

Ministry of Finance

Male'
Republic of Maldives

Ref: 13-B/PRIV/2024/397

Date: 23 June 2024

Mr. Sanjay Pradhan
Chief Executive Officer
Open Government Partnership
1110 Vermont Ave NW, Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20005
United States

Dear Sir,

The Ministry of Finance, as the assigned lead agency by the Office of the President of the Maldives via the letter (Ref: 1-POL(PRA)/13/2024/151) dated 17th April 2024, would like to express the intent to join the Open Government Partnership (OGP) on behalf of the Government of the Maldives. As a nation committed to fostering transparency, accountability, and civil society engagement, the Maldives believes that participating in the OGP will significantly enhance its governance practices and contribute to the well-being of its citizens.

Commitment to Open Government:

The Maldives has embarked on a journey towards greater openness and participatory governance. In recent years, steps to improve and ensure transparency and accountability have been implemented in the Maldives include:

- 1. Enhancing Public Access to Information:** The Right to Information Act was enacted to guarantee citizens' access to government information, promoting transparency and informed citizenry.
- 2. Encouraging Civic Participation:** The Maldives has launched several platforms for public consultations and feedback on key policy issues, ensuring that the voices of its citizens are heard and considered in decision-making processes. The Government will continue to identify additional measures to enhance public participation in the decision-making process.
- 3. Improving Public Service Delivery:** Through e-governance initiatives, the Maldives is making government services more accessible and efficient for its citizens, leveraging technology to bridge gaps and improve service delivery.

Objectives and Goals:

By joining the OGP, the Maldives aims to achieve the following objectives:



1. **Strengthen Institutional Transparency and Accountability:** The Maldives seeks to enhance its public institutions' accountability mechanisms, ensuring that government actions are transparent and accountable to the people.
2. **Foster Inclusive Governance:** The Maldives aims to create more opportunities for citizen engagement and participation in governance processes, ensuring that all voices, especially those of vulnerable communities, are heard.
3. **Promote Innovative Solutions:** The Maldives aspires to learn from the best practices of other OGP member countries and implement innovative solutions to its governance challenges, leveraging international expertise and support.
4. **Enhance Public Trust:** By committing to the principles of open government, the Maldives hopes to build greater trust between the government and the citizens, strengthening the social contract and fostering national unity.

Eligibility and Commitment:

The Maldives confirms that it meets the eligibility criteria for joining the OGP, including a commitment to upholding the principles of transparency, accountability, and civic participation. The Ministry of Finance will be the lead agency responsible for coordinating the OGP activities within the government, ensuring that commitments are effectively implemented and monitored.

Commitment to the OGP Principles:

The Maldives is fully committed to the OGP's principles of transparency, accountability, and citizen participation. The Maldives understands the responsibilities that come with membership and is prepared to collaborate with civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders to develop and implement a National Action Plan that reflects its commitment to these principles.

The Maldives is enthusiastic about joining the global community of OGP members and contributing to the shared goal of promoting open and effective governance. The Maldives looks forward to collaborating with the OGP Secretariat and other member countries to achieve these objectives.

Thank you for considering this application. The Maldives eagerly anticipates the benefits of OGP membership and is committed to this journey toward enhanced openness and accountability.

Yours sincerely,

*Mohamed Shafeeq
Minister of Finance*