

GH/KD/S/461

6th July, 2025

The Chief Executive Officer, Open Government Partnership, Washington DC, United States.

Attention:

José Maria Marin Lead, OGP Local Open Government Partnership

LETTER OF SUPPORT

On behalf of the Government of Kaduna State, in Nigeria, I write to reassure you of the firm commitment of my administration to the promotion of the Open Government Partnership principles for the benefit of the citizens of Kaduna State. Since the inception of this administration in May 2023, we have been running a people-centered and inclusive administration anchored on the principles of transparency and accountability.

2. We have put in place conscious and deliberate measures to institutionalize the principle of co- creation. Our vision for the state and strategies to improve the living standard of the citizens are contained in our seven point Governance Agenda: Safety and Security; Upgrade of Infrastructure; Strengthening Institutions;

Trade and Investment; Agriculture; Investment in Human Capital and Nurturing Citizens Engagement.

- 3. Nurturing Citizens' Engagement is one of the key pillars of our Governance Agenda. We shall sustain timely platforms for citizens' inputs into government policies, the implementation of the reform agenda and embed the State Government's community engagement processes in policy development processes to ensure that government decisions are evidence-based. Our administration is practicing the Participatory Budgeting approach which enables citizens to make inputs into the budget process, as well as its implementation through the Community Development Charter (CDC). This process will help us deliver rural transformation that is participatory as envisioned in our Governance Agenda.
- 4. Our administration has deepened the feedback approach by holding regular townhall meetings with citizens across the 23 Local Government Areas and the 255 political wards in the State. The State has further invested in the Eyes and Ears Project to restructure the way citizens provide feedback. Recently, we concluded the restructuring of the Eyes and Ears Citizens Feedback App to promote access to data for greater transparency in the Budget process. Recently, the Eyes and Ears was awarded the Best Innovation in Government Communication by the Sharjah International Government Communication Forum. This further cements the desire to leverage technology to improve governance.
- 5. Furthermore, our administration has joined CoST Infrastructure Transparency Initiative as the first Government in the whole of

Nigeria to implement the four CoST approach that focuses on Multi Stakeholder Working, Disclosure, Assurance and Social Accountability. It will interest you to know that we have designed and deployed the first subnational Open Contracting portal in both Open Contracting Data Standards (OCDS) and Open Contracting for Infrastructure Data Standard (OC4IDS) that will support our administration to disclose project information on infrastructure projects. This will help us to promote fair business practice, transparency, accountability, and to fight corruption.

- 6. The main policy thrust of our administration is Rural Transformation. We have executed many infrastructure projects in the areas of Education, Health, and Agriculture. Our aim is to directly impact rural livelihoods. We believe that this approach will help improve health and learning outcomes, as well as improve standard of living for our dear citizens. Also, Kaduna State has co-created permanent dialogue mechanisms known as Accountability Mechanism, made up of Civil Society and key Government officials which has been extended to the legislature to deepen the principles of OGP and to ensure effective service delivery in the State and Local Government areas (LGAs).
- 7. To demonstrate the commitment of this administration economic and financial empowerment of the citizens, I signed the first Executive Order on Financial Inclusion in Kaduna State which is consistent with the OGP State Action Plan commitment on Strengthening Social Protection System. The focus on social protection is to ensure that we deepen programmes designed to cater for the interests and needs of women, youths and the

vulnerable. We are committed to improving the lives of our citizens, especially the poor, underserved and vulnerable. Most of our people are excluded from financial services, and by extension access to opportunities by the State and Federal Governments. Action steps include developing a credible STATE REGISTER that will capture our people in the rural areas, as well as the urban poor. We have assisted 2.5 million poor and vulnerable citizens of Kaduna State to open bank accounts. Our goal is to effectively integrate the poor, underserved and vulnerable in Kaduna State into the financial eco-system, so that they can benefit from State and Federal Governments social investment programmes, as well as donor agencies' interventions.

8. It is our hope that OGP Leadership will allow us to showcase how we shall continue to deliver the dividends of democracy to our people and make Kaduna State a Model for Learning across National and Subnational members of OGP. Kaduna State is keen to promote the principles of Open Government Partnership in its governance processes. We look forward to stronger sustainable partnership with the OGP Leadership.

Please accept, dear CEO, the assurances of my highest regards.

Senator Uba Sani, CON

Governor

