deliberative polling, crowdlaw, civic technologies, and the design of new institutional frameworks; Tribu's work could be summarized as promoting innovations for democracy.

We do so by bringing scholars and practitioners together in spaces of shared learning and ideation on the future of democracy; by disseminating knowledge and ideas through events, publications, trainings, and campaigns; and, by conducting "demonstration projects" to test innovative methodologies and technologies, that when proven successful are given continuity and expanded with a coalition of public and private entities.

[Open Government and Public Participation at the Local Level](#) is one of our focus areas. We began in 2018 collaborating with the local government of Renca (Metropolitan Region) to implement the first co-creation process of an Open Government Action Plan in Chile, following the standards suggests by OGP at that time and the involvement of the UN ECLAC as observers of the process.

During 2020 and 2021 –with the support of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation– Tribu implemented the “Open Local Government Program” in three others local governments in Chile: Calle Larga, a rural municipality (Valparaiso Region); San Pedro de la Paz (Biobio Region) and Penalolén (Metropolitan Region). Through this process, we supported and trained the team at the [Municipality of Penalolén](#) –which we continue to support actively– to apply and join OGP Local.

A publication on the implementation of this last program highlighting achievements, challenges and lessons learned will be available soon. Please review our previous publications on local open government in our [website](#).

The Municipality of Maipo contacted Fundación Tribu to learn more about the Open Government Partnerships and the call for the OGP Local. In Tribu we got very excited about the possibility of having a second Chilean local government at OGP Local. In this regard, Tribu has been supporting Maipo to prepare and submit their application.

Maipo is a very important local government to work with. Among the main reasons we can highlight the following: (i) Tomas Vodanovic, the present mayor is a young political leader with a strong commitment on working in a transparent and inclusive way with people, especially with

those more disadvantaged. He built his political campaign mainly through the implementation of 150 public gatherings to define his program. Then in only eight months in office, the new administration involved in a very active the local community to take main decisions on budget and priorities. (ii) In the previous administration there was a strong clientelism network between the Mayor and some few organizations. Benefits given to people were decided by the mayor without taking into account eligibility criteria, therefore creating and overspending. We strongly believe that clientelism, which is a non-transparent practice is present in all of Latin American countries and the best way to change it is through transparency, participation and accountability, and (iii) Maipu is the second largest Municipality in the country with a population of 600.000 inhabitants and with a strong presence of indigenous communities.

For these reasons, Fundación Tribu supports the Municipality of Maipu in the submission of its application and will continue to do it, hopefully when becoming a member of OGO Local. Tribu will share its experience in working with others local governments to support strategies to strength transparency, public participation and accountability. Tribu is autonomous and has necessary resources to do so.

We are committed to be active members of the OGP Local global community and to participate of the OGP Local process in a constructive manner, supporting the Municipality of Maipu in its mission to carry out the process integrating the open government values.

Tribu's contact person for this OGP Local process will be [Andrea Sanhueza](mailto:andrea.sanhueza@tribu.ngo) <andrea.sanhueza@tribu.ngo>.

Best regards,

TOMÁS

Tomás González Olavarría
CEO, Tribu
tomas@tribu.ngo

Fecha 14/03/22

Carta de respaldo a postulación

Estimado Comité Directivo de OPG,

Nuestra Junta de Vecinos Villa Divina Providencia II Ubicada en AV. El Arcañito apoya la postulación de la Municipalidad de Maipú a la red internacional de gobierno Abierto (Open Government Partnership). Hemos sido partes de instancias de participación como las caminatas/concejos barriales (u otras actividades en las que hayan participado). Los principios de gobierno abierto: participación, rendición de cuentas y transparencia pueden potenciar la actual gestión municipal.

Nombre persona Firmante: Veronica Rojas Osorio 

Nombre Junta de Vecinos u organización: Villa Divina Providencia II

