

Open Government Partnership

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September 23, 2022

The Honorable Elbert Krasniqi
Ministry of Local Governance and Administration
Republic of Kosovo

Dear Minister Krasniqi,

We welcome Kosovo's continued interest to join the Open Government Partnership (OGP), and congratulate you on your efforts to co-create an open government action plan in line with OGP participation and co-creation values and procedures.

As you are aware, the OGP Steering Committee has discussed Kosovo's intent to join the partnership on multiple occasions since receiving its letter of intent in 2013. The Steering Committee in general aims to govern the partnership by a compromise and consensus approach. At the time, in light of the different positions regarding Kosovo's international recognition, the Steering Committee could not find agreement on a way forward that would accommodate membership.

The document on the OGP website you refer to in your letter is not a new policy nor political position, but is rather meant to provide the current background and guidance regarding non-universally recognized applicants' participation in OGP. The Steering Committee's position on non-universally recognized applicants was at the core of deliberations when membership of Kosovo and Taiwan was discussed.

Earlier this month, the current Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee have discussed OGP's position in this matter, including Kosovo's participation in response to your letter dated August 12, 2022. The Co-Chairs agreed to bring the discussion of membership options into the new strategy development process and governance review for OGP that are currently underway. This would provide the full Steering Committee with an opportunity to discuss the matter afresh. Any changes to current policy would fall under their purview.

We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this further in person with you at the OGP European Regional meeting taking place on October 11-12.

We look forward to meeting with you in a few weeks time.

Sincerely,



Sanjay Pradhan
Chief Executive Officer