

OGP Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

December 5-6, 2018, Washington, D.C., USA

Open
Government
Partnership



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Day 1: Wednesday, December 5, 2018

I. Statement on Aidan Eyakuze

The lead civil society co-chair, Nathaniel Heller, addressed the Steering Committee (SC) to explain the context surrounding the absence of Aidan Eyakuze, civil-society co-chair of the Criteria and Standards (C&S) subcommittee. Nathaniel presented a draft statement regarding Aidan's situation for the endorsement of the full Steering Committee.

Decision: The SC endorsed the following statement which can also be found [here](#).

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) Steering Committee expresses its deep concern and regret over OGP civil society Steering Committee member Aidan Eyakuze being unable to travel outside of Tanzania to participate in this week's Steering Committee meeting in Washington, DC. Aidan currently co-chairs one of the OGP Steering Committee's most important governance mechanisms, the Criteria and Standards Sub-Committee.

It has come to the Steering Committee's attention that Aidan's inability to travel outside of Tanzania since July 2018 is a result of government actions.

Aidan's participation in OGP Steering Committee Meetings is crucial. Aidan plays a central leadership role at the OGP and we regret that he could not attend the December meeting. We respectfully request the assistance of the Tanzania Government in addressing the situation so that Aidan can participate in upcoming OGP meetings.

-----End Statement-----

II. The Global Context & Our Response

Thomas Carothers, Senior Vice President for Studies of the Carnegie Endowment for international Peace, presented to the Steering Committee on the state of democracy globally. The key points from the presentation are below:

1. Democracy has not been receding and authoritarian governments have neither expanded greatly nor has there been any indication that these governments have achieved governance success. However, authoritarian governments have asserted themselves much more aggressively globally and are influencing country politics at the regional level.
2. The core challenge facing recently established democracies is navigating the transition from formal to substantive democracies to develop public institutions that effectively govern and represent the demands and interests of citizens, who are active and engaged but often feel restless and alienated. For the established democracies, the primary drivers of the recent trend of democratic stumblings are: a) economic stagnation/slow economic growth and b) the socio-cultural clashes that has led to societal polarization and crises of national and cultural identity.

3. The community of actors for democracy is not shrinking. The greatest obstacle facing this community combatting authoritarian governments is the lack of strong and collective leadership to step-up and lead coalitions and identify the key things that are needed to advance democracy in the future.

Discussion on Thomas's presentation was opened to the Steering Committee for comment and reflection. The key Steering Committee takeaways from the presentation were the following:

1. The breakdown of governments (recently established and established democracies and authoritarian governments) can help identify specifically where OGP can strategically deploy its resources and greatly augment the effect of OGP's support work both at the country and global levels.
2. In addressing the leadership gap in the democracy community of actors, OGP can play a connecting role to global change movements that have significant presence and traction. To do this, OGP needs to determine what key issues the partnership will want to rally around and identify the coalition of leaders that can create visibility and that the global community wants to hear from.
3. OGP should reflect on how it can strategically engage across different levels of governments and noted that quite often, the best innovations and evidence of effective governance are occurring at the local level.

The suggestion closed with three suggestions on actions OGP could take, integrating the main points from the presentation and subsequent Steering Committee reflection and discussion:

1. At the global level, OGP should use the upcoming Ottawa summit to serve as a moment to showcase political muscle and to forge the new coalition of world leaders to be the countervailing force against the increased aggression of authoritarian governments.
2. At the thematic level, the Steering Committee should embrace its role as leaders in driving OGP's thematic priorities forward.
3. At the country level, both civil society and government members should form stronger coalitions with each other.

III. 2018 in review: OGP's Implementation Plan

The Support Unit (SU) presented a recap of the 2018 OGP Implementation Plan which was endorsed by the Steering Committee in March 2018. The Implementation Plan includes activities for the Support Unit and the Steering Committee, and is structured around a set of collective deliverables for OGP in 2018:

1. Deliver tailored support to OGP national and local participants, to support the co-creation and implementation of more ambitious action plans;
2. Build OGP's presence on the global stage;
3. Increase uptake of OGP's thematic priorities;
4. Enhance OGP's research and analysis capacity;

5. Establish the OGP Secretariat as the independent charity organization holding the work of the Support Unit and IRM as it spins off from Tides; and
6. Expand the resources available for OGP's work.

In addition, the Steering Committee voluntarily signed up to lead different areas as part of a collective grid launched in Tbilisi, where each member committed to support OGP through country, global and thematic level leadership (see full 2018 SU-IRM Implementation Plan on pages 11-19, and the grid on pages 83-88 of the [SC Meeting Packet](#)). The key points of feedback from the Steering Committee were the following:

1. As well as global and country level actions, OGP should make sure it is fostering regional coalitions of open government champions that are able to engage between OGP global and regional meetings.
2. Focused country visits have been very effective, particularly in countries undergoing political transitions, to position OGP as a tool for action to help advance other global agendas and deliver the promises made during election campaigns.
3. Targeted bilaterals, including at events hosted by OGP partners, are extremely helpful in unblocking implementation challenges at the country level.
4. OGP needs to balance the deployment of its resources between countries undergoing challenges and countries that are very engaged in the OGP process and need targeted support.

IV. Governance and Leadership Priorities

A. Co-Chair Priorities & Co-chair Reporting Tool

The Government of Canada and Nathaniel Heller presented an overview of their Co-chair strategy for 2018-2019. They identified inclusion, participation and impact as the three focus areas for the strategy. The strategy document can be found [here](#). The co-chairs coordinated with the Support Unit to establish a public tracker of the co-chair priorities, which is available [here](#).

B. Canada's 2019 Global Summit and Deliverables

The Government of Canada updated the Steering Committee on the current progress made on the agenda development for the 6th OGP Global Summit in Ottawa and shared a preliminary version of the desired summit deliverables (see page 126 of the [Steering Committee meeting packet](#)). The Government of Canada requested the input of the full Steering Committee to identify which deliverables should be prioritized, and invited suggestions for additional thematic areas that should be prominently discussed at the Summit. Some of the suggestions provided by the Steering Committee included continuing to focus on anti-corruption with particular emphasis on building strong coalitions around beneficial ownership to address the undermining of the recovery of stolen assets, and to also discuss how civic tech affects participation within the broader "participation" bucket of deliverables. Once the Canadian government consolidates the Steering Committee input, it will re-circulate an updated version of the summit deliverables as part of the guidance on populating the 2019 Steering Committee grid. The Government of Canada also called on the Steering Committee to support

identifying inspirational speakers, thematic leaders, and help achieve a concrete and politically action-forcing summit.

C. Emerging Approach and Campaign on Gender and Inclusion, OpenGovWeek and CitizEngage

The co-chairs and Support Unit presented an update on the gender and inclusion initiative and identified three aims to enhance women's participation and gender throughout OGP's machinery:

1. Build and deepen evidence around the impact that a gender-centric approach to open government can have on improving public service delivery, addressing corruption, and opening up civic space through two distinct research calls.
2. Encourage governments to design and implement improved gender-aware OGP commitments through the development of more commitments, collection of good practices, and direct technical support.
3. Establish an international coalition of partners to drive and maintain this renewed focus on gender and inclusion beyond the Canada + Heller co-chairmanship.

These aims will be supported by the launch of a coordinated campaign called "Break the Roles", which will engage the OGP community with stories and concrete examples of gender and inclusion in the lead up to the Global Summit. The Steering Committee emphasized that OGP can be a powerful advocacy mechanism particularly to support countries and CSOs that want to integrate gender into their commitments, but do not necessarily know how to begin this process. It was suggested that OGP could support these countries and CSOs by connecting them with other global gender campaigns, and serve as a platform to share tools to help develop commitments on this area. Additionally, OGP's focus on gender and inclusion will also feature in the second OpenGovWeek taking place on 11-17 March 2019. The main theme of the 2019 OpenGovWeek will be inclusion, and all participants are encouraged to involve new actors and voices that have not traditionally been involved in the OGP process.

D. OGP Local Strategy

The Support Unit presented a proposal for the next phase of the OGP Local program and identified five priorities for 2019 as presented in the full strategy paper on pages 31-42 of the [SC meeting packet](#):

While the Steering Committee expressed overall consensus for supporting local open government in OGP and acknowledged the importance and value of doing so, it also expressed concerns about moving forward with an expansion of OGP Local with 10 new members while the more scalable expansion ("OGPx") and the rules of the game still need to be explored, discussed and agreed. The Steering Committee was keen on identifying ways to strengthen the OGP Local program in a way that is scalable, such as through the OGPx model or within national structures of intergovernmental

relations, and wanted more discussion about the resource allocation and sustainability of the different strands of the proposed strategy.

Decision: The Steering Committee agreed that a subset of Steering Committee members help define the parameters and strategy for a scalable model of the OGP Local program with the Support Unit in 2019. The Support Unit will present a proposal for this strategy development process to the Governance and Leadership subcommittee in early 2019. In parallel, the Support Unit will proceed with its deeper research on different models for the OGP Local program, including OGPx.

The Steering Committee also agreed to delay the expansion of the OGP Local pioneer cohort of 10 additional members ([as previously agreed to by the SC in September 2017](#)) pending Steering Committee agreement of a revised OGP Local strategy, either at the May Steering Committee meeting or before by virtual decision.

E. Feedback on Rapid Response Mechanism Early Implementation

The Steering Committee and the Support Unit shared their feedback on the early implementation of the [Rapid Response Mechanism](#) (RRM). While it was agreed that such a mechanism and process for the OGP to respond to egregious cases that arise in OGP participating countries is needed, it was also acknowledged that the RRM requires a revision in order to fulfill the purposes it is aimed to serve. Some Steering Committee members pointed out that reacting on such short notice creates diplomatic challenges, and raised the question of cost-benefit of the policy in its current form.

Decision: The Steering Committee called on the Governance and Leadership Subcommittee and the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee to together revise the RRM policy based on the early lessons and Steering Committee feedback. The full Steering Committee will then review the implementation of the RRM policy at the end of this pilot phase.

V. Criteria & Standards

The items tabled for discussion by the Criteria and Standards (C&S) subcommittee included the Response Policy cases concerning Azerbaijan and Mexico, and the Procedural Review cases regarding Bosnia and Herzegovina and Trinidad and Tobago. In addition, the C&S presented a revised version of the OGP Articles of Governance and a short proposal to address [Values Check](#) assessments for countries that are not covered by the dataset utilized by the Support Unit.

A. Procedural Review Decisions

A country's participation in OGP may be reviewed by the Criteria and Standards subcommittee if it acts contrary to [OGP process](#). For countries that act contrary to process for three consecutive action plan cycles, as is the case for Bosnia

and Herzegovina and Trinidad and Tobago, the C&S will automatically recommend for such country to be designated as *inactive* in OGP.

Decision: The OGP Steering Committee decided, by consensus, that Bosnia and Herzegovina and Trinidad and Tobago, will regrettably be designated as inactive in OGP for a one-year period due to having acted contrary to OGP process by failing to deliver an action plan for three consecutive action plan cycles. The Steering Committee acknowledged the continued efforts by both governments and civil society to remain engaged in OGP and agreed to offer all necessary support for all stakeholders to remain engaged in OGP. Inactivity status will be immediately ended upon the submission of an OGP Action Plan. See full resolution text below:

**Resolution of the OGP Steering Committee regarding the status of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina's participation in OGP
5 December 2018**

The OGP Steering Committee appreciates Bosnia and Herzegovina's participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) since 2014. The OGP Steering Committee further welcomes the letter dated 4 December 2018 that outlines specific steps the country will be taking to submit an OGP action plan and recognizes the continued efforts demonstrated by both the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina and civil society to remain engaged in OGP.

However, considering that the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina has acted contrary to OGP process by not delivering an action plan for three consecutive cycles, **the OGP Steering Committee hereby resolves that, under provisions set out in the OGP Articles of Governance, the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina should be designated as inactive in OGP.**

This inactivity status will be immediately ended upon the submission of an OGP Action Plan. The Steering Committee further agrees to offer all necessary support in order to help Bosnia and Herzegovina to remain engaged in the Partnership.

For countries placed in inactive status by decision of the full Steering Committee after acting contrary to OGP process, the inactive status lasts up to a maximum of one year, or:

- Until the country publishes an action plan, developed in line with OGP Participation and Co-Creation Standards, 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 action plan.

If, however, a country remains in inactive status for a year without communicating to the Support Unit that it wants to continue to participate in OGP, the Criteria & Standards subcommittee will recommend that the Steering Committee instructs the Support Unit to remove such country from the list of participating countries.

In addition, the following inactivity conditions apply:

- While inactive, Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue to receive Steering Committee and Support Unit assistance, and the IRM will assess its future action plan.
- While inactive, Bosnia and Herzegovina will not be eligible to vote or run in Steering Committee elections, and may only attend OGP events as observers for learning purposes.
- While inactive, Bosnia and Herzegovina's inactivity will be noted on the OGP website and public information materials, where appropriate (e.g., in a list of participating OGP countries).
- Any country, whether in active or inactive status, may at any time decide itself to withdraw from OGP.

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

**Resolution of the OGP Steering Committee regarding the status of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago's participation in OGP
5 December 2018**

The OGP Steering Committee welcomes Trinidad and Tobago's participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) since 2013. The OGP Steering Committee further welcomes the letter dated 4 December 2018 that outlines specific steps the country will be taking to submit an OGP action plan and recognizes the continued efforts demonstrated by both the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and civil society to remain engaged in OGP.

However, considering that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has acted contrary to OGP process by not delivering an action plan for three consecutive cycles, **the OGP Steering Committee hereby resolves that, under provisions set out in the OGP Articles of Governance, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago should be designated as inactive in OGP.**

This inactivity status will be immediately ended upon the submission of an OGP Action Plan. The Steering Committee further agrees to offer all necessary support in order to help Trinidad and Tobago to remain engaged in the Partnership.

For countries placed in inactive status by decision of the full Steering Committee after acting contrary to OGP process, the inactive status lasts up to a maximum of one year, or:

- Until the country publishes an action plan, developed in line with OGP Participation and Co- Creation Standards, 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 action plan.

If, however, a country remains in inactive status for a year without communicating to the Support Unit that it wants to continue to participate in OGP, the Criteria & Standards subcommittee will recommend that the Steering Committee instructs the Support Unit to remove such country from the list of participating countries.

In addition, the following inactivity conditions apply:

- While inactive, Trinidad and Tobago will continue to receive Steering Committee and Support Unit assistance, and the IRM will assess its future action plan.
- While inactive, Trinidad and Tobago will not be eligible to vote or run in Steering Committee elections, and may only attend OGP events as observers for learning purposes.
- While inactive, Trinidad and Tobago's inactivity will be noted on the OGP website and public information materials, where appropriate (e.g., in a list of participating OGP countries).
- Any country, whether in active or inactive status, may at any time decide itself to withdraw from OGP.

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

B. Response Policy Cases

The [Response Policy](#) aims to maintain OGP's credibility and safeguard its long-term future by helping to ensure that all OGP participating countries uphold OGP values and principles, as expressed in the Open Government Declaration, and OGP's Articles of Governance. There are currently two Response Policy cases active in OGP which were presented by the Criteria and Standards (C&S) chairs:

1. Mexico Response Policy case update

The [Letter of Concern](#) was filed on 16 July 2018 by 8 civil society organizations that were formerly part of the secretariat tasked to coordinate the OGP agenda in Mexico. The letter outlined concerns regarding the alleged cases of illegal digital surveillance. After initial review of the letter, the Support Unit concluded that it meets the eligibility criteria to trigger a Response Policy inquiry. The initial review did not assess the merits of the concern itself, or lack thereof.

As a next step, the Criteria and Standards subcommittee co-chairs will lead a review of the merits of the concern in coordination with the Support Unit. A review report outlining the findings of the merits of the concerns is anticipated to be finalized within the first quarter of 2019. Based on these findings, and the responses provided by the government subject of the concern, the C&S chairs will prepare a report and provide an update on the case to the Steering Committee at its next meeting in May 2019.

A delegation from the newly appointed Mexican administration joined the Steering Committee meeting to deliver an official response to the Response Policy case. The Government of Mexico affirmed their commitment to working together with civil society to address the surveillance concerns that triggered the Response Policy and stated that its new President has begun taking steps to address the issue of government surveillance. The Steering Committee welcomed Mexico to the meeting and communicated that both the Steering Committee and Support Unit stand ready to help Mexico address the surveillance concerns and re-engage in the OGP process.

2. Azerbaijan Response Policy Update and Resolution

On March 2, 2015, three civil society organizations (CSOs) addressed a [Letter of Concern](#) to OGP's Steering Committee under the Response Policy addressing several issues pertaining to the operating environment for civil society in Azerbaijan, and how these issues affected CSO's ability to engage effectively in the OGP process. Through an exhaustive review, the concerns were found to have merit, and following this process, the Steering Committee resolved to designate Azerbaijan as inactive in OGP on [May 4, 2016](#).

After a year, the Steering Committee reviewed progress made by the government and recognized that while there were improvements, particularly related to the OGP process, there remained considerable challenges to the operating environment for civil society. Therefore, on June 28, 2017, the [SC resolved to extend](#) Azerbaijan's inactivity status for a period of one year. The Steering Committee further mandated the C&S, in consultation with civil society and government, to develop an [updated set of recommendations](#) to improve the unresolved constraints on the operating space for CSOs, namely the CSO registration process and access to funding by CSOs. The Government of Azerbaijan had one year, beginning on September 25, 2017, to address these updated recommendations in order to regain active status in OGP.

Over the past six months, the C&S consulted with the Government of Azerbaijan and a wide array of actors to assess the actions that the government has done to date in order to address the updated recommendations. The evidence assessment (full report on pages 53-62 of [SC Meeting Packet](#)) found that, although there have been sporadic improvements in the operating environment of civil society during

the last 12 months, the Government of Azerbaijan has not made systematic changes or reforms that would thoroughly address the updated recommendations. All non-governmental actors consulted highlighted that there remain substantial challenges in the overall operating environment for civil society in the main two issues addressed by the updated recommendations: registration and funding. However, it is important to consider that all local stakeholders also mentioned that, despite the challenges, they value the continued engagement and space for dialogue that the OGP forum in Azerbaijan creates.

Decision: For these reasons, the OGP Steering Committee decided, by consensus, to extend the suspended status of Azerbaijan for a full action plan cycle pending the timely completion of specific milestones. Failure to achieve said milestones would automatically result in the finalization of the Response Policy review, making Azerbaijan's suspension from OGP permanent. See full resolution below:

**OGP resolution on the participation of Azerbaijan in the Open Government Partnership
5 December 2018**

The Steering Committee recognizes the recent positive steps taken by the government of Azerbaijan, such as the development of a new one-stop shop e-service platform for the registration of non-governmental actors (NGOs). However, the core issues raised in the [original Response Policy letter](#) of concern filed by civil society organizations in 2015, and validated by the Criteria and Standards (C&S) subcommittee, remain unresolved. The evidence assessed by OGP and third party experts shows that, although there have been sporadic improvements in the operating environment of civil society during the last 12 months, the government of Azerbaijan has not made systematic changes or reforms that would thoroughly address the [updated C&S recommendations](#). All NGOs consulted highlighted that there remain substantial challenges in the overall operating environment for civil society in the main two issues addressed by the updated recommendations: registration and funding of NGOs. It is also worth noting that all local stakeholders, including government and civil society within and outside of the OGP Forum, concurred that despite the challenges faced by NGOs, there is value in the continued engagement and space for dialogue that the OGP forum in Azerbaijan creates.

For these reasons, the Steering Committee hereby resolves to extend the suspended¹ status of Azerbaijan for a full Action Plan cycle, pending the completion of the following milestones:

- I. By 1 March 2019, prepare a roadmap for the development of the 2019-21 OGP action plan in line with at least the minimum requirements outlined in the OGP Participation and Co-creation Standards. This roadmap shall also

include a timeline of key meetings for the OGP Forum, and the process for involving other stakeholders outside of the OGP Forum to participate in the co-creation of the action plan. This roadmap shall be published by the government, and submitted to the C&S co-chairs by the established deadline.

- II. By 1 June 2019, appoint a high-level government representative (ministerial level or above) to lead the OGP process in Azerbaijan.
- III. By 1 June 2019, begin the development of an OGP action plan through an inclusive process that engages a wide array of actors beyond the OGP Forum, and includes reforms to address the civic space constraints highlighted in the updated recommendations and other domestic priorities.
- IV. By 31 December 2019, complete, adopt and submit to the Support Unit a finalized OGP Action Plan.
- V. By 31 August 2021, complete implementation of the OGP Action Plan. This Action Plan will be assessed by the IRM.

The terms of this resolution are contingent upon the timely achievement of the milestones outlined above. Failure to adhere to the established timeline of the said milestones would automatically result in the finalization of the Response Policy review, making Azerbaijan's suspension from the OGP permanent. Permanent suspension would continue until such a time that the government of Azerbaijan provides evidence of meeting the Response Policy recommendations issued on September 2017. Such evidence shall be validated by external expert review and approved by the Steering Committee.

- *If at any point during that action plan cycle 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 suspended, Azerbaijan will continue to receive Steering Committee and Support Unit assistance, and the IRM will assess its future action plan.*
- *While suspended, the Government of Azerbaijan would not be eligible to vote in Steering Committee elections, and may only attend OGP events as an observer for learning purposes.*
- *While suspended, Azerbaijan's inactivity would be noted on the OGP website and public information materials, where appropriate (e.g., in a list of participating OGP countries).*

1. Reflecting updated terminology from "inactive" to "suspended" In line with the revised language incorporated in the Response Policy review approved by the Steering Committee on [20 September 2017](#).

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

VI. Articles of Governance Review

In 2018, the Support Unit, under direction of the Criteria and Standards (C&S) subcommittee undertook a review of the OGP Articles of Governance (“AoG”) with the aim to strengthen its language, align to current practices, and reflect all decisions made by the Steering Committee since the Articles were last reviewed in 2015.

The revision was presented as an alignment process to reflect current policies and practices, but not intended to serve as a mechanism to make substantive changes to the policies, processes, and procedures of OGP.

There were three types of changes presented as part of the review:

- i. Changes that have already been approved by the SC or its subcommittees that are not currently included in the 2015 version of the AoG.
- ii. Minor administrative edits such as updates to the language, removal of micro-detail from the main text, and the reorder of the AoG.
- iii. Updates to the text of the AoG to reflect and align with current practices, which include reflecting the updated roles and responsibilities of the Support Unit, Steering Committee and Subcommittees that have evolved in the past years.

In addition to these changes, it was highlighted that addenda items such as the IRM charter and the OGP event guidelines will be further discussed with the Steering Committee in 2019. The specific changes and the underlying rationale for each change are in the [SC meeting packet](#) (pages 89-121).

Decision: The Steering Committee endorsed the proposed direction of travel but requested additional time to review the revisions to the AoG before they are fully endorsed. The timeline for remaining steps that was agreed by the SC if as follows:

- a. The Steering Committee will send any further comments in writing to the Support Unit by **December 19**.
- b. The Support Unit will present a revised version to C&S for endorsement.
- c. C&S will share the revised version with the Steering Committee for final approval **on a no-objections basis** before a 1-month public consultation period is launched.
- d. The final version of the AoG will go into effect early February

A. Alternative indicators to assess Values Check

The Steering Committee approved the implementation of a ‘Values Check’ assessment in September 20, 2017. From this date forward, countries who wish to join OGP still need to score 75% or more on the current Core Eligibility Criteria (Fiscal Transparency, Access to Information Asset Disclosure and Citizen Engagement), and in addition, they must also pass a Values Check assessment before being allowed to join OGP. This additional Values Check assessment is to ensure that new countries joining OGP adhere to the democratic governance norms and values set for in the Open Government Declaration. The Values Check only applies to countries that have

yet to join OGP and does not affect countries which have already joined. To pass the Values Check, countries must score a minimum threshold on two indicators from the [Varieties of Democracy 'Dataset on Democracy](#) to assess government control over CSO entry and exit into public life, and the degree of CSO repression on behalf of governments.

There are currently 16 countries that are not covered by V-Dem indicators: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Bermuda, Brunei Darussalam, Congo, Dominica, Grenada, Kiribati, Lichtenstein, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Samoa, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Tonga. Currently, none of these countries satisfy the [Core Eligibility criteria](#), however, some have already expressed interest in joining, including Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas and Belize. To address the possible scenarios in which a country meets the core eligibility criteria but it is not covered by the V-Dem dataset, the C&S requested the authority to use third-party indicators to perform the Values Check assessment.

Decision: The SC approved the following resolution:

**Steering Committee Resolution on Alternative Values Check Metrics
5 December 2018**

In the exceptional case when a country passes the core eligibility criteria to join OGP, but Values Check indicators are not collected by V-Dem for such country, the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee will perform an assessment of that country's Values Check based on publicly available civic space indicators from a credible third-party database as determined by Criteria and Standards Subcommittee.

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

Day 2: Thursday, December 6, 2018

I. Update on ongoing thematic priorities and Building Coalitions on Priority and Emerging Thematic Areas

Zuzana Wienk, civil society co-chair of the Thematic Leadership Subcommittee (TLS), provided an update on the thematic leadership efforts carried out in 2018 and what lies ahead in 2019, emphasizing the role of the Steering Committee to drive political leadership and the Partnership's focus on thematic issues.

In 2018, significant progress has been made across OGP on areas of anti-corruption (such as open contracting) both at i) the country level - through the development of partnerships that support OGP commitments - and ii) at the global level - through prominently positioning OGP as a platform for action in global fora such as the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group and International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC).

However, the Steering Committee acknowledged that i) there remain areas of opportunity for more ambitious commitments such as on money in politics, civic space, to name a few

and ii) for OGP to anchor coalitions of action on emerging global norms on issues like beneficial ownership or digital/tech governance. Factsheets on these and on other thematic priorities can be found [here](#).

The 6th OGP Global Summit taking place in Ottawa in May 2019 was identified as a key action-forcing moment for the Steering Committee to demonstrate leadership and mobilize action across the Partnership on these key thematic priorities. A key component of the TLS focus in 2019 will be to help steer and support building coalitions of governments and civil society that lead on specific reform areas in OGP. The TLS chairs called on the full Steering Committee for support in forging these coalitions.

The Steering Committee divided into breakout groups to have more in-depth discussions on themes that have gained traction in OGP, have seen an increased demand from OGP members, and may benefit from smaller coalitions of governments, civil society and other relevant actors driving action through OGP. These themes include - Open Government for Gender Equality, Beneficial Ownership Transparency, and Governance of New Technologies/Digital Threats to Democracy. An update on the ongoing themes are on pages 69- 71 of the [SC meeting packet](#). The key takeaways resulting from the discussions include:

1. **Open Government for Gender Equality:** OGP can play a role by: i) identifying countries where strong connections to gender equality can be made and ii) identifying best practices/examples of gender sensitive approaches across multiple sectors and integrating them into OGP's thematic work. This breakout group has committed to developing a menu of options for the summit to share with OGP network and called upon the full Steering Committee to establish an expectation for participants to come to the summit with concrete gender equality commitments.
2. **Beneficial Ownership:** The group discussed the trend of an increasing number of countries advancing reform in this area both to tackle corruption but also bolster the climate for business. As the fact sheets (linked above) show more countries are moving developing registers of beneficial ownership - including through their OGP commitments - OGP can serve as a platform for peer learning and exchange to further implementation and set standards. This group has called upon the full Steering Committee to bring in countries that would help a coalition of governments who are driving action in this area (linked to efforts that the UK government is leading on in building a coalition on this topic). Additionally, OGP can play a role by supporting the development of papers and toolkits that could help countries currently with beneficial ownership commitments overcome implementation barriers and challenges.
3. **Governance of Data and New Technologies:** The group discussed the importance of doing more on this set of issues in OGP given the profound impact on open government issues and networks. However, since there is already an enormous amount of work being done on these topics by practitioners, academics, companies, the SC members in this group discussed the different sub-topics under this that OGP could tackle more - these included data governance/ privacy, AI and algorithms, and threats to civic space online. As an initial point of focus, the group discussed global norms on AI ethics and algorithm transparency, especially those used by governments in decision-making. It was decided that the Support Unit will work with members of the TLS and other SC interested in this topic to do an

analysis of potential policy areas and use the convening and implementation mechanism of OGP to further dialogue on this topic. In the lead up to the summit, this breakout group has prioritized bringing in the right individuals and groups to the Ottawa Summit, including from the private sector (i.e. Amazon, Facebook) to facilitate difficult, but engaging and substantive discussions on this theme.

II. Knowledge and Research

A. Overview of 2018 Publications

The Support Unit shared an overview of OGP publications in 2018 and encouraged the Steering Committee to use these materials in their bilateral engagements and advocacy work for OGP. The list, with links to access these publications, are on pages 72-73 of the [SC meeting packet](#). The Steering Committee requested clarity on the role of the SC members in shaping official knowledge products, and stressed that looking forward to 2019, an uptake and dissemination strategy should be developed and implemented to maximize the utilization of these publications. As a follow up to the meeting, the Support Unit will share a tracker with published blogs and speeches that already contain a series of case studies and stories for various audiences which Steering Committee members could use for their own purposes.

B. Key Research Projects in 2019

The Support Unit provided an overview to the Steering Committee of the key upcoming research projects in 2019:

1. **Trust Fund Research Window 2019:** The objective of this research window is to assess the impact of public participation and whether it improves policy, government responsiveness and/or accountability in OGP countries.
2. **Independent Evaluation of OGP:** This will focus on open contracting and public service delivery in a few countries over two action plan cycles. The research objective is to investigate the causal mechanisms through which OGP successfully promotes open governments with the aim of generating lessons on 'what works.' This work is expected to start in mid-2019.
3. **Feminist Open Government Research update:** The objective of this research is to determine how to better engage women and gender groups in the co-creation process and accelerate gender in current open government commitments. The call for proposals window closed on November 30, 2018 with over 90 research proposals received which are currently being reviewed.

The Steering Committee suggested that it is worth mapping the major research projects on the impact of open government in the Trust Fund window and Independent Evaluation of OGP to make sure that they complement each other.

C. State of Open Government Report: Consultation and Next Steps

The Support Unit provided an overview to the Steering Committee on the consultation process, the overall structure and content of the report. The Flagship Report Initiative team has completed the consultation phase after the analysis of the inputs received

from extensive consultations with the public, the Steering Committee, donors and advisors. The main findings from the consultation process can be found [here](#). The team briefly outlined the timeline of the next steps and will proceed as follows:

- a. Phase III (January - February 2019) - Review and revision of the report draft
- b. Phase IV (March - April 2019) - Publication of the finalized report
- c. Phase V (May 2019) - Official launch of the report during the OGP Global Summit in Ottawa.

Some of the main feedback provided by the Steering Committee includes:

1. The Steering Committee requested clarity on the review process for the report.
2. The delivery and uptake strategy will be crucial to the success of the pilot report. Looking forward, the Steering Committee should discuss what publications OGP has and how OGP can better use them and integrate them into the communications strategy.
3. Ensure that the data and the findings of this report are reflective of the reality in OGP participating countries and local municipalities. Additionally, the country evaluation findings could be valuable to understanding the key levers of change in open government and identifying key gaps in open government to inform future reports, reforms and policies.

III. Country Support and Performance Update

The Support Unit provided the Steering Committee with an overview of the Country Support work in 2018. The highlights of the year are:

- A total of 59 of the 76 action plans are expected to be delivered by the end of 2018 (77.63% completion rate - significantly higher than the year average rate of 60%).
- OGP visited over 60 countries in 2018 and met with over 150 ministers and 15 Heads of State/Heads of Government/Highest local authority.
- The Countries Under Review are the following:
 - **Procedural Review:** Cabo Verde, Croatia, Papua New Guinea
 - **Response Policy:** Azerbaijan, Mexico
 - **Rapid Response Mechanism:** Georgia, Guatemala
 - **Up for Inactivity:** Bosnia & Herzegovina, Trinidad & Tobago
 - **No Longer Inactive:** Montenegro
 - **Likely 2019 C&S referrals:** Jamaica, Luxembourg, Malta, Pakistan, USA

The Steering Committee suggested that in cases where country action plans are delayed, it would be beneficial to identify the specific points at which each action plan was delayed.

IV. OGP Trust Fund Update

The Support Unit provided an update on the OGP Trust Fund, including lessons learned from the first year of providing enhanced co-creation support as well as co-creation, implementation, thematic support programs to be implemented in 2019.

Lessons from the first year of co-creation support include:

1. There needs to be more upstream involvement of Support Unit country support staff working with the Points of Contact (POCs) and civil society awardees to understand local needs and support more effective co-creation.
2. The award sizes should be more flexible and customized to co-creation requirements on the ground while being large enough to support enhanced support services.

The Steering Committee highlighted the need to continue aligning priorities defined by TLS and the thematic window of the Trust Fund via the two SC seats on the OGP Trust Fund Council. It was also communicated that the process to recruit a new Steering Committee government representative to serve in the Trust Fund Council will take place ahead of the May 2019 meetings. Government volunteers are encouraged to make themselves known to the Support Unit.

V. 2019 Implementation Plan and Budget

The Support Unit shared some highlights of key activities it expects to undertake in 2019, incorporating the inputs provided by the Steering Committee. The activities are organized in collective deliverables at the country, global and thematic level, with knowledge and learning and operations as supporting functions. They include activities for the Steering Committee, the Support Unit and the wider Partnership. Some of the activities presented include:

At the **country** level:

1. Ambition and Implementation
 - Focusing efforts on pushing on ambition and delivery, particularly on thematic priorities and in priority countries with an additional focus on meeting standards and process requirements.
 - Continue the menu of services rollout by expanding the enhanced services for priority countries/locals (i.e. through the OGP Trust Fund).
2. Using the Ottawa Summit to advance ambition, including on priority themes
3. Enhance the political strategy to focus at the regional level and management of political transitions.
4. Broaden the scope for OGP Local and continue the integration in the regional approaches and develop OGPx.

At the **global** level:

1. Build political and leadership coalitions to stand for Open Government through OGP Ambassadors, Summits, OpenGovWeek and enhanced media campaigns.
2. Launch the groundbreaking digital-first integrated campaigns on gender and inclusion.
3. Leverage events to engage partners and promote thought leadership.
4. Lead in open gov stories, research and evidence to empower advocates and ambassadors.
5. Upgrade OGP website, branding and design elements.

At the **thematic** level:

1. Anchor coalitions of governments and civil society advancing emerging global norms through OGP.
2. Strengthening partnerships by ensuring that the OGP Trust Fund supports the development and engagement of communities of practice on thematic priorities.
3. Exploring the role that OGP can play on frontier issues in open gov (i.e. digital/tech governance).
4. Increasing the uptake and support of more effective implementation of commitments for priority themes in collaboration with partners.

For **Knowledge and Learning**:

1. Launch the State of Open Government Report to provide forward-thinking analysis to support country, thematic and global work.
2. Launch the thematic, implementation and research windows and the second round of the co-creation window of the OGP Trust Fund.
3. Develop well-researched case studies on how citizens are shaping public services and linking the SDGs to HLPF 2019.
4. Publish the next round of flagship publications, (Early Results, STAR, and Skeptic Guide).

The Support Unit shared the following timeline for finalizing the Implementation Plan and Budget:

- a. **December 5-6** - OGP Steering Committee session on 2019 priorities
- b. **Mid-January** - Implementation Plan and 2019 Budget sent to Steering Committee for review
- c. **Early February** - Board approved budget for 2019
- d. **Mid-February** - Publish Implementation Plan and Budget for 2019

The Steering Committee was requested to consider these activities when updating their Steering Committee grid - a new mechanism launched in 2018 to encourage all Steering Committee members to take leadership in different areas of the OGP implementation plan at the country, thematic and global levels. The Support Unit will share additional guidance on updating the Steering Committee grid so that it responds to the broader OGP strategy, including supporting the 2018-19 Co-Chair vision for the OGP, and identifies avenues for self-reporting on actions completed.

VI. OGP Board Update

Nathaniel Heller, Board Treasurer, provided the following updates from the November 19 board meeting on behalf of the Chair of the Board:

- a. **Board membership:** The Board of Directors has added 3 additional members - Laura Gorrie (Canada) in June and Mukelani Dimba (IST) and Maria Baron (Directorio Legislativo) in October. However, the OGP Secretariat bylaws prescribe that it consist of 6 board members, which has been difficult to

sustain. For this reason the Steering Committee was requested to approve, on a no-objections basis, the temporary appointment of Robin Hodess (The B-Team) to the Board so that the bylaws could be changed to allow the range of 3 to 6 board members. This will be sent to the full Steering Committee on a no-objection basis.

- b. **Brussels Office:** At its November meeting, the Board authorized the Secretariat to begin work to set up a subsidiary office in Brussels.
- c. **Budget:** The Board also approved a 2-month extension to OGP's 2018 budget through February 2019, to allow the staff to complete its 2019 work planning and budgeting process.

The bylaws, meeting summaries and other key information regarding the OGP Board can be found [here](#).

List of Attendees

Government Steering Committee Members

Government of Argentina (Incoming Government Co-chair 2019 – 2020)

Rudi Borrmann Undersecretary of Public Innovation and Open Government, Government Secretariat of Modernization
Carolina Cornejo Director of Open Government, Government Secretariat of Modernization

Government of Canada (Lead Government Co-chair 2018 – 2019)

Francis Bilodeau Assistant Secretary for Digital Policy and Service, Treasury Board Secretariat
Melanie Robert Executive Director, Information Management and Open Government, Chief Information Officer Branch, Treasury Board Secretariat
Natalia Little Analyst, Treasury Board Secretariat

Government of Croatia

Vesna Lendić Kasalo Deputy Head of Office, Office for Cooperation with NGOs
Darija Marić Advisor in the Government and Government's Office

Government of France

Amélie Banzet Open Government Office, Etalab, Prime Minister Office

Government of Georgia

Zurab Sanikidze Head of Analytical Department, Ministry of Justice and Co-Chair of OGP Forum of Georgia

Government of Italy

Stefano Pizzicannella Director for International Relations, Simplification Unit, Department for Public Administration

Government of Romania

Bogdan Pintilie First Secretary, Embassy of Romania to the United States of America

Government of South Africa

Mesuli Macozoma Assistant Director, Ministry for Public Service and Administration

Government of South Korea

Sunkee Han Director General, Ministry of the Interior and Safety
Sungyeol Shin Director, Ministry of the Interior and Safety
Yujin Lee Deputy Director, Ministry of the Interior and Safety

Civil Society Steering Committee Members

María Baron Directorio Legislativo

Helen Darbshire	Access Info Europe
Aidan Eyakuze (virtual)	Twaweza
Nathaniel Heller <i>(Lead Civil Society Co-Chair 2018 - 2019)</i>	Results for Development
Preston Whitt <i>(Designated Second for Nathaniel Heller)</i>	Results for Development
Robin Hodess <i>(Incoming Civil Society Co-chair 2019 - 2020)</i>	The B-Team
Annabel Lee Hogg <i>(Designated Second for Robin Hodess)</i>	The B-Team
Suneeta Kaimal	Natural Resource Governance Institute
Giorgi Kldiashvili	Institute for Development of Freedom of Information
Tur-Od Lkhagvajav	Asia Democracy Network
Lucy McTernan	University of York
Zuzana Wienk	Fair Play Alliance
Scott Miller <i>(Designated Second for Delia Ferreira)</i>	Trust Democracy Australia

Apologies

- *Government of Nigeria*
- *Delia Ferreira, Transparency International*

Additional Guests

- *Jesus Robles Maloof, Head of the Social Comptroller Unit, Ministry of Public Administration, Government of Mexico (Delegate invited to present an update on the Mexico Response Policy Case)*