



REPUBLICA DE CHILE
MINISTERIO SECRETARIA GENERAL DE LA PRESIDENCIA
GABINETE MINISTRO

Santiago, Chile, May 25th 2022

Mr. Renato Brunetta, Minister for Public Administration

Italy

Ms. Aidan Eyakuze; Executive Director, Twaweza

East Africa

Mr. Taimar Peterkop, Secretary of State

Estonia

Ms. Anabel Cruz, Director ICD

Uruguay

Dear co-chairs of the OGP Steering Committee:

Through this letter, the Government of Chile expresses its intention to be part of the Steering Committee of the Open Government Partnership. Hereby we present our candidacy for the 2022 elections.

The participation of the Government of Chile in the Open Government Partnership is long-standing. Since the establishment of OGP in 2011, we showed immediate interest to become part of this initiative. Since then, as a country we have worked to promote the values of open government, by strengthening the right of access to public information as a key element to exercise other rights and access to benefits from the State, expanding the opportunities for citizen participation in public management through the creation of the Consultative Councils of Civil Society in different public departments of the State. We have also advanced in the modernization and digital transformation of the State focused on facilitating the interaction between citizens and the government and a more efficient public management.

In our history as members of the Open Government Partnership, between 2015 and 2018 we were part of the Steering Committee. During those years we promoted profound reforms in our country, aligned with OGP values, such as laws and measures to prevent conflicts of interest, to increase the standard of declarations of assets and interests of public officials, directors and high public authorities, and legislation on the regulation of lobby activities, which implies the publication of meetings, donations and trips by public authorities, with a focus on citizen control and providing information on who seeks to influence the decision-making process.

To date we have developed five consecutive action plans. The fifth Action Plan is being implemented in the 2020-2022 period.



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The first and second Action Plans gave us important lessons in terms of articulating initiatives, promoting participation, and, on the other hand, taught us how to propose open government as a transversal policy within public administration, which was reflected in the transitions between different governments, being an outstanding case in the Latin American region due to the continuity of the commitments and Action Plans.

On the other hand, the third OGP Action Plan led us to formalize our multi-stakeholder forum, where the Open Government Working Table was created. This forum includes the Undersecretary General of the Presidency, who presides the multi-stakeholder forum, a representative of the Open Government Civil Society Network, and a representative of the Open Government Academic Network. In addition, we have two international observers, ECLAC and UNDP, representing the United Nations.

We take the fourth Action Plan as an opportunity to rethink the co-creation process of the Action Plans, to increase participation and to create more opportunities of collaboration, such as online consultations and working groups, as well as improve the monitoring of the commitments of the Action Plans. In this context, the Open Government Panel was created, which contains the progress of the commitments and evidence of the outputs.

The co-creation of the fifth Action Plan presented quite a challenge, since it was carried out during the year 2020, in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, with sanitary restrictions to protect the health of the population, and while discussing and voting to develop a new Constitution for our country as a way to address social problems and inequality, as an institutional response to the social protests at the end of 2019, as well as an attempt to address the democratic deficit problems in our current Constitution. This constitutional process has incorporated open government values, changing the way that power is exercised by State bodies: better transparency, integrity and inclusion are key cores.

Despite the adverse context of the pandemic, together with the multi-stakeholder forum, we decided to address the challenge of implementing a virtual co-creation process for the fifth Action Plan. The virtual methodology presented an important challenge, however, with the collaboration of the multi-stakeholder forum, the Civil Society Network, the Academic Network, OGP, and public officials, it was possible to co-create the Action Plan. In this Plan, we increased the dissemination and consultation opportunities, with more actors from civil society and academia involved in different stages and roles. Likewise, we taken the first steps towards an Open State, with commitments from the National Congress in Open Parliament and the Supreme Court in Open Justice.

This Action Plan demonstrates how open government issues can transcend different administrations and how they are addressed as State commitments, because even though the commitments currently being implemented were decided under another administration, the current authorities are vigorously promoting its implementation. This scenario demonstrates the solidity of the Chilean system when proposing open government initiatives, commitments that are assumed and projected beyond political transitions.



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Within the Latin American region, we were one of the pioneer countries in adopting virtual methodologies for the co-creation of an Action Plan, setting a precedent in the matter. For this reason, we actively participate and collaborate with the OGP Support Unit to share our learning and experiences in virtual co-creation of Action Plans with different countries in the Latin American region. Taking into consideration that we face similar challenges, it is important to create learning spaces, this way the lessons learned are useful not only to our country, but also reached other countries in the region and allow us to continue advancing together to generate more open and transparent administrations.

Chile has been an important example for other countries in the region, where its institutional capacity has been highlighted for being able to respond to important challenges in the fight against corruption, promote transparency, public integrity, prevent conflicts of interest, and more open public procurement systems. For this reason, we hope to motivate the entire region to continue deepening the values of open government, seeking to consolidate the Open State paradigm and trying to incorporate open government principles in public policies and in entities that perform public functions.

Additionally, our country presents the opportunity to continue deepening the values of open government. On one hand, the draft proposal for a new Constitution for our country which will be submitted to a plebiscite in September of this year. In the draft that is currently known, the principle of transparency is established as a fundamental right, extends the obligations of transparency to more public organizations, includes more and better citizen participation mechanisms, deepens the protection of civic space and the promotion and protection of human rights, and establishes the Open Justice Principle.

On the other hand, this Secretariat assumed the challenge of develop a roadmap to deepen the values of open government in the State Administration. Through this roadmap, we seek to define short, medium and long-term measures with our multi-stakeholder forum that allow us to take open government beyond the Action Plans. Although we are working to continue articulating an Open State, our focus is to move towards an Open Chile in the medium term.

The idea of an Open Chile arises from the need to continue expanding open government actions to a greater number of areas of national society and aims to strengthen existing institutions, as well as increase the perception of stability, permanence, and trust in public and private institutions. Promoting a paradigm shift to moving towards an Open Chile is an ambitious proposal. However, with Chile's participation in the Open Government Partnership, we have built capacities within the public administration to promote this initiative for more than a decade, even remaining active during a health crisis. Similarly, over the years the processes of co-creation of Action Plans have become more participatory and ambitious. After years of learning and participating in OGP, we challenge ourselves to take open government to the next level, to think of an Open Chile.

In this decade in which we have participated in the Open Government Partnership, we have continuously worked to deepen the values of open government. The motivation to present



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the candidacy to the Steering Committee is to share the learning experience through these years, share the growth that we have had, and how we face our challenges. We also want to contribute to promoting leadership in the Latin American region, where we have great exponents in the field of open government.

With the candidacy to be part of the OGP Steering Committee, Chile seeks to contribute with the experience acquired in the implementation of open government standards and mechanisms, and we are convinced that we will contribute significantly to the progress of OGP and to expand and consolidate its achievements, helping all the countries in OGP that also face the challenge of building trust between the people and the government through transparency, participation, and modernization.

Although in first instance we cannot provide a financial contribution, we make the commitment to evaluate this chance within our administrative regulations and financial capacity.

We are confident that our participation in the Steering Committee can provide us with an opportunity for growth and to contribute with our vision, and at the same time, strengthening the values of open government in the region and the world.

Best regards,



Kenneth Giorgio Jackson
Minister Secretary General of the Presidency