Peñalolén, September 30, 2020

OGP Steering Committee

Dear

Hereby, from the Local Government of Peñalololén, we would like to express our interest in participating in the Open Government Partnership Local Program. If our application is accepted, we are very excited to be part of this international network. We are committed to collaborate with other municipalities, sharing our experience in public innovation at the local level, along with experience in youth participation and the use of youth tools in this process. We strongly believe in peer learning.

Our commune is located in Chile, in the Metropolitan Region, city of Santiago, located at the foot of the Andes Mountains and in the eastern sector of the city. Currently the population is close to 260,000 inhabitants, with an important social diversity. In Peñalolén there is an important social fabric, since we have sectors interested in the political context and more than 3500 social and territorial organizations.

Since 2013 we have been working in the Municipality of Peñalolén in different Open Government initiatives. As part of our commitment to this policy, we out a systematization in 2019, of 21 initiatives that we have developed in the municipality, which can be found at the following link: http://transparencia.penalolen.cl/GA2020/BP2019.pdf

Among the most relevant projects are the following initiatives:

One of the commitments of the 3° Chile Action Plan (2016-2018) in the framework of participation in OGP, was the pilot creation of an Open Government model for local governments, which was coordinated by the Council for Transparency. The result was to formulate 4 commitments in accountability, citizen participation of youth, and Open Data, all developed with participation and co-creation. (https://observatorioplanificacion.cepal.org/es/planes/tercer-plan-de-accion-nacional-de-gobierno-abierto-de-chile-2016-2018)

In 2017, an important initiative was developed in conjunction with “*Fundación Ciudadanía Inteligente”*, the "*ABRE Peñalolén*" project. This work was carried out with focus on people and collaboration, proposing a process of participation and co-creation in the design and execution of a public space. https://ciudadaniai.org/pt/proyectos/2017/09/22/de-cuando-abrimos.html https://abre.tumunicipio.org/

We participated in the "*Mirada Ciudadana*" project sponsored by the European Union. Previously we participated in an international Cooperation Agreement with the same actors, which sought to promote transparency and participation called "*A los ojos de Todos, monitoreo social y contraloría ciudadana*". (In the eyes of all, social monitoring and citizen oversight.

We have progressively implemented since 2018 the "*Participatory Public Account*", under a model created by the Council for Transparency, with prior citizen consultations, streaming transmissions, and citizen evaluation surveys.

The last initiative we would like to mention is in the context of the Covid 19 Pandemic, since it has revealed the importance of transparency in a timely and simple way for the community. That is why we created a monthly report with information about the resources to support citizens with economic problems due to the pandemic.

Therefore, as a Local Government we are fully committed to Open Government, and we declare our endorsement and approval of the Open Government Declaration and all the principles stated therein, committing ourselves to "fostering a global culture of open government that empowers and empowers citizens and promotes the ideals of open and participatory 21st century government."

We have come a long way in this challenge, but we know that we still have a long way to go to reach full compliance with Open Government in Peñalolén. For this, we believe it is necessary to move forward with an Open Government policy, especially in the context of the new challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In this regard, the Department of Control and Open Government has staff dedicated exclusively to Open Government. The objective is to configure/establish Open Government throughout the municipal structure. The Directorate has been working with others such as Citizen Participation and the Environment Directorate. It is important to mention that we have an annual budget for the development of Open Government projects.

One of our challenges is to support Local Economic Development. The unemployment rate is higher than ever. Through collaboration, transparency and innovation we will be able to address this problem.

A second necessary advance in this context of new challenges is in urban planning, a very important area for the community, due to the implications it has for the development of good living in the commune. A third element in which we want to advance with the participation in the OGP program is Gender Equality. We believe it is very important to generate a strategy at the local level that addresses the issue in a cross-cutting manner, especially in view of the inequalities that the health emergency has shown. Another aspect that seems fundamental to us is to develop Citizen training, which will allow us to promote the leaders of the future.

Finally, we believe that we have to strengthen our work together with OGP in the use of Public Spaces, thinking of new strategies together with the community.

We are constantly working on training and capacity building with municipal officials; in fact, together with the “*TRIBU* Foundation” we have been working on training 80 municipal officials on Open Government. This shows that our willingness to make changes is real and that, consequently, we want to continue training, motivating and supporting civil servants to co-create and implement solutions to these challenges with the citizens.

This includes the networks we have been able to build, both with civil society organizations such as “*Fundación Tribu”, “Ciudadanía Inteligente”, “Chile Transparente*”, among others, and with municipalities that are working on the installation of Open Government in their local governments. We also have a network of local governments in Latin America, with whom we have worked on cooperation projects and with whom we plan to continue carrying out joint projects (Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay). Together with the aforementioned networks, for this application we have the support of the non-governmental sector and the institutional support of the COSOC (Civil Society Council, a participatory body), which has elected leaders from the community.

Peñalolén has several initiatives that are framed in the logic of Open Government, but it is necessary to create a plan that brings together all the elements that promote OGP. We are aware of the need to improve accountability, social monitoring and collaboration. For that, the education and support that OGP can provide is fundamental and very important, especially for the creation of the Open Government Plan.

We believe that Peñalolén can be an important focus for the development of Open Government in the entire Metropolitan Region, and that collaborative work between public institutions is fundamental for the construction of better public policies, especially at this time, being important the networks that we have managed to build and our constant activity in Open Government.

Finally, we would like to express two points; the first one is about the possibility of OGP technical support. It is fundamental to have this possibility during the whole process, because the municipality does not have the capacity and financial structure to increase the development of open government. Secondly, it is a huge challenge to implement Open Government for the future. That is why we see in this opportunity better possibilities to have an evaluation in the whole process with feedback and follow-up.