

Open Government Partnership

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Dear U.S. Civil Society colleagues,

Thank you for your letter dated March 21, 2025, and for raising your concerns about civic space, transparency, and accountability in the United States. We acknowledge that these issues are not merely technical, as they are deeply tied to people's ability to participate meaningfully in shaping reforms that affect their lives and to holding the government to account. We deeply appreciate the vital work that you do and have done to open up government in the US over decades, and we commend your leadership in calling attention to these challenges and safeguarding the hard-won progress made over the years.

At the heart of the Open Government Partnership, and backed by more than a decade of evidence, is the understanding that reforms are more ambitious, enduring, and impactful when co-created by government and civil society working together. A vibrant civic space and an engaged civil society are therefore not optional attributes—they are essential to the credibility, legitimacy, and success of our Partnership.

We have shared and elaborately discussed your letter with the current Co-Chairs of the Partnership. Let me outline below the agreed way forward to the requests that you have presented in your letter.

First, upon joining OGP, every member—founding and recent alike—commits to uphold the principles of transparency and open government set forth in the Open Government Declaration and to abide by our established processes. These commitments are the bedrock of our collective efforts. As we always do following political transitions in member countries, the OGP Support Unit will engage the new U.S. administration to reaffirm the core expectations of membership and the importance of meaningful collaboration with civil society. We initiate outreach to new administrations as soon as high-level points of contact are formally communicated to the Support Unit, and we will proceed with this engagement with the U.S. administration as soon as those are confirmed.

Second, OGP has a suite of accountability tools designed to ensure members honor their commitments. They are the [Procedural Review](#) which addresses minimum participation standards, such as the timely submission of action plans that conform to minimum co-creation requirements. The [Rapid Response Protocol](#) which is designed to address situations where swift action by OGP could meaningfully and positively influence outcomes. And there is the [Response Policy](#), which you have requested to trigger in light of the concerns you have raised. The Response Policy provides a structured process for examining alleged actions by a member government that may constitute an egregious disregard for the values and principles of the Open Government Declaration. The Steering Committee, as the leadership body of OGP, is responsible for upholding and applying these mechanisms, equally and fairly, to all members of the Partnership.



To facilitate the initiation of the Response Policy process, we kindly request that you clearly identify and list the specific actions of the current administration that you wish to be considered under the Policy, and share any supporting sources or documentation (*see Annex 1: Letter of Concern Requirements of the [Response Policy protocol](#) for detailed guidance*). The more comprehensive the information provided, the better equipped the Steering Committee's Criteria & Standards Subcommittee, supported by an external expert consultant, will be to conduct a thorough assessment of the concerns raised. In accordance with the protocol, the U.S. government will be invited to provide a formal response. Upon completion of the review, the Subcommittee will prepare a report of the findings and, if necessary, issue recommendations and a timeline for corrective action.

Third, we had a detailed discussion with the Co-Chairs on whether to consider extraordinary measures, such as directly placing the US under review or suspending the US upon not delivering an Action Plan. Since its establishment in 2011, the OGP has never taken such action outside our formal accountability framework. The Co-Chairs felt that the Partnership's current institutional framework offers sufficient opportunity to address the situation. Upholding the rigour, integrity, impartiality and fairness of our accountability mechanisms and processes across all members is paramount. Accordingly, we will continue to rely on the mechanisms developed and endorsed by the Steering Committee, consistent with past precedent and our collective commitment to due process.

We understand the urgency and deep concern that inform your advocacy, and we want you to know that your voices are heard, valued, and drive our collective mission forward. Your advocacy plays a vital role in ensuring that co-creation is real, civic space is protected, and reforms deliver meaningful change. Civil society has always been—and will continue to be—a cornerstone of OGP's strength. We look forward to working with you—and with the U.S. government—to safeguard and advance the open government principles we all share.

Yours sincerely,



Aidan Eyakuze
Chief Executive Officer

