

Open Government Partnership

1100 13th St NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005
United States

Phone: +1 202-609-7859

Email: info@opengovpartnership.org

February 7, 2023

The Honorable Nir Barkat
Minister of Economy and Industry
Government of Israel

Dear Minister,

As Chief Executive Officer of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), I would like to warmly congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of Economy and Industry, responsible for overseeing Israel's participation in OGP. This includes spearheading Israel's OGP National Action Plan, and driving Israel's leadership on open government internationally. We welcome the Government of Israel's participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP), which now comprises 76 countries and 106 local governments working to implement open government commitments to promote greater transparency, accountability and citizen engagement in policy-making.

Government collaboration with civil society is at the heart of OGP and evidence from our first 11 years of operation shows this can lead to more ambitious reforms, higher rates of implementation and stronger results for society. In recent months, stakeholders from inside and outside government have been co-creating Israel's fourth OGP National Action Plan for the period 2023-2024 and a series of commitments are being drafted. Unfortunately, we have not yet received the final approved Action Plan, and the deadline of 31 December 2022 has therefore been missed.

In February 2020, Israel was placed under Procedural Review due to a late action plan delivery in 2017, and failing to deliver an action plan in 2019 and 2021. Due to high-level commitment from the government and progress made in developing a plan, the OGP Steering Committee approved a resolution in March 2022 providing a deadline for submission of a new action plan by December 31, 2022, or automatically fall into inactive status.

We regret to inform you that, as the OGP Support Unit has not received Israel's new action plan, Israel is now considered inactive in OGP. In line with the SC resolution, inactive status will be lifted immediately upon submission of a new action plan. If Israel remains inactive for a year without communicating its intention to continue to participate in the OGP, it will automatically be withdrawn from the list of OGP members. 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.

Notwithstanding the above, we have been heartened to hear about the unprecedented levels, and diversity, of engagement in the ongoing Israel OGP co-creation process as well as the inclusion of reform themes that have not featured in previous Israeli action plans. I have



written separately to this group of stakeholders to thank them for their active participation and to urge their continued engagement in the process under the auspices of the new Government of Israel. I would urge you to complete the co-creation process and deliver Israel's fourth OGP National Action Plan as soon as possible to avoid being withdrawn from OGP.

The OGP Support Unit and Steering Committee stand ready to support the Government of Israel in whatever way possible to return to active status in the Partnership.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sanjay Pradhan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "P".

Sanjay Pradhan
Chief Executive Officer



Resolution of the OGP Steering Committee Regarding the Participation Status of Israel in OGP

24 March 2022

The Steering Committee welcomes Israel's participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and recognizes the three action plans it has co-created since joining the OGP in 2011.

In February 2020, Israel was placed under Procedural Review due to failing to deliver an action plan on time for two consecutive action plan cycles. In addition, Israel has failed to deliver a new action plan by the 31 December 2021 deadline, and thus acted contrary to process again.

We acknowledge and welcome the progress made in developing Israel's fourth action plan and the high-level commitment of the government to ensure a strong co-creation process and to deliver the action plan as soon as possible, as outlined in the letter from Mr. Shahar Bracha, Acting CEO, Government ICT Authority of Israel from 10 January 2022¹. We are hopeful Israel indeed will deliver a strong action plan this year.

However, in order to maintain a consistent and fair approach to enforcing OGP requirements asked of all participating countries, and considering that the government of Israel has now acted contrary to the OGP process for three consecutive action plan cycles as outlined above, **the Steering Committee hereby resolves to keep Israel under Procedural Review until 31 December 2022. Failure to deliver an action plan by this date, developed in line with OGP Participation and Co-Creation Standards, will automatically result in Israel being designated as inactive in the OGP as of 1 January 2023, without the need of further deliberation by the Steering Committee.**

The OGP Steering Committee further agrees to offer all the necessary support in order to help Israel remain engaged in the Partnership.

For countries designated inactive in the OGP, the inactivity status may last up to one year, or until:

- The country publishes an action plan, developed in line with OGP Participation and Co-Creation Standards, or
- The country works with the Steering Committee to set a clear timeline to start a new action plan cycle and re-engage with civil society to develop a new action plan.

The inactivity status would be lifted immediately upon the submission of an OGP action plan. However, if a country remains inactive for a year without communicating its intention to continue to participate in the OGP, it would automatically be withdrawn from the list of OGP members.

Inactive countries are ineligible to participate in Steering Committee elections, and may only attend OGP events as observers for learning purposes. A country's inactive status will be noted on the OGP website and public information materials, where appropriate (e.g., in a list of participating OGP countries). Any country, whether in active or inactive status, may at any time decide itself to withdraw from the OGP.

¹ Letter from Shahar Bracha, Acting CEO, Government ICT Authority of Israel (January 10, 2022): https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Israel_Request-to-Postpone-Submission-of-Action-Plan_20220110.pdf

