

## **Memorandum of Understanding between the European Partnership for Democracy and the Open Government Partnership**

### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to strengthen and formalise the ongoing cooperation between the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD). This MoU recognizes the strengths of both organisations and seeks to leverage and maximise them through joint initiatives. Its ultimate goal is to advance democratic resilience and transparent, accountable, and participatory democratic governance worldwide.

#### **1.1 About the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD)**

The EPD is a network with a global remit to support democracy. In 2008, several organisations came together to create EPD as a partnership to reinforce European democracy support by building a community that advocates and acts for democratic values around the world. EPD's Secretariat is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.

The EPD works inside and outside Europe because it recognizes that democracy is a universal aspiration and that the contemporary challenges and opportunities for democracy are global in scope. EPD is composed of 19 European organisations with activities in over 140 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Latin America. It is the most important European network on democracy support and a leading voice on democracy worldwide.

#### **1.2 About the Open Government Partnership (OGP)**

The OGP is a multi-stakeholder initiative focused on improving government transparency, ensuring opportunities for citizen participation in public matters, and strengthening mechanisms for public accountability. The OGP fosters ambitious reforms within its national and local members through National Action Plans and the Open Government Challenge, which focuses on ten priority policy areas: access to information, anti-corruption, civic space, climate and environment, digital governance, fiscal openness, gender and inclusion, justice, media freedom, and public participation.

Established in 2011, It is currently made up of 75 countries, 150 local governments, and thousands of civil society organizations. OGP's Secretariat is headquartered in Washington DC, United States, with offices in Brussels, London and Berlin and staff

based in countries in Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Asia.

## **2. Areas of Collaboration**

EPD and OGP are organizations with complementary strategies, objectives and activities. Through this MoU, both organisations commit to work together as strategic partners in order to promote more transparent, inclusive and participatory democratic practices at sub-national, national, regional, and global levels.

Commitments outlined in this MoU are not binding on all EPD members. Participation of individual EPD members in joint activities with OGP shall remain voluntary and subject to their respective interests, mandates, and capacities.

### **2.1 Joint collaboration at the local and country level**

- EPD will support civil society participation in OGP National and Local Action Plan co-creation processes and in the Open Government Challenge by mobilizing its networks, expertise, and partners. Priority will be given to countries where both organizations have active programs, memberships and policy interests.
- OGP will build buy-in among its members to advance democratic reforms aligned with EPD's mandate, while facilitating the identification of entry points for EPD's technical support on open government reforms that strengthen democratic institutions, policies, and practices.
- EPD and OGP will coordinate their in-country programmes to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication, while maximizing impact.
- EPD and OGP will share their respective knowledge-based products, research, analysis, and tools with each other and with national and local reform actors in order to inform policy options and increase opportunities for civil society participation in reform processes.

### **2.2 Coordinated advocacy efforts at the regional and global level**

- EPD and OGP will coordinate their advocacy strategies and will collaborate on regional and global forums, webinars, peer-learning sessions and other relevant events to showcase joint efforts as well as advocate mutual interests and concerns.
- EPD and OGP will collaborate to involve their respective partners, from civil society organizations and governments, to take part in and contribute to the above-mentioned advocacy efforts at regional and global levels.
- EPD and OGP will coordinate their engagement with the European institutions, especially when it comes to strengthening the support for their democracy related work across the globe.

### **2.3 Strategic collaboration on youth engagement**

- EPD will strengthen the engagement of young people in OGP initiatives and processes through their Youth Democracy Cohort (YDC).

- OGP will encourage the design of ambitious youth-related commitments by increasing the participation of young people, including members of the YDC, in the co-creation of National and Local Action Plans and in the Open Government Challenge.
- EPD and OGP will support the activities of the YDC and OGP Youth Collective through capacity building programs, technical assistance, advocacy support, leadership development initiatives, and other activities as determined by both organizations.

#### **2.4 Resources and shared fundraising**

- While this MoU creates no financial obligations, both parties agree to actively explore joint fundraising opportunities and resource sharing where mutually beneficial.
- Each organization will contribute resources commensurate with their capacity and the specific activities undertaken and in line with their program of work and budget.

### **3. Internal and External Communications**

Internal communication will be ensured through regular conversations between the Policy Officer of EPD and the Gender and Inclusion Programme Officer of OGP, and it will be supported by the EPD WYDE Civic Engagement team and the OGP Policy & Partnership team. Leadership of both organisations will also meet regularly to exchange on strategic developments and needs. Both partners agree to share relevant information and materials as necessary, while respecting confidentiality requirements and data protection protocols of both organizations.

EPD's and OGP's communication officers will work to ensure the external visibility of the actions implemented under this MoU through joint communications, events, and the production of documentation highlighting the impact of joint activities.

### **4. Intellectual property and attribution**

Joint products developed under this MoU will be co-branded and both organizations credited appropriately.

Both parties agree to acknowledge the partnership in relevant communications and publications resulting from collaborative activities.

### **5. Term and Modifications**

The present MoU shall enter into force on 9 October 2025 and will automatically renew every year, unless one of the parties provides a written notice of at least 30 days.

Both EPD and OGP may modify this MOU by mutual written decision, when necessary.

**6. Effect of MoU**

Nothing in this MoU creates, or is intended to create, any rights or obligations under international law. It does not constitute a commitment to provide funds, nor does it otherwise give rise to a legally binding obligation for either Party or confer any rights on third parties. Each Party will continue to maintain its own distinct mission, mandate, and accountability.

**7. Declaration**

We the undersigned are duly authorised by the organisations that we represent and hereby agree to conclude the terms and conditions set out above.

Done in two copies, on 9 October 2025 in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain.

For the European Partnership for  
Democracy:

For Open Government Partnership:



Ken Godfrey

Executive Director



Aidan Eyakuze

CEO