

Open Government Partnership

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

Phone: +1 202-609-7859

Email: info@opengovpartnership.org

May 12, 2023

Rui Augusto Gomes
Minister of Finance
Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

Dear Minister Gomes,

It is with great pleasure that we received your letter dated February 21, 2023 expressing your intent to join the Open Government Partnership (OGP). We would like to warmly welcome the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to this broad and diverse community of government and civil society reformers from 76 countries and 106 local governments working to implement open government commitments to promote greater transparency, accountability and citizen engagement in policy-making.

As Timor-Leste meets the eligibility criteria to join OGP, and your letter included an endorsement of the Open Government Declaration, we can now include the Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste as the latest country to join the Partnership.

The next steps of membership, which entail setting up the foundations for OGP at the country level, will require active leadership from you and the Ministry of Finance. These include:

- Establishing a multi-stakeholder forum (MSF) to oversee the governance of OGP at the national level and lead the development of Timor-Leste's first OGP national action plan to advance the values of transparency, accountability, participation and inclusion. The MSF serves as an established space for dialogue and collaboration between government, civil society and others and helps set the open government agenda for the country, in line with national priorities. It also oversees the development, implementation and monitoring of OGP action plans.
- Developing a co-creation plan, comprising a timeline and an activity calendar for co-creating the OGP national action plan. The co-creation plan must set out the objectives of what the country would like to achieve with this first action plan; how government, civil society, businesses and the broader public will be consulted on the reforms to priorities, the approaches and methodology for distilling public inputs into concrete reform commitments, and the calendar activities from start to finish.
- Submitting your OGP action plan to the OGP Support Unit by 31 December 2023. Action plans are at the core of a country's participation in OGP. They are the product of a co-creation and participatory process in which government and civil society jointly develop commitments. Successful OGP action plans focus on significant national open government priorities and ambitious reforms; are relevant to the values of transparency, accountability, and public participation; and contain specific, time-bound, and measurable



commitments. Every country determines the focus of their OGP commitments, based on national priorities. Appended to this letter is OGP's strategy for 2023-2028 which outlines partnership-wide priorities that could serve as a reference point to determine how Timor-Leste can contribute towards the accomplishment of partnership-wide goals.

- Attending and sending a delegation to the upcoming OGP Global Summit to be held in Tallinn, Estonia on September 6-7. The Summit will provide an opportunity for open government reformers from government and civil in Timor-Leste to meet with their peers from across the partnership, share lessons with one another, and be inspired by good practices from around the world.
- Paying OGP's membership financial contributions that all OGP members are asked to make on an annual basis. Although voluntary, all participating members are expected to contribute to the Partnership's budget. As one of the three primary sources of OGP revenue, country contributions enable OGP Support Unit to provide more advanced support to OGP's growing membership, expanding global campaigns and advocacy, and advancing thematic priorities essential to open government. The amount requested is based on the World Bank's Income Level for all countries. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor - Leste is requested an annual contribution of US\$ 50,000 (or minimum contribution of US\$ 25,000).

To ensure the success of the above and that the OGP process and action plan results in transformative reforms for the country, it will be critical for the Ministry of Finance to secure government-wide support for the OGP Timor-Leste process, raise awareness and secure buy-in and ownership within the Cabinet. It will also be important to ensure allocation of adequate resources for the OGP process within MOF and other ministries. This can be done through the provision of a budget for the OGP Timor-Leste program and activities through the annual budget process as well as seeking support from development partners.

The OGP Steering Committee and the Support Unit stand ready to provide our support and assistance to you as the high-level OGP Point of Contact, and to the Ministry's designated OGP working level Point of Contact Mr. Martinho Lopes, Director of the Office for PFM Policy Reform and Capacity Building, and to Timor-Leste civil society as you establish your OGP co-creation process and Forum. My team will be in touch with Mr. Lopes to coordinate our engagement and support.

On behalf of the Open Government Partnership, I am pleased to welcome Timor-Leste to the community and look forward to your active engagement in the Partnership.

Sincerely,



Sanjay Pradhan
Chief Executive Officer

