

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**ON**  
**COOPERATION IN THE PROMOTION AND DEFENSE OF OPEN**  
**GOVERNMENT**  
**BETWEEN**  
**THE SPANISH AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL**  
**DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION – AECID (KINGDOM OF SPAIN)**  
**AND**  
**OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP**



This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (hereinafter “MOU”) is between the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, Kingdom of Spain (hereinafter “AECID”) and Open Government Partnership (hereinafter “OGP”), hereinafter each referred to as a “Signatory”, and collectively referred to as the “Signatories”.

**Recognizing** the Signatories’ shared commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically to the SDG16 Peace and Justice and Strong Institutions, and strengthening democratic governance as an essential pre-requisite to achieving Sustainable Development Goals that foster social, political, and economic stability and security;

**Recognizing** Spain’s long-standing commitment to open government through its role as 2024-2025 OGP Steering Committee Co-Chair, and its endorsement of the Open Government Declaration and its membership in OGP since 2011, where it has implemented an ambitious domestic open government agenda at both national and subnational levels;

**Sharing** a strong commitment to multilateral, multi-stakeholder, multilevel action and to building innovative partnerships to promote sustainable development, based on genuine partnerships grounded in mutual respect between partner countries;

**Sharing** a strong commitment to supporting governments, civil society, and the private sector in partner countries to engage in inclusive dialogue to promote transparency, participation, and improve accountability;

Have reached the following understanding:

### Paragraph I. Object

AECID and OGP share the vision of a world in which governments and civil society take action together to deliver more inclusive, representative, and accountable governance that leads to societal outcomes which better the daily lives of people. Enhancing the uptake and implementation of open government reforms directly aligns with Spain’s development aid and foreign policy priorities, including deepening open government connections to public participation, justice, gender and inclusion, anti-corruption, civic space, climate, digital governance, reduction of poverty and inequalities and other shared priority areas. By working together at both the strategic and operational levels, AECID and OGP hope to extend the impact and increase the efficiency of their country-level support and global and local policy influence and thus achieve better measurable development outcomes.

The Signatories of this MOU commit to building the partnership, ultimately improving the environment for democratic accountability and human rights and strengthening both AECID’s and OGP’s efforts.

This MOU creates a strategic framework for long-term engagement, cooperation and collaboration between AECID and OGP at the global, regional, and country levels.

### Paragraph II. Purpose of Mutual Cooperation

The Signatories hereby express their mutual intent to cooperate with one another in the advancement of open government. To advance this objective, the Signatories intend to explore cooperation in the following activities consistent with the overall objective of this MOU:

1. Collaborating and coordinating at partner country levels to elevate and drive progress on domestically-prioritized and owned reforms:



OGP currently has 77 national and 150 subnational member governments, with many members in AECID priority regions. Through closer collaboration in the framework of this MOU, OGP can connect AECID country and regional offices, as well as Head Quarters, systematically with key domestic OGP stakeholders in government and civil society in priority countries.

As OGP action plans are developed through collaboration between domestic government and civil society stakeholders, AECID and OGP can collaborate to identify where AECID resourcing and technical support can help to drive priority reforms, as well as entry points for OGP stakeholders to contribute to AECID supported projects. Specific activities will include:

- Sharing country level intelligence and connections via assigned AECID and OGP focal point to pursue/reinforce mutual objectives.
- Mobilizing and aligning AECID funding, technical cooperation, and spaces (e.g. AECID Training and Cultural Centers) for priority country stakeholders working on potentially influential reforms in priority thematic areas.

2. Connecting agendas on global fora and linking global pledges to national action:

AECID and OGP intend to cooperate on setting a global agenda at key moments for the importance of open government and intersectional approaches to shared priority thematic areas. The OGP platform also helps to drive domestic progress on national pledges made on a global or regional stage, using the OGP national action plan to embed commitments. Specific activities will include:

- Collaborating on OGP events as well as broader global events, ensuring appropriate positioning for open government and priority thematic areas in key global fora and networks. Specific opportunities for AECID leadership in these areas will include the 2025 OGP Global Summit co-hosted by the Government of Spain. Specific forms of support from AECID could include scholarships for civil society to attend global events such as the OGP Summit, hosting side events or dialogues with key diplomatic partners, and providing event resourcing.
- OGP will help to inform AECID support to priority themes and countries/regions based on high-level pledges made at global fora focused on democracy or other relevant topics, providing the action and multistakeholder collaboration framework at the country level to translate them into tangible, impactful, and accountable reforms.
- Aligning AECID and OGP connections and priorities in European development aid, such as shared links with Team Europe Democracy (TED) and the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA).

3. Providing support for civil society and priority open government reforms via the OGP Secretariat:

With support, OGP can deliver on AECID's commitment to strengthen civil society and build democratic resilience, particularly in priority regions, working closely with AECID regional Spanish Cooperation Offices. This support would be premised on AECID's model of development aid of mutual respect and partnership, driven by partner countries' own priorities as set out in their OGP action plans. Peer exchanges on regional and thematic lines will help to build partnership across



countries at all levels of development, with the understanding that democratic innovation can come from anywhere.

- Support could be structured to complement AECID programming for democracy, human rights, and other areas in priority regions including Latin America and the Caribbean, North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, and others.
- Support could also be structured along thematic lines to help drive intersectoral momentum and progress on AECID's priority areas of interest, such as civic space, gender and inclusion, climate, public participation, urban governance, or other dimensions of the social, economic and ecological transitions prioritized in the Spanish Cooperation Master Plan.

4. Additional priorities the Signatories might identify.

### Paragraph III. Representatives

AECID intends to implement this MOU through its headquarters in close coordination with the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation and other relevant Spanish agencies and organizations, the Embassies of Spain in the regions concerned, and AECID's Spanish Cooperation Offices and Training Centres on the field.

OGP intends to implement this MOU through its Secretariat in close coordination with domestic stakeholders in its 77 national and 150 subnational members and other relevant stakeholders.

### Paragraph IV. Final Provisions

1. This MOU sets out matters of agreed principle and framework, reflecting the spirit of cooperation between the Signatories, but it is not intended to be legally binding nor does it generate obligations under International Law.

2. Any activities conducted hereunder are subject to, and contingent upon, the availability of sufficient staff, funds and other resources of, and the laws, regulations, procedures and policies applicable to each Signatory.

3. The Signatories intend to maintain their own separate and unique missions and mandates and their own accountabilities. Nothing in this MOU is intended to or shall be deemed to establish an exclusive relationship between the Signatories or to restrict any activities that either party would otherwise be able to undertake.

4. Nothing in this MOU is to be construed as superseding or interfering in any way with any agreements or contracts entered into by the Signatories, either prior or subsequent to the signing of this MOU.

5. This MOU will be applied from the date of its signature and will remain in use for a period of three (3) years.

At any time before the expiration of the above period, the signatories may unanimously and in writing agree to extend it for an additional period of up to three years or terminate it.

The expiration of the Memorandum validity period without an extension agreement will result in its end of application. The end of application may also occur by mutual agreement of the parties, unilateral decision of either party, or due to force majeure preventing the objectives of the MoU.



The end of the MoU application will not affect the smooth progress and satisfactory completion of activities already carried out jointly at that time.

6. Either Signatory may end the application of this MOU at any time by means of written notification to the other side.

7.- In the event of any dispute, controversy, or claim arising out of or relating to this MOU, the parties shall attempt to resolve the matter amicably through direct negotiation and dialogue. If the dispute cannot be resolved within 60 days from the date the dispute is first raised, the parties agree to submit the matter to mediation before a neutral third party, to be mutually agreed upon by the parties.

And in witness whereof, the undersigned electronically sign this Memorandum of Understanding.

**For the Spanish Agency for  
International Development  
Cooperation (AECID)**

**Kingdom of Spain**

  
AECID Director  
Antón Leis Garcia

**For Open Government Partnership  
(OGP)**

  
OGP Executive Director  
Aidan Eyakuze