

**Open Government Partnership
Virtual Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 20, 2018**

Meeting Minutes and Action Items

Session 1 - 2018 Strategy for the Steering Committee

A. Key Decisions for the Steering Committee in 2018

The Governance and Leadership Subcommittee (GL) presented the key deliverables and decisions before the Steering Committee (SC) in 2018 (see “2018 Key Steering Committee Decisions Playbook” document for more information. This is a live document which will be adjusted as the year progresses and will be aligned to decisions taken by the SC.

In 2018 there is a record 76 action plans expected, the largest collection of action plans in one year since OGP’s founding. The development of these APs, which are due by August 31, will be a key deliverable for the whole Partnership. The global summit taking place in Georgia in July will be an action-forcing event to help push ambition in these 2018 action plans.

Action items for the Steering Committee:

- *As stewards of the partnership, the SC will have 3 primary roles to support the 2018 co-creation process:*
 1. *Support Open Gov Week activities including by organizing events in every Steering Committee country / CSO and lead by example through robust co-creation and implementation of action plans.*
 2. *Advance thematic leadership across the Partnership, with the SC as drivers of thematic priorities.*
 3. *Forge a stronger Steering Committee coalition to position OGP as a powerful, positive global movement for openness and deeper democracy, and as a countervailing force against the rise of closed government.*

B. 5th Global OGP Summit - Tbilisi, Georgia

A key accountability moment for many of the 2018 SC decisions and activities will be the 5th Global OGP Summit being hosted by the government of Georgia this July, and the SC meetings being planned on the sidelines of the summit (both working level and ministerial). The Support Unit is inviting proposals on four priority thematic tracks identified by the current co-chairs of OGP, the Government of Georgia and Mukelani Dimba:

1. Civic engagement
2. Anti-corruption
3. Public service delivery
4. Open track - Other themes not captured by the ones listed above that can bring added value to the Summit agenda.

Action items for the Steering Committee:

- *Submit proposals to lead sessions at the summit. **The last day to submit proposals is March 31, 2018**, and you may do so here: <http://ogpsummit.org/proposal>*

- *Confirm their Head of State/Government and/or OGP lead Minister's attendance as soon as possible, with the latter also for the Ministerial Steering Committee session on July 17.*
- *Help identify Ministers and civil society champions to lead on thematic priorities and participate in summit sessions.*
- *SC governments - Bring draft commitments or outlines of your action plans to the Global Summit, and engage in peer exchange with other governments and experts to inspire others and maximize ambition in upcoming action plans.*
- *Save the Date for SC meetings - Working Level on Monday 16 July and Ministerial level on Tuesday 17 July. Invitations and confirmed times will be sent in the coming weeks.*

C. Open Gov Week - May 7th-11th

The first global week dedicated to everything open government will take place between May 7-11th of 2018. Open Gov Week is a global call to action to amplify the role of citizens in government decision making and transforming how governments serve their citizens. The impetus to drive the success of the Open Gov Week campaign relies on the engagement of all OGP participants, with the SC leading by example. Some governments have already begun planning events, such as Canada who will make available a calendar of events and share toolkits and event planning guides for others to organize their own events in Canada, using Canada's co-chair priorities as guiding themes for OGW. The government of Indonesia are also planning OGW activities with a Sustainable Development Goals lense. For more information and to find inspiration, please visit the [Open Gov Website](#) and the attached note shared by the Government of Italy who implemented a national *Open Administration Day* for the past two years with great success, including over 300 events held across Italy in 2018 that reached over 40,000 people.

Action items for the Steering Committee:

- *Plan and implement events for OGW, which can include seminars, hackathons, public debates, webinars, open dataset releases and other events planned by citizens, civil society and governments.*

D. 2018 Steering Committee Elections

The Support Unit has received 4 government candidacy statements to fill the 4 seats available in 2018. The governments of **Argentina, France, Nigeria and Romania** have been endorsed by GL, and will serve 3-year terms beginning on October 1. The new SC members will be invited to join the July SC meetings in Tbilisi as observers before they officially begin their SC terms in October. **A formal announcement of the will be made on April 3.** Please do not share this news until we have a chance to coordinate the formal announcement with the newly elected (and re-elected) SC members.

All government SC members, including newly elected, may run for SC Co-Chairmanship. SC members who are interested in running for co-chairs should submit a letter of candidacy outlining their proposed agendas should they be elected. **The deadline for expressions of interest to serve as co-chairs is June 15.** The SC will select the incoming co-chairs through a vote if there are more than one candidate. Voting will be done by secret ballot at the Tbilisi SC meeting. Find more information on the process [here](#).

The Civil Society Steering Committee (CS SC) chairs have launched the selection process to fill two seats in 2018. In addition, the CS SC is piloting a new process in 2018 of selecting up to two additional members who will be invited to join meetings, but would not have voting rights, therefore not breaking the balance between the government and civil society split of the SC.

The call for CS SC nominations closes on April 5. The selection process will take place through mid-May, and the final selection will be endorsed by the SC by end of May. Find more information on the process [here](#).

Action items for the Steering Committee:

- *As part of building a strong coalition within the SC, we call on all members to help recruit strong candidates to serve as incoming chairs and support the Government of Canada and Nathaniel Heller during their lead co-chair year.*
- *Nominate civil society leaders to join the CS SC in 2018. The deadline is April 5.*

Session 2- Thematic Leadership Subcommittee (TLS)

The TLS co-chairs presented the 2018 TLS work plan which focuses on advancing thematic leadership across the Partnership. The TLS work plan uses the Paris Declaration as an organizing framework of priority areas. The work plan leverages the full SC engagement to drive ambition and advance thematic leadership at three levels: in-country, cross-country, and global.

The work plan also outlines concrete proposed actions for advancing priority themes, and facilitate the work plan's implementation. For each theme, TLS will work with SC members to identify required actions, deliverables and deadlines. These actions and deliverables should be strategic, concrete, and substantive, aimed at advancing reforms. For example, the Government of Indonesia highlighted that is seeking partners to co-organize a high level panel on Beneficial Ownership at the upcoming 5th Global Summit hosted by the Government of Georgia in July.

Steering Committee members highlighted the importance of striking a balance between core open government themes and sector specific areas through which wider constituencies can be engaged and brought into the OGP community (e.g. the focus on climate related issues in the past years has helped quadruple the number of OGP commitments in that area, and helped create coalitions of CSOs, governments and other partners).

It was also recommended to disaggregate some of the broad open government issues into more specific themes, such as water and sanitation, health services, and public education within the Public Service Delivery umbrella, and identify leaders within the SC and the community to push these themes forward.

Steering Committee members also raised the importance of aligning the support available through the OGP Trust Fund to OGP's thematic priorities, to help build coalitions that can advocate for more ambition in OGP action plans.

A key component of the TLS work plan is the accountability mechanisms to hold each other accountable. The work plan will use SC and TLS meetings as opportunities to take stock of actions taken by SC members to advance the themes they lead. This will include having a thematic component at each SC meeting, and sharing the state of thematic priorities through

periodic updates, showcasing successes and challenges. The 76 action plans due in 2018 represent key opportunities to demonstrate thematic ambition and leadership.

For more information, including prioritizations of themes, please consult the draft TLS work plan on pages 9-17 of this [meeting's SC packet](#). A final version that incorporates the SC comments will be published soon.

Action items for the Steering Committee:

- *Identify thematic priorities outlined in the TLS work plan which SC members would like to lead or join. **TLS co-chairs request your action by April 6.***
- *For areas in which you have been identified to lead, work with the TLS subcommittee to develop concrete actions to follow in 2018.*
- *Help identify strategic partners to and broaden the community and build movements on these topics.*

Session 3 - Criteria & Standards Subcommittee (C&S)

The C&S co-chairs presented the 2018 work plan for the subcommittee. In line with the C&S mandate outlined in the OGP Articles of Governance, the C&S will oversee that all governments uphold OGP's values and procedures. In addition, the C&S will engage in other priority areas, such as developing a Rapid Response Mechanism, revising the Articles of Governance, and providing support to countries that are undergoing challenging situations that are hindering their active participation in OGP. As part of the [Procedural Review](#) and [Response Policy](#), C&S will review the participation of these countries in 2018. For more information on C&S's work plan and countries under review, please consult pages 18-23 of the [SC packet](#).

Action items for the Steering Committee:

- *Identify which countries under review you could support in coordination with the C&S in 2018. The C&S co-chairs will reach out to the SC separately to identify potential support.*

Session 4 - 2018 Support Unit/IRM work plan

In 2016 the SC endorsed the strategic refresh which outlines a forward-looking strategic direction for OGP. In order to achieve the objectives of the refresh, an implementation plan was endorsed by the GL subcommittee in 2017. As a continuation of that plan, and to support the key SC decisions and activities lined up for 2018, the SU and IRM have developed a work plan organized around six collective deliverables.

The six overarching areas of work outlined below call on the whole partnership as a collective, including the Support Unit, Steering Committee, Envoys, Ambassadors and other OGP partners:

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;

6. Expand the resources available for OGP's work.

Some areas highlighted by SC members to help achieve these collective deliverables include having more human-focused, evidenced-based stories on how open government can positively affect citizens. To help position OGP on the global stage, it was highlighted that the Support Unit should engage our OGP Ambassadors deeper and more often, and to have a more consistent narrative and messaging to reinforce the OGP brand.

SC members requested to have a more concrete plan of how to build a stronger coalition within the SC itself. The Support Unit will work with the lead SC co-chairs to define a strategy to achieve a more cohesive SC, and will utilize the upcoming global summit in Tbilisi to reflect on the SC's individual and collective achievements.

The 2018 SU/IRM work plan and budget was endorsed by the Steering Committee. Please refer to pages 24-37 of the [SC packet](#) for more details.

Action items for the Steering Committee:

- *Review the "Steering Committee" role section of the work plan and provide support for the implementation of the activities.*
- *The priority countries and local participants identified by the Support Unit in 2018 are:*
 - *Africa: Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa*
 - *Americas: Canada, Chile, Colombia*
 - *Asia Pacific: Georgia, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, South Korea*
 - *Europe: Germany, Ukraine*
 - *Local: Elgeyo Marakwet, Kenya; Kigoma, Tanzania; Paris, France; Sao Paulo, Brazil; Tbilisi, Georgia.*

List of Attendees

Civil Society Steering Committee Members

1. Manish Bapna, World Resources Institute (WRI)
2. María Baron, Directorio Legislativo
3. Helen Darbishire, Access Info Europe
4. Mukelani Dimba, International School for Transparency (Lead Co-Chair)
5. Aidan Eyakuze, Twaweza
6. Robin Hodess, Transparency International
7. Marie Lintzer, Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI), Second for Suneeta Kaimal
8. Giorgi Kldiashvili, Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)
9. Tur-Od Lkhagvajav, Asia Democracy Network (ADN)
10. Preston Whitt, Results for Development (R4D) - Second for Nathaniel Heller, Incoming Co-Chair)
11. Zuzana Wienk, Fair Play Alliance

Government Steering Committee Members

1. Government of Canada (Incoming Co-Chair) - Melanie Robert, Jaimie Boyd, and Mark Levene
2. Government of Chile - Francisco Sánchez
3. Government of Croatia - Sandra Pernar
4. Government of France - Amelie Banzet
5. Government of Georgia (Lead Co-Chair) - Zurab Sanikidze, Ketty Tsanova
6. Government of Indonesia - Yanuar Nugroho
7. Government of Italy - Stefano Pizzicannella,
8. Government of Mexico - Pablo Villarreal
9. Government of South Korea - Sudok Han, Yujin Lee

Apologies:

10. Government of Romania
11. Government of South Africa