



**Alcaldía de Medellín**  
Distrito de  
**Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación**



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Medellín, 26/01/2024

Mr. Rudi Borrmann, Deputy Director, OGP Local

### **Government Expression of Interest: Call for new members to OGP Local 2024**

During the last thirty years, the city Medellín has transformed itself from being one of the world's most dangerous cities to being recognized as one of the world's most innovative cities according to Citigroup and The Wall Street Journal in 2019.

Medellín's transformation has been the result of a co-creation process between the different stakeholders in the city. This process has had renowned outcomes such as the creation of committees, such as CUEE<sup>1</sup>, where businesses, government representatives and universities participate to create a better tomorrow for the city.

The city has advanced multiple innovative processes in recent years around the principles of transparency, public innovation, participation, accountability and *open data*. Therefore, adopting the current Open Government Declaration will be the confirmation of what we believe in and one of our commitments to the citizens.

Likewise, we are aware that as members of OGP Local we are joining a global community, in which we are eager to participate in the exchange of experiences and best practices to entice public engagement in the government decision making process.

In Medellín, a robust process of local participation has been built during the last decades, with population and sectoral instances that actively influence the design, implement and evaluate public policies in order to actively improve and

<sup>1</sup> University Business and Government Committee, from the Spanish: *Comité Universidad Empresa Estado*.



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learn from past experiences. We are looking forward on starting to work on the I Local Open Government Action Plan of Medellín in order to put into practices our past experiences along with the support of OGP and its members.

We consider of the utmost importance to incorporate on the different public policy stages the philosophy and principles of OGP. We agree to adopt the characteristics provided for the construction of these action plans, as well as the implementation of commitments, monitoring and evaluation, emphasizing the participation of civil society, academia and public institutions in a collaborative manner.

Among some of Medellín's potentialities to be part of Local OGP are:

- Medellín's success in the adoption of the Participatory Budget model in 2004. Where citizens get the opportunity to prioritize government spending in the projects they consider respond best to their needs.
- The city has been developing a local open data system called MEDATA (<https://medata.gov.co/>); a platform that seeks to facilitate access to data from various departments of the Mayor's Office of Medellín, aimed at promoting the appropriation, openness and use of data as a tool for public administration, citizen participation and decision making.
- The city implements a process of measuring the Citizen Participation Index, a multidimensional indicator that gathers information from different variables that account for the quality of citizen participation from a multidimensional approach, which has four measurements taken every two years since 2017.

To that extent, all accumulated learnings and experiences profile Medellín as an innovative ally for OGP's network of local governments. We believe that being a part of OGP will allow us not only to learn from others but also to transfer some of the knowledge that as a city we've been able to gather along the years.

We strongly believe that the implementation of a local open government process with the support of the OGP Local team and network of actors, in collaboration with the different stakeholders, can strengthen our capacity to open important information such as budget, gender focused data and other relevant information of the different policies. By doing this in a timely manner, with a clear language and in interoperable formats it is our goal to enhance citizen participation, enticing them to take an active role in the public policy cycle, especially in the accountability processes and evaluation stages.



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Our government is committed to involve citizens and other non-governmental institutions in the decision-making process. To do this, we have to provide the different stakeholders with sufficient information for them to make their own judgements. In order to make this become a reality, we are sure that open government is the way to go.

To enhance and strengthen our interest and commitment to become a member of the OGP Local, we have designated Sandra Patricia Piedrahita, undersecretary of the office of Citizen Participation, to be the local leader and responsible of coordinating with the OGP support unit. We also express our commitment to have the necessary resources to co-create, implement and learn from the ambitious commitments in the action plan.

Kind regards

SIMON MOLINA GOMEZ  
SECRETARIO DE DESPACHO



**Corporación Libertad y Democracia**  
Nit - 900613247

Medellín, January 26, 2024.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

**OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (OGP)**

Steering Committee

**Subject:** Supporting Medellín's application to the Open Government Partnership Local 2024 program.

Dear OGP Local team,

Cordial greetings, from the Liberty and Democracy Corporation (CORLIDE), a civil society organization of the Science, Technology and Innovation District of Medellín, Colombia, we are pleased to express our support for the city to apply to the current call for membership in the Local OGP network. To that extent, we are committed to co-create and support the entire process for the construction of the I Local Open Government Action Plan of the city with a view to enhance the values of transparency, citizen participation, public innovation and accountability.

CORLIDE is a civil society organization that is part of the OGP ecosystem since 2016, participating in regional meetings such as the summits of Argentina 2017 and Dominican Republic in 2022 and recently in the OGP Global Summit held in Tallinn, Estonia in 2023; We also participate in the regional ecosystem attending the AbreLatam and con Datos summits, as well as in conferences such as the International Open Data Conference and in global collaborations such as the Open Data Day.

We highlight that the corporation is the first local civil society organization that has been part of the OGP Colombia National Multi-stakeholder Forum for about two years, along with organizations such as Fundación Corona, Datasketch and Instituto Anticorrupción, participating in the implementation of the IV National Action Plan and the construction of



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the V National Action Plan for the Open State, as well as the construction of CONPES 4070 "Policy Guidelines for the implementation of an Open State model" in the year 2022, and the Inter-American Open Data Program to Prevent and Combat Corruption (PIDA), for which we have adopted the Open Government Declaration as an integral part of our mission, a commitment that we reiterate in this letter.

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In the event that the District becomes a member of OGP Local, the corporation's executive director Wilmar Giraldo\* will be the point of contact for OGP Local from civil society, where we will support the government's efforts to promote OGP values, ensure citizen and private sector participation and monitoring, as well as play an important role in holding the government accountable for implementing its action plan.

**Wilmar Giraldo**

**Executive Director**

**Liberty and Democracy Corporation**

**Medellín - Colombia**



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