



February 1, 2026
2026-0170-22

Open Government Partnership

Steering Committee

Ms. Robin Hodess, Chair, Board of Directors,

Mr. Aidan Eyakuze, Chief Executive Officer

Dear Members of the Steering Committee,

This letter serves to formally notify you of the Government of Israel's decision to withdraw from the Open Government Partnership (OGP).

Israel joined the OGP over a decade ago as an early and committed partner, drawn by a shared vision of an international framework dedicated to advancing open government through transparency, civic participation, and accountability. Regrettably, the organization has, over time, departed from these founding principles. The OGP of today is no longer the professional, neutral, and inclusive partnership that Israel chose to join.

The decision to withdraw is driven first and foremost by the increasing politicization of the organization and the misuse of its institutional mechanisms and resources to advance selective political agendas. Rather than serving as a cooperative platform grounded in mutual respect among its members, the OGP has allowed political considerations to shape its conduct and decision-making. This represents a fundamental breach of the Partnership's stated mission and values.

This erosion of neutrality was brought into sharp focus by the organization's failure to respond appropriately to Spain's decision to exclude Israel from participation in the 9th OGP Global Summit. Such exclusion constitutes a clear act of politicization and



discrimination, inconsistent with the accepted norms governing international forums. Despite being fully apprised of the matter, the OGP chose not only to refrain from corrective action, but effectively to legitimize this precedent. In doing so, the organization undermined its own commitment to inclusiveness and equal treatment of member states.

The same pattern was evident in the OGP's handling of the "Letter of Concern – Government of Israel's Non-Compliance with the Open Government Declaration" dated 26 September 2025. The letter, authored by a civil society representative and grounded in sources widely criticized for factual inaccuracies and systemic bias, was nonetheless adopted by the organization as a basis for initiating formal procedures. This step reflected a troubling willingness to institutionalize politically motivated claims while disregarding standards of objectivity, balance, and fairness.

Notwithstanding Israel's withdrawal from the Open Government Partnership, the Government of Israel remains firmly committed to the values of transparency, public participation, and accountable governance. These principles will continue to be advanced through national policies, reforms, and initiatives, independent of any multilateral framework that has ceased to uphold them.

The Government of Israel avails itself of this opportunity to convey its position with clarity and determination.

Respectfully,

M.K. Nir Barkat

Minister of Economy and Industry

State of Israel