



Bosnia and Herzegovina
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

dr Zlatko Lagumdžija
Minister

Rt Hon Francis Maude MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office, Paymaster General
Cabinet Office
Government of the United Kingdom

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

Alejandra Lagunes
Coordinator of the National Digital Strategy
Government of Mexico

Rakesh Rajani
Head, Twaweza

Suneeta Kaimal Deputy Director
Revenue Watch Institute

Sarajevo, 1 September, 2014

Dear Co-Chairs of the Open Government Partnership,

It is my honour to express formal interest of Bosnia and Herzegovina to join the Open Government Partnership (OGP).

Bosnia and Herzegovina fulfills all criteria for membership to the Partnership and therefore expresses its commitment to uphold its values and goals.

Goals and principles of the Open Government Partnership are in compliance with objectives of authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina with regard to transparency and openness. Also, those goals are harmonized with the principles that Bosnia and Herzegovina would like to achieve, its aspirations in relation to joining the European Union as well as goals for economic and social development.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is currently the only country in South-East Europe that has not joined the Partnership and we are looking forward to the opportunity to accept values that are promoted in the Open Government Declaration and implement them to the extent that is higher than present.



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Membership to the Partnership would improve the cooperation between authorities, citizens and civil society in Bosnia and Herzegovina, provide insight concerning international knowledge and best practices, make the administration more efficient and stronger in fighting corruption as well as enable progress in the area of economic development and innovation, in particular with regard to data transparency.

Bosnia and Herzegovina commits itself to respect values and, essentially, the principles in the Open Government Declaration as well as the principles contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and other relevant international instruments referring to human rights and good governance and we express our strong commitment to:

- Increase data availability on activities of government institutions,
- Support public participation i.e. equal participation and non-discrimination of all citizens in decision-making processes and policy making,
- Implement the highest standards of professional integrity within the administrative system,
- Increase access to new technology aimed at transparency and accountability,
- We are aware that the open government is a process which requires constant engagement. We commit ourselves to public reporting on activities done in order to achieve those principles, consult with the public and modernize our responsibilities in light of new challenges and opportunities.
- We guarantee that we will represent a good example and contribute to improving open government in other countries by sharing best practices and know-how and voluntarily implement responsibilities set out in the Declaration. Our goal is to initiate innovation and fast progress and not to determine standards as preconditions for cooperation, assistance or ranking countries. We emphasize the importance of promoting transparency and overall approach as well as technical assistance to support capacity development and institution building.
- We commit ourselves to adopt these principles in relation to our international engagement and foster a global culture of open government that empowers citizens and advances the ideals of open 21st century government.



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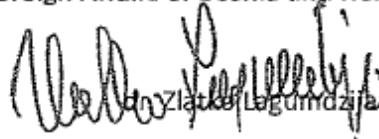
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina will be a pilot project and in that way shall enable fiscal transparency, free access to information, transparency of data for elected officials and citizen involvement.

We are looking forward to the participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Partnership and the opportunity to share our experience with other members as well as to contribute to positive initiatives on the global level.

With respect,

Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina



Zlatko Lagumdžija

