

## Open Government Partnership

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**24 February 2023**

Imanov Talantbek Oruskulovich  
Minister  
Ministry of Digital Development  
Government of the Kyrgyz Republic

Dear Minister Oruskulovich,

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is an international multi-stakeholder initiative that brings together reformers committed to making their governments more transparent, accountable, and responsive to citizens. This Partnership 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. In 2017, Kyrgyz Republic became the first Central Asian country to join the Partnership.

President Japarov's vision for improving quality of life for all citizens, responsive public services, fighting against corruption, and a commitment to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are strongly aligned with OGP's vision of transparent, participatory, inclusive and accountable governance. OGP has been recognised by the UNDP as an implementation mechanism for the SDGs and the two organizations are working together collectively to assist countries in meeting their goals.

At the heart of OGP is a strong domestic dialogue where government and civil society work together to identify reforms that can further progress through two-year or four-year action plans and a global platform for peer exchange to showcase innovation and enable adaptation. The scope of the reforms included in the actions is determined by national stakeholders, based on each country's needs and context, and the evaluations seek to provide recommendations for future iterations. OGP's global platform serves as an avenue for countries to receive technical and peer support from open government practitioners from around the world, get international recognition for successful reforms and reformers in government, and access financial and technical assistance from OGP's partners including the World Bank, UNDP, ADB, as well as bilateral development partners.

Kyrgyz Republic's most recent OGP Action plan from 2018-2020, its first since it joined the Partnership, lapsed. It included an expansive set of commitments, covering issues such as enhancing transparency in public procurement, national budget, mining sector, expenditure of development assistance, creating a platform for participatory budgeting, as well as introducing a new financial audit system for public authorities that involves civil society organisations. It likewise includes publishing information on the education system at school level as well as disclosure of



data on public health organizations. Notably, a Parliamentary Working Group added their own set of additional commitments relating to parliamentary openness, with one of the commitments aimed at building a platform to facilitate public feedback into the lawmaking process.

The Anti-corruption Business Council's Strategic Plan under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic adopted the State Anti-corruption Business Strategy for 2022-2024, mentioning the relaunch of the OGP Kyrgyz Republic in 2023 as one of its strategic goals. With this as a basis, I encourage you to reopen a robust process to co-create Kyrgyz Republic's next OGP action plan with civil society. Given the cross-cutting nature of the partnership and the range of policy areas covered in OGP national action plans, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic needs to appoint a lead ministry that plays a vital role in ensuring coordination and oversight of the plan and ensuring that future plans are developed in line with national priorities, even as implementation is led by different state bodies and other public institutions. Previously, this was done by the Office of the Vice Prime Minister. Additionally, every government is required to designate an official Ministerial Point of Contact as well as senior or manager level point of contact for international and domestic coordination. The latter role was previously held by Mr. Akhmetov Uran Tulondievich, First Deputy Head of the Government office. During that time, support from the OSCE Bishkek Office was also provided in terms of secretariat work for OGP Kyrgyz Republic.

Convening a multi-stakeholder forum on a quarterly basis, publishing updates on the status of commitments every six months in the government website, producing self-assessment reports, and participating in the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) process are requirements to maintain active membership of OGP. These procedural requirements can be met with relative ease with strong leadership and adequate staffing from the lead ministry, and strengthening the coordination, stakeholder engagement, and communication efforts in place.

All OGP participating governments also establish a regular multi-stakeholder forum, a group of both governmental and non-governmental stakeholders that meets on a regular basis to oversee and coordinate the OGP process and ensure follow through of the country's commitments. Resumption of the activities of the National Open Government Forum of Kyrgyz Republic by first updating the composition of the Forum as well as the appointment of the Chair and election of the Co-chair are critical steps to resuming the work of the Forum. Quarterly meetings of the National Open Government Forum of Kyrgyz Republic are part of the requirements of membership, and serve as an important platform to jointly identify solutions to challenges faced in implementation and to identify future directions.

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. Unfortunately, the OGP Support Unit did not receive a new action plan from the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic by the deadline of December 31, 2022. Therefore, the Kyrgyz Republic has acted contrary to the OGP process for the 2022-2024 cycle.

The Kyrgyz Republic has now acted contrary to the OGP process for two consecutive action plan cycles. A copy of the letter notifying the previous occurrence is enclosed for your records (failure to deliver its 2021-2023 action plan). In line with [OGP policy](#), the Kyrgyz Republic will be placed under review by the OGP Criteria & Standards Subcommittee (C&S). This review process involves enhanced support by the C&S, the OGP Support Unit and the OGP Steering Committee in order to help address the issues that have led to it being placed under review.



The review process can be finalized by addressing the most recent occurrence of acting contrary to process, in this case by submitting an action plan by the next deadline. Additionally, if a country fails to deliver an action plan for three consecutive years, the C&S Subcommittee will automatically recommend that country be designated as “inactive” in OGP by resolution of the Steering Committee. Therefore, in order to prevent the risk of being designated inactive and to resolve the review process, the Kyrgyz Republic must deliver a new action plan by December 31, 2023.

The OGP Steering Committee and Support Unit stand ready to support you during the implementation of your current action plan and the development of your next one to make sure all requirements are met. I look forward to Kyrgyz Republic’s continued participation in the OGP and look forward to your active engagement with the agenda domestically and globally. Let me also take this opportunity to request a videoconference in the coming weeks to discuss how we can most effectively support the important reforms being pursued by your government.

Yours sincerely,



Sanjay Pradhan  
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Akylbek Usenbekovic Japarov, Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers



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9 March 2022

His Excellency Baktybek Amanbaev  
Ambassador  
Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic  
2360 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ambassador Amanbaev,

We welcome the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic's participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP), which now comprises 77 countries and 76 local governments working to implement open government commitments to promote greater transparency, accountability and citizen engagement in policy-making.

This letter is to inform you that as of the deadline of 31 December 2021, the Support Unit has not received the Kyrgyz Republic's 2021-23 Action Plan, and therefore has acted contrary to the OGP process. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic is also now considered to have started a new action plan cycle.

Please be mindful that in 2021 the Steering Committee approved new Participation and Co-creation Standards that all OGP participating countries will have to observe. As per the new standards, your new Action Plan has to be delivered before 31 December 2022 in order to avoid acting contrary to the OGP process again. Governments that act contrary to process for two consecutive cycles are placed under review by the OGP Steering Committee, which involves enhanced support to resolve the issues that led to being placed in that status. Guidance materials for the new standards will be available soon.

The OGP Support Unit and Steering Committee stand ready to support you in whatever way would be useful. Please do not hesitate to contact the Support Unit if you have any questions regarding this notification.

Yours sincerely,



Sanjay Pradhan  
Chief Executive Officer

