

January 26, 2024

Mr. Rudi Borrmann
Deputy Director, OGP Local
OGP Support Unit
Brussels, Belgium

Dear Mr. Borrmann:

The National Democratic Institute (NDI) is pleased to endorse the application of Fuvahmulah City Council to join OGP Local, and is confident they fully endorse the Open Government Declaration and its principles.

NDI is an international non-profit, non-partisan, non-governmental organization whose mission is to help promote and strengthen democratic institutions around the world. Through our international cooperation approach, we offer training and technical assistance to political parties, government bodies, and civil society organizations that promote democratic values, practices, and institutions. As part of its ongoing programming in Maldives, NDI works with the national and local governments to increase awareness about open government principles, OGP itself and the opportunities associated with membership.

The Fuvahmulah City Council demonstrates commitment to transparency and open government by regularly publishing budget and financial information, hosting events such as Environment Forums and a Preventing Violence against Women and Girls workshop, in addition to creating opportunities for active citizen engagement through advisory boards. These boards address issues central to OGP Local's mission including, but not limited to: governance, finance and economic development; environment and climate action; and family, disabilities and social service. The council has also undertaken digitization efforts to streamline city operations and improve governance efficiency. In support of this application, NDI is committed to providing our support in the council's process of adherence to the principles of OGP Local, especially in the co-creation, methodological design and implementation of its Open Government Action Plan which will actively involve citizens and civil society organizations.

We believe that the Fuvahmulah City Council will benefit greatly by becoming a part of OGP Local, especially in terms of inclusive participation, digital transformation and financial accountability. These efforts will allow the Fuvahmulah City Council to position itself as a benchmark for the other local governments and share best practices across jurisdiction in Maldives.

NDI commits to making available the necessary human, financial and technical resources to participate in the co-creation, implementation and learning of ambitious commitments within the Action Plan. Nasheeth Thoha, NDI Maldives Country Representative, will be responsible for liaising with OGP and the Support Unit. He can be reached at nthoha@ndi.org.

Thank you for your attention and the consideration of the Fuvahmulah City Council's application. Should you have any questions, please contact me at raissa@ndi.org.

Sincerely,



Raissa Tatad-Hazell
Deputy Regional Director, Asia-Pacific
National Democratic Institute



25th January 2024

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

Government Letter of Support: Call for new members to OGP Local 2023

Fuvahmulah City Council is pleased to submit an application to join OGP Local as part of our continued commitment to advancing the principles of access to information, public participation and public accountability in the way the government carries out its mandate.

Fuvahmulah City is a unique and distinct administrative atoll located in the Maldives, situated in the southern part of the country. Unlike traditional atolls, Fuvahmulah is a single island atoll, known for its distinctive geographical features and rich cultural heritage. The island boasts a vibrant community, and its residents are recognized for their unique traditions, customs, and local dialect. The local governance of this City is overseen by the Fuvahmulah City Council.

The Fuvahmulah City Council, operating as an autonomous and independent entity, derives its legal mandate from the Decentralisation Act (Law no. 7/2010) of the Maldives. Established with the authority to own property and undertake liabilities, the Council holds devolved powers in self-governance, decision-making, and financial autonomy. Entrusted with the pivotal role of planning and developing the city, the Council is dedicated to ensuring the provision of essential services mandated by the Decentralization Act to the residents of the Atoll. As a key local governance body, the Fuvahmulah City Council stands committed to fostering the well-being and development of its community in alignment with legal provisions and local needs.

By joining OGP Local, we endorse the [Open Government Declaration](#) and commit to upholding the principles within it.

We acknowledge that, as a member of OGP Local, we are embarking on a journey of collaboration, learning and action, and commit to working together as partners with non-governmental stakeholders to deliver an open government action plan in 2024 and implement its commitments. In addition, we embed the values of open government in our OGP local process and ensure it is transparent, participatory and accountable.

We recognize that by joining OGP Local, we become a member of a global community of government and civil society who strive to innovate, catalyze progress and promote learning within and across jurisdictions. This global community is strengthened by the actions of its members, hence, we pledge to be an active member of this global community, leading by example and supporting other members with peer exchanges and engaging at the local, national and international level to promote the values of open government.



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To the OGP Local support team

In order to increase transparency and openness of citizens' participation in solution of city problems and use of new technologies to strengthen governance, as well as cooperation between the municipality and civil society, Osh City Hall expresses great interest in participation in OGP Local (Open Local Governance).

Osh City Hall will make maximum efforts to make a qualitative leap in the development of citizens' activity in the decision-making process within the framework of OGP Local. Osh City strives to create more opportunities for the implementation of citizens' initiatives, prioritizing investment projects and taking into account the needs of citizens.

We believe that joining OGP Local will give us an opportunity to learn from other local members of OGP Local and help form a new culture of city transparent governance. Such a culture will be created by applying the best practices of OGP local, which will raise the level of city governance, as citizens' expectations of city hall services will be much higher in the future. Efficient budget allocation and transparency of management decisions will help to improve the city infrastructure and attract investments.

Within the framework of OGP Local, the Osh City Mayor's Office in cooperation with civil society will develop a joint action plan aimed at building a dialog with citizens. Specific measures will be discussed and adopted in close partnership with various civil society organizations. In turn, the developed action plan will help to implement reforms that will increase transparency, accountability of Osh City Hall activities and citizen participation in solving urban problems.

To fulfill its obligations under OGP Local, the Osh City Mayor's Office will work closely with the Public Association "Development Policy Institute" within the framework of the Coalition for the Development of Local Self-Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. With the support of the Public Association "Development Policy Institute" will be organized work with a wide range of civil society organizations, according to the criteria of OGP Local.

Having visited the OGP Local website, we learned that many members of OGP Local have interesting practices and initiatives to solve urban problems, plans that we would like to study and use in practice. Osh City Hall is ready to participate in mutual learning and exchange of experience with other members of OGP Local in other countries and thematic circles.

To implement the OGP Local plan, the Osh City Mayor's Office will establish an Open Osh working group with the participation of representatives of civil society and involved departments of the Mayor's Office. The experience of Bishkek City Hall will be used to organize the work of the working group, so that all interested groups of citizens and non-governmental organizations will have the opportunity to participate in the formation and implementation of the Joint Action Plan of the working group.

First Deputy Mayor of Osh city

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a final vertical stroke, positioned between the text 'First Deputy Mayor of Osh city' and 'Isayev M.A.'.

Isayev M.A.

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Отделу поддержки OGP local

В целях повышения прозрачности и открытости участия граждан в совместном решении городских проблем и использования новых технологий для укрепления управления, а также сотрудничества между муниципалитетом и гражданским обществом, мэрия города Ош выражает большую заинтересованность в участии в OGP Local (Открытое Местное Управление).

Мэрия города Ош приложит максимальные усилия, чтобы сделать качественный скачок в развитии активности граждан в процессе принятия решений в рамках OGP Local. Город Ош стремится создать больше возможностей для реализации инициатив граждан, определяя приоритетность инвестиционных проектов и учитывая потребности граждан.

Мы считаем, что вступление в OGP Local даст мэрии возможность учиться у других местных членов OGP local и поможет сформировать новую культуру городского управления. Такая культура будет создана путем применения лучших практик OGP local, что повысит уровень городского управления, поскольку ожидания граждан в отношении услуг мэрии в будущем будут гораздо выше. Эффективное распределение бюджета и прозрачность управленческих решений помогут улучшить инфраструктуру города, а также привлечь инвестиции.

В рамках OGP Local мэрия города Ош совместно с гражданским обществом разработает совместный план действий, направленных на построение диалога с гражданами. Конкретные меры будут обсуждаться и приниматься в тесном партнерстве с различными организациями гражданского общества. В свою очередь, разработанный план действий поможет осуществить реформы, которые повысят прозрачность, подотчетность деятельности мэрии города Ош и участие граждан в решении городских проблем.

Для выполнения обязательств в рамках OGP Local мэрия города Ош будет тесно сотрудничать с Общественным объединением «Институт политики развития» в рамках Коалиции за развитие местного самоуправления Кыргызской Республики. При поддержке Общественного объединения «Институт политики развития» будет организована работа с широким кругом организаций гражданского общества, согласно критериям OGP Local.

Посетив сайт OGP Local, мы узнали, что многие члены OGP Local имеют интересные практики и инициативы по решению городских проблем, планы, которые мы хотели бы изучить и использовать на практике. Мэрия города Ош готова участвовать во взаимном обучении и обмене опытом с другими членами OGP Local в других странах и тематических кругах.

Для реализации плана OGP Local мэрия города Ош создаст рабочую группу «Открытый Ош» с участием представителей гражданского общества и вовлеченных отделов мэрии. Для организации работы рабочей группы будет использован опыт мэрии города Бишкек, чтобы все заинтересованные группы граждан и неправительственных организаций имели возможность участвовать в формировании и реализации Плана совместных действий рабочей группы.

Первый заместитель мэра



Исаев М.А.