

Mar del Plata, January 25th, 2024.

REF: Support letter
Call for new members for OGP Local 2024

OGP Support Unit
Mr. Rudi Borrmann, Deputy Director, local OGP

As Mayor of the Municipality of General Pueyrredon, I send this letter of support to the application of Mar del Plata to join the Network of municipal and community leaders of the OGP Local Program. As part of our continued public commitment to promote the principles of transparency, accountability, citizen participation and public innovation at the highest international standards, we endorse the OGP Open Government Declaration and commit to upholding the principles it contains.

From the Municipality we understand that an open government approach provides an opportunity to consolidate the bonds of trust between the government and the citizens by enhancing the participatory and collaborative channels and creating synergies that will make many problems visible. Thus we will be able to tackle them by designing and co-creating innovative solutions with sustainable and high-impact results. In this sense, we are convinced that one of the greatest contributions of the OGP is the possibility of co-creating an action plan with the organizations of the civil society to address one of the main challenges that our local governments face today: Developing a policy of open government with meaning, an open government aimed at achieving sustainable development in our communities.

Mar del Plata is one of the most important cities in the Province of Buenos Aires and of Argentina, located in the southeast of the province on the Argentine coast, it has 667,082 stable inhabitants, an important port and beaches, it is the second tourist destination in the country behind of Buenos Aires, so its population increases during holidays by 300%, with the total value of goods and services produced or gross domestic product (GDP) situated in \$625,750,405 thousand of pesos at current values.

It has an abundance of offer in accommodations, gastronomy, entertainment and other services, it is the main fishing port in Argentina, it's local fruit and vegetable chain supplies the entire country for much of the year, the

manufacturing industry has advanced in the development of important links between the textile, fishing, food, naval, chemical and metalworking industry branches. The city counts with an industrial Park that finds itself in constant ampliation process due to the ample growth it has undergone and in 2021 it launched the Technological District of Knowledge that today holds over 30 companies and over 15,000 squared meters of new works.

Mar del Plata was the first city in Argentina to be part of the BID's Initiative of Emerging and Sustainable Cities, in the year 2012, it became one of the Argentine cities chosen by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) for the development and financing of projects associated with sustainable tourism and was highlighted as part of the Argentine Network of Municipalities Against Climate Change (Ramcc).

The history of the municipality in open government actions began in 2008 with it's first steps in the Participatory Budget, now having done 6 editions, in 2014 with the first experience in Open Data and the first Citizen Innovation Hackaton, presented in Mexico in the Regional Open Data Conference (CONDATOS) BID, and in 2015 the first Citizen Innovation Application Contest was held with developers of the innovative citizen ecosystem.

In 2018, Open Mar del Plata took place, an initiative that brought together talks, panels, and work tables in the same week around the principles of Open Government: transparency, accountability, access to public information, citizen participation, and collaboration for the co-creation of public policies. A space for students, journalists, academics, government officials, civic activists, programmers, and anyone interested to come together and start generating innovative ideas.

A work table where the preliminary draft of the new Open government Ordinance and Access to Public Information was debated.

After 2019 the municipality took an active and structured attitude generating a Municipal Open Government Plan that consists of the following axis:

1) Transparency Axis:

Launch of the Open Data Portal of the Municipality (2019) (datos.mardelplata.gob.ar), which in a short time (2021) managed to lead the national ranking of open data published by the Open Knowledge Foundation Open Data Index of Argentine Cities for the third consecutive year. Additionally, the municipality (2022) secured the top position in the fiscal transparency index published by the ASAP (Argentine Association of Budget and Public Financial Administration).

A collaboration agreement was signed with the Ministry of Justice (2023) to become part of the Transparency Offices Network with the aim of implementing active policies on integrity, public ethics, transparency, and anti-corruption.

(In collaboration with the National University of Mar del Plata, Faculty of Economic Sciences, Faculty of Humanities, National Institute of Statistics and Censuses, National Open Data Directorate, Observatory of the Fasta University, Open Knowledge Foundation, Provincial Directorate of Statistics, and Mar del Plata among all).

2) Accountability Axis:

Development and Implementation of the Municipality's Open Budget Platform (2021), updated daily, providing fully disaggregated information in open format files with historical data from 2006 to the present. It includes information on "How is the money spent?" and "How is it collected?" This year, a real-time open format file of daily income and expenditure was added.

Implementation of a new open system for querying purchase orders and contracts (2023).

We are currently working on the Digitalization of Asset Declaration Forms for officials, a reception and publication system with necessary training and regulations, in collaboration with the Institutional Transparency Office (OTI).

(In collaboration with the Ministry of Justice of the Province, Institutional Transparency Office, Argentine Association of Budget and Public Financial Administration, Observatory of the Fasta University, and the Institute of Cities of the Future).

3) Citizen Participation Axis:

In 2022, the ParticipaMGP Participatory Budget Program was launched (Ordinance 25061/21 unanimously voted by the HCD (Honorable Deliberative Council)), a direct, permanent, voluntary, and universal process for residents to decide how to allocate at least 1% of the municipal budget annually. The online platform DemocracyOs (participa.mardelplata.gob.ar) provides transparency, allowing tracking not only of presented ideas and their debates but also of the viability process and the evolution of selected projects for execution. In its first edition (2022), 115,000 users visited the platform, presenting 1,200 ideas, resulting in 35 winning projects from 11 different zones of the city. In the last edition (2023), with 160,500 visits, 26 projects were selected for execution next year. This project was chosen within the framework of the Argentine Federal Open Government Plan.

We are currently working on national cloud servers to implement a Permanent Accessible Public Consultation and Citizen Participation Platform (Decidim) with the objective of working together with Citizen Services, making citizen participation part of the basic services provided by the municipality to the

community by increasing communication channels through automated AI and personalized Big Data.

In collaboration with the Chief of Cabinet of Ministers of the Nation, Online Democracy Foundation, 150 neighborhoods of the city, 50 Neighborhood Associations, 15 NGOs, 10 Sports Clubs, 3 Scout Groups, the Observatory of the Fasta University, the Institute of Cities of the Future, and the National Directorate of Open Government and Digital Country).

4) Public Innovation Axis:

The ConnectionMGP Wifi Program with a citizen participation component was implemented in 2021. We install new locations each year as part of a free and open wifi network, with continuous monitoring to improve service quality. New locations are selected in a participatory manner by neighbors.

We are currently working on the launch of the First Open Public Innovation Laboratory (mgpLAB), a space created to collaboratively develop solutions to urban issues through Collective Intelligence. A dynamic team formed by institutions, residents, students, and professionals with a virtual server infrastructure. Immediate projects in progress include an Interactive Data Observatory, the Official's Website, a new Municipality Services Website, and ChatMGP with Artificial Intelligence (AI) + Big Data.

Planning of training/transaction services at Digital Points in Sports Centers, allowing greater proximity and efficiency in resident training, with objectives such as digital literacy, trade skills development, knowledge diffusion, and cultural development.

(In collaboration with ARSAT, the Argentine Satellite Solutions Company, Chief of Cabinet of Ministers of the Nation, National Directorate of Open Government and Digital Country, National Technological University).

We are aware that local governments are natural spaces for the development of the Open Government paradigm and key players in commitment to sustainable development. This is evident in our proximity to citizens, our ability to drive innovative and collaborative policies, and our responsibility in providing public goods and services to our community. Therefore, being part of OGP Local will provide us with tools, technical knowledge, and institutional support to strengthen and connect our agenda.

OGP will give us the opportunity to be part of the Open Government Community and learn from other international experiences around the world. We are convinced of the significant contribution of learning from successful cases of policy implementation within the open government philosophy. These

experiences always help us improve our public actions and guide us in the process of thinking about new paths to address specific needs and key challenges we face.

The fundamental commitment of this membership will be the creation of the Municipal Open Government Board, a space with the mission of promoting coordination and collaborative work between the government and civil society to promote future open government policies and coordinate actions within the framework of the municipality's participation in this process, embarking ourselves on a journey of collaboration, learning, and action, committing to work together as partners with non-governmental stakeholders to deliver an open government action plan in 2024 and implementing its commitments.

If we have the opportunity to become a member of OGP Local in the 2024 call, the department responsible for leading the local OGP Local process and to maintain contact with the OGP support unit will be the Directorate of Modernization and Strategic Information (gobiernoabierto@mardelplata.gob.ar).

Additionally, we commit to providing the human, financial, and technical resources necessary to co-create, implement, and learn from ambitious commitments within the Action Plan.

Without further ado, we are at your disposal for any additional information you may consider necessary.

Sincerely.


GUILLERMO T. MONTENEGRO
INTENDENTE MUNICIPAL
MUNICIPALIDAD DE GENERAL PUEYRREDON

January 26, 2024

To: **Open Government Partnership (OGP), Local Committee 2024**

Dear OGP Local Team,

As a leadership of a non-governmental institution, I confirm support for the registration of the Municipality of General Pueyrredón, to integrate the OGP Local Program, assuming a commitment to co-creation of actions to make our municipality more transparent, efficient and inclusive.

FASTA University (Fraternity of Saint Thomas Aquinas Groups), founded in 1992, is an institution committed to the search for truth and the comprehensive training of teachers, students and collaborators. Defined as “an academic community that, in a rigorous and critical manner, contributes to the protection and development of human dignity and cultural heritage through research, teaching and the various services offered to local, national and international communities”. This mission guides all our actions. The organization has partnerships with the Municipality of General Pueyrredon, which is one of the most important municipalities in the province of Buenos Aires.

We value transparency and we are committed to our community of disseminating this content, having as values: ethical conduct, democracy, pluralism, autonomy, solidarity and commitment to the community.

We are willing to participate in training, courses and share experiences with other members of the OGP Local, we also express clarity about the mechanisms available for co creation and monitoring of the action plan.

We will be able to support government efforts to disseminate knowledge about the OGP process and open government to ensure citizen and private sector participation and monitoring, as well as play an important role in holding government accountable for the implementation of its action plan.

Sincerely.



ING. RENATO ROSSELLO
VICERECTOR
DE DESARROLLO, TRANSFERENCIA
Y VINCULACIÓN
UNIVERSIDAD FASTA