



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

Rt Hon. Anneliese Dodds MP
Minister of State for International
Development

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Sanjay Pradhan
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07 October 2024

Dear Mr Pradhan,

Thank you for your letter 19 July to the Prime Minister. I am replying on his behalf as the Minister of State for International Development, with responsibility for the UK's international work on democratic governance, open government and anti-corruption and for our relationship with the Open Government Partnership (OGP).

The world today faces enormous challenges, and I look forward to working with you to achieve this Government's objectives around the globe.

Our mission on international development is to pursue a world free from poverty on a liveable planet. Thus, I am keen to modernise Britain's approach to international development and to reset our relationship with the Global South, based on genuine respect and partnership.

In this regard, the UK is proud, as a founding member of OGP, to support the pivotal role OGP plays in building strong and credible partnerships with governments and civil society around the globe. Your organisation is unique as the only global initiative with the convening power to drive global momentum for open government reform. I am pleased that we are continuing this support through our current grant with you to promote open government reforms through the open and accountable use of emerging digital technologies.

Thank you for your suggestions and recommendations. We very much hope that the UK will be able to have ministerial attendance at the OGP side event at the UN General Assembly on 26 September 2024. It is vital that we bring together a diverse range of stakeholders in support of democracy and open government.

On the UK domestic front, delivering change and national renewal will require a different way of working, with openness, collaboration and transparency in everything we do. The

open government principles of transparency, accountability and public participation are strongly aligned with our government's objectives.

The UK Government will continue to liaise with the UK Open Government Civil Society Network (UK OGN) through the UK Multi-Stakeholder Forum for Open Government (UK MSF) as part of our approach to improving transparency, accountability and public participation in government. We also look forward to continuing to engage with our international partners in OGP, including on the OGP Steering Committee, to promote these principles as a common foundation for democracy around the world.

The responsibility for the interrelated areas of open government and open data is currently co-located in the Central Digital and Data Office (CDDO) due to digital and data being a key enabler of open government. However, CDDO is in the process of moving into the Department for Science Innovation and Technology (DSIT) from the Cabinet Office. The current work to design the Digital Centre of government within DSIT will assess the suitability of the current arrangement and make recommendations for the future location of the open government secretariat. Whatever the outcome of this review, we will maintain a strong link between open government and open data coordination.

The UK will continue its strong support for democracy and open government, both domestically and internationally. Protecting an open and a fairer multilateral system is more important than ever with the last two decades seeing the decline in democracy and freedom globally. I believe trusted and genuine partnerships with the Global South is one way to galvanise international action against democratic erosion and I look forward to working with OGP in supporting this vision.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anneliese Dodds', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rt Hon. Anneliese Dodds MP
Minister of State for International Development