

Open Government Partnership

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21 May 2024

Saman Ekanakaye
Secretary to the President
Government of Sri Lanka

Dear Secretary Ekanakaye,

We welcome the Government of Sri Lanka's participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP), which now comprises 76 countries working to implement open government commitments to promote greater transparency, accountability and citizen engagement in policy making.

As you are aware, and communicated by the OGP Support Unit in its letter dated 21 March 2024 (attached for your reference), the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee recommended to the full OGP Steering Committee to designate Sri Lanka as inactive in OGP due to acting contrary to OGP process by not delivering an Action Plan for three consecutive years. This recommendation was in line with the desire to maintain a consistent and fair approach, and uphold all participating countries to the same requirements. The inactivity recommendation was resolved by consensus to regretfully designate Sri Lanka inactive in OGP for a one-year period, effective immediately.

As outlined in the inactivity resolution (attached for your reference), the inactivity status would be immediately lifted upon the submission of an OGP action plan. Nonetheless, while we encourage the swift development of Sri Lanka's action plan, we would like to underscore the importance and value of a strong co-creation process that adheres to the necessary time to engage all stakeholders in the process, including extensive consultation with citizens and civil society, and in line with OGP's Participation and Co-Creation Standards. Please note that failure to re-engage within this period could lead to Sri Lanka no longer being considered an OGP member.

We reiterate our full support to aid you in the completion and implementation of the OGP action plan, and to regain active status in the Partnership.

Yours sincerely,



Sanjay Pradhan
Chief Executive Officer
Open Government Partnership



21 March 2024

Saman Ekanakaye
Secretary to the President
Government of Sri Lanka

Dear Secretary Ekanayake,

I'm writing to express our appreciation for the Government of Sri Lanka participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP), a global initiative encompassing 76 countries and 106 local governments dedicated to advancing transparency, accountability and citizen engagement in policy making.

Central to participation in OGP is the co-creation of an action plan by each member government, outlining specific open government reforms consistent with OGP Participation and Co-Creation standards.

Regrettably, the OGP Support Unit did not receive an action plan from the Government of Sri Lanka by the 31 December 2023 deadline. Consequently, the Government of Sri Lanka has acted contrary to the OGP process for the 2023-2025 cycle.

This marks the third consecutive cycle in which the Government of Sri Lanka has acted contrary to the OGP process. Enclosed, please find a copy of the notification letter concerning the previous occurrences (failure to deliver an action plan in 2021 and in 2022). In accordance with OGP policy, any country failing to deliver an action plan for three consecutive years will be recommended by the Criteria & Standards Subcommittee, and through a resolution of the Steering Committee, to be designated as "inactive" within OGP.

The Criteria & Standards Subcommittee — the body in charge of upholding OGP's policies and procedures — will review the Government of Sri Lanka's participation in OGP during their meeting in April. You will be informed of their decision following their deliberation.

The Support Unit remains at your team's disposal to provide the necessary support to finalize and successfully deliver your new action plan in the planned period.

Yours sincerely,



Sanjay Pradhan
Chief Executive Officer

Resolution of the OGP Steering Committee Regarding the Participation Status of Sri Lanka in in the Open Government Partnership
10 May 2024

Resolution of the OGP Steering Committee Regarding the Participation Status of Sri Lanka in in the Open Government Partnership
10 May 2024

The Steering Committee welcomes the Government of Sri Lanka’s participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) since its accession in 2015.

The Government of Sri Lanka has been under Procedural Review since February 2023 due to acting contrary to the OGP process for over three consecutive cycles (failing to meet minimum standards in its 2019-2021 action plan, and not delivering an action plan in 2021 or 2022). Furthermore, it has not delivered a new action plan by the deadline of 31 December 2023, thereby acting contrary to the OGP process again.

In light of not delivering an action plan for three consecutive years, the Steering Committee resolves to designate the Government of Sri Lanka as inactive in the OGP for one year from the date of this resolution.

The inactivity status will be lifted upon the delivery of an OGP action plan, developed in line with OGP Participation and Co-Creation Standards.

Should the Government of Sri Lanka fail to submit an action plan within the next year or work with the Steering Committee to establish a clear roadmap for its delivery, the Government of Sri Lanka will be automatically withdrawn from the list of OGP members as of 10 May 2025.

The Steering Committee remains fully committed to providing necessary assistance to facilitate the Government of Sri Lanka’s continued engagement in the Partnership.

Inactive countries are ineligible to participate in Steering Committee elections, and may only attend OGP events as observers for learning purposes. The inactive status of a country will be publicly indicated on the OGP website and other relevant platforms, such as OGP social media channels or membership lists. Any country, whether active or inactive, retains the option to withdraw from the OGP at any time.

END RESOLUTION

