

OGP Steering Committee Co-Chairmanship Priorities Note

Government of the Republic of Korea

1. What priorities will your government drive during its OGP chairmanship to advance OGP goals?

The Government of the Republic of Korea has been elected as the Co-Chair of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) for the 2019-21 years. During its chairmanship, Korea will support Chairs, the Government of Argentina and Robin Hodess from The B Team, for the first year and work in close partnership with civil society Co-Chair Maria Baron from Directorio Legislativo to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption and harness new technologies to strengthen governance.

The OGP, launched with 8 member countries at the UN General Assembly in 2011, has grown to 79 countries and a growing number of local governments along with thousands of civil society organizations and developed nearly 4,000 open government commitments through more than 100 biennial action plans. At the forefront of pursuing open government, the OGP has been supporting governments in expanding civic space, renewing citizen trust and deepening democracy with the help of digital technologies.

Recognizing the importance of open government as a way to reinforce the efforts, the OGP Steering Committee approved the Call to Action¹ to protect participation, advance inclusion and create impact for digital democracy. Open government has been also identified in partner organizations. The OECD, in the Recommendation of the Council on Open Government², recognizes open government as critical to building citizen trust, and Transparency International writes in the Strategy 2020³ that citizens in countries that are open and accountable enjoy better education and health.

As the Co-Chair of the OGP, the Government of the Republic of Korea will drive the OGP to focus on the following three key priorities:

1. Promoting Participatory Democracy at All Levels

Citizen participation is one of the critical elements in pursuing democracy, open government and inclusive growth. With emerging problems that the government alone

¹ OGP (2019), OGP Steering Committee Call to Action: Collective Leadership to Protect Participation, Advance Inclusion, and Create Impact for Digital Democracy

² OECD (2017), Recommendation of the Council on Open Government, <http://acts.oecd.org>

³ Transparency International (2015), Together Against Corruption - Transparency International Strategy 2020, https://issuu.com/transparencyminternational/docs/togetheragainstcorruption_strategy2/6

cannot resolve, we need co-creation between governments and citizens, and a platform that supports the collective efforts. In order to ensure that citizen participation is a key driver of problem-solving, as a Co-Chair of the OGP, Korea will:

- Work with governments to **secure and expand civic space** and share experience and insight in operating citizen participation platforms to make a greater impact.
- Identify and disseminate **citizen participation cases enhanced by digital technologies** as many governments recognize the importance of digital transformation that goes beyond e-government.
- Ensure that governments **support national-local vertical integration**. As part of the efforts, Korea will support the design and implementation of the OGP Local Strategy and cooperation between national and local governments.

2. Pursuing Public Values towards an Inclusive State

The Government of the Republic of Korea pursues a public-value-oriented governance to promote a healthy society and benefit communities and society as a whole, by ensuring human rights, labor rights, safety, inclusion of marginalized people and the democratic decision-making and participation. Taking continuous efforts, Korea will:

- Support countries in **pursuing public values through open government**. Considering that each country has different context and objectives, Korea will ensure that there is no single vision, no one-fits-all approach by leaving room for governments to contextualize the way of pursuing open government.
- Strengthen the work of multi-stakeholder forums to **enhance governments' responsiveness to the needs of citizens**.
- Help OGP member countries develop Action Plans (AP) that deliver **commitments aligned with UN Sustainable Development Goals⁴**, and lead global efforts to make OGP as a public-value-oriented platform.

3. Renewing Trust through Government Innovation

To achieve our government objective, *a Government of the People*, and an innovative, inclusive state, the Government of the Republic of Korea designed 'Government Innovation Strategy.' The cross-government strategy aims to realize public values; promote participation and cooperation; and build a trustworthy government. Taking a further step towards global open government efforts, Korea will:

⁴ UN (2015), Sustainable Development Goals, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

- Help OGP member countries design **government innovation commitments in APs**. In particular, Korea will work with the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) to make assessment reports conducive to making better policies.
- Reinforce **global anti-corruption and transparency efforts** in partnership with our civil society Co-Chair, not only in the executive branch that strengthens public servants' ethics and eliminates injustice and irregularities but also in the legislative, judiciary branches and the private sector.
- Make capacity-building opportunities in the OGP that helps countries increase their **capabilities of using data for problem-solving**. It is because, responding to digital transformation, many governments seek for appropriate - or perhaps more customized - ways to make data-driven, scientific decisions. By doing so, OGP can help countries solve wicked problems in a more co-creative way.

As a Co-Chair of the OGP, Korea will take efforts to ensure that open government is perceived not as an end itself but as a means to make positive changes in citizens' everyday lives. Besides identifying the outcome of OGP activities, Korea will strengthen the partnership between governments and civil society for sustainability. Thanks to the work of former Co-Chairs and the Support Unit, OGP has raised awareness about open government values and principles and designed tools and mechanism. Building on what has been done for the past years, Korea will work to embrace diverse stakeholders and engage OGP in diverse global platforms as a key implementation and accountability platform that advances open government reforms.

2. How will your government demonstrate leadership of OGP at the international level during your chairmanship, and what actions can it take to foster a more cohesive leadership body within the Steering Committee?

The year 2021, chaired by the Government of the Republic of Korea and Maria Baron from Directorio Legislativo, marks the 10th anniversary of the OGP. With the achievement made by the OGP, Korea proposes to the Steering Committee to design a strategy that reflects lessons learnt for the past decade and looks ahead to identify our role.

As an active country in the work of international organizations including the United Nations and OECD, Korea will work to demonstrate leadership of OGP at the international level. Korea has been an OECD member since 1996 and part of the open government initiatives that achieve measurable impacts in the Working Party on Open Government of the Public Governance Committee. Working with partners of the OGP, Korea will identify areas of collaboration that can advance OGP's goals.

The Moon administration created a ROK-ASEAN network through the New Southern Policy to share experience in public administration and enhance democratic values in the region. Furthermore, Korea hosted the OGP Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting 2018 to raise collective ambition and generate new political support for open government. Taking continuous efforts, Korea will ensure that OGP provides a platform for the exchange of knowledge and good practices; regional networks of multi-stakeholder forums; evidence-based learning opportunities through peer review.

As the only country that has transformed from a recipient of official development assistance to a donor, Korea is well positioned to share public administration experience at diverse income levels it has gained throughout the journey to become the world's 12th largest economy with more than \$30,000 GDP per capita.

3. How do you plan to further advance your domestic open government agenda and lead by example during your chairmanship role?

A strategic partnership between governments and civil society and its lived experience is critical to pursuing open government. The partnership should co-create in an innovative, sound environment that pursues public values based on data, information, knowledge, experience and network. In efforts to build the partnership, Korea designed a multi-stakeholder forum 'Open Government Forum Korea' that aims to pursue open government values and principles and design ways for governments and civil society to work together in various policy and thematic areas.

The Forum recognizes the importance of expanding the scope of partnership continuously and taking long-term approaches rather than project-based, short-term ones. As part of the efforts, the Forum has created working groups for the youth and open data advocates for more specific issues. Korea will continuously support the work of the Forum and find ways for OGP multi-stakeholder forums to learn from each other.

Open Government Forum Korea designed the 4th Action Plan 2018-20 with 13 commitments including disclosure of priority data; open communication forum the Gwanghwamoon 1st Street; public-private partnership for anti-corruption. Starting from March 2020, the Forum will start to design the 5th Action Plan and make more ambitious open government commitments through collective intelligence and citizen participation.

Furthermore, Korea will expand the scope of partnership by working with government innovation citizen forum and government innovation committee composed of government, civil society and academia.

4. Which Ministry will lead your OGP chairmanship (if different from current OGP Ministry)? How do you envision the role and involvement of other government bodies, including your head of state/government, foreign ministry and diplomatic networks, and other ministries to advance your OGP priorities and promote OGP globally?

The Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS) will lead Korea's OGP chairmanship for 2019-21. As a lead ministry for Korea's OGP activities since joining the OGP in 2011, MOIS has designed four APs and represented Korea as a member of the OGP Steering Committee since October 2017.

MOIS will continuously work with line ministries to present OGP as a key international open government platform. The Open Government Forum Korea, Korea's multi-stakeholder forum for open government, will be a platform for MOIS to work strategically with government organizations including the Ministry of Science and ICT; the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission; the Ministry of Economy and Finance; the Ministry of Personnel Management; and the Seoul Metropolitan Government. The Forum will lead domestic open government activities including designing, implementing and monitoring national action plans and also internationally promote open government efforts made in Korea. For capacity-building opportunities for open government practitioners home and abroad, Korea will cooperate with the National Information Society Agency (NIA), the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Korea Development Institute (KDI).

MOIS, the lead ministry of Korea's OGP chairmanship and government innovation, will pursue government innovation as a driver of open government and push open government forward in a whole-of-government approach.