TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL
the global coalition against corruption

International Secretariat
Alt-Moabit 96
10559 Berlin, Germany
Tel: +49 30 34 38 200
Fax: +49 30 34 70 39 12
ti@transparency.org
www.transparency.org

To:
Ms. **Stephanie Muchai**
Lead Civil Society Co-Chair (2025–2026), Open Government Partnership

Cc:
Mr. **Vinícius Marques de Carvalho**
Lead Government Co-Chair (2025–2026), Open Government Partnership
Minister, Office of the Comptroller General of Brazil

Mr. **Aidan Eyakuze**
Chief Executive Officer, Open Government Partnership

Ms. **Robin Hodess**
Chair, OGP Board of Directors

Brasilia/Berlin, 20 January 2026

Subject: Grave concerns regarding government retaliation against TI Brazil—contradicting OGP principles

Dear Ms. Muchai,

Transparency International Brazil and Transparency International's global leadership write to express our deep concern regarding a recent episode that starkly contradicts the principles of the Open Government Partnership (OGP).

Last week, following the publication of a technical study by TI Brazil identifying persistent transparency gaps in the federal government's flagship infrastructure investment programme (PAC), the Office of the Chief of Staff (Casa Civil) issued a public note seeking to delegitimise our organisation, referring to TI Brazil as an "NGO under investigation by the Federal Police."

This reaction is incompatible with OGP's core values—civic participation, transparency, accountability, and protection of civic space. It is particularly troubling that such an authoritarian response comes from the very government that currently serves as OGP Government Co-Chair. The incident sends a chilling message to civil society and represents a threat to the credibility of OGP leadership at a crucial moment for the global open government community.

Allow us to underline the gravity of this case:

There is no public record or judicial documentation of any Federal Police investigation into TI Brazil. Nor is there any mention of such an inquiry in the case files of judicial proceedings opened against our organisation since 2019. If an investigation exists, it would necessarily be under judicial secrecy. A public reference by a political ministry therefore raises grave concerns that confidential law

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL
the global coalition against corruption

International Secretariat
Alt-Moabit 96
10559 Berlin, Germany
Tel: +49 30 34 38 200
Fax: +49 30 34 70 39 12
ti@transparency.org
www.transparency.org

enforcement information may have been improperly accessed and weaponised for political purposes.

This marks an unprecedented escalation in the harassment faced by TI Brazil. Since 2019, our organisation has endured smear campaigns and abusive litigation—already recognised by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights as a serious case of criminalisation of civil society.

The irony is striking: TI Brazil's monitoring of infrastructure transparency is directly connected to Brazil's 6th National Action Plan (NAP) under OGP. The government has publicly celebrated progress in this area, and the commitment has even received recognition at the OGP Summit. In July of last year, also within the framework of the current NAP, TI Brazil led the preparation of a technical note analysing the transparency and social participation of the New PAC, a document also authored by the CGU and other civil society organisations. It is therefore paradoxical—and profoundly discouraging—that evidence based monitoring in the very area where Brazil claims OGP leadership would trigger governmental retaliation rather than constructive engagement.

Transparency International Brazil maintains a constructive and respectful relationship with several ministries of the current government, including collaboration with the CGU on transparency and anti-corruption initiatives. Our work is guided by technical rigor and a commitment to support public institutions in preventing corruption and safeguarding public resources. The Casa Civil's public attack undermines trust, discourages legitimate oversight, and contradicts the Brazilian government's stated support for social participation and civic space—both domestically and within OGP.

In light of the above, we respectfully request that OGP leadership:

- Reaffirm, publicly and unequivocally, OGP's principles regarding protection of civic space and non-retaliation against civil society;
- Engage the Brazilian Co-Chair to seek immediate clarification and corrective action from the Casa Civil, including a retraction of unfounded allegations and a commitment to engage substantively with TI Brazil's findings;
- Ensure the integrity of OGP processes by underscoring that evidence-based monitoring, independent scrutiny, and critical speech by civil society are indispensable to the success of NAP commitments—particularly those relating to infrastructure transparency;
- Share this letter with all government and civil society members of the OGP Steering Committee, to ensure collective awareness and uphold OGP's commitment to protecting civic space globally.

We kindly ask for your acknowledgment of this letter and information on the steps OGP will take in response. TI Brazil and Transparency International's global leadership remain ready to share detailed analysis and participate in any OGP-facilitated dialogue aimed at restoring trust and advancing open government reforms in Brazil.

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL
the global coalition against corruption

International Secretariat
Alt-Moabit 96
10559 Berlin, Germany
Tel: +49 30 34 38 200
Fax: +49 30 34 70 39 12
ti@transparency.org
www.transparency.org

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter of significant consequence for civic space and the credibility of OGP leadership.

Sincerely,

José Compagno
Chair, Transparency International Brazil

François Valérian
Chair, Transparency International

References:

1. Original note issued by the *Casa Civil*
2. Letter from Transparency International's Global Chair to the Government of Brazil