



Government of Canada and Nathaniel Heller

CO-CHAIR VISION FOR
THE OPEN GOVERNMENT
PARTNERSHIP

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Open
Government
Partnership



OUR VISION

Open government: a transformative opportunity for a changing world

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is the leading global forum for advancing open government. It includes a vibrant network of reformers who have a shared purpose: to make governments more transparent, accountable and participatory.

The OGP's rapid growth and diverse membership are a testament to the importance of the partnership. In many member countries, trust in government institutions is low. Threats to democracy are emerging, disinformation is spreading, and digital tools are raising citizens' expectations.

Open government has a critical role to play in a changing world. It can help governments make sure that they serve their people in ways that are efficient and fair. It can also help deploy new, digital tools that save public resources and make government processes more inclusive.

All people should be able to understand, engage in, and influence the workings of their government. Open government is a tool for achieving that vision.

Our priorities as co-chairs

Open government aims to improve collaboration between governments and citizens. To support this goal, governments need to listen to their people and make themselves more accessible and accountable and by doing so, they will design better services for citizens.

We commit ourselves to a transformative, hopeful vision for open government that serves people everywhere. As co-chairs, we will focus on three priorities:

- ▶ Inclusion
- ▶ Participation
- ▶ Impact

In delivering on these priorities, we will work to connect and empower people to become involved in their governments. We commit to focus particularly on marginalized or under-represented citizens.

Through our priorities, we will work to do the right things to improve trust in government worldwide. We will take action to innovate and fix these challenges by working with our OGP counterparts to gain citizens' trust. We will begin internally, improving the OGP's governance, operations and membership. We will work in the interest of all democracies around the world and enhance transparency by sharing the OGP Steering Committee's work.

We hope that bettering the OGP's performance will help continually refine and advance open governments around the world.

OUR PRIORITIES

1. Inclusion

Globally, governments have the opportunity to empower under-represented citizens, regardless of gender, race or sexual orientation, to engage actively with their government. This work can enable more equitable, inclusive governments that deliver more for all citizens.

During our co-chair term, we will:

- ▶ provide peer learning support to OGP members on best practices for inclusion;
- ▶ raise awareness of the connections between open government and inclusion at international events;
- ▶ organize an OGP Global Summit that is inclusive and web-accessible;
- ▶ develop community resources on inclusion best practices for open government initiatives; and
- ▶ establish a feminist open government initiative.



2. Participation

The information age has made it easier than ever for citizens, civil society and businesses to participate in government decision-making. Greater, more meaningful participation can improve trust in government and outcomes for citizens.

During our co-chair term, we will:

- ▶ provide peer learning support to OGP members on co-creation processes;
- ▶ co-create components of Canada's 2019 OGP Global Summit agenda with member countries and civil society;
- ▶ collect lessons learned on ongoing dialogue mechanisms between government and civil society;
- ▶ establish and support international partnerships to protect and expand civic space; and,
- ▶ launch a social media campaign to engage youth on open government.



3. Impact

Open government can improve the day-to-day lives of citizens. We have a responsibility to more clearly demonstrate this impact to better prioritize reforms and investments. A clearer focus on the impact of open government can give us the opportunity to focus on results that make a difference.

During our co-chair term, we will:

- ▶ provide peer learning support to OGP members on rigorous and timely tracking of open government commitments;
- ▶ develop, refine and share methods that measure the impact of open government approaches, including as they relate to services to citizens;
- ▶ publicly track progress on OGP Steering Committee co-chair priorities; and,
- ▶ capture stories on the impact of open government to contribute to the OGP Storytelling Campaign.

