

Clarifying Note on the presence of the Transparency & Accountability Initiative on the OGP Steering Committee

At the recent OGP Global Summit in Mexico, some members of the OGP civil society community asked questions about the presence of the Transparency & Accountability Initiative on the OGP Steering Committee (SC) as one of the 11 civil society members. As we have just launched the recruitment of six new civil society SC members, we think it is important to clarify the history of their presence.

T/AI is a donor collaborative that works to expand the impact and scale of the transparency and accountability sector. Its steering committee consists of donor organisations that are some of the largest funders of the global transparency and accountability movement. To date, members have included: Ford Foundation (FF), William and Flora Hewlett Foundation (HF), Hivos, Open Society Foundations (OSF), Omidyar Network (ON) and the UK Department for International Development.

T/AI played a key role in founding OGP by helping develop the early strategy for the partnership together with governments and civil society; by helping identify and bring key civil society stakeholders to the founding OGP strategy meeting that ended with a decision to create/launch OGP; by incubating the initiative in its early days through the provision of a dedicated senior advisor to OGP's founding Steering Committee; and by providing seed funding for the creation and maintenance of an OGP Support Unit, as well as an independent Civil Society Coordinator.

Given T/AI's in-kind contributions in terms of volunteering serious time, strategic advice and networks as part of helping launch OGP, they became part of the founding group of Steering Committee members. This founding group started to work informally in January 2011, with all positions formalized as official Steering Committee representatives in September 2011. For the first two years of OGP's existence, Anthony Richter (OSF) served as the T/AI representative, followed by Martin Tisné (ON) with Julie McCarthy (OSF) as alternate.

In 2011, there were nine original Civil Society Steering Committee members, including T/AI as incubator of OGP. Civil society rotation was agreed to be yearly in thirds. In practice, this has meant that civil society members have rotated out three at a time in 2013 and again in 2014. Suneeta Kaimal (NRGI), Warren Krafchik (IBP) and Martin Tisné (T/AI) were due to rotate out in October 2015. Due to the large number of new members joining in 2014, the civil society caucus asked Warren Krafchik and Martin Tisné to stay on for an extra year until October 2016 to preserve institutional memory. As former co-chair, Suneeta Kaimal is due to stay on an additional year as part of the co-chair troika model held by OGP (whereby co-chair stay on for an extra year following their tenure). Therefore, the next and final round of rotation of original members will occur in October 2016

As with other members whose term ends next year, the T/AI representative can run for a second term if they wish in accordance to current governance rules. If they re-apply, they will go through

the same process of nomination and selection as outside candidates. There is no reserved seat for T/AI, for donors in general, or for any other special interest group on the OGP Steering Committee.

As co-chairs we will initiate a broader Steering Committee discussion in 2016 on how OGP should engage (at the governance level) with a range of actors that are important for the delivery of our work, including those that are currently not represented as defined interest groups on the Steering Committee. These groups include for example the private sector, parliamentarians, subnational actors, multilateral institutions and funders. In doing so, we will make sure OGP continues to adhere to good governance standards.

We hope this helps to clarify the background and position of T/AI on the OGP Steering Committee.

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