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05/07/2024

## Open Government Partnership (OGP)

### Steering Committee, Criteria and Standards Subcommittee

#### OGP Support Unit

1100 13th Street, NW, Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Administration of the Government of Georgia, I am writing to reaffirm our steadfast dedication to upholding the values and principles of the Open Government Partnership (OGP).

It should be emphasized that the OGP platform in Georgia stands out as a pioneer in nurturing collaborative endeavors between civil society and state agencies, demonstrating a strong dedication to co-creation. This dedication remains unwavering as we persist in carrying out our duties in this regard.

As you are aware, the Government of Georgia has adopted the Open Government Georgia Action Plan 2024-2025. The plan was formulated through meetings of the Open Government Georgia Forum and up to 20 thematic working sessions involving state agencies, NGOs, international partners, and academia. The draft plan was approved by the OGP Georgia's high-level Council on December 20, 2023, and submitted for government approval.

The Action Plan aims to improve access to information and transparency, enhance mechanisms to ensure government accountability to the public and increase engagement capabilities. Under the Action Plan, the government has taken commitments to improve current standards for the proactive publication of public information as well as to adopt the Open Data Act.

Furthermore, Georgia is firmly committed to implementing international recommendations aimed at the country's advancement and human rights protection. Prioritizing recommendations delineated by the European Commission aligns with our constitutional aspiration for European integration, resulting in Georgia's recent attainment of Candidate status for EU membership.

Georgia maintains strong communication channels with European institutions, bolstered by established accountability measures. The government permanently submits reports to the European Commission on the implementation of their recommendations and the commitments enshrined in the Association Agreement. Continuous assessment of Georgia's progress by the EU is also permanently carried out.

As you may be aware, significant changes in both senior and middle management have recently taken place within the Administration of the Government of Georgia, including structural adjustments affecting the OGP Georgia Secretariat. These organizational transitions have unavoidably influenced our timelines for response.

Nevertheless, I wish to emphasize our unwavering commitment to actively engage in the forthcoming processes outlined in the Response Policy procedures, particularly in developing the Action Plan as detailed in the draft proposal titled "Recommendations for Stage One Actions by the OGP Criteria and Standards Subcommittee."

It is noteworthy that many of the recommendations align closely with those provided to Georgia by the European Commission. Implementing these recommendations remains a paramount objective for us, underscoring our readiness to undertake each step systematically and comprehensively.

Given the complexity of these recommendations and the necessity for inclusive discussions with diverse stakeholders, we kindly request an extension of the deadline. This additional time will enable us to update our work processes effectively and ensure a thorough Action Plan submission.

I am eager to arrange a meeting at your earliest convenience, in any format you find suitable, to discuss concrete steps for deepening cooperation between Georgia and the Open Government Partnership, including potential initiatives to further enhance our collaborative efforts.

Consider this letter as a reaffirmation of Georgia's steadfast dedication to advancing transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement in collaboration with OGP. We value our partnership and remain committed to achieving our shared objectives.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Sincerely,

**Levan Zhorzholiani**  
Head of Administration of the  
Government of Georgia

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Levan Zhorzholiani', written in a cursive style.