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CHIEF OF STAFF
TO THE PRIME MINISTER
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

0010, Երևան, Հանրապետության հրապարակ
Կառավարական տուն 1

Republic Square, Government House 1
0010 Yerevan, Republic of Armenia

To:

Óscar López Águeda
Minister for Digital Transformation and Public Function
Government of Spain

Cielo Magno
President
Bantay Kita-PWYP Philippines

3 July, 2025

Dear OGP Steering Committee Co-Chairs,

The Republic of Armenia is pleased to submit its candidacy for a government seat on the **Open Government Partnership (OGP) Steering Committee**.

As a committed parliamentary democracy, Armenia continues building a state grounded in transparency, civic trust, integrity, and inclusive governance. Open government principles are embedded throughout our institutional architecture and policy agenda. Our aspiration to join the OGP Steering Committee reflects both our reformist orientation and our readiness to contribute meaningfully to the Partnership's leadership and future direction.

A Decade of Transformative Open Government Reforms

Over the past decade, Armenia has taken substantial steps to institutionalize open governance across all sectors and levels of government. We were among the first countries globally to adopt **Beneficial Ownership transparency** and have since developed robust **Asset and Gift Declaration systems** for high-ranking officials. A comprehensive **public procurement transformation** is now underway, strengthening integrity through an **eProcurement institution** supported by civic oversight and integrated **data verification of conflicts of interest, beneficial ownership, and asset declarations**.

Armenia's current OGP Action Plan centers on an ambitious **Digital transformation agenda**, including establishing an **independent institution** to oversee **data accuracy**, **cybersecurity**, and **open data infrastructure**—ensuring both transparency and trust in the digital age. Simultaneously, we are enhancing **Strategic Communication capacities** to address **information integrity**, **disinformation**, and **hybrid threats**, as part of our broader democratic resilience efforts.

Pioneering Democratic Participation

Democratic participation remains a cornerstone of Armenia's governance philosophy. Through pioneering work in **local-level participatory budgeting**, Armenia has fostered a vibrant culture of civic co-design and strengthened trust between the executive and municipalities. This model is now evolving into institutionalized frameworks for **co-financed local development programs** and broader civic engagement in decision-making and public investment planning.

At the national level, Armenia is **developing a dedicated Public Participation Institution** tasked with strengthening democratic values and deepening citizen engagement in policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring. This initiative reflects our long-term vision of embedding participatory governance into the heart of democratic life.

Armenia is also advancing open government at the **local level**, with **five municipalities** participating in the **OGP Local program**. These communities have become models of transparent, inclusive, and innovative governance, inspiring peers nationwide. Their achievements received international recognition at the **OGP Global Summit in Estonia**, where they won awards in the **"Green Deal, Green Seal" category** for advancing sustainable, participatory, and citizen-driven public policies. These successes underscore Armenia's strong **multi-level governance** approach and commitment to embedding openness across all levels of administration.

Strong Institutional Commitment and Global Engagement

Armenia is deeply engaged in global democratic governance initiatives as an active member of progressive multilateral platforms, including the **Council of Europe**, where we currently serve on the **Steering Committee on Democracy**. We demonstrate sustained progress in anti-corruption efforts through collaboration with **GRECO**, the **OECD Anti-Corruption Network**. Armenia has also signed the **UN Convention against Corruption Coalition's Transparency Pledge**, further demonstrating our commitment to anti-corruption transparency. These partnerships reflect Armenia's strategic commitment to advancing democratic values, public integrity, and responsible governance internationally.

Leadership in Global Democratic Dialogue

Recognizing growing challenges to democracy and good governance globally, Armenia convened the **international "Yerevan Dialogue"** in 2025, bringing together leaders from governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector to identify joint solutions and foster resilience. Armenia is honored to host two major upcoming global gatherings: the **European Political Community Summit** in 2026 and the **17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP17)**, further solidifying our role as a trusted convener and champion of multilateral cooperation.

Our Vision for OGP Leadership

Armenia's candidacy for the OGP Steering Committee is rooted in both **experience and ambition**. We bring the perspective of a **reform-driven, participatory, and resilient democracy** navigating complex geopolitical realities while remaining resolutely committed to **openness, innovation, and democratic accountability**. We are eager to help guide the OGP community in shaping the future of open governance and empowering people worldwide to engage meaningfully with their governments.

Commitment to OGP Steering Committee Expectations

We affirm that the Government of Armenia meets all OGP Steering Committee eligibility and candidacy requirements.

- We offer **high-level political commitment**, with engagement led by the **Prime Minister's Office**.
- The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** supports our candidacy and will appoint a liaison.
- We will appoint both **ministerial and working-level representatives**.
- We commit to **active participation** in Steering Committee and subcommittee meetings, as well as all key OGP events, including in-person engagements.
- We also commit to **meeting country contributions** during our full term.

We would be honored to serve on the **OGP Steering Committee** and stand ready to invest our **political leadership, institutional capacity, and international partnerships** to further the open government mission and principles.

Best regards,



ARAYIK HARUTYUNYAN