

November 12, 2024

OGP Local Support Unit

Subject: Commitment Letter for the Continuation of the Municipality of Curridabat in the OGP Local Program.

Dear Members of the OGP Local Support Unit,

On behalf of the Mayor's Office of the Municipality of Curridabat, it is an honor to reaffirm our commitment to continue and strengthen our active participation in the OGP Local Program. Curridabat has found in OGP a valuable platform to promote transparency, accountability, and citizen participation, aligning with the principles and values of open government that this initiative advocates.

Commitment to OGP Values and OGP Local Criteria

The Municipality of Curridabat remains steadfast in its commitment to upholding the fundamental values of transparency, citizen participation, accountability, and inclusion. We will continue our efforts to meet the open government criteria set forth by OGP Local, ensuring that our policies and practices align with these principles.

Value Proposition for Participation in OGP Local

Through our involvement with OGP Local, Curridabat has solidified its position as a model municipality in Costa Rica. Participation in OGP has strengthened our relationship with the public and enhanced the efficiency of public management. Our engagement in this program supports the continuation of a governance model that prioritizes citizen needs, enabling sustainable implementation of open government practices.

Ambition to Adopt Open Government Reforms

We are committed to advancing in key areas such as social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and the digitalization of services. These themes are integral to our Municipal Strategic Plan 2023-2027, through which we aim to implement policies that foster citizen trust and improve the quality of life for the residents of Curridabat.

At a Glance:

- **Action Plan:** Curridabat, Costa Rica, 2023 – 2024
- **Leading Institution:** Municipality of Curridabat
- **Submission Date:** June 9, 2023
- **End Date of Action Plan:** February 2024

Curridabat has been part of the OGP alliance since 2020 and has established an ad hoc Institutional Commission and a Political Commission within the Municipal Council to coordinate efforts to drive open government initiatives. The Municipality of Curridabat has taken significant steps to institutionalize active listening and direct communication with organized communities, primarily through the Peace Culture Office and the Human Development Centers, which systematize citizen demands to address them through listening and participation. For Curridabat, the systematization of citizen demands is at the heart of planning, allowing action based on science, data, and real-life experiences rather than political events.

Achievements in Open Government

Since 2012, Curridabat has established Human Development Centers that bring socio-educational services closer to communities to overcome structural barriers. We have also developed a Cantonal Art and Culture Policy through a participatory design process and have implemented public infrastructure projects based on nature-based solutions, such as flood mitigation and traffic calming initiatives. Although the “Yo Alcalde” app is currently in a pre-launch phase with an expected release in February

2025, it has become a critical tool for managing citizen demands and has benefited from citizen input and accessibility enhancements recommended by external stakeholders.

Challenges and Strategic Vision of Open Government

In our Municipal Strategic Plan, open government principles are essential in core experiences, such as quality relationships, trust in the environment, access to desired destinations, connection with nature, and soil regeneration. Each experience aims to bring municipal services closer to individuals, living beings, and planetary systems, enhancing the performance of ecosystem services and life satisfaction.

Some Challenges Include:

- Structuring human development services through active communication under the new concept of "Curridabat Communicates."
- Continuous communication campaigns on topics such as water balance and soil regeneration.

Medium-Term Goals

The medium-term goals derived from our open government practices include creating management bridges between citizens and local government, implementing a Strategic Experiences Atlas, and conducting citizen satisfaction surveys to assess municipal services. These objectives contribute to our Open Government Strategic Vision, enhancing management opportunities and data-driven decision-making.

Commitment to Coordination and Oversight of the OGP Action Plan

The Municipality of Curridabat is committed to coordinating efforts between government agencies and civil society to implement the OGP action plan. This plan involves structured working groups, citizen assessments, and digital open-data platforms to share results and ensure transparency in achieved progress.

We firmly believe that our continued participation in OGP Local will drive the cultural transformation of Curridabat in areas of transparency, accountability, access to information, and citizen science, contributing to building a more inclusive Curridabat that upholds open government principles.

We thank the OGP Local Support Unit for this invaluable opportunity and renew our commitment to this initiative.

Sincerely,

Errol Andrés Solano Bolaños

Mayor of the Municipality of Curridabat

Costa Rica