

Puyo, January 17, 2023

Subject: Application for membership of the Open Government Partnership for the implementation of Open Government as a governance model.

Sirs

OGP Local Program Selection Committee

OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

At his office

Dear sirs:

As Prefect of the province of Pastaza, Ecuador, I am pleased to express our interest in being part of the Open Government Partnership Local Program, OGP, committing ourselves to abide by the principles and values established in its Declaration.

The province of Pastaza is located in the Amazon Region of Ecuador and was created on November 10, 1959 and has the city of Puyo as its capital. It is made up of 4 cantons and 21 parishes and its estimated population is 83,933 inhabitants. The predominant activities in the area are: trade, agriculture, livestock, fish farming, and tourism.

Since the beginning of our management in May 2023 which ends in 2027, we have focused on strengthening the bases to establish a transparent and open government, with special emphasis on aspects of transparency and citizen participation. In the area of transparency, we carried out the Local Information System project, SIL¹, a tool that makes available to the public various geographic and statistical data focused on four areas: Territorial, Citizen Attention, Administrative-Financial, and Political-Institutional that can be used freely.

Regarding citizen participation, every year we publicize the participatory budget process established by the Provincial System of Citizen Participation. This budget has been reviewed and agreed upon in meetings held in the 4 cantons and 21 parish councils of the province, and has been assigned for the execution of programs and projects in the planning areas that we manage. In each of these meetings, we have promoted and applied the principles of ethics and probity, interculturality and plurinationality, equality and non-discrimination of human rights, plurality and diversity, and the principle of Open Government.

¹ Local Information System - <https://sil.pastaza.gob.ec/>

Additionally, in my work plan as the highest authority, the first objective is to promote a new Provincial Government, consolidating the Open Government model where a renewed provincial administration prevails, strengthening the image of the institution in an updated, receptive entity committed to providing answers and solutions for citizens, whose purpose is to maintain a transparent and efficient management that reaches every corner of the territory. Our proposal for the implementation of the Open Government model promotes continuous horizontal dialogue with citizens, accountability for all actions and decisions taken that facilitate the collaboration of citizens and workers in the development of services, based on the principles of transparency and citizen participation through which it is expected to promote the transparency of all elements of the administration and of the decisions adopted by public representatives.

In the same way, our Code of Ethics and Good Governance of the Prefecture of Pastaza² is based on the principles of ethics and probity, interaction of interculturality and plurinationality, equality and non-discrimination of human rights, plurality and diversity, and the principle of Open Government; and in the values of integrity, respect for human dignity, diligence, transparency, impartiality, vocation to service and responsibility.

Through our adherence to OGP Local, we seek that our public management incorporate innovative processes that modernize and energize public management, actively involving citizens. We aspire to strengthen transparency and the fight against corruption, taking advantage of technological innovation that has accelerated in the context of the “new normality”. Our main objective when implementing Open Government is to promote the collaboration and support of citizens, in five thematic areas: digital government, open information, marginal communities, citizen participation and tourism. In each area we will work to:

1. Strengthen the processes of transparency and accountability, integrating and highlighting the interest of citizens.
2. Innovate existing citizen participation processes and establish new methodologies.
3. Develop an Open Government plan in the short and medium term to implement it in all processes and projects of our entity.
4. Promote citizen participation in the different projects implemented by the provincial government, where the citizen becomes the axis for the development of public policies.
5. Training of internal and external actors on the Open Government methodology.
6. Incorporate new processes that streamline, organize, and make information available, both for planning and decision-making, as well as interaction with citizens.

We are interested in participating and collaborating with other entities, both inside and outside our country that are implementing this Open Government model. We seek to learn from their experiences and at the same time share our progress to create communities of practice in order to develop plans and strategies that involve civil society, academia, the private sector and public officials, all committed to a unique approach that promotes a significant change in public administration, to identify effective

² Code of Ethics and Good Governance of the Prefecture of Pastaza

https://pastaza.gob.ec/baselegal/resoluciones/prefectura/resolucion_gadppz_gadppz_2023_0092_r.pdf

practices and innovative approaches and take advantage of new technologies, empower people and promote transparency at all levels. Collaboration between these actors will allow us to strengthen governance and guarantee public management that is more responsible and responsive to the needs and expectations of citizens.

Actually, our administration allies from civil society and academia to carry out this task, such as Fundación Ciudadanía y Desarrollo, FCD, entity with which we have agreed to sign an inter-institutional cooperation agreement, which aims to carry out joint activities, aimed at the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of open government standards, open parliament, open data, transparency and prevention of corruption to the processes that the Prefecture de Pastaza executes, as well as the strengthening of capacities in these topics. These objectives are:

- a) Supervise the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of open government standards, transparency and prevention of corruption in the processes carried out by the Prefecture of Pastaza.
- b) Articulate training through courses, conferences, seminars and workshops in those areas that are considered of common interest, in relation to the object of the agreement.
- c) Channel technical assistance through cooperation organizations in areas related to the purpose of this agreement.

We are also pleased to offer guidance based on our own experience to other government entities in Ecuador, including provincial, municipal and parish governments. Our intention is to motivate and inspire them to implement reforms and set the adoption of Open Government as a goal in their administrations. We consider it extremely important to have solid anti-corruption policies, mechanisms and practices that guarantee transparency in the management of public funds that also provide this information in an accessible manner for the public to their observation. We believe that new technologies offer opportunities to share information, encourage citizen participation and promote collaboration, allowing the development of accessible online platforms to offer services, involve citizens and share information and ideas.

On behalf of our province, I thank you for your consideration, and I hope that you will give us the opportunity to demonstrate our ability to carry out important challenges such as the co-creation and implementation of our First Open Government Action Plan, once we have obtained your approval.

Best regards,



Firmado electrónicamente por:
**ANDRÉ MAURICIO
GRANDA GARRIDO**

Magister André Mauricio Granda Garrido
PROVINCIAL PREFECT OF PASTAZA

January 18, 2024

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

Dear OGP Local Team,

On behalf of Fundación Ciudadanía y Desarrollo (FCD), I express our support for the Provincial Government of Pastaza's application to the OGP Local Program. We believe their commitment to co-creating actions for a more transparent, efficient, and inclusive local government aligns perfectly with FCD's mission.

FCD is a non-governmental organization that promotes and defends the rule of law, democratic principles, and individual freedom. We achieve this through research, citizen education, and initiatives that foster citizen participation, social control, transparency, open government, and public innovation.

Transparency is a core value for FCD. All documents about our legal and institutional status are readily available to the public. We also actively disseminate information within our community and uphold ethics, democracy, pluralism, autonomy, solidarity, and community commitment.

As the Provincial Government of Pastaza formal contact point, FCD is eager to continue contributing to the OGP Local program. We welcome the opportunity to participate in training and share our experiences with other members. We are also prepared to share insights on co-creation and action plan monitoring mechanisms at both national and local levels.

We believe that the OGP Local Program holds immense potential for Pastaza, and FCD is committed to contributing towards its success. We look forward to collaborating with the OGP Local Committee and the Provincial Government of Pastaza to make this goal a reality.

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Mauricio Alarcón Salvador
Executive Director
Fundación Ciudadanía y Desarrollo

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