

**OGP Steering Committee Working Level Meeting  
June 27 and 28, 2017  
Washington, DC**

**List of Attendees**

**Government Steering Committee Members**

**Government of Brazil**

Mr. William Silva dos Santos Embassy of Brazil, Washington DC

**Government of Chile**

Ms. Boriana Benev Embassy of Chile, Washington DC

**Government of Croatia**

Ms. Sandra Pernar Senior Advisor, Government's Office for Cooperation with NGOs

Mr. Josip Babić Embassy of Croatia, Washington DC

**Government of France, Lead Co-Chair**

Ms. Laure Lucchesi Director, Etalab

Ms. Amelie Banzet Open Government and OGP, Etalab

Ms. Mathilde Bras Open Government and OGP, Etalab

**Government of Georgia, Incoming Co-Chair**

Mr. Zurab Sanikidze Director of Analytical Department at the Ministry of Justice of Georgia

**Government of Indonesia**

Mr. Slamet Soedarsono Deputy Minister, Ministry of Planning

Mr. Yanuar Nugroho Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of The President (OGP National Focal Point)

Mr. Agung Hikmat Assistant Advisor, Office of The President

**Government of Mexico**

Mr. Guillermo Ruiz de Teresa Head of the Transparency Policy and International Coordination Unit; Ministry of Public Administration

Mr. Pablo Villarreal Deputy Director General of International Affairs, Ministry of Public Administration

**Government of Romania**

Mr. Radu Puchiu State Secretary, Secretariat-General of the Government

Ms. Angela Benga Counselor, OGP Unit, Secretariat General of the Government

**Government of South Africa**

Mr. Willie Khisimusi Vukela Leader of the Delegation and Deputy Director-General at the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA)

Mr. Thokozani Thusi Chief Director-Public Participation and Social Dialogue (PPSD), Service Delivery Branch, DPSA

Ms. Xolisile Freda Dlamini Office of the OGP Special Envoy, South Africa

**Government of United Kingdom**

Mr. Oliver Buckley Deputy Director, Policy & International, Government Digital Service, Cabinet Office

Mr. Thom Townsend Senior Policy Officer, Data Team, Cabinet Office

**Government of United States**

Mr. Chanan Weissman Policy Advisor, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, State Department

Ms. Aden Daniel Foreign Affairs Officer, State Department

**Government of Canada (incoming Steering Committee member - Observers)**

Ms. Mélanie Robert Executive Director, Information Management and Open Government, Chief Information Officer Branch, Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat

**Government of Italy (incoming Steering Committee member - Observers)**

Mr. Stefano Pizzicannella Director, Institutional and International Relations and Supervision, Department for Public Administration

**Government of South Korea (incoming Steering Committee member - Observers)**

Mr. Dongsu Chang Director of Public Data Policy Division

Ms. Yujin Lee Deputy Director of Creative Government Planning Division

Mr. Won Jae Park Executive Principal of National Information Society Agency

### Civil Society Steering Committee Members

Mr. Manish Bapna	World Resources Institute (WRI), Lead Co-Chair
Mr. Mark Robinson	WRI, Second for Manish Bapna
Ms. María Baron	Directorio Legislativo
Ms. Helen Darbishire	Access Info Europe
Mr. Mukelani Dimba	Open Democracy Advice Centre (ODAC), Incoming Co-Chair
Mr. Aidan Eyakuze	Twaweza
Mr. Alejandro Gonzalez	GESOC
Mr. Nathaniel Heller	Results for Development
Dr. Robin Hodess	Transparency International
Ms. Suneeta Kaimal	Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI)
Ms. Zuzana Wienk	Fair Play Alliance
Mr. Tur-Od Lkhagvajav	Asia Democracy Network (ADN)
Mr. Giorgi Kldiashvili	Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) (incoming Steering Committee member) - <b>Observer</b>

### Others Attending – Day 1 only

Mr. Butch Abad	OGP Envoy
Mr. Francis Maude	OGP Envoy
Mr. Rakesh Rajani	OGP Envoy
Ms. Mary Beth Goodman	Former Steering Committee member

### Open Government Partnership Support Unit

Ms. Tonu Basu	Support Unit
Mr. Alonso Cerdan	Support Unit
Mr. Paul Maassen	Support Unit
Mr. Jaime Mercado	Support Unit
Mr. Joe Powell	Support Unit
Mr. Sanjay Pradhan	Support Unit
Ms. Meghan Wallace	Support Unit

**OGP Steering Committee Working Level Meeting  
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**Minutes**

**Day 1: Tuesday 27 June, 2017**

**State of the Partnership**

The Support Unit delivered the State of the Partnership presentation which highlighted how OGP is implementing the Strategic Refresh that was endorsed at the Global Summit held in Paris last December. The Strategic Refresh focused on six priorities: 1) Deepen citizen-centered governance; 2) Broaden collective ownership of OGP domestically; 3) Strengthen capacity, coordination and coalitions for implementation; 4) Raise collective ambition, peer exchange and learning across OGP Countries globally; 5) Review OGP's rules of engagement and performance incentives; and 6) Strengthen OGP's branding and communications. To achieve these strategic objectives, the Support Unit and the IRM have developed an implementation plan which was approved by the Steering Committee in early 2017. The implementation plan translates the strategic refresh into specific deliverables at three levels: country, cross-country thematic, and global. The presentation is attached as an annex to the minutes.

**Building a Steering Committee coalition**

The Steering Committee discussions on day one provided a space for the group to come together and build a stronger coalition to drive forward the next phase of OGP. To this end, a selection of recently appointed OGP Envoys and former Steering Committee principals were invited to join the meeting, including Francis Maude, Rakesh Rajani, Butch Abad and Mary Beth Goodman. The OGP Envoys presented some lessons learned from the first five years of OGP and led breakout sessions to discuss the role of the Steering Committee and brainstorm concrete actions and activities to support OGP priorities at the country, thematic and global levels. Highlights from these breakout sessions include:

***1. Priority country support***

Steering Committee members encouraged each other to be role models for open government values globally and domestically through ambitious action plans. They agreed on the need to inspire government and civil society stakeholders with stories about how open government can make a difference in people's lives and demonstrate that OGP is worth pursuing. Talking about OGP wherever Steering Committee members travel and inserting OGP into the speeches of political leaders and ambassadors is a good start to raising the profile of the Partnership.

Intensive support for priority countries is at the core of OGP's focus, and Steering Committee members can play a vital role in providing this support by engaging in country visits and opening political doors.

Whenever possible, it is also necessary for the Steering Committee and the Support Unit to provide support, offer advice and broker connections to all 75 countries and 15 subnational pioneers, maximizing opportunities where Steering Committee members can directly leverage the strengths and reach of their organisations, such as involving diplomatic networks to support OGP countries. Support must not only be provided when there is a problem to be solved, but rather on a much more ongoing basis. Some suggested actions include:

- Support Unit to develop concept note for an OGP branded learning and exchange program in which Steering Committee and Support Unit teams would together visit countries. This would help kick-start a more proactive matchmaking service by the Support Unit, leveraging Steering Committee strengths and engaging OGP Ambassadors and Envoys.
- Support Unit, in consultation with the Steering Committee, to develop a Menu of Services for enhanced and targeted country support that standardizes offers and processes to leverage Steering Committee engagement.
- Identify and maximize opportunities for the Steering Committee members to play a bigger role as bridge builders between new and outgoing administrations to sustain the commitment to open government in those countries.

## **2. *Global advocacy strategy***

This session was geared towards generating concrete ideas on how to strengthen the Partnership's global presence and establish OGP as a powerful, positive global movement for openness and deeper democracy, and as a countervailing force against the rise of closed government. Steering Committee members discussed making OGP a more political, values-driven platform at the global level, while maintaining the agility of a partnership that is primarily focused on connecting domestic reformers from around the world. At a time of rising citizen distrust and alienation, members also discussed practical ways to expand OGP consultations directly to citizens. Some suggested actions include:

- Leverage OGP's strengths for greater use of technology and involvement from youth groups, including the idea of recruiting youth ambassadors.
- Develop concept note for a Global Week of Listening where all OGP members would hold events outside of their capital cities and include new civil society groups.
- Develop more people-centered stories of why and how open government makes a direct difference in the lives of citizens. This key element for deeper engagement would also help expand media interest and equip the wider Partnership with the tools they need to promote the core issues in OGP.
- Leverage the SDGs as a key way to highlight the value of global policy-making processes, including promoting OGP as a platform through which countries can implement Goal 16 and use open government approaches to implement other goals.

## **3. *Advancing thematic leadership***

The discussion focused on thematic expertise among the Steering Committee, and members encouraged each other to demonstrate leadership across specific thematic topics. The Paris Declaration is a helpful framework for action that helps to identify and connect with governments and civil society organizations working on priority open government issues. For a government this could be an area of expertise (e.g. Canada on open data), areas where there already is political momentum (e.g. UK with Beneficial Ownership), or where there are emerging opportunities (such as France on open contracting given they are incoming chairs of the C5). For civil society this could include areas of expertise (e.g. Helen Darbishire on Access to Information/ Zuzana Wienk on Beneficial Ownership, or WRI on climate action) or priority areas of advocacy and coalition building (such as Maria Baron’s work on parliamentary openness). The Government of Georgia and Mukelani Dimba, incoming lead co-chairs, identified public service delivery as a key theme for their co-chair year, and expressed their enthusiasm to engage others in this topic. Some suggested actions include:

- Steering Committee to encourage an outcomes-oriented approach, in addition to technical topics (i.e. beneficial ownership or access to information), in which desired outcomes across sectors such as health, education, and water are used as a starting point to determine where and how thematic leadership is needed.
- The new Thematic Leadership subcommittee and the Support Unit to identify opportunities, connect the demand and supply of thematic expertise, and broker partnerships and funding.

## **Deep dives on emerging priority topics in OGP**

The Steering Committee discussed four emerging thematic priorities and ways in which they can push these forward.

### ***1. What are the options for a “A State of Open Government” report from OGP?***

This session sought to think through possible options for a flagship report from OGP, understand what kinds of research and evidence will actually be useful to OGP members, and what value would such a report would bring to the Partnership. There was broad consensus that OGP needs to facilitate comparison and more competition among countries, and also showcase stories that demonstrated the return on investment of participating in OGP. Governments asked for better metrics, including the possibility of developing an index or composite indicator and mentioned that this could potentially also be used as an advocacy tool to secure greater engagement among other government officials on open government issues. Other members expressed caution over developing a broad open government index, given procedural and methodological difficulties. However, there was general agreement that the Support Unit could experiment with performance metrics around specific thematic areas in open government, such as access to information, using IRM data and a limited set of third-party indicators, including OECD indicators. There was general consensus that a “big flagship report” was not the way to go, unless it was just the by-product of other work.

## **2. *Private sector engagement.***

The session aimed to gather input from the Steering Committee on the value and risks of engaging with the private sector, including possible entry points for engagement at the subnational, national, thematic, and global levels. To move forward with the recommendations included in a background paper by the Basel Institute on Governance commissioned in advance of the meeting, it was requested that the Support Unit produce a proposed action plan with concrete steps and a targeted timeline, including for the role of the Steering Committee. Further, it was conveyed that OGP must be more vocal in its desire to engage with this sector and invite key stakeholders within countries to be involved in action plan process. For this, OGP will need to galvanize more stories, data and country-level examples that heighten the value proposition for the private sector. Companies benefit from open government reforms in order to operate, but we must showcase the value of engaging with OGP as a Partnership, beyond simply as a sector.

## **3. *The future of subnational engagement in OGP.***

The session aimed to review and garner agreement on the subnational program objectives, provide an update on the state of play of the program, and present key takeaways from the program review. The takeaways from the session include: admirable progress and momentum of the current pilot; agreement on moving ahead with current pilot post-2017; interest to capture momentum and interest in OGP at subnational level through increasing scale and scope of subnational program; interest in exploring a mixture of the proposed future options; and appetite for continued experimentation with the OGP model, with respect to resources and capacity necessary. Components of future options discussed by the Steering Committee include extending the pioneers program, or developing an organic expansion model within countries led by pioneers working with peers and representatives from local government bodies, among others. The Support Unit was asked to further explore future options for the subnational program with the aim of tabling a model for approval by the Steering Committee in September 2017. An update on the subnational program has been included in the meeting pre-packet and a presentation is included as an annex to the minutes.

## **4. *Legislatures engagement in OGP.***

The session gathered input on how the Steering Committee can help deepen legislative engagement in OGP by leveraging the newly approved policy. In an effort to broaden this engagement, it was recommended to establish an 'open parliament project' led by Steering Committee members focused on getting traction in the more than ten countries that have shown strong interest. Together with the Support Unit and key working group partners, the Steering Committee would lead on deeper engagement in the next 12 months. Concrete actions include leveraging the November 2017 events in Buenos Aires to showcase and deepen engagement.

In order to move forward on three of these four topics, the Steering Committee established mini-taskforces:

- Private sector engagement: Robin Hodess, Tur-od Lkhagvajav, Government of Canada, and Maria Baron.
- Legislative engagement: Government of France, Giorgi Kldiashvili, Government of Georgia, Mukelani Dimba, Maria Baron, and Government of Romania.
- Subnational engagement will continue with current group: Nathaniel Heller, World Resources Institute.
- Options for a State of Open Government Report will be initially undertaken by the Support Unit.

## **Day 2: Wednesday June 28, 2017**

### **Welcome, review of the agenda and highlights from day one**

The Chair of the session, the Government of France, opened the session and provided an overview of the day's agenda, and then invited the Support Unit to present the main ideas discussed in the coalition-building sessions from day one (as described above). These actions will form the basis of a new compact for the Steering Committee, that could be launched at the Ministerial meetings to be held in September 2017 in New York City.

### **Governance and Leadership**

#### ***A. Review candidates to serve as new Steering Committee co-chairs***

The Support Unit has not received a letter of intent from any government to run for incoming Steering Committee co-chair beginning October 1, 2017. The current incoming co-chair, the Government of Georgia, which will begin its one-year lead co-chair term in October, made a call to its fellow Steering Committee members to encourage their candidacy for co-chairmanship. The Steering Committee members were invited to provide comments and ideas on proposed ways forward with the desire to have a confirmed co-chair before the UNGA events of September 2017.

For the civil society co-chair role, one application was received from Nathaniel Heller which was acknowledged with gratitude by Steering Committee members. A final endorsement for both co-chairs, and a public announcement, will take place in September 2017.

#### ***Decision:***

The Governance and Leadership subcommittee (GL) submitted the following proposed resolution which was approved by a vote of 13 in favor, 8 against and 1 abstained vote:

#### ***Steering Committee Resolution for election of government co-chair 2017-2019***

We resolve to extend the deadline for expressions of interest for the 2017-19 government co-chair position to 31 July, 2017. All Steering Committee members who will be members as of 1



October, 2017, including Steering Committee members who have already served as co-chair, will be eligible to apply.

We further resolve, for this year only due to the exceptional circumstances, to mandate the Governance and Leadership subcommittee to extend our search for a government co-chair to non-Steering Committee members who applied to join the Steering Committee in the 2017 elections. The Steering Committee will make any final decisions on the government co-chair 2017-19 by vote of the 22 current members by 18 August, 2017.

----- End Resolution -----

### ***B. Review current list of OGP Ambassadors***

The GL presented a list of proposed names to be invited to serve as OGP Ambassadors. The list was compiled from suggestions provided by the Steering Committee, including several who were proposed during the previous cycle of Ambassador selection in 2015. The purpose of this new round of selecting Ambassadors is to help recruit high-level thought leaders who can help strengthen OGP's global positioning, in line with the strategic refresh. The Steering Committee members were asked to approve the list as a whole and veto any names they would not recommend. Steering Committee members requested more time to make this decision.

#### ***Decision:***

The Steering Committee has agreed to provide a two-week window (ending on Friday, July 14th, 2017) within which Steering Committee members may send to GL their suggestions and objections for suggested names to be invited to serve as OGP Ambassadors.

The GL will agree on the final list against the criteria established for selection, including regional balance. The GL will circulate the final shortlist to the Steering Committee, and thereafter move forward with the invitations working with the Support Unit. The GL and Support Unit hope to announce the new Ambassadors at the OGP UNGA event.

The **criteria** for selection of Ambassadors, as agreed upon by the Steering Committee in 2015, is the following:

- Credibility and experience in issues relating to open government/accountability;
- Demonstrable independence (ability to detach from allegiance to any particular CSO or government);
- Deep, relevant networks and willingness to use networks for OGP gain;
- Willingness to advocate for OGP's core principles; and
- Demonstrable strength in shaping/communicating a message on a national/international scale and in using their influence to persuade others.

Furthermore, the Steering Committee recommended that regional diversity, engagement with open government issues and OGP, and representation of new constituencies/ constituencies under-represented in OGP be used as the key criteria in developing a final list for the Ambassador selection process. Some Steering Committee members recommended that, when approaching and prioritizing candidates from the shortlist, GL and the Support Unit aim to have at least one Ambassador representing each region.

Moreover, in addition to the criteria laid out above, the GL and Support Unit encourage the Steering Committee to consider how the new Ambassadors would complement the profile of our current Ambassadors, and how they will further our strategic refresh goals, including sectors that are not presently well-represented in OGP; reaching high-profile audiences; access to regional networks that are currently under-represented; having global appeal across a wide-range of sectoral audiences relevant to OGP stakeholders; and being engaged in OGP so that the vision and importance of the work resonates with them.

### ***C. UNGA 2017 Discussion***

The Chair of the session provided an overview of the proposed activities for the UNGA 72 events that will take place in September 2017 in New York City. The proposed theme of the events is “Rebuilding Trust in Government”. The proposed events include a high-level event with the participation of current Steering Committee co-chairs, incoming and current Steering Committee members, OGP Ambassadors, and the Support Unit. The Support Unit also plans to launch a publication provisionally titled “Recovering Trust in Government: Ideas for the Fightback,” which will bring together a collection of thought-provoking essays from the world's leading political thinkers and doers. The publication is in partnership with OGP’s Ambassadors Dr. Mo Ibrahim, Founder of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, and Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of Oxfam International, both of whom will co-author the foreword. A Ministerial-level Steering Committee meeting will also take place on the sidelines of the UNGA events.

#### ***Decision:***

The presence and involvement of Steering Committee Ministers at the UNGA events and Steering Committee meeting is essential. The Support Unit and GL will liaise with government delegations to identify ways for senior level Ministers from their countries to participate, and will set up bilateral calls with all ministers in advance of September. The Support Unit will develop a concept note on both the UNGA event and ministerial Steering Committee meeting, and welcomes suggestions of potential contributors for the trust publication.

### ***D. OGP Trust Fund***

The Support Unit presented an update on the OGP Trust Fund which has three programmatic windows (Country Support; Peer Exchange, Learning and Research; and Direct Assistance to OGP Support Unit) and aims, among others, to help close the implementation gap of open government reforms, support

co-creation of ambitious reforms by government and civil society, and fill the research and evidence gap. For more details, please see the OGP Trust Fund [Concept Note](#). The idea for an OGP Trust Fund was approved in July 2015 and will be launched at the UNGA events in September 2017. The Support Unit is asking the Steering Committee to support fundraising efforts, raise awareness of the OGP Trust Fund, and to select two members - one from government and one from civil society - to serve on the OGP Trust Fund council alongside one seat from the Support Unit, seats for the confirmed donors and one seat for the World Bank. The selected Steering Committee members are encouraged to consult and update the rest of the Steering Committee on OGP Trust Fund deliberations. The seat in the council rests with the individual and not the organization or government he or she may represent. In the case that a representative departs the Steering Committee, the seat will be reselected by the Steering Committee.

***Decision:***

The Steering Committee elected Aidan Eyakuze from Twaweza and Radu Puchiu from the Government of Romania as the Steering Committee representatives to the OGP Trust Fund council. In addition, Tur-Od Lkhagvajav from the Asia Democracy Network and Yanuar Nugroho from the Government of Indonesia were selected as seconds.

**Criteria and Standards - Countries under review**

***A. Azerbaijan [Inactive]***

The chair of the session presented the recommendation of the Criteria and Standards subcommittee and proposed resolution on Azerbaijan's participation in OGP.

***Decision:***

Following commentary from the Steering Committee members, the following resolution has been approved by a majority vote of 19 in favour, 1 against and 2 abstained votes.

***Resolution of the OGP Steering Committee regarding the status of the Government of Azerbaijan's participation in OGP, June 28, 2017, Washington D.C., USA***

The Steering Committee recognizes and appreciates recent positive steps taken by the Government of Azerbaijan, particularly regarding OGP process concerns, such as the consultation process to develop the 2016-2018 National Action Plan (NAP), the establishment of a multi-stakeholder OGP forum and the creation of a "one stop shop" for grant registration. However, the core issues of concern raised in the original letter, validated by the Criteria and Standards subcommittee, remain unresolved. While some improvements have been made, there are still substantial challenges in the overall operating environment for civil society.

As a consequence, the OGP Steering Committee resolves that the Government of Azerbaijan will continue to be designated as "inactive" for a period of 12 months, under the terms of the Policy

on Upholding the Values and Principles of OGP as articulated in the Open Government Declaration.\* The Steering Committee further mandates the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee to outline by September 15, 2017, an updated set of requirements to improve the unresolved issues related to the operating environment for civil society in Azerbaijan; after these requirements have been developed and shared with stakeholders, the 12-month inactivity extension period will begin. The updated set of requirements will be drafted in consultation with the Government of Azerbaijan, local civil society, and external experts. At the end of this period, the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee will produce a final assessment report.

***\*Under the terms of the Policy on Upholding the Values and Principles of OGP as articulated in the Open Government Declaration, the government in question would have to undergo a new Criteria and Standards subcommittee review process to ascertain that steps were taken to remedy the situation that triggered the Policy.***

- ***If at any point during that year the Criteria and Standards subcommittee determines that the original concerns have been addressed by the Government of Azerbaijan, it shall recommend to the full Steering Committee that the country be placed back in active status immediately.***
- ***While inactive, Azerbaijan will continue to receive Steering Committee and Support Unit assistance, including from OGP Working Groups and peer exchange visits.***
- ***While inactive, the Government of Azerbaijan will not be eligible to vote in Steering Committee elections, and can only attend OGP events as observers for learning purposes.***
- ***While inactive, Azerbaijan's inactivity will be noted on the OGP website and public information materials, where appropriate (e.g., in a list of participating OGP countries)***

----- End Resolution -----

## ***B. Montenegro [Under review]***

The chair of the session presented the recommendation of the Criteria and Standards subcommittee and proposed resolution on Montenegro's participation in OGP. The Steering Committee welcomed the high-level commitment of the government of Montenegro to re-engage with the Open Government Partnership, as demonstrated by a letter from H.E. Prime Minister Duško Marković, received by the OGP co-chairs on June 22, 2017.

### ***Decision:***

Following commentary from the Steering Committee members, the Steering Committee decided, by consensus, that Montenegro will regretfully be made inactive in OGP after having acted contrary to OGP processes for three consecutive action plan cycles by failing to deliver a National Action Plan since November 2014. In addition to the following approved resolution, the Steering Committee resolved that a letter addressed to Prime Minister Marković will be drafted and sent from the Steering Committee

co-chairs offering their full support and that of the Partnership to the Government of Montenegro to develop their next NAP.

***Resolution of the OGP Steering Committee regarding the status of the Government of Montenegro's participation in OGP, June 28, 2017, Washington D.C., USA***

The OGP Steering Committee welcomes and appreciates the high-level commitment of the government of Montenegro to re-engage with the Open Government Partnership, as shown by the letter from H.E. Prime Minister Duško Marković, received by the OGP co-chairs on June 22nd, 2017.

However, desiring to maintain a consistent and fair approach to enforcing OGP requirements asked of all participating countries and considering that the government of Montenegro has acted contrary to OGP process by not delivering a National Action Plan for three consecutive cycles, the OGP Steering Committee resolves that, under provisions set out in the OGP Articles of Governance, the government of Montenegro should be placed in inactive status\*. The Steering Committee encourages the Government of Montenegro to follow through on its expressed commitment to conduct an extensive and inclusive co-creation process in the coming months and agrees to offer all necessary support in order to help Montenegro develop a new National Action Plan and regain full participation status upon its submission.

***\*For countries placed on inactive status by decision of the full Steering Committee after acting contrary to OGP process for two consecutive action plan cycles, the inactive status lasts up to a maximum of one year or until the country publishes a National Action Plan, developed with the engagement of citizens and civil society; or the country works with the Criteria and Standards subcommittee and the Support Unit to set a clear timeline to start a new action plan cycle and re-engage with civil society for producing the new National Action Plan (note, this rule derives from Steering Committee decision on inactivity agreed on April 23, 2015).***

- ***While inactive, the Government of Montenegro will not be eligible to vote in Steering Committee elections, and can only attend OGP events as observers for learning purposes.***
- ***While inactive, Montenegro's inactivity will be noted on the OGP website and public information materials, where appropriate (e.g., in a list of participating OGP countries).***

----- End Resolution -----

***C. Other country developments***

This session aimed to discuss the events that transpired in the lead up to, and since, ten civil society organizations in Mexico withdrew from the Mexico Tripartite Technical Secretariat that governs the national OGP process in their country. In addition, the Steering Committee discussed 1) what type of support and guidance the Steering Committee can provide to government and CS aligned to OGP values;

2) how Steering Committee can respond to such situations in the future. The chair clarified that this is not a Response Policy case.

The Chair of the session asked Alejandro Gonzalez from GESOC, and the representatives from the Mexican authorities including Commissioner Francisco J. Acuña, President of the National Institute of Access to Information and Data Protection (INAI), to provide an update on the events that transpired since the civil society organizations withdrew from the Tripartite.

***Decision:***

The Steering Committee expressed its support for all Mexican stakeholders, and mandated the Support Unit to develop Terms of Reference (TOR) for two Steering Committee members to serve as envoys, one from government and one from civil society, including incoming Steering Committee members. The TORs will be developed by July 19 and shared with the Steering Committee for comments.

In addition, the Steering Committee mandated the Support Unit to draft TOR for a task force on rapid response to situations that come up in OGP countries and require the Steering Committee to respond in a rapid and efficient manner. The TOR will be circulated in 4 weeks time, following a discussion with GL, with an ask for Steering Committee members to volunteer.

**Criteria & Standards - Rules of the Game Review**

The co-chairs of the Criteria and Standards subcommittee (C&S) presented a package of proposed changes to OGP's Rules of the Game. These proposals have been developed with the goal of addressing a broader set of concerns expressed by civil society and governments, including which countries get to participate in the Partnership; countries that undermine OGP principles; countries that do not adhere to the OGP process; countries who get away with not delivering ambitious commitments; and addressing lack of flexibility and burden associated participation in OGP.

To address these concerns, C&S developed four sets of proposals that collectively address some of the concerns presented above. The Steering Committee was asked to reach consensus on these proposals in order for the Support Unit to make proposed changes to the Articles of Governance. Items not approved will continue to be refined by C&S for final decision in September 2017. The Support Unit will arrange working level time at the next Steering Committee meetings in September to sign off on the entire Rules of the Game package.

***Decision:***

- 1) Procedural Review changes outlining the actions which will be considered acting contrary to process were approved. The four triggers for acting contrary to process are:
  - a) The country does not publish a National Action Plan within 4 months of the due date

- b) The government does not meet the IAP involve requirement during development or inform during implementation of the NAP as assessed by the IRM
- c) The government fails to collect, publish and document a repository on the national OGP website/webpage in line with IRM guidance
- d) The IRM Report establishes that there was no progress made on implementing any of the commitments in the country's National Action Plan

In addition, with the aim of reducing the burden of producing Self-Assessment Reports (SAR), governments who do not submit a SAR within four months of the due date will no longer be considered as acting contrary to process. The Support Unit will continue to provide guidance and encourage countries to develop shorter reports. The Support Unit will develop updated guidance for countries to adhere to these changes.

- 2) The following changes to the National Action Plan cycle were approved:
  - a) NAP development formal deadline has been pushed back by two months to August 31.
  - b) A "delivery window" concept has been introduced outlining a three month period between July 1 and September 30 to deliver a NAP. The end date for NAP implementation remains August 31.
  - c) The hard deadline to prevent being shifted to the next cohort has been shifted by four months to December 31.
  - d) Self-Assessment Reports will be due on November 30, giving countries 90 days to develop.
  - e) IRM report will be delivered in April and longer in January.
- 3) The proposed direction of travel for updating and refining the Response Policy was approved. A final version of the updated policy will be developed in the following months and tabled for final approval in September 2017, taking into consideration the feedback provided by the Steering Committee. The changes include clarifying the rationale for the Response Policy, making it clearer how an inquiry can be triggered and making the terminology more consistent with other OGP policies, for example by replacing the term "inactive" with "suspended".
- 4) The Steering Committee endorsed the proposal of expanding the list of OGP Eligibility Criteria and mandated that the task force developing proposed changes to the Eligibility Criteria be expanded to other members of the Committee. The Government of Georgia, Government of South Africa and Tur-od Lkhagvajav volunteered to assist with this process. The Support Unit and C&S subcommittee will continue to develop the proposed changes for final approval in September 2017.

## **Advancing Thematic Leadership and Peer Learning/Support**

### **A. Paris Declaration**

The Government of France, as chair of the session, provided an update on the Paris Declaration six months after it has been endorsed by the Steering Committee. The Government of France called on Steering Committee members to use the Paris Declaration as a source of inspiration to develop ambitious commitments in the areas covered by the 20 Collective Actions. To assist in the uptake of the Paris Declaration, the OGP Working Groups have been identified as leaders of the Collective Actions that overlap with their areas of expertise. The Collective Actions that do not overlap with Working Groups' areas of expertise will be led by governments and civil society organizations that volunteered to do so. The Steering Committee asked the Support Unit to delineate how governments will report and be assessed on the contributions submitted under the Collective Actions, have leaders outline the proposed objectives for the Collective Actions, and leverage the UNGA 72 events to showcase the Paris Declaration.

France's Etalab team will continue to work with the Support Unit to leverage the OGP website as a community hub of open government reformers. This will include allocating a space in the website to manage the Paris Declaration community, provide updates, and showcase the Paris Declaration.

#### ***B. Thematic Leadership Subcommittee proposal***

The PLS co-chairs submitted a proposal to disband the PLS subcommittee and replace it with a new subcommittee to push thematic leadership among Steering Committee members and the wider Partnership across priority sectors of the Paris declaration. The Steering Committee was asked to reach consensus on the following proposed resolution in order for the Support Unit and former PLS subcommittee to develop the details of the new subcommittee, including mandate, accountability mechanism, and membership, among other details. A finalized concept note will be tabled for approval in the Steering Committee meetings in September 2017.

#### ***Decision:***

The following resolution was approved by consensus of the Steering Committee:

The Peer Learning and Support subcommittee is disbanded effective September 2017 (i.e. at the next Ministerial Steering Committee meeting). A new Thematic Leadership Subcommittee--whose mandate is to champion political leadership across OGP's priority thematic areas including those set out in the Paris Declaration--will be launched at the September 2017 ministerial Steering Committee meeting.



**OGP Steering Committee Working Level Meeting  
June 27 and 28, 2017  
Washington, DC**

**Presentations & Background Documents**

[Pre-meeting Packet \(June 2017\)](#)

[State of the Partnership \(June 2017\)](#)

[OGP Trust Fund update \(June 2017\)](#)

[OGP Subnational Program Update \(June 2017\)](#)