

President
of the Treasury Board



Président
du Conseil du Trésor

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0R5

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Jaime Mercado
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Dear Open Government Partnership Steering Committee Co-Chairs:

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I am pleased to formally submit Canada's candidacy to renew our seat on the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Steering Committee. We would be honoured and proud to continue our work to develop, promote and safeguard the values and principles of the OGP.

Since Canada joined the OGP in 2012, we have embraced our open government journey with energy, enthusiasm and a great dose of humility. We have sought to contribute to the Partnership to the best of our ability. We were deeply honoured to become co-chair in 2018, and to host the Global OGP Summit in Ottawa in May of last year.

Welcoming all of you to Ottawa allowed us to discuss the ways in which the world is shifting. It also allowed us all to witness first-hand how the OGP enables us, as partners, to come together at a moment where the stakes have never been higher. Governments and their citizens know that significant efforts will be needed to tackle serious issues like climate change, poverty, inequality, and the protection of human rights. The digital era is introducing new challenges but also new opportunities to help solve our biggest problems. We firmly believe that the OGP values of more openness, transparency, accountability and civic participation, as well as its discipline, can help the world to better withstand this turmoil and benefit from this transformation. We also believe that if all open government partners, at all levels, work together, we can protect these principles and values to benefit all of humanity.

For any country, starting on a journey toward opening up their government and persevering through the challenges and obstacles, is hard work. What has been essential to Canada's journey are our strong partnerships with partners at the international, federal, provincial, territorial and local levels who work through different realities and advance open government in different ways.

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The development and implementation of our Multi-stakeholder Forum on Open Government has also taught us a lot about the critical importance of partnerships and collaboration and has enabled us to work hand in hand with our civic partners towards our shared goals. Our focus on inclusive open government – making government more accessible and inclusive for everyone – has meant listening and learning in areas like digital ethics and inclusivity, creating better tools for citizen/government interactions, and instilling transparent and accountable leadership at all levels. We have also embarked on a journey of reconciliation with Indigenous people, where we are seeking to explore, in a nation-to-nation dialogue, what open government should mean in this very special context.

As we look to complete our 4th National Action Plan and begin engagement on and co-creation of our 5th National Action Plan, we are reminded of the power and energy that a shared vision and strategy can have in changing the world for the better.

We also understand the difficult task ahead and the resolve needed for any government who chooses to commit to increasing transparency, accountability and citizen participation. We believe that the OGP can facilitate peer learning to help us drive concrete results for citizens. If elected, we will work hard to assist the OGP so that we can better identify our collective strengths and areas for growth, lifting each other up in times of need and celebrating our successes together. We will work to ensure the OGP gives space for all players: strong voices from civil society and enabled public servants and political leaders, so that together we can co-create and implement challenging reforms.

As we continue to work together to nurture and grow this force for good, Canada stands proudly among its partners, ready to contribute to the modernization of open government and to position the OGP for success in this era of uncertainty but also of unprecedented opportunity. There is important and very concrete work ahead such as the development of a strong local program, a refresh of the Independent Reporting Mechanism, and better collaboration within the OGP community on thematic priorities. Canada would be delighted to help push this important work forward.

We would welcome the opportunity to continue our work as a member of the Steering Committee and help the OGP continue to grow as a strong and resilient organisation. Thank you for considering Canada's candidacy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jean-Yves Duclos". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, P.C., M.P.