



January 28, 2025

TL2025/0128/1A

Principal Secretary to PM,
PM House, Islamabad.

(For the attention of the Honorable Prime Minister)

Subject: Pakistan's Membership to the Open Government Partnership (OGP)

Dear Sir

Transparency International Pakistan wishes to bring to your attention withdrawal of Pakistan's membership from the Open Government Partnership (OGP) since March 2022. Pakistan had joined OGP in November 2016 (**Annex-A**). However, due to the lack of action on the submission of National Action Plan for three successive action plan cycles, Pakistan's membership was formally withdrawn in 2022 (**Annex-B**).

TI Pakistan had previously highlighted the importance of the timely submission of OGP action plan vide its letter dated September 02, 2019 (**Annex-C**). The OGP's mandate aligns closely with the current government's priorities on open governance, as well as the IMF's recommendations in the Expanded Fund Facility Programme signed by the Government of Pakistan in October 2024. The IMF has emphasized the need for open governance reforms, which makes rejoining the OGP even more relevant.

In this regard, TI Pakistan requests the honorable Prime Minister to issue directives to the Ministry of Finance to look into the delay in Pakistan's submission of OGP National Action Plan and the possibility of re-joining the OGP platform as was done in 2016. Such an effort will not only build trust and confidence among international stakeholders but will also augur governance reforms in the country.

Regards,

Advocate Daniyal Muzaffar,
Trustee/Legal Advisor
Transparency International Pakistan

Copies forwarded for the information with a request to take action under their mandate to:

1. Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad.
2. Finance Minister, Ministry of Finance, Islamabad.
3. OGP Secretariat, Washington DC.

INTERNATIONAL
THE NEWS

**By our correspondents
November 24, 2016**

ISLAMABAD: Finance minister Ishaq Dar said on Wednesday Pakistan is likely to join the Open Government Partnership (OGP) -- an international convention on anti-bribery -- for more accountability and transparency in government functions.

“The ministry (finance) has been given the lead role to work out details in this connection,” Dar said at a seminar organised by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) on Companies Bill, 2016.

The OGP is an initiative between 70 countries set up in 2011, aimed at promoting transparency in government and tackling corruption, with member countries required to produce a national action plan every two years.

“Pakistan has already signed OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) convention on tax matters to check evasion, which would be operationalised in early 2018.”

Dar said all such measures showed present government’s commitment to introduce transparency and good governance in the country. “These steps will enhance Pakistan image as a sovereign and prestigious country.”

The minister also inaugurated the “swift incorporation system” under the new

Companies Ordinance, 2016. Under the new system companies which apply for the incorporation will be provided the incorporation certificate within the same day.

“We are celebrating this day after a long and exhaustive exercise done by SECP,” Dar said. The minister highlighted the importance of updating the companies' law from time to time for incorporating the new developments taking place in the world.

“The new Companies Ordinance has the elements to regulate and facilitate the business in the country,” he added. “Broad consultation with all the relevant stakeholders has been done and it is a sign of satisfaction that till now no objections have been raised on the new Companies Ordinance, 2016.”

The minister said the government is ready to take suggestions from the members of the parliament and business community to bring in valuable changes as the bill has been laid in the parliament for discussion.

He emphasised the need for more such awareness raising seminars for the new law and urged the professional bodies to take the lead in this regard.

Zafar Hijazi, chairman of SECP said the new ordinance lays more emphasis on transparency and information sharing

as the new law makes it compulsory to declare beneficial ownership by the directors of the companies.

“Around 60,000 notices have been served to the companies all around the country to share the information and this development speaks volumes about the effort made by the SECP,” Hijazi said.

Former SECP chairman Tariq Hassan said the comprehensive nature of the law could be gauged from the fact that it encompasses all types of business and trade activity. “We hope that this new law will help development of the markets,” Hasan said.

“The alternative dispute resolution system introduced by the new law will increase the efficiency of the businesses and save the precious time of the courts.”

Leading businessman Arif Habib commended the efforts of the finance minister and the SECP team in the introduction of this new law. He said the new law has replaced a 32 year old law, which had to be updated according to the requirements of the changing times.

7 March 2022

The Honorable Shaukat Tarin
Minister of Finance and Revenue Affairs
Government of Pakistan

Dear Minister Tarin,

It is with regret that I must inform you that the Government of Pakistan is no longer considered a member of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), effective as of 5 March 2022. This decision follows the resolution of the OGP Steering Committee dated 25 February 2020 to designate Pakistan as *inactive* in OGP due to failure to deliver an action plan since joining the Partnership in 2016. A copy of the resolution and previous communications sent to the Government of Pakistan are enclosed for your reference.

As outlined in the Steering Committee resolution, in order to regain full participation status in OGP, the Government of Pakistan had one year from the date of the resolution to either i) publish its action plan developed in line with OGP Participation and Co-Creation Standards; or ii) work with the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee and the OGP Support Unit to set a clear timeline to start a new action plan cycle and re-engage civil society for producing the new action plan.

In light of the challenges presented by COVID19 pandemic, and in line with guidelines approved by the Steering Committee in 2020, the government of Pakistan was granted an additional year to comply with the terms of the resolution.

As of this date, the Government of Pakistan has unfortunately not fulfilled these requirements. For this reason, and acting in accordance with the OGP Articles of Governance, Pakistan is no longer considered an OGP participating country.

We hope that the Government of Pakistan, through dialogue and cooperation with civil society and other partners, is able to advance its transparency and openness agenda even outside of the OGP framework.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.



Paul Maassen
Chief, Country Support
Open Government Partnership



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21 September 2021

H.E. Shaukat Tarin
Minister of Finance and Revenue Affairs
Government of Pakistan

Dear Minister Tarin,

We welcome the Government of Pakistan's participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP), an international multistakeholder initiative which now comprises 78 countries working to implement open government commitments to promote greater transparency, accountability and citizen engagement in policy making. Pakistan joined OGP in December 2016, at the OGP Global Summit hosted by the Government of France.


As you may be aware, the OGP Steering committee reached an unanimous decision to regretfully designate Pakistan inactive in OGP for a one-year period during its [February 2020](#) meeting on account of not submitting the required OGP National Action Plan for three consecutive years. The Steering Committee [resolution](#) (attached for your reference) was sent to the government of Pakistan on [5 March 2020](#). Furthermore, in light of the COVID19 pandemic, and in line with the [guidelines approved](#) by the Criteria & Standards Subcommittee, the OGP Steering Committee resolved to extend the deadline to comply with the aforementioned resolution by one year.

As outlined in the resolution, this inactivity status would be immediately lifted upon the submission of an OGP action plan. **We are available to support you in the development of a new action plan in order to regain active status with OGP.**

We encourage the swift development of Pakistan's action plan and also underscore the importance and value of a strong co-creation process that includes the necessary time to engage all stakeholders, conduct extensive consultation with citizens and civil society, and adheres to the OGP's Participation and Co-Creation Standards. Please note that failure to re-engage or deliver an action plan by the 5 March 2022 deadline would lead to the government of Pakistan to no longer be considered an OGP member.

We reiterate our full support to aid you in the completion and implementation of the OGP action plan, and to regain active status in the Partnership.

Yours sincerely,



Joe Powell
Deputy Chief Executive Officer



Resolution of the OGP Steering Committee Regarding the Status of the Government of Pakistan's Participation in OGP

25 February 2020

[Amended on 23 July 2020] In light of the COVID19 pandemic, and in line with the guidelines approved by the [Criteria & Standards Subcommittee](#) on 18 March 2020, the OGP Steering Committee hereby resolves to extend the deadline to comply with the following resolution for a period of one year.

The OGP Steering Committee welcomes Pakistan's participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) since 2016, and recognizes the efforts made to develop a draft OGP action plan in 2017. The OGP Steering Committee further acknowledges the potential delays to the OGP process caused by the political transition in 2018.

However, considering that the Government of Pakistan has acted contrary to the OGP process by not delivering an action plan for three consecutive cycles (2017, 2018, 2019), **the OGP Steering Committee, under the provisions set out in the Articles of Governance, hereby resolves to designate the Government of Pakistan as inactive in OGP.**

For countries placed on inactive status by decision of the OGP Steering Committee after acting contrary to the OGP process, the inactive status lasts up to a maximum of one year, or:

- Until the country publishes an action plan, developed in line with OGP Participation and Co-Creation Standards, or
- The country works with the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee and the OGP Support Unit to set a clear timeline to start a new action plan cycle and re-engage with civil society for producing the new action plan.

This inactivity status will be immediately lifted upon the submission of an OGP action plan. The OGP Steering Committee further agrees to offer all the necessary support in order to help Pakistan remain engaged in the Partnership.

If, however, a country remains on inactive status for a year without communicating to the OGP Support Unit that it wants to continue to participate in OGP, the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee will recommend that the OGP Steering Committee instructs the OGP Support Unit to remove such country from the list of participating countries.

In addition, the following inactivity conditions apply:

- While inactive, Pakistan will continue to receive Steering Committee and Support Unit assistance, and the IRM will assess its future action plan.
- While inactive, Pakistan will not be eligible to vote or run in Steering Committee elections, and may only attend OGP events as observers for learning purposes.
- While inactive, Pakistan's inactivity will be noted on the OGP website and public information materials, where appropriate (e.g., in a list of participating OGP countries).
- Any country, whether in active or inactive status, may at any time decide itself to withdraw from OGP.

END RESOLUTION

