Open Government Partnership

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The Honorable Levan Zhorzholiani Head of Administration Administration of the Government of Georgia

Dear Mr. Zhorzholiani,

I'm writing to update you on the findings of the IRM's recent review of your 2023-2025 action plan.

As you are aware, all OGP participating governments are expected to follow the OGP Participation and Co-Creation Standards when co-creating an OGP 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 action plans from 2022 onward under the updated standards.

During the 2023-2025 action plan cycle, Georgia did not meet the minimum participation and co-creation standards, as assessed by the IRM in its recent <u>Action Plan Review</u>. Specifically, the IRM found that the Government of Georgia did not publish a co-creation timeline and overview of the opportunities for stakeholders to participate, and the OGP space for dialogue did not meet at least once every six months. In addition, the government did not update the repository the minimum required times of at least twice a year.

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 Georgia did not meet the minimum requirements for its 2023-2025 action plan, in this instance it did not act contrary to process and will not be subject to <u>procedural review</u>.

No further action is required at this time, but in order to avoid the possibility of future procedural review by the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee of the OGP Steering Committee, we recommend that the Government of Georgia 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 OGP National Handbook; guidelines for their assessment by the IRM can be found here.

Please note that this process is independent of, and does not affect, the ongoing Response Policy case, under which - as previously communicated on October 15th - Georgia has been temporarily suspended from the Partnership, pending an adequate resolution of the concerns raised therein.

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.

Sincerely,

Alonso Cerdan Verastegui

Director, Country Support