Open Government Partnership

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The Honorable Amal EL FALLAH SEGHROUCHNI Minister of Digital Transition and Administration Reform Government of Morocco

May 29, 2025

Dear Minister Amal EL FALLAH SEGHROUCHNI,

I'm writing to inform you that we received a request on May 20 from civil society in Morocco to activate the OGP's <u>Rapid Response Protocol</u> (RRP), which provides a framework for OGP to respond swiftly when core OGP values may be at risk in member countries. Following an initial assessment, the Support Unit has determined that the request does not meet the eligibility criteria outlined in Section II of the protocol. While no formal action is required by the Government of Morocco, we encourage the government to engage with civil society to identify ways to address this issue through open government approaches.

Aimane Aamalik, a member of Morocco's OGP Steering Committee and leader of the civil society organization *Pour Les Jeunes*, submitted the RRP request in reaction to Article 3 of Bill No. 03.23, alleging that the provision would introduce significant limitations on who can initiate criminal investigations into crimes involving public funds. Civil society warns that this reform would severely restrict citizen participation and weaken accountability mechanisms, contravening Morocco's OGP commitments. The letter is attached for your reference.

The OGP Support Unit has determined that the request does not meet the eligibility criteria outlined in Section II of the Rapid Response Protocol, specifically the threshold of an egregious violation of OGP core values and will not be moving forward with applying the protocol. While it does meet the threshold for the protocol, the concern raised is important and relevant to OGP. Civil society's participation in public policy, and on issues of public finance in particular, is critical to tackling corruption and advancing OGP values of accountability and inclusion.

It could also raise implications for Moroccan CSOs' participation in the OGP process. In this regard, I respectfully encourage the Government of Morocco to engage directly with civil society on this issue to address its substantive concerns. The OGP Support Unit and Steering Committee stand ready to support the government and civil society to engage in constructive dialogue on this issue. Please reach out to Support Unit Director of Country Support, Alonso Cerdan, with any questions or to set up a call to discuss this issue.

Kind Regards,

Shreya Basu

Chief, Country and Local Programs

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