



December 15, 2025
2025-0170-697

H.E. Mr. Aidan Eyakuze
Chief Executive Officer
Open Government Partnership

Subject: Exclusion of Israel from the 9th OGP Global Summit

Dear Mr. Eyakuze,

The State of Israel expresses its profound concern and disappointment following the recent letter from the Government of Spain, dated 9 September 2025, regarding the 9th OGP Global Summit, in which it denied accreditation to representatives of the Government of Israel, and the silence of OGP on this matter.

This step effectively excluded a founding OGP member from participation and stands in clear contradiction to the Partnership's core principles of openness, inclusivity, equality, and dialogue.

Open government cannot coexist with exclusion. No member state should be barred from participation due to political disagreements or bilateral disputes and OGP is not the forum to address or act upon these disputes. The OGP Secretariat should express its firm and unequivocal commitment against any attempts to misuse the Organization and politicize its work.

It is deeply regrettable and disappointing that the OGP Secretariat has not yet publicly or operationally opposed or acted to prevent this exclusion, which sets a harmful precedent and undermines confidence in the OGP's neutrality and commitment to fair governance. We ask that the OGP Secretariat will publicly condemn such exclusion and ensure that all Member States are able to participate in activities of the Organization, without exception, in the future.

Without prejudice to Israel's principled position detailed above, we wish to make clear that the allegations made by Spain are patently untrue and wholly unfounded. Spain's communication makes no reference to the unprecedented terrorist atrocities committed by Hamas on 7 October 2023. Following Hamas' heinous terror attack, which it vowed to repeat, Israel found itself defending its citizens from a war that was forced upon it, all while complying with its obligations under international law, taking unprecedented measures to avoid loss of innocent civilian life, and working tirelessly to allow and facilitate the entry of essential humanitarian aid into Gaza.



Despite the challenges facing our nation, Israel's National Digital Agency has continued to advance transparency, civic engagement, and service innovation for all citizens, — demonstrating its unwavering commitment to open and accountable governance, in full alignment with OGP values.

Israel remains committed to the values of open government and stands ready to continue contributing actively to the OGP community. However, such participation must rest on the foundation of fairness and respect that underpins any genuine partnership.

Sincerely,

מ. כ. ניר ברקת

M.K. Nir Barkat
Minister of Economy and Industry
State of Israel