



Statement from OGP Steering Committee co-chairs on recent withdrawal by Mexican civil society from national OGP platform

14 June 2017

The Open Government Partnership Steering Committee [received a letter](#) on Tuesday, May 23rd from ten Mexican civil society organizations outlining their reasons for withdrawing from the Mexico Tripartite Technical Secretariat that governs the national OGP process in their country. These include allegations of surveillance of civil society organizations, which is a worrying global trend that undermines civic space and freedom of speech. As co-chairs we are following the situation closely, and offer our full support to all concerned parties especially Mexican civil society organizations, the Mexican government, and the National Institute of Transparency, Access to Information and Protection of Personal Data (INAI). We are united in our belief that the same ingredients of open government - meaningful open dialogue, transparency and accountability - that have had such tangible results in Mexico and in so many OGP National Action Plans around the world, will be equally helpful in reestablishing trust and cooperation between government and civil society in Mexico.

As co-chairs, we have benefited greatly from a close working relationship with our colleagues from the Mexican government and the Mexican civil society. Together they have been a leading force in OGP since it was founded in 2011, including as a lead chair and host of the 2015 OGP Global Summit, and as members of the steering committee.

Since its creation, the OGP framework has been based upon the idea that although each country situation is unique, with its own history and challenges, working together as an international body we can support one another with ideas and experience. Whereas the withdrawal by Mexican civil society is clearly a domestic issue, the OGP Steering Committee, which will next meet on June 27-28, will discuss this matter in order to reflect on how the Partnership can provide support to Mexican parties to continue working on open government reforms that can improve the lives of all Mexicans. We will reach out to Mexican government officials as well as civil society organizations in advance of the meeting to offer our full support.

OGP Steering Committee Co-Chairs

Government of France

Government of Georgia

Manish Bapna, Executive Vice President and Managing Director, World Resources Institute

Mukelani Dimba, Executive Director, Open Democracy Advice Centre