

**Meeting of the civil society members of the OGP Steering Committee  
In advance of the OGP Steering Committee Ministerial and Working Level Meeting  
September 19, 2017 NYC**

<b>Manish Bapna</b>	<b>World Resources Institute (WRI), Lead Co- Chair</b>
<b>María Baron</b>	<b>Directorio Legislativo</b>
<b>Mukelani Dimba</b>	<b>ODAC, Incoming Co-Chair</b>
<b>Aidan Eyakuze</b>	<b>Twaweza</b>
<b>Alejandro Gonzalez</b>	<b>GESOC</b>
<b>Nathaniel Heller</b>	<b>Results for Development</b>
<b>Robin Hodess</b>	<b>Transparency International</b>
<b>Suneeta Kaimal</b>	<b>Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI)</b>
<b>Giorgi Kldiashvili</b>	<b>IDFI</b>
<b>Tur-Od Lkhagvajav</b>	<b>Asia Democracy Network (ADN)</b>
<b>Zuzana Wienk</b>	<b>Fair Play Alliance</b>
<b>Mark Robinson</b>	<b>World Resources Institute (second for Manish Bapna)</b>

<b>Tonu Basu</b>	<b>OGP Support Unit</b>
<b>Joe Foti</b>	<b>OGP Support Unit</b>
<b>Lotte Geunis</b>	<b>OGP Support Unit</b>
<b>Paul Maassen</b>	<b>OGP Support Unit</b>
<b>Jaime Mercado</b>	<b>OGP Support Unit</b>
<b>Joe Powell</b>	<b>OGP Support Unit</b>
<b>Meghan Wallace</b>	<b>OGP Support Unit</b>

*Absent:*

<b>Helen Darbshire</b>	<b>Access Info Europe</b>
------------------------	---------------------------

## 1. Rules of the game

### *Key highlights from the discussion*

- Nathaniel provided an overview of the Rules of the Game resolutions to come before the SC for adoption. These are important (legalistic) changes that have been debated at length, with no real objections raised in the C&S subcommittee.
- The group discussed the importance of keeping the focus of the meeting on the long term strategy. One key element here is to lay emphasis on the key message that SC members need to practice what they preach on values and principles of open government, promote adherence to the rules of the game, and develop an appropriate response mechanisms for countries that fall short of the standards set.
- The IRM provided a high level snapshot of key data that underlies some of the rules of game questions. The problem of government-managed participation and consultation persists - OGP's next frontier: a truly open and pluralist dialogue.
- The state of the partnership: data shows the sub-national pilot is returning great results, and the national plans are heading in the right direction. 60% have at least one starred commitment; 40% still do not. On the one hand, there is evidence of improvement in terms of specificity, relevance, and completion. On the other hand, there are declines in ratings for potential impact. This suggests either that (1) the IRM has become more rigorous in how it assesses potential impact or (2) governments have become less ambitious, for whatever reason.

### *Action Points:*

- SU to develop ToRs for the Rapid Response Policy, working with the volunteers from this group.
- SU and IRM to provide more information and evidence-based updates for the Caucus to review ahead of future in-person meetings.

## 3. Thematic Leadership

### *Key highlights from the discussion*

- Zuzana provided an update on the resolution to be put to the SC for approval, which establishes the mandate of the Thematic Leadership subcommittee (TLS) and, in line with the proposed objectives to advance thematic leadership, proposes sunseting the working groups to be replaced with a more responsive and accountable partnerships and funding models.

=> The rationale for the TLS lies in the recognition that reviews and ongoing conversations with the OGP community highlighted that the working groups weren't delivering the expected results, and in the need to (re)focus on ambition and thematic leadership as outlined in the Strategic Refresh. The new TLS will serve as a more agile and responsive vehicle for political and strategic leadership on OGP's main issue areas, supported by more capacity within the SU devoted to research, data, partnerships on thematic priorities.

- Questions members suggested should be considered in the long run include:
  - How do we get governments to move on political leadership? How do we track what's being done, and how do we ensure accountability?
  - Push for bottom-up approach whereby the evidence feeds the leadership, so that the issues with the most potential get traction. This allows building natural and stronger networks (eg working with line ministries, stronger contacts with CS, ...)
  - The members agreed that it was important to pin down appropriate priorities. As was discussed by the TLS members in their meeting, the Paris Declaration and co-chair vision could serve as filters to focus the TLS' work.
- Members suggested the TLS work to ensure that different themes and stakeholders (parliaments and private sector, eg) are involved.

*Action items:*

- Following the adoption of the mandate, TLS to keep the full Steering Committee informed of next steps on priorities and opportunities, as well as the new partnerships and funding model.

### 3. Discussion on country performance

The SC members then discussed updates on challenges that had emerged at the country level, related to country engagement and performance in OGP.

**Turkey:**

- Turkey will formally leave OGP on September 20th due to inaction

**Azerbaijan:**

Azerbaijan is still inactive based on the [June SC decision](#). SU and C&S will continue working with government and civil society, and present recommendations to the full SC once their period of inactivity is completed.

Tanzania:

- A letter has been received notifying OGP that Tanzania will withdraw. The SU has acknowledged receipt. The stated reason provided by the government references overlaps they perceive between the APRM and OGP. Twaweza will continue to promote open government principles among others through its work with partners like WRI, and the subnational pilot in Kigoma. The hope is that these efforts will show that open government can deliver resources and political capital.
- Several members called for a strong institutional response on the supposed overlap with the APRM, as this could set a dangerous precedent. OGP has an MOU with the APRM; clear guidance should be provided to African countries on how they can leverage this partnership. Further stronger messaging may need to be developed on the OGP-APRM complementarity.

Mexico:

- New spyware cases surfacing signal a further step backwards in government-civil society relations. There has been no official response from the government yet. There are some concerns that the government is allegedly bypassing the current multi-stakeholder forum to select a new set of CSOs to work with, a worrying development that may call for a stronger response from OGP.
- SC members discussed the need to prioritize discussions on a rapid response mechanism or a similar model to address these challenges more proactively at the country level when they first arise.

*Action items:*

- The letter by the [Mexican CSOs](#), addressed to the SU, will be shared with the SC members as per their request.

United States:

- The next US NAP is currently in development and the process is witnessing several challenges around meaningful co-creation and CSO involvement.
- Members discussed the need to continue monitoring the US process and think through how challenges of this nature could be dealt with within OGP, especially when it concerns a founding OGP country.