



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

17 June 2013

Dear OGP Co-Chairs,

Thank you for the invitation to UNDP to partner with the Open Government Partnership (OGP) in the context of the multilateral engagement framework.

UNDP is pleased to accept your invitation, as it fully endorses the principles and objectives of OGP to promote openness in government.

UNDP is the leading multilateral agency supporting democratic governance initiatives in developing countries. Our core governance areas include fostering inclusive participation, supporting responsive institutions, and promoting international principles enshrined in international agreements such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In 2012 we provided governance support to more than 130 countries.

UNDP engages with civil society to enhance democratic governance principles and mechanisms. We support civic empowerment because of its importance in ensuring transparent, responsive, and accountable government. In 2000, UNDP was the first UN agency to establish a civil society advisory committee. We engage with it on issues of policy and strategy. This reflects the importance we attach to the role of civil society as strategic partners and interlocutors.

OGP's objectives of promoting inclusive participation, e-governance, accountability in public service delivery, gender equity, and human rights relate well to our democratic governance portfolio. We developed a social accountability guidance note in 2010 to help our Country Offices set up accountability mechanisms at national and sub-national levels, to help improve responsive and transparent governance. Thus, UNDP is committed to supporting developing countries to advance open government initiatives. We have already provided support, on a demand-driven basis, to some OGP country members.

Open Government Partnership Co-Chairs

Warren Krafchik,
Director
International Budget
Partnership

Kuntoro Mangkusubroto
Head of President's Delivery
Unit for Development
Monitoring and Oversight
Government of Indonesia

Francis Maude
Minister for the Cabinet Office
and Paymaster General
Government of the United
Kingdom



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UNDP could assist OGP in several ways. First, as an impartial and trusted national and global partner, we can help convene and engage civil society and a wide variety of stakeholders to work together towards common goals. Second, as UNDP already has close to 2,000 initiatives in countries, of which many match existing national OGP Action Plan priorities, we could help accelerate achievement of your goals. Third, as UNDP has developed monitoring and evaluation methodologies and framework, it can help to assess the progress and impact of ongoing democratic governance programmes.

Building on twenty years of experience in the area of ICTs for governance and development, UNDP sees these new technologies as enablers of human development which bring new solutions to traditional development challenges, and foster inclusive governance. Our world needs innovative solutions to these enduring challenges which will enhance open and accountable governance, and thus promote long term sustainable development.

In order for us to take this discussion further, please contact Raul Zambrano, who will be our focal point for OGP in the Bureau for Development Policy, at raul.zambrano@undp.org and telephone number 212-906 6654.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Helen Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Helen Clark