



## OPENGOV 2.0

By Sanjay Pradhan, CEO,  
Open Government Partnership

Spurred by recent electoral results, the BBC published an article asking whether these mark the end of liberal democracy. There are troubling signs of closing civic space and rise of authoritarianism.

Yet the doomsday scenarios and prognostication are missing an important opportunity: rather than the end of democracy, this is an opportunity to reinvigorate and deepen democracy. At their core, recent electoral results from the

US, to Brexit in the UK, to Moldova, and to Bulgaria represent deep citizen distrust of their government. Citizens perceive their governments to be captured by elites and the status quo, who are in a cocoon disconnected from their reality, or are complicit in schemes that benefit the few at the expense of the broad citizenry.

The open government movement can serve as a countervailing force to these troubling trends. But for that, it will need to transform

itself from a transparency movement alone, to one where government reaches out, listens, and responds to citizens; where government and civil society work together to tackle the roots of elite capture and grand corruption; where government, in the words of President Obama, exists to truly serve and empower its citizens rather than the other way around.

Read the full blog how OGP can stem the tide of authoritarianism [here](#).

## FACES OF OPEN GOVERNMENT LANCELOT PECQUET

Co-Founder, [République Citoyenne](#)

*How is French civil society organizing to respond to current events, such as the migrant crisis and the rise of populist politicians throughout Europe and beyond?*

The migrant crisis is a human tragedy and very complex problem that several French civil society organizations (CSOs) are trying to manage, as much as they can, together with their peers from other countries and with (and sometimes against) governments. It is true that populist politicians leverage this crisis, as well as other crises and fears, to increase their influence.

CSOs can make a positive contribution to democracy by informing citizens and explaining how simplistic solutions suggested by populists could actually make things worse.

That being said, there are also other reasons that explain the rise of populist politicians. For instance, governments who over-promise (in particular when organizing open government consultations), and under-deliver afterwards can also trigger disillusion and extremism. This phenomenon should not be underestimated.

In that respect, CSOs can also monitor the government's engagements, actions, and consultations to provide the public with feedback to help it get "back on track."

Read the full interview on our [blog](#) and [subscribe](#) to our newsletter.

## EARLY RESULTS

By Shreya Basu, Civil Society Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific, OGP

Since the Open Government Partnership (OGP) was launched in 2011, 70 countries have committed to nearly 2500 individual open government reforms.

In early 2016, the OGP Support Unit launched a [call for proposals](#) to research the results of OGP commitments, assessing their progress, and how they evolved, and examining the benefits they are bringing to different stakeholder groups. An initial set of completed and potentially transformative reforms from NAPs submitted in 2011 and 2012 was shortlisted for researchers to choose from, but room was also left for examining commitments from subsequent NAPs that have already shown sufficient progress in implementation to enable assessment of outcomes for the intended beneficiaries

Read more about the cases and their results on our [blog](#).

## USING OPEN GOVERNMENT FOR CLIMATE ACTION

By Elizabeth Moses, Environmental Democracy Specialist, World Resources Institute

Historically, open government and climate groups have worked in silos, operating in different forums, using different terminology and meeting with different stakeholders. Yet the NGOs, academics and other non-state actors focused on transparent governance and accountability are critically important in the climate arena, especially now that countries must address numerous governance hurdles, including the need for national level institutional coordination, capacity building and political buy-in. Bringing together the open government and climate communities offers an opportunity to develop new strategies that enhance accountable and inclusive climate policy decision-making.

Read more about climate action on our [blog](#) and [subscribe to our newsletter](#).

## THE COURAGE TO ASK THE DIFFICULT QUESTIONS

By Joseph Foti, Program Manager, Independent Reporting Mechanism

We have seen a growing narrative in the last few months and years, and it comes from a place that is not so different to the motivations of many of us working in open government. It starts with a sense of frustration with “rot at the top” and declining trust in institutions in the Western world. In many developing countries, this is hardly new. “We don’t need transparency or open data to tell us that we are being robbed,” many would say.

What we need is a more clear theory of change, not of the Open Government Partnership, but of open government as a whole—what we expect to reap from more open governments, from free association, assembly, and expression, and more pluralistic, deliberative societies.

Read the [full blog](#) on our website and [subscribe to our newsletter](#).

## CHECKING IN ON OPEN GOVERNMENT: OGP’S MID-TERM REVIEW AND STRATEGIC REFRESH

By Munyema Hasan, Program Manager, Learning and Impact

In June 2016 OGP commissioned a mid-term review of its current four-year strategy. The report assesses four key areas, a) OGP’s theory of change, b) OGP’s chain of interactions and outcomes, c) OGP’s rules of the game, and d) OGP’s structure, organs, and finance. The final report will be submitted on December 15, 2016.

Concurrently with the mid-term review of OGP, the OGP Steering Committee agreed that OGP should undergo a “strategic

refresh”, building on our existing strategy. This came from an acknowledgement that OGP needs to capitalize on its solid foundation to catapult OGP to deliver transformational impact in the lives of citizens over the next five years. After a lengthy consultation process, as well as learning from the findings of the mid-term review, the OGP Steering Committee approved the strategic refresh to be implemented starting 2017.

Both documents will be available on our website in the coming days. Be sure to check back at [opengovpartnership.org](http://opengovpartnership.org).

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