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**Open Government Manabí**

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# Message

The Provincial Government of Manabí aims to be a pioneer in open government, strengthening the citizen link and its role in public actions. Our Open Government Plan is a means to consolidate what has been achieved in transparency, integrity, and citizen participation, incorporating the Manabí 4.0 Agenda. With this, we promote innovation and the improvement of public services, moving towards a smart and collaborative government.

We have achieved significant progress in managing information on efficiency, establishing anti-bribery protocols and standards, quality management, promoting citizen participation, and modernizing services. All of this is aligned with the fundamental pillars of Open Government: transparency, integrity, participation, and collaboration. Now, we extend a warm invitation to all stakeholders to deepen their involvement in the design of the action plan. Our vision is to adopt a two-way model with the citizens, providing more spaces for deliberation so that, together, we can propose actions that enhance and promote sustainable development in the province.

**Prefect Leonardo Orlando**

# Previous experience

While we acknowledge that there is a long journey ahead and that collaborative construction requires continuous effort, we are eager to initiate a cooperative and decentralized process. Our goal is to strengthen our capabilities and share the actions and strategies we have embraced, both on a national and international scale. Below, we highlight some of our emblematic initiatives:

## Public integrity

Implementation of the ISO 9001 standard, aimed at improving organizational capacity and strengthening the institutional quality system. Launch of the ISO 37001 standard, which introduces the Anti-Bribery Management System, with the goal of preventing, detecting, and acting against behaviors that compromise institutional management.



## Transparency

Geovisor: a tool that facilitates the visualization and analysis of geospatial information of the province in an interactive and accessible manner. Input-output matrix: provides a structured and detailed representation of the economic relationships between the different economic sectors of the province. EGOB: institutional management system focused on the administration of the planning and budget cycle, promoting a more efficient management of public resources.

Chatbot: To learn about citizen procedures



## Participation

Citizen complaint portal: establishes a confidential and secure means for citizens to submit complaints, grievances, suggestions, or comments about corruption, misconduct, abuse of power, or any other matter that affects the integrity and ethics of organizations, governmental entities, or institutions. Within the framework of Title VI, VII, and VIII of the Organic Law of Citizen Participation, the prefecture employs public hearings, citizen assemblies, and participatory budgeting (articles 49, 50, 67, 73).



## Collaborative Innovation

Leadership School: trains individuals by providing essential skills, knowledge, and tools for their development as effective leaders in various areas. These programs are designed to enhance leadership skills that are certified by the province's academy.

# Our Vision

Society and government are dynamic entities that evolve over time. The rapid global connectivity, driven by emerging technologies, and the emergence of young social movements challenging traditional public administration, have given rise to innovative forms of public policy. This modern approach is characterized by collaborative decision-making processes aimed at achieving sustainable development, often referred to as "open government." This approach presents an opportunity for provincial governments to bridge social and territorial gaps, fostering closer connections between governments and their societies.

In the Province of Manabí, we seek to promote a renewed vision of open government, where the citizen is no longer merely a recipient of public policies, but a strategic actor with decision-making and supervisory capacity in the formulation and evaluation of these policies. This perspective proposes an active and participatory citizenry that, by sharing responsibility in policy implementation, also shares its benefits.

An open government is defined by its ability to constantly deliberate with citizens, aligning decisions with their needs and preferences; promoting active collaboration between citizens and officials to improve services; and maintaining open and transparent communication in all its actions.

Manabí's vision focuses on establishing a disruptive Open Government model, aiming to revolutionize the way the prefecture interacts with its citizens. Through innovative use of technology, Manabí aspires to implement a results-oriented management system and good governance, ensuring excellence and quality in the provision of public services.

The perspective is for it to be a complementary process of the Development and Territorial Planning Plan. This approach reinforces management and governance, ensuring that development programs align with the community's needs and enhancing the effectiveness of public policies.

# Citizen Role



In Manabí, with the aim of enhancing citizen trust in democratic institutions, we are committed to adopting the open government approach to cultivate an environment characterized by trust and a higher standard of active participation and collaboration. Through this perspective, we intend to harness institutional dynamism and empower the renewed role of citizenship in addressing current challenges, while promoting a deep understanding and innovative solutions that cater to the public's needs.

From the Provincial Government, we recognize that implementing successful government policies requires the active collaboration of all territorial actors. Beyond mere legal recognition, it is essential that from the provincial administration, including our elected officials, concrete actions are promoted that encourage the active participation of citizens, civil society, academia, and the productive sector. With tangible, measurable, and verifiable measures over time, we aspire to restore trust in our institutions.

The goal of our administration is to empower citizens to have a leading and effective participation in public decisions, going beyond mere consultations and turning them into key actors in decision-making. It is vital that they see tangible results from their intervention and that the policies derived from this participation are implemented. Throughout the process, citizens must be informed about progress and responsibilities, ensuring constant accountability.



# Public policy approach

Manabí and the provincial governments in Ecuador must analyze local legal tools to adopt an open government. This approach impacts provincial planning and follows a cycle from identifying problems to their evaluation. Manabí will follow this cycle for effective implementation.

Identification and vision of the issues: provincial administrations lack regulations that require them to disclose their ordinance projects. There will be a push to ensure that citizens are informed about the actions of provincial legislative bodies and can take advantage of participation mechanisms such as the "empty chair."

Integration of the matter into the political agenda: The provincial legislative body will prioritize this issue, placing it on the public agenda for debate and resolution.

Development of public policy: The legislative body will issue regulations (ordinance) with the aim of setting a goal to improve transparency in its management and promote citizen involvement, establishing regular and timely disclosure of its ordinance projects on the official website (open government portal).

Implementation of public policy: The legislative body will launch a portal named "Open Council", in which it clearly displays its legislative work, showcasing ordinance projects at each stage. This allows citizens to stay informed about the discussions and, if they wish, to use participatory tools such as the empty chair.

Review of public policy: The effectiveness of the "Open Council" portal will be analyzed in terms of how many citizens have accessed to learn about the projects managed by the provincial legislative body and whether this has led to an increase in citizen participation.

# Collaborative Innovation

Collaborative innovation, enhanced with the use of smart tools, is essential in strengthening provincial open government. These technologies have redefined the relationship between public administrations and citizens, facilitating access to information and promoting higher levels of transparency and participation. The traditional conception of the public has evolved towards a logic of "the commons" that values collective knowledge and shared management in a digital environment, reducing hierarchy and emphasizing collaboration and shared knowledge.

The Ibero-American Open Government Agreement (2016) emphasize the importance of citizen innovation as an active effort by the community to promote the general interest and equality through collaboration and networking. Within the framework of open government, collaboration is seen as the creation of spaces for dialogue and co-production of public services. This entails an evolution in the perception of citizens, from being mere recipients to active protagonists in the design and implementation of policies. Moreover, digitization has expanded the collective capacity to address common problems, resizing the community space.

On the other hand, the Ibero-American Agreement on Public Innovation provides a framework and common language for the administrations of the region in the digital age, emphasizing the need for innovative solutions to contemporary challenges. By linking with Open Government, which promotes transparency, participation, and collaboration, the Charter presents itself as a tool to materialize these principles. The adoption of innovative methods allows governments to achieve quick wins in key areas, strengthening public trust and positioning them as progressive entities focused on the citizen.

# Policy coordination

The Provincial Government of Manabí seeks to lead in Open State initiatives at the national level, not only in discourse but in actions that set precedents. It has aligned with the principles of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) that promotes transparency, citizen participation, and the fight against corruption. Additionally, it has adopted strategies for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focused on well-being and sustainability. Its first voluntary SDG report shows its commitment to accountability and transparency.

With future plans to integrate these practices into its Open Government Action Plan, Manabí aims to establish an Open State model based on collaboration, participation, and transparency.

Manabí's second open government plan seeks to establish a policy and digital innovation fund, marking progress towards a more digital and inclusive province and Ecuador.



The emphasis on GovTech ecosystems will not only update public services but will also drive local economic development and technology in administration. Integrating these policies into their Development and Territorial Planning Plans.

Manabí aligns with international practices and positions itself competitively in the digital age. This will benefit citizens with more efficient services and transparency, and it may make Manabí a benchmark for other provinces.

# Smart Government 4.0

Public-private partnership models emerge as a solution to efficiently modernize public administration in the context of the 4.0 digital revolution, boosting economic growth with local development actors; academia, private sector, financial sector, civil society; led by the prefecture. GovTECH, supported by multilateral banking, introduces innovative technologies and knowledge to generate public value, positioning itself as an essential strategy for governments. Inspired by Mazzucato's ideas, the GovTECH model reinforces the vision of the "Entrepreneurial State", in this case, an Intelligent Intermediate Government committed to ongoing public entrepreneurship.

The concept of Open Government and Manabí's ambitious vision of establishing a Provincial Agenda 4.0 are inherently linked in the pursuit of a more prosperous, transparent, and participatory territory. Both perspectives are oriented towards modernization, transparency, and citizen participation, and when intertwined, the value of both is enhanced.

The fundamental principle of Open Government is transparency. When combined with a 4.0 Agenda, it's not just about ensuring that government decisions are transparent, but also about optimizing processes using technological tools, ensuring efficiency in administration.

The 4.0 Agenda amplifies this by creating an ecosystem in which the private sector, startups, and the youth of Manabí can actively contribute to the design and execution of technological solutions for everyday problems.

The adoption of the 4.0 revolution and its emerging technologies within the framework of an Open Government ensures that Manabí is not only responding to current needs but also anticipating future challenges and preparing to seize the opportunities that come with the digital age.



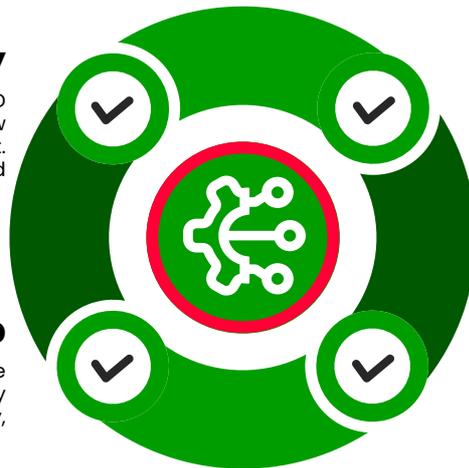
# Focus of the 4.0 Agenda

## Digital Democracy

Within the framework of what the COOTAD establishes, technology will be used to allow citizens to directly influence management. Promote more participation spaces and literacy in the use of public data.

## Innovation Hub

Promote collaboration processes with the private sector and CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) to boost greater efficiency, results management, and Good Governance.



## Smart Services

Generate open data portals for citizens and the private sector in terms of production, tourism, infrastructure, and procurement management to create links with CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) and the private sector.

## Govtech

Use of technology and incentive policies for open hiring of digital startups for the provision of services within the framework of the Open Government pillars.

By combining the vision of an Open Government with the Provincial 4.0 Agenda, the aim is to ensure that all citizens, regardless of their background, have the opportunity to benefit from technological advances and innovation, and in this way, contribute to collective growth.

# SDG Commitment



The Prefecture of Manabí is firmly committed to strengthening Open Government, framing this effort within our commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Our vision is focused on building stronger institutions that promote the active and constant participation of citizens. On this path to innovation and inclusion, we are proud to point out that we are the first prefecture in the country to become a "Local4Action" within the network of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

The Provincial Government of Manabí is actively working towards transforming the region into a "Smart Territory," with a strong emphasis on embracing the principles of Industry 4.0. Furthermore, we are currently in the process of implementing a territorial observatory or hub in Manabí. This hub will serve as a central point for monitoring and analysis, aligning our efforts with the objectives outlined in the 2030 Agenda.

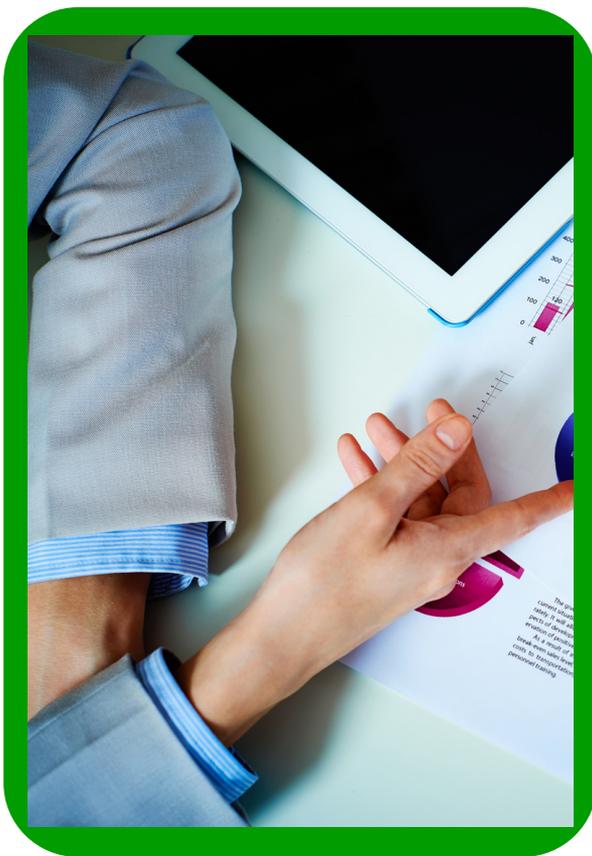
The territorial observatory will not merely function as a data repository related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It will also serve as a nexus for integrating smart territory technologies and open government practices. Its primary mission is to provide accessible, transparent, and pertinent information that can guide decision-making, foster collaboration across various sectors, and facilitate effective monitoring of SDG progress in Manabí.

To support our commitment to the 2030 Agenda, we are actively promoting regulatory measures aimed at institutionalizing our vision of open government and innovation. We view competitiveness and innovation as essential pillars for achieving our goals. Both of these facets are intended to stimulate collaborative processes and act as catalysts for sustainable development within the province.

With this overarching vision, our efforts are concentrated on strengthening territorial coordination. The design of this process is geared towards enhancing local capacities and encouraging collaborations that result in a comprehensive diagnosis of the region. Through the generation of precise information, identification of gaps, and proposals for concrete development solutions, we aim to drive progress and ensure the sustainable development of Manabí.

# Concrete Actions

"The Province of Manabí has outlined three specific actions to promote a territorial policy guided by local actors. These actions promote an open government aligned with Ecuador's Second Open Government Plan. We will emphasize collaborative use to integrate technology and citizen participation to create a more transparent, efficient, and innovative government in our province."



Open Government and Open Data Platform



GovTech Territorial Actors Training Project

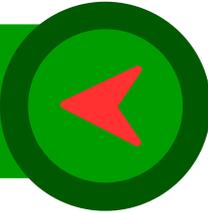


Local regulation and Open Government Action Plan





## Open Government and Open Data Platform



The portal will emphasize transparency in fund management and project execution. Therefore, the publication of current and past budgets will be ensured, showing their execution status in easy-to-understand formats. Citizens will be able to access information on project progress and budget. This section is interactive and georeferenced, allowing users to view progress in real-time and leave comments, thus promoting active citizen oversight.

Element	Approaches
Access to the GAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interactive map of the organizational chart with pop-up descriptions when hovering over with the cursor.</li> <li>• Gallery with photos and biographies of the main authorities.</li> <li>• Interactive calendar with the institutional agenda.</li> </ul>
Use of public resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dynamic charts showing budget execution.</li> <li>• Strategic planning maps with areas of interest and projects under development.</li> <li>• Explanatory videos for the use of information with a citizen focus.</li> </ul>
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online surveys and voting: Allows citizens to vote or give their opinion on specific projects or decisions.</li> <li>• Proposal platform: Citizens can propose initiatives or projects, and other citizens can support them.</li> <li>• Calendar of participatory events: Announces dates for assemblies, citizen meetings, and other participation activities.</li> </ul>
Access to information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring panel for open government regulations.</li> <li>• Advanced search engine for contracting processes with filters.</li> <li>• Tracking of ISO anti-bribery and quality certifications.</li> </ul>



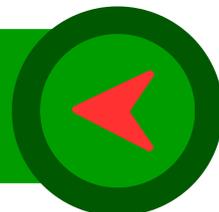
## GovTech Territorial Actors Training Project

Within the Second Open Government Plan, Ecuador's commitment to co-create a territorial policy and innovation fund highlights the importance of digital transformation through GovTECH ecosystems. In response, the provincial government of Manabí has decided to prioritize partnerships with international cooperation. Their goal is to carry out a training process with provincial actors, equipping them with knowledge of Govtech's potential. This strategy aims to foster collaboration between citizens and digital startups to find technological solutions that address open government challenges.

- ◆ A virtual course will be designed to establish theoretical foundations for the creation of their GovTech ecosystem; therefore, it would be an organizational innovation. Additionally, GovTech modernizes public institutions, enhancing efficiency and transparency, and facilitates the provision of digital public services. At the territorial level, it promotes innovation and digital transformation, strengthens territorial management, and encourages digital inclusion and citizen participation.
- The Provincial Government, local public actors, academia, and the private sector have strengthened their capacities in GovTech, innovation, and public entrepreneurship.
- At least 30 people from the Provincial Government, local public actors, academia, and the private sector have strengthened their capacities in GovTech, innovation, and public entrepreneurship.



## Local regulation and Open Government Action Plan



The perspective is the implementation of the open government public policy in the Autonomous Decentralized Provincial Government of Manabí, which will be based on the principles of transparency, open data, availability of information, and mechanisms for citizen participation and collaboration, accountability, and social control with the aim of influencing the construction and evaluation of public policies, activities, and public services that will be institutionalized through the approval of an ordinance and measured through the respective Open Government Action Plan. This will imply that the scope will be the territory of the province and will encourage the Autonomous Decentralized Governments that are part of the Provincial Council.



The aim is to motivate the Provincial Council to approve the Ordinance, thereby ensuring the sustainability of an open government model in the long term.

Regardless of the submission to the local OGP, the Action Plan will be designed for the current administration's term, and it will be a complementary effort to institutional instruments such as the Development Plan and Strategic Planning.

