Rotation of civil society members of the OGP Steering Committee (2014)

Introduction

The role of the OGP Steering Committee - consisting of 9 representatives from government and 9 from civil society – is "to develop, promote and safeguard the values, principles and interests of the OGP. It also establishes the core ideas, policies, and rules of the partnership, and oversees the functioning of the partnership" (Articles of Governance). The normal term of the Steering Committee members, whether civil society or government, is 3 years - with the possibility of a one term renewal.

It has been agreed by the Steering Committee that 3 government and 3 civil society members will rotate annually. It also has been agreed that in 2014 the SC will grow to 11[1] government members and 10 civil society members. This means that for civil society 5 seats will need to be filled on the SC in 2014.

The rotation provides an opportunity to ensure that civil society members have the right profile and skills in the Steering Committee to address the specific challenges and opportunities facing OGP in the coming period. The rotation process set out in this note will be a fully transparent process that seeks to attract capable candidates from a diversity of regions and backgrounds, leading to a balanced team of civil society members on the Steering Committee who are well-positioned to *provide strategic and effective leadership to the OGP*.

The overall information on the rotation process has already been made public by the OGP Support Unit here: http://www.opengovpartnership.org/node/3714

Current civil society members of the OGP Steering Committee

The current nine members of the Steering Committee are
- Mr. Rakesh Rajani (Twaweza, lead CS co-chair)
- Ms. Suneeta Kaimal (Revenue Watch Institute, support CS co-chair),
- Mr. Warren Krafchik (International Budget Partnership, immediate past co-chair)
- Ms. Iara Pietricovsky (INESC)
- Mr. Nikhil Dey (MKSS)
- Mr. Martin Tisne(representing Transparency and Accountability Initiative)
- Mr. Alejandro Gonzalez (GESOC)
- Ms. Veronica Cretu (Open Government Institute)
- Ms. Maryati Abdullah (Publish What You Pay Indonesia)

Ms Iara Pietrokovsky, Mr Nikhil Dey and Ms Maryati Abdullah will rotate off. Their term will end at the end of the SC meeting scheduled for the third week of September 2014.

Responsibilities of SC members

Responsibilities
- Champion and articulate core OGP ideas and values on the global stage;
- Represent the interests and ideas of the international OGP civil society community in the SC;
- Participate in and add demonstrable value to in-person OGP and SC meetings and in 1 or more subcommittees of the SC;

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[1] At the Steering Committee meeting of May 5 in Bali it was decided to enlarge the SC to 11 Civil Society members and 11 governments.

- Participate in the calls of the civil society members of the SC (at minimum the regular calls once a month);
- Represent the Steering Committee and OGP at national, regional and international meetings;
- Effectively promote open government OGP civil society community (e.g. presenting at events, write blogposts).

Qualifications and key attributes of SC members

The selection committee will assess and rank the candidates on the basis of the following requirements:

Key requirement
- Ability to engage strategically at the global level, in particular exercise good judgement, engage effectively with senior government and civil society members; read and represent the concerns and interests of the civil society community; powerfully clearly articulate core OGP issues.

Other requirements
- Long-term experience in civil society/grounding and legitimacy in national, regional and/or international networks;
- Experience in at least one and preferably more areas of the Open Government Partnership Declaration, transparency, accountability, citizen engagement and/or smart use of technology;
- Live up to the OGP principles by practising high levels of openness, integrity and accountability (e.g. disclosure of annual plan/budget, publishing audited accounts)
- Highly organized, detail-oriented, ability to consistently meet tight deadlines;
- Proficiency in English desirable as that is the working language of the Steering Committee;
- Possess strong interpersonal skills; desire to work as part of a small, virtual team;
- Ability to dedicate ½-1 day a week to OGP – with intensity increasing around SC meetings and other OGP meetings;
- Possessing skills that can advance a civil society agenda in the context of current OGP challenges;
- Thoughtful, good listener, humble, projects quiet strength, elicits respect;
- Ability to travel.

Diversity

As we strive for a balanced Steering Committee diversity will be taken into account (.g.e.g. gender, geographical region, type of experience/organisation, OGP issues, skills). In particular, regional diversity is one of the key factors taken into account. The note states that the "selection mechanism would strive for a regional balance in membership within 3 subsequent rotations, so that SC would ultimately be regionally balanced. This means to have at least 1 and a maximum of 2 persons from North America and at least 1 and a maximum of 3 from each of the regions Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Europe and Asia/Oceania. There would also be at least 1 and a maximum of 2 members from the headquarters of international organisations/networks/coalitions."

Looking at the current mix we can state that candidates from Africa, Asia/Oceania and Latin America and the Caribbean and candidates with social movements/campaigns credentials and/or working in the fields of access to information, fiscal transparency or extractives are especially encouraged to apply.

Nomination process

- The nomination phase opens on April 9, 2014 and closes at midnight GMT on 1 June 2014.
- OGP seeks civil society leaders who bring the abilities and proven track record that can further the global initiative as outlined above. Candidates may be nominated by an organisation, coalition or network, or nominate themselves. Organisations, coalitions and networks can be national, regional or global.
- Candidates are voted on and serve in their individual capacity; should a SC member leave before their term ends no presumption would be made that his/her replacement will come from the same entity;
- Nominations are submitted by sending the following sending the following to rotation@opengovpartnership.org:
  - Your CV (max 4 pages)
  - A cover letter explaining a) your (or the candidate you are nominating) motivation for joining, b) what open government experience/skills you bring, c) highlight demonstrated track record in global level leadership, articulation and strategy (max 2 pages)
  - One strong example of a video, blogpost, article or piece of writing you (or the candidate you are nominating) have already done that reflects your thinking and articulation on open government and civil society issues.
- All complete nominations will be uploaded in full to the OGP website and will be public for all to see;
- Each shortlisted candidate will be asked provide at least two written endorsements in support of their candidacy. Written endorsements are an important sign of support and will be considered strongly in the selection process.

Selection process

The selection committee will carefully document the basis of their choice and communicate a short list with clear indication of preference of top three candidates to the civil society members of the SC, who will ultimately endorse the decision in writing as per the Articles of Governance.

After initial approval by the CSO SC members of the final list of proposed new members, the selection committee in writing will present an account of their process, deliberation and choice to the broader community– making clear why they feel the selected candidates will do the best job. The names will be released at the same moment as OGP announces the new Steering Committee (scheduled for on 4 August 2014).

The newly chosen Steering Committee members will formally commence their term at the conclusion of the Steering Committee meeting tentatively planned in New York in the third week of September 2014.

Selection committee composition

The selection will be undertaken by the selection committee, comprised of Warren Krafchik (immediate past co-chair) and Suneeta Kaimal (support co-chair) from the current SC, 2 volunteers from the broader OGP CSO community (to be selected as outlined below) and Paul Maassen (OGP Civil Society Coordinator -- CSC). The lead co-chair will be kept informed of key developments but not serve as a member of the selection committee.

Candidates for two external members for the selection committee are invited to send a short letter explaining their motivation and qualification to serve to the Lead Civil Society Co-Chair (with a copy to the CSC) by 2 June 2014.

The lead CS co-chair and the CSC will assess the candidates for the external members of the selection committee along the criteria: active members of CS, good understanding of OGP and what its leadership requires, experience with recruitment and selection processes, experience with SC type of governance mechanisms, time commitment, diversity.

Summary of process and timeline

Announcement	This note describing rotation process, criteria for selection and anticipated needs for the coming OGP year published on the OGP website, the civil society site, newsletter and mailing list. All CS members encourage to post on their sites too and publicize it.	April 25
Nomination	Nominations and endorsements can be submitted and will be published online. In parallel open invitation for external two volunteers for the selection committee.	April 1 – June 15
Selection	Selection committee will assess and rank candidates using criteria and needs stipulated in announcement note, shortlisted candidates will be interviewed in person, final candidates will be presented to and need to be endorsed by civil society SC members in writing.	June 15 – July 31
Accountability	Selection committee publishes account of their process, deliberation and choice to the broader OGP community and OGP officially announces the new Steering Committee	August 4