

Clarification of OGP Steering Committee Role in Assessing Country Performance

Note: *In compliance with the OGP Disclosure Policy, we will post on the OGP website official communications to the OGP Steering Committee and responses to those communications.*

1- OGP seeks to promote domestic accountability between a government and its citizens, so concerns with respect to a particular country should be addressed first and foremost through national processes, empowering local actors to pursue these debates.

2 - The Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) is set up to objectively assess each country's progress in achieving its OGP commitments. The Steering Committee seeks to respect the IRM process and timeline, which includes opportunities for public review and comment on IRM reports.

3 – In general, the focus of the Steering Committee is to advance the global partnership, not to comment on the progress of individual countries.

Based on these principles, the OGP Steering Committee does not collectively comment on progress or back-tracking in an individual country, except in the following exceptional circumstances, outlined in the OGP Articles of Governance:

- **If a participating government falls below the minimum OGP eligibility criteria.** In this case, “said government should take immediate and explicit steps to address issues so that it passes the threshold within one year. Failure to do so will trigger review of the participation of said government in the OGP by the Steering Committee upon recommendation of the Criteria and Standards subcommittee.”
- **If the IRM process finds “that a participating government repeatedly (in two consecutive action plan cycles) acts contrary to the OGP process and to its Action Plan commitments, fails to adequately address issues raised by the IRM, or is taking actions that undermine the values and principles of OGP, the Steering Committee may, upon recommendation of the Criteria and Standards sub-committee, the Steering Committee may review the participation of said government in the OGP.”**

Of course, country-level performance can and should be one of the factors considered by current Steering Committee members in determining which countries should be voted on or off the Steering Committee during its regular rotation cycle. In addition, individual Steering Committee members can and do engage in bilateral conversations with government officials and/or civil society leaders in countries that are encountering particular challenges in the implementation of their OGP action plans, in order to express their concern or offer support.