



March 14, 2022

To: Open Government Partnership (OGP), Local Committee 2022

Dear OGP Local Team,

As Mayor of the Municipality of Contagem, I send this letter of support to the application for the OGP Local Program, and I make public the commitment, to making our city more transparent, efficient and inclusive, transforming the way we act to serve our Citizens.

Contagem is one of the most important cities in Minas Gerais and Brazil, it is located in the central region of the Minas Gerais State, and is part to the Metropolitan Area of the Capital, which is made up of other 35 municipalities. With this metropolitan interface, Contagem can be a city that disseminates good Open Government practices, being a pioneer, as the first municipality representing the State of Minas Gerais to join OGP.

Our City has 673,849 inhabitants according to data from 2021 and has the first industrial hub created in Latin America (Centro Industrial Juventino Dias), being also the third largest Gross Domestic Product in the State of Minas Gerais and with municipal executive revenues in the order of 2.4 billion a year. Contagem has a production matrix very diversified, making a favorable environment for innovation, and tradition in strong relations with the international community, in the creation of lasting relationships with several nations, as a reflection of the large number of multinational companies that settled in the city.

The municipality's history in structured open government actions dates back to 2017, when the Avança Contagem Program (2017-2020) established transparency and integrity actions. As a successful initiative, Contagem was a pioneer at the municipal level with the integrity seal project (created and developed to foster a culture of integrity, corruption prevent and promote ethics in relations with private companies), which was the winner in the category innovation in public management, nationally awarded at the 32nd Brazilian Congress of Administrative Law in 2018.

In terms of democratic participation, our City currently has around 35 Public Policy Councils, essential for the formulation and monitoring the implementation of public policies, with the active and equal participation of citizens. Still regarding the practices of promoting social participation, Contagem in 2021 provided popular participation in the revision of the Master Urban Plan of our city. In this process, we have the participation from

representatives of Frente Brasil Popular de Contagem, which is a civil society organization that stands in defense of democracy and popular participation.

Reinforcing the relevance of non governmental partners, the Municipality of Contagem is implementing the "Decidim" platform, which will enhance the Municipal System of Popular and Citizen Participation, bringing demands of the population to local government, consolidating the principles of Open Government in our municipality. It is a digital platform for citizen participation, used internationally (New York, Barcelona, Lisbon, etc.), which helps organizations and public institutions in transparency, traceability and integrity of information.

Our Municipality has the support and partnership of several organizations, civil society, institutions and associations, such as AMONP – Association of Residents of Novo Progresso Neighborhood; SEBRAE - Serviço Brasileiro de Apoio às Micro e Pequenas Empresas; OAB – Ordem dos Advogados do Brasil Seção de Minas Gerais (Brazilian Lawyer Association – Minas Gerais Section), FIEMG – (Federation of Industries of the Minas Gerais State); ACIC - Associação Comercial e Industrial de Contagem (Contagem Commercial and Industrial Association). We also have partnerships with Universities and education institutions, as Fundação Getúlio Vargas - FGV (an organization dedicated to teaching and research), that aim to enable greater training for our public servants.

To improve transparency and access to information, Contagem stands out with institutional partnerships with the Controladoria Geral da União - CGU (Office of the Comptroller General) and the provision of technological tools for citizens such as the Sistema Eletrônico do Serviço de Informação ao Cidadão e-SIC (Electronic System of the Citizen Information Service) and the ombudsman e-Ouv. To expand citizen's access to the ombudsman, we created a communication tool by whatsapp, that increased the number of manifestations by 394%.

The city of Contagem is very excited with the opportunity to join the OGP municipal and community leader's network, and we would like to inform, that we have the eligibility criteria established by the OGP to ensure the right conditions for the development and implementation of an action plan focused on the guidelines and principles of open government. We also reinforce our commitment to follow the OGP values, outlined in the Open Government Declaration.

Assuming this commitment to OGP, which is a world reference in dissemination and implementation of the open government culture, we hope to have benefits in several aspects, in order to prosper and evolve, using global concepts and good practices, making our municipality more transparent and democratic, mainly through the development and improvement of accountability, technology and innovation guidelines.

Through the partnership with OGP, Contagem wants to advance in thematic focus areas related to usability and improvement of the Transparency Portal interface, to improvement of social participation tools and availability of data in an open format, which is

a demand of citizens as it assists in the formulation and oversight of policies and services. We will also work to improve digital inclusion and connectivity, especially for the most vulnerable population.

To manage these actions and the open government policy, Contagem has an internal comptroller department (Controladoria Geral do Município) that will be responsible for the management, monitoring and follow-up of OGP Local's projects and actions. The Controladoria Geral do Município (Comptroller General of the Municipality) is composed of 43 civil servants and carries out auditing and inspection activities on the management of municipal public resources, transparency, ombudsman, and promotion of social participation.

Our hope is connecting to a network of entities that promote open data, to work together for the ethical and impartial use of new technologies and data sources. We also hope to benefit from this opportunity to learn from the other members, through their successful experiences, exchanges of information, use of new technologies and data sources, as well as the support of OGP.

In this scenario, we reiterate our commitment to contribute to the advancement of open government, sharing best practices and experiences, strengthening the importance of working with transparency and the active participation of civil society. The term of the current management will end in December 2024, allowing our participation with a good period for the execution and conclusion of the action plan without interruptions.

Assuming this commitment to the international and local community, I affirm our desire to expand transparency actions, in order to consolidate it as a tool for social participation, so that we can move forward, in line with the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals, in transformative initiatives to make Contagem a more equitable city with better public services.

We are grateful to OGP for the opportunity to be able to register our municipality, we await confirmation of our selection, to be part of this organization, which works and acts in the dissemination of such important practices to promote excellence and effectiveness in the provision of services to citizens.

Sincerely.



Marília Aparecida Campos
Mayor of Contagem/MG