

# Vitoria-Gasteiz Declaration

## IX Global Summit of the Open Government Partnership

We, the undersigned governments, civil society organizations, and other actors committed to the principles of open government, unite our voices on the occasion of the IX Global Summit of the Open Government Partnership. Under the initiative and leadership of the Steering Committee, this declaration reaffirms our commitment to the principles enshrined in the Open Government Declaration, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN Convention Against Corruption, and other international instruments related to human rights and good governance.

**Recognizing** that this declaration comes at a time of profound global uncertainty, marked by eroding public trust in institutions, shrinking civic space, widening socio-economic inequalities, growing disregard for fundamental rights and international law, and intensifying pressure against multilateralism,

**Acknowledging** that today's most pressing challenges—corruption and the erosion of democratic institutions, mis and disinformation, cyberthreats, transnational repression, unaccounted costs of environmental degradation, and deepening polarization—transcend borders and cannot be addressed by any government or institution alone. Meeting them requires global cooperation and local action, rooted in strengthened public participation, human rights-centered digital governance, and collective and multilateral responses to security, climate and environmental crises.

**Affirming** that inclusive, transparent, and accountable governance, underpinned by public sector integrity, is necessary for restoring democratic resilience, rebuilding trust, and delivering effective, equitable outcomes for all,

**Concerned** by intensifying restrictions on civic space, media freedom, and access to information, as well as increasing risks, harassment, and shrinking financial support faced by civil society organizations, journalists, human rights defenders, and grassroots actors,

**Welcoming** the Open Government Partnership as a platform for voluntary cooperation that strengthens reforms and reformers and connects global commitments to action at the national and local levels,

**We reaffirm our commitment to:**

1. **Protect democracy, safeguard civic space and uphold human rights and fundamental freedoms**, including freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, association, and access to information. We will work to reduce legal, financial, and digital barriers that constrain civil society, independent media, and public participation in civic life and oversight, including in situations of conflict and humanitarian crises.



2. **Promote open government principles across all branches and levels of government** to embed transparency, accountability, and participation into public institutions. This includes advancing financial integrity through greater openness in public finances, contracting, and beneficial ownership, to promote trust, fiscal responsibility, and informed public oversight.
3. **Strengthen international cooperation and shared learning** by aligning open government efforts with broader global agendas on safeguarding democracy, addressing climate action, advancing sustainable development, ensuring information integrity, and governing artificial intelligence, data, and emerging technologies to build prosperous and resilient societies.
4. **Mobilize collective leadership and political will** at national and local levels to demonstrate that open government can help deliver more effective, equitable, and trusted outcomes.
5. **Leverage the Open Government Partnership** to foster inclusive dialogue, bridge divides, facilitate exchange of good practice across borders and sectors, and accelerate reforms that reflect domestic priorities and respond to people's needs.

We call upon all governments, civil society organizations, multilateral institutions, private sector actors, and individuals everywhere to join us in committing to this declaration and to demonstrate leadership in applying open government principles, including through the OGP. Together, we can strengthen and protect democracy to meet the challenges of our time and the needs of future generations.

**Approved and tabled by the OGP Steering Committee**

September 19, 2025

