Open Government Partnership

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Arnold Zamora Miranda Minister of Communications Presidency of the Republic of Costa Rica

Dear Minister Zamora,

I'm writing to express our appreciation for the Government of Costa Rica's participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP), a global initiative encompassing 77 countries and 150 local governments dedicated to advancing transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement in policy making.

As you are aware, all OGP participating governments are expected to follow the <u>OGP Participation</u> and <u>Co-Creation Standards</u> when co-creating an action plan of open government reforms. These standards have been recently updated by the OGP Steering Committee and came into effect in January 2022. The Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) assesses all countries that submitted action plans from 2022 onward under the updated standards.

During the 2023-2027 action plan cycle, Costa Rica did not meet the minimum participation and co-creation standards, as assessed by the IRM in its <u>Action Plan Review</u>. Specifically, the Government of Costa Rica did not sufficiently update its OGP website with information during the co-creation process, failing to meet the minimum requirement. The government also did not meet the minimum two-week notice requirement for publishing the participation schedule, as the schedule was posted on the same day the consultation began and was not announced in advance through other channels.

However, as the new standards were recently introduced, OGP instituted a 24-month grace period to ensure a fair and transparent transition to the updated standards. Therefore, although Costa Rica did not meet the minimum requirements for its 2023-2027 action plan, in this instance it did not act contrary to process and will not be subjected to procedural review.

No further action is required at this time, but in order to avoid the possibility of future review by the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee of the OGP Steering Committee, we recommend that the Government of Costa Rica makes every effort to meet the minimum requirements set forth in the standards during the development and implementation of its next action plan. Guidance on how to meet the new minimum participation and co-creation requirements can be found in the <u>OGP National Handbook</u>; guidelines for their assessment by the IRM can be found <u>here</u>.

Open Government Partnership The OGP Support Unit and Steering Committee stand ready to support you during the implementation of your current action plan and the development of your next one to make sure all requirements are met.

Yours sincerely,

Aidan Eyakuze Chief Executive Officer