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Principal Secretary of Foreign Affairs
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Blair Glencorse
Co-CEO
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c/o OGP Support Unit
By email: jaimemercado@opengovpartnership.org

21 May 2024

Dear Open Government Partnership Co-chairs,

The UK would like to submit our candidacy for a second term on the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Steering Committee, which follows on from our current term from 2021-2024. As a founding member of OGP, the UK remains committed to the principles of open government and providing leadership in promoting this agenda.

The UK has reinvigorated its domestic processes for the implementation of the fifth and co-creation of the sixth National Action Plans for Open Government. This has been successful due to the development of a close and candid working relationship with the UK Open Government Civil Society Network (UK OGN), who we commend for their substantial contribution alongside civil servants in developing NAP6. Government has acted on feedback from civil society, the OGP support unit, and its own staff to substantially improve our approach. This has resulted in developing our Multi-Stakeholder Forum for Open Government over the past 18 months to become an effective forum for government and civil society to regulate the co-creation and implementation of UK National Action Plans. We understand the value in sharing those experiences with our international peers and in turn learning from their experiences to help further improve our approach.

The UK has demonstrated that it values both the domestic and international value of open government through its revised approach to contributing to the funding of OGP. The UK now makes a core membership contribution through the Cabinet Office, with additional targeted Official Development Assistance provided through the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office. The current round of ODA funding of £2.5m over 18 months is aimed at the open and accountable use of emerging digital technologies, which supported the Global Peer Exchange Workshop on 'Governing New & Emerging Digital Technologies' co-hosted by the Government of Kenya and OGP in March 2024.

The UK has played an active role in Steering Committee discussions during its first term, helping to stimulate positive discussions, provide constructive challenge when concerns arise, and working in

the common good. This has included contributing to the new OGP Strategy, and we would like to continue to help shape a partnership that works for all its members. OGP needs to remain an effective way to promote open government and we will work to explore and promote flexible approaches to open government commitments.

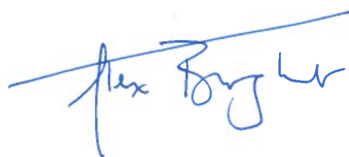
The UK has continued to support thematic efforts, both as a member of OGP's Thematic Leadership Subcommittee since 2021, and through specific efforts such as working to improve the implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) through enhancing the effectiveness of its Implementation Review Mechanism. The UK contributes to thematic initiatives such as the Beneficial Ownership Leadership Group, Open Contracting Partnership (OCP), International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). We look forward to continued collaboration with international partners across these initiatives.

The UK Government has demonstrated a commitment to advancing open government across all levels of government through routine engagement with our OGP Local members. We have worked alongside our domestic partners to support Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) in their successful application to become one of the latest additions to the OGP Local programme, and they will undoubtedly make a valuable contribution to the partnership.

At the OGP Global Summit, the UK contributed to building cross-government coordination and developing relationships with civil society partners, both for the open government agenda in general, and on various thematic fronts. We will continue to support these valuable events which help to develop thinking and progress the open government agenda in a constantly evolving world. The challenges of the coming years will make this confluence of domestic and international collaboration more important than ever.

The UK is committed to protecting democracy and we continue to believe that an open government approach is a critical component in doing so. We look forward to working with you during a second term on the Open Government Partnership Steering Committee.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alex Burghart", with a long horizontal line above it.

Alex Burghart MP
Parliamentary Secretary