



OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF BRAZIL

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Government of Kenya

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Brasília, May 21, 2024.

Dear OGP Lead Co-Chairs,

On behalf of the Brazilian Government, I would like to express Brazil's interest in joining the Steering Committee of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) to uphold its values, strengthen its actions and support the implementation of its Strategy.

Brazil is one of the co-founders of the OGP and hosted the 1st High Level Conference of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) in April 2012. It served as a member of the Steering Committee between 2011 and 2017 and was granted two Open Government Awards. In these 12 years, Brazil has built 6 Action Plans that deal with fundamental themes for improving public policies, such as: Education, Environment, Access to Information, Open Science, among others. More than 130 commitments were made under the National Action Plans, with the participation of hundreds of actors, including civil society organizations, public authorities, researchers, private actors, representatives of other powers, sub-national entities and academia.

In the years when it was not on the Steering Committee, Brazil remained committed to the international promotion of open government. Since 2018, Brazil and Colombia have been co-chairs of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Network on Open and Innovative Government in Latin America and the Caribbean. The country was also part of the team that contributed to the drafting of a Recommendation of the Council of OECD on the subject of "Open Government" (OECD, 2017), to which it adhered even without being a member country.

In addition, Brazil will host the Open America event in December 2024, combining the OGP Summit for the Americas with two relevant events in Latin America about open data: the Open Meeting for an Open Region (AbreLatam) and the Regional Conference for Open Data in Latin America and the Caribbean (Condatos).

It should also be noted that Brazil currently holds the Presidency of the G20. In this role, the country announced the Social G20 to ensure that civil society will be heard in the process of building public policies. The aim of the Social G20 is to increase the participation of non-governmental actors in the activities and decision-making processes of the G20, whose motto during the Brazilian Presidency, in 2024, is "Building a Fair World and a Sustainable Planet". In this context, participation of G20 engagement groups has been ensured in its Anti-Corruption Working Group, for example.

Domestically, Brazil is implementing the 6th National Open Government Action Plan, which is expected to be completed by 2027. This plan is a forerunner in agreeing commitments that deal with issues relating to minorities and social policies and in expanding the number of federal government

bodies involved in implementing the actions. This comprehensive articulation seeks to contribute to the dissemination of the open government agenda and the strengthening of Brazil's civic space in the areas of racial equality, the elderly, family farming and popular education, aligning itself with the OGP's Strategic Objectives and setting a benchmark for other countries.

The country has also sought to improve its policy. In 2022, the [Review of Open Government in Brazil](#) was finalized, the first time the instrument incorporated the assessment of Civic Space. This document was the result of a cooperation agreement signed in 2020 between the Brazilian Government and the OECD to disseminate and strengthen good practices in open government and offer recommendations for improvement in this area. The report pointed out that Brazil is a regional leader in open government thanks to the design of innovative social participation initiatives and its ambitious national transparency agenda.

The country currently has a robust agenda that contributes to strengthening open government and its pillars, especially with structured and consolidated policies on transparency, access to information, open data, and social participation. Brazil is committed to building an Open Government Strategy, which aims to establish more permanent processes of collaboration between government and society, including long-term initiatives to strengthen civic space, social participation and improve transparency. In addition, the country has been integrating the open government agenda into other initiatives, such as the National Digital Government Strategy.

The [Transparency Portal \(*Portal da Transparência*\)](#), maintained by the federal government, has innovated in providing information on public spending and has become an international benchmark for fiscal transparency tools, completing 20 years since its creation. The Portal recently released data on tax waivers, detailing more than R\$ 215 billion in tax benefits granted to companies through federal tax breaks and government incentives. In 2023 alone, the Portal was accessed by more than 17 million users and received more than 271 million API requests. The Brazilian Open Data Portal has been improved to promote dialogue between society and government actors and currently offers more than 13,131 datasets. In complying with the Access to Information Law, the federal government has received more than 1.3 million requests and stands out for having a response rate of more than 99.9%.

The Brazilian Constitution guarantees the participation of society in the management of public policies and government programs. Brazil has a unique set of participatory institutions, the Public Policy Councils and Conferences. Public policy management councils work in states and municipalities and on structural issues such as health, education, and social assistance.

In 2023, Brazil implemented measures to increase social participation, with an improvement in the methodology for drawing up its Multi-Year Plan (PPA, in its acronym in Portuguese). This is the country's main medium-term budget planning instrument. As a result, 8,254 proposals from the population were considered in the digital stage of preparing the Plan, with 1.4 million participants in the Participatory Brazil Platform, making it the largest experiment in social participation on the internet ever carried out by the Brazilian Government.

In the same year, structures were established for greater dialogue between the Federal Government and representatives of civil society, such as the re-creation of the Council for Sustainable Economic and Social Development (CDESS), a direct advisory body to the Presidency of the Republic and composed of a qualified forum for discussion of public policies and the proposal of reforms and projects that stimulate economic growth, development and social equity.

The Federal Government reformulated the Council for Transparency, Integrity and Combating Corruption (CTICC), expanding the representation of civil society in the formulation of public policies and guidelines on combating corruption; social oversight for monitoring and supervising the allocation of public resources; open government, transparency and access to public information; private integrity; public integrity; and monitoring and evaluation of public policies and services. It also intends to provide greater dialogue between the Federal Government and society.

The Interministerial Social Participation System, established in 2023, created spaces in the structures of federal bodies for dialogue with popular movements and civil society organizations, promoting channels of participation in the process of drafting and evaluating public policies.

Brazil currently has six local members of the OGP. The progress of the agenda among

states and municipalities is undoubtedly noticeable. Joint action between the Federal Government and local governments is a challenge given the country's continental dimensions and the constraints of federalism. However, since 2016, there has been a continuous effort to build joint initiatives. Six Brazilian Open Government Meetings have already been held, important occasions for sharing experiences in implementing the agenda at local level. Recently, the Brazilian Open Government Network was launched, made up of representatives from the federal, state, and municipal governments, civil society organizations and researchers, whose aim is to be a space for exchange and dissemination of the open government culture through the development of collaborative initiatives among members.

The possibility of joining the OGP Steering Committee represents an important step for Brazil, as it signals the inclusion of the open government agenda centrally at the federal level and at various governmental levels and functions. By joining the Steering Committee, Brazil will be able to contribute to forming an open government community, as it has already done, for example, with the organization of Open America. It will also prioritize the protection of civic space, as a necessary instrument not only for opening governments, but as an element for strengthening democracies. It will also promote the sharing of consolidated practices and innovative experiences, seeking to strengthen the open government agenda in its institutional environment, in its mechanisms, in the dissemination of knowledge and capabilities, in the implementation of measures and in the evaluation and monitoring of policies and initiatives. All the experience and maturity achieved in transparency and participation policies enables us to contribute effectively to the OGP Community, as well as to boost the implementation of Strategy 2023-2028, especially in the region.

Having presented the reasons that motivate Brazil to request a seat on the OGP Steering Committee, I thank you for the opportunity and submit the request for your consideration.

Sincerely,

(electronically signed)

VINÍCIUS MARQUES DE CARVALHO

Minister of State Office of the Comptroller General of Brazil



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