



Commune de Yoff

Yoff, January 24, 2024

Le Maire

**To: Mr. Rudi Borrmann, OGP Local Deputy Director
OGP Support Unit**

Government Letter of Support: Call for new members to OGP Local 2023

Dear Sir,

As Mayor of the Municipality of Yoff, I am sending this letter of support to the application for the OGP Local Program, and I publicly commit to making our city more transparent, efficient and inclusive, transforming the way we act to serve our Citizens.

Yoff is located in the Cap-Vert Peninsula, approximately 15 kilometers northwest of Dakar and is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the west. It is part of the Metropolitan Area of the Capital city of Dakar, which is made up of other 18 municipalities. With this metropolitan interface, Yoff can be a city that disseminates good Open Government practices, being a pioneer, as the first municipality representing the city of Dakar to join OGP.

Our City has 118,220 inhabitants according to data from 2023 and is the largest municipality of Dakar; it is known as one of Senegal's most important traditional fishing ports with a vibrant fishery sector that plays a significant role in the local economy and community livelihoods.

The municipality's history in structured open government actions dates back to 2013 with Act III of decentralization, through Law No. 2013-10 of 28 December 2013 on the General Code of Local Authorities, as amended, that gives greater responsibility to local and regional authorities in the management of their own affairs. The institutional and legal framework of Act III also promotes a policy of participatory local planning with a view to enabling local authorities to: (i) define their development objectives, taking into account their strengths and constraints; (i) to try to stimulate and implement local development based on their own assets and additional resources from various sources (State, bilateral and multilateral partners, development support agencies, decentralized cooperation, civil society organizations, etc.).

Therefore, the new municipal team put into place after the local elections of January 2022 aims at facing territorial disparities and facilitating participatory and inclusive decision-making from the central to the local level of public authority. In this view a Local Development Plan (LDP) has participatorily been developed so as to

change the perception of resource ownership, from a top-down government driven approach, to a co-management approach with various stakeholders, considering local natural resources as common property for present and future generations.

In terms of democratic participation, it is good to know that the municipality of Yoff is made of two distinct but complementary sociological entities, namely the hard core of the traditional village with 7 traditional neighborhoods surrounded by 23 new housing estates born from the strong urbanization and sprawling of the capital city of Dakar. Each of these settlements is run by a local delegate that report to the main city council. The new municipal council harmoniously work with the traditional customary governance system that has ruled the village community since pre-colonial times. These public policy local councils have proven to be essential for the formulation, monitoring and implementation of public policies, with the active and equal participation of citizens regardless of race, age, gender, religion, ethnicity and social status.

Our Municipality has also developed partnerships and benefits from the support of a wide range of civil society institutions and associations, such as ENDA ECOPOP that will be providing a letter of support to our current expression of interest. We also have partnerships with universities both in country and internationally as well as educational/vocational training centers based in Yoff, that provide group specific capacity building programs aimed at enhancing the knowledge, skills and attitudes of the ever-growing population.

In accordance with the town hall's Open Governance policy, and so as to improve transparency and create public awareness/accountability, the municipality has established an integrated system combining public hearings in neighborhoods with sound technological tools and social media for citizens increased participation. All of those communication tools are described in our online expression of interest.

The city of Yoff is very excited with the opportunity to join the OGP municipal and community leaders' network, and we would like to inform, that we have the eligibility criteria established by the OGP to ensure the right conditions for the development and implementation of an action plan focused on the guidelines and principles of open government. We also reinforce our commitment to follow the OGP values, outlined in the Open Government Declaration.

Assuming this commitment to OGP, which is a world reference in dissemination and implementation of the open government culture, we hope to have benefits in several aspects, in order to prosper and evolve, using global concepts and good practices, making our municipality more transparent and democratic, mainly through the development and improvement of accountability, technology and innovation guidelines.

Through the partnership with OGP, Yoff wants to advance in thematic focus areas related to usability and improvement of the Transparency Portal interface, to improvement of social participation tools and availability of data in an open format,

which is a demand of citizens as it assists in the formulation and oversight of policies and services. We will also work to improve digital inclusion and connectivity, especially for the most vulnerable population.

To manage these actions and the open government policy, the municipality of Yoff has an inter-commission led by **Mrs. Adji Arame Thiaw officer in charge of partnerships and decentralized cooperation** and made of the 15 heads of commissions set forth to analyze public policies and advise the mayor accordingly. They will work with the 8 elected vice mayors and liaise with the municipal council for efficient management, monitoring and follow-up of OGP Local's projects and actions.



Our hope is connecting to a network of entities that promote open data, to work together for the ethical and impartial use of new technologies and data sources. We also hope to benefit from this opportunity to learn from the other members, through their successful experiences, exchanges of information, use of new technologies and data sources, as well as the support of OGP.

In this scenario, we reiterate our commitment to contribute to the advancement of open government, sharing best practices and experiences, strengthening the importance of working with transparency and the active participation of civil society. The term of the current management will end in February 2027, allowing our participation with a good period for the execution and conclusion of the action plan without interruptions.

Assuming this commitment to the international and local community, I affirm our desire to expand transparency actions, in order to consolidate it as a tool for social participation, so that we can move forward, in line with the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals, in transformative initiatives to make of Yoff a more equitable city with sound public service delivery.

We are grateful to OGP for the opportunity to be able to register our municipality, we await confirmation of our selection, to be part of this organization, which works and acts in the dissemination of such important practices to promote excellence and effectiveness in the provision of services to citizens.

Sincerely,



Seydina Issa Laye Sambe