OGP Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 22-23, 2015

Wednesday, April 22 – Working-Level Business Meeting

Guillermo Ruiz de Teresa, on behalf of the Government of Mexico, and Suneeta Kaimal, civil society co-chair, welcomed the Steering Committee members to the meeting. Mr. Ruiz de Teresa then reviewed the agenda and invited all participants to introduce themselves. He then asked the Support Unit (SU) and Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) to provide an update of accomplishments since the last SC meeting in October 2014. The updates are attached here as Annex I.

At the end of the session, Linda Frey, the Executive Director of the SU, announced her intention to step down from her position in September. Suneeta Kaimal noted that the process for recruiting a new Executive Director would be discussed later in the day, and on behalf of the SC, thanked Ms. Frey for her tremendous contribution to the growth and impact of OGP.

Peer Learning and Support (PLS)

Working Groups

Martin Tisne, chair of the PLS subcommittee, opened the session by summarizing the discussion at the subcommittee meeting on April 21:
- PLS discussed the recommendations emerging from a recent external review of OGP's thematic Working Groups, noting that the review was quite helpful in identifying possible improvements to the current model. A key objective is to balance the Working Groups' role in providing expert advice with the goal of promoting peer exchange.
- The subcommittee also discussed how to strengthen demand for the services provided by the Working Groups. One idea is for the Working Groups to provide targeted, in-depth support to a smaller number of countries before scaling up work.
- The PLS agreed on the following timeline to develop new guidance for the revised Working Group model:
  - May-June 2015: SU to revise guidance based on PLS and Working Group input
  - July 2015: PLS working session to finalize guidance and develop recommendation for SC on whether/when to introduce new Working Groups
  - October 2015: Refined model announced at Global Summit Working Group sessions
  - November – December 2015: Working Groups prepare 2016 work plans

The SC briefly discussed the findings of the PLS, agreeing that the Working Groups should balance their technical assistance and peer learning functions. They noted that it is easier for the Working Groups to succeed when they are focused on topic areas where many OGP countries have made commitments.

The co-anchor of the Natural Resources Working Group offered to pilot in its current work plan some of the ideas being discussed by the PLS subcommittee.

Africa Regional Meeting

Susan Mlawi of the Government of Tanzania provided an update on the upcoming Africa Regional Meeting, scheduled for May 19-21 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and invited all SC members to participate. She also noted that the President of Tanzania is scheduled to open the meeting. SC members and the SU thanked Tanzania for hosting the meeting, which presents an excellent opportunity both to reinvigorate the OGP process in current participating countries, as well as to reach out to countries in the region that are not part of OGP.

European OGP 'Point of Contact' Conference

Zurab Sanikidze of the Government of Georgia introduced the European Points of Contact (PoC) Conference in Tbilisi, Georgia on June 3-4. He explained that this will be the first stand-alone meeting for PoCs and presents a unique opportunity for sharing experiences and building a network of government practitioners across the region. More than 30 governments have been invited to attend the event, joined by several representatives from civil society and multilaterals. The SC thanked Georgia for hosting the meeting and noted the importance of peer exchange among POCs.

Peer Exchange Efforts led by SC Members

Martin Tisne asked several SC members to share examples of how they were benefitting from or supporting peer exchange. Examples included the following:
- Supporting the government of Paraguay in drafting and implementing access to information legislation and supporting El Salvador with an asset disclosure portal (Brazil)
- Implementing access to information legislation with support from Mexico's IFAI (Georgia)
- Learning methods for participatory budgeting from Brazil and supporting Sierra Leone in the development of its Open Data Portal (Philippines)
- Providing assistance with building transparency portals for various governments (UK)
- Supporting bilateral peer exchange with other countries in the region (Croatia).
- Hosting open data events and sharing tools and experiences at the upcoming International Open Data Conference in Canada (France)
- Supporting countries to become eligible to join OGP (UK, Philippines, others).

Paul Maassen, the Director of the Civil Society Engagement team, announced that civil society groups from 5 countries have developed a methodology for assessing national OGP processes and advocating for improvements. The SU is also designing a workshop for upcoming OGP events to offer guidance on establishing effective 'permanent dialogue mechanisms' to lead the OGP process at the national level.

Criteria and Standards (CS)

Roberta Solis Ribeiro of the Government of Brazil, chair of the Criteria and Standards subcommittee (CS), opened the session by summarizing the subcommittee's in-person meeting on March 10-11 in Washington, D.C. Since that meeting, both Malta and Turkey have taken steps to re-engage with OGP and to ensure delivery of new National Action Plans in the coming months. Ms. Solis Ribeiro also updated the Steering Committee on the discussion regarding the first concern filed under the OGP response policy, relating to the Government of Azerbaijan.

Update from the Independent Reporting Mechanism

Joseph Foti provided an overview of the process for nominating and selecting the new members of the Independent Experts Panel (IEP). In selecting the new IEP members, there was some shift in emphasis from development of methods and quality control to ensuring stronger communications and utility of the reports. Several of the new members have strong experience in technology, which was a gap before, and there is strong regional diversity in the new group. At the same time, it continues to be important to prioritize strong credentials in good governance and democracy.

Proposed Rule Clarifications

Ms. Solis Ribeiro then introduced the proposal for rule clarifications related to the OGP calendar (see Annex II). Joe Powell summarized the rationale for the proposed policy clarifications as being to provide open and transparent rules on the OGP calendar, and to avoid a situation where countries move from 'odd' to 'even' year groupings (or vice-versa) without knowing what the consequences are. On inactive status, Mr Powell reminded the SC that this was created with the OGP Response Policy, but that the SC needed to give greater guidance on when a country could be moved to inactive status. He noted the policies would only apply to a very small minority of countries but are important to establish clear deadlines and incentives for countries to remain active participants in OGP. He noted that the priority of the Steering Committee should continue to be engaging less active countries and supporting them to complete their OGP action plans on time.

The SC discussed the proposal, noting the importance of this issue since action plans are at the heart of OGP. In other comments, individual members inquired about the process for seeking civil society input in a deliberation on inactive status, expressed caution regarding not wanting create too many rules for OGP, and noted the importance of making sure rules for the SU and IRM are 'aligned.'

Following the discussion, Ms. Solis Riberio read the resolution for approval. With no objections, the resolution was adopted as follows:

> *The Steering Committee resolves to adopt recommendations from the Criteria and Standards subcommittee that clarify rules related to country participation in OGP. The Steering Committee endorses the importance of having clear, transparent rules regarding the OGP calendar for National Action Plans. In addition, the Steering Committee recognizes that all OGP participating*

governments should be producing new National Action Plans every two years, and that in some circumstances governments that are unable to fulfill all of their obligations under the Articles of Governance should be considered for inactive status until they take steps to re-engage in OGP. Inactive status may already be considered under the terms of the OGP Response Policy. The policy includes steps for countries to reactivate their participation in OGP. These rules changes should be posted to the OGP website and implemented with immediate effect, and incorporated into the Articles of Governance during the next review period.

OGP Response Policy

Following approval of the resolution, Joe Powell updated the SC on the agreed procedures and protocols for implementing the OGP response policy (one of the background documents for the meeting). He reminded SC members that the response policy aims to help countries address challenges they are facing, while also protecting the credibility of OGP. 'Phase 1' interventions of the response policy are therefore designed to help countries improve, to be followed by an invitation to a Steering Committee meeting and possibly inactive status if no improvements are seen.

There was then a detailed discussion of the letter of concern submitted regarding the Government of Azerbaijan. The CS subcommittee members who worked on the review of the concern summarized the process and their findings. They noted that the goal with this first review was to be as thorough as possible to set a solid precedent for future concerns filed under the response policy. They also summarized the key issues mentioned in the letter of concern, including legislation that has affected civil society access to funding and alleged harassment of activists working on transparency issues.

In the course of their research the reviewers sought to find evidence about the allegations in the letter. The reviewers also considered a letter from the Government of Azerbaijan responding to the concerns. Finally, they informed the SC of the recent downgrading of Azerbaijan by the Extractives Industries Transparency Initiative.

The CS subcommittee chair noted that CS members had requested some edits to the report and will meet to approve or reject the document within 20 working days of the submission date (April 16th, 2015). It was agreed a further update will be provided by circular to the full SC once CS has determined whether to approve the report.

In terms of process, the drafters of the report noted that it took approximately 75 staff hours to complete the document. This raises a challenge for CS reviewers if there are parallel concerns filed with the Support Unit in future.

Governance and Leadership (GL)

Articles of Governance

Mr. Powell pointed participants to the draft resolution on the revisions to the Articles of Governance. He noted that this set of revisions reflects decisions made by the SC in 2014. The version was sent to the SC for approval in February, and subsequently posted for the required 30-day public comment period in March. He noted that while the Support Unit did receive several comments, most of them were related to sections of the Articles that had not actually been amended in this round of revisions. The SU will therefore share any relevant public comments with the appropriate subcommittee for future consideration.

Without any objection, the resolution was adopted as follows:

> *The Steering Committee approves the revisions made to the Articles of Governance that were incorporated in the version opened for public comment on March 11, 2015. The revisions reflect Steering Committee decisions made in 2014. The Steering Committee further resolves that the subcommittees should be mandated to examine relevant public comments received.*

Non-Universally Recognized Applicants

Mr. Ruiz de Teresa asked Larry Sperling of the U.S. Government to provide an update on the status of discussions regarding non-universally recognized applicants to OGP. Mr. Sperling noted that despite several attempts, SC governments had not been able to agree on proposed language to respond to non-universally recognized applicants. After discussion it was agreed that, given the lack of consensus, the GL subcommittee would need to identify appropriate next steps for OGP to communicate with current and future non-universally recognized applicants. SC members noted there were other ways of engaging these applicants, including through peer exchange, civil society outreach and inclusion in OGP events.

Organizational Status of the OGP Support Unit

Mr. Ruiz de Teresa updated the SC on GL subcommittee discussions on this issue since the last SC meeting in September. In response to concerns raised by several government SC members, GL had agreed not to pursue the incorporation of the Support Unit for the time being, but to continue exploring the merits of various organizational models, while remaining under the fiscal sponsorship of the Tides Center. South Africa then briefly presented some other possible models that could give OGP international legal status, noting that OGP's unique multi-stakeholder structure makes this issue challenging to resolve. Following those discussions, the SC agreed that it would be helpful to review South Africa's analysis, including the pros and cons of other possible models, once it is complete. GL, with South Africa leading, agreed to provide another update to the SC at the July meeting.

Support Unit Financial Status

The session continued with a discussion of the financial status of the OGP Support Unit and IRM. Support Unit ED Linda Frey provided an update to the SC on 2015 revenue and expenditures, noting that

the SU will have sufficient revenue to cover its projected budget of $5.43 million for 2015. She reminded the SC that OGP's 4-year strategy identifies a fundraising target of $24m over 4 years. To date, OGP has raised close to 75% of this target. While this is quite positive, there is still some work to do to achieve the goal of securing the full 4-year budget by the time of the 2015 Global Summit. With one more significant, multi-year grant from a bilateral aid agency and one more from a private foundation OGP would be very close to meeting its fundraising goal.

Government Financial Contributions to OGP

Linda Frey then introduced Sangita Sigdyal, the newly appointed Director of Operations, and asked her to provide some background on the status of implementation of the annual government contributions policy approved by the SC in May 2014. Ms. Sigdyal outlined steps taken since January 2015 to implement the policy, including sending a letter of explanation to all OGP ministerial-level contacts, followed by invoices for the requested contribution. She thanked the nine countries that have already contributed in 2015 and estimated that at least 22 countries (⅓ of all OGP countries) will very likely contribute by the end of the year. This is in line with previous projections provided to the SC, particularly given that countries have until the end of 2016 to comply with the new policy.

Ms. Sigdyal then summarized some of the feedback the Support Unit has received on the new policy, including questions about the requested contribution level for small high-income countries, as well as whether the SC consulted all OGP countries before deciding on the policy. On behalf of GL, Mr. Ruiz de Teresa proposed that the implementation of the country contributions policy be reviewed at the first SC meeting in 2016. This is in keeping with SC practice of assessing important new policies after the first year of implementation.

During the ensuing discussion, participants shared the following questions and comments:
● Should governments be paying a larger share of OGP's budget to ensure long-term sustainability of the initiative, especially after 2018?
● One member noted that since some governments have expressed concerns about the policy, the SC should conduct a more thorough consultation and reconsider the consequence for not paying. This member also suggested assessing options to reduce the costs of running the Secretariat.
● Other members expressed that the policy on annual government contributions was discussed and adopted by consensus by the full SC after significant deliberation, and therefore should not be revisited.
● One participant suggested that the budget for the Support Unit and IRM should actually be much larger, given OGP's scale and ambition.
● OGP should continue to evaluate the possibility of setting up a multi-donor trust fund housed by a multilateral institution, as this would likely facilitate government contributions.
● Several members suggested that the SC could consult with other participating governments on the sidelines of the Global Summit and volunteered to help with this.

Executive Director Transition

Suneeta Kaimal then walked through the next steps on the Executive Director transition, including appointing a search committee comprised of SC members, hiring an international search firm to lead the recruitment, and eventually securing GL approval on the candidate. SC members were asked to consider nominating themselves or a fellow SC member to serve on the search committee, and to inform the SU of these nominations by May 1st. Suneeta noted that the ideal scenario would be to have the new Executive Director identified by September and introduced at the Global Summit.

External Communications

Linda Frey introduced Dietlind Lerner, the newly appointed Director of Communications. Dietlind shared her thoughts on two near-term priorities to improve OGP's external communications: 1) generate and disseminate more stories of impact that can "humanize" open government for a much broader audience; and 2) help those leading the OGP process at the national-level to more effectively promote OGP in their own countries by providing a toolbox of messaging and communications materials. Dietlind invited all SC members to contact her in the next several weeks to discuss OGP messaging, and to provide her with a communications contact in their agency (or organization) who would be willing to coordinate communications efforts with the Support Unit moving forward.

Preparing for the Global Summit

Mr. Ruiz de Teresa announced that the 2015 Global Summit would be held October 27-29, 2015 in Guadalajara, Mexico. He gave a brief presentation on the overarching theme for the Summit, 'open government as an enabler of inclusive development' and invited SC members to share any feedback on the Summit concept note (a background document for the meeting).

Ms. Frey then gave a brief update on the 2015 Open Government Awards, noting that the theme of Improving Public Services fits well with the inclusive development focus of the Global Summit. She reminded SC members that applications are due on June 15th, and that winners will be notified in August and invited to present a TED-style talk on their initiative at the Global Summit.

Thursday, April 23 – Ministerial-Level Meeting

Welcome and Review of the Agenda

On behalf of the Government of Mexico, Alejandra Lagunes, Minister Virgilio Andrade, and Under Secretary Gomez Robledo welcomed SC members to the meeting and thanked them for their ongoing commitment to OGP. Suneeta Kaimal then offered opening remarks, noting that this meeting was designed to provide an opportunity for the SC to discuss some of the most interesting strategic opportunities and challenges OGP is facing.

How are OGP Countries Doing?

To open the first session, Linda Frey reflected on how much more information the Support Unit now has on how OGP countries are doing, thanks to the effective work of the [1-year old] Direct Country Support team. The members of this team now have regular check-in calls with almost all participating countries, which is a big difference from 2 years ago, when the SU was unable to track real-time developments in OGP countries.

The Support Unit and IRM teams then made a presentation covering the following: 1) a set of new OGP success stories from the past few years for SC members to use in their OGP outreach; 2) an overview of basic statistics on the 'state of the partnership' as many countries enter the second action plan cycle; 3) country case studies to illustrate how various OGP partners have come together to make the most of the OGP opportunity; 4) a basic analysis of the 'typologies' of country performance across OGP; 5) a summary of unreviewed IRM data, indicating that, from the first to second action plan, most countries seem to be improving on OGP process requirements and drafting more specific, measurable commitments; 6) an overview of the categories of challenges that many OGP countries are facing, and ways in which SC members could help confront these challenges.

The session chair then opened the floor for questions or comments, which included the following:
- This analysis by the SU is extremely useful in helping to match country needs with SC assets.
- SC members are keen to support governments where political transitions present both a challenge and opportunity, such as Ukraine.
- Peer exchange is at the heart of the OGP theory of change, and the working groups should be called on to help countries come together and solve problems;
- To raise OGP's profile and garner high-level political support, we must make the case that open government is critical to realizing the goals of major upcoming global policy debates, including Post-2015, Financing for Development, COP 21 in Paris.
- After a change in administration, OGP co-chairs should make a minister-to-minister approach to engage new OGP leaders at both the domestic and global levels.
- The African Union Summit in June presents a good opportunity for high-level outreach on OGP with other African ministers and Heads of State.

OGP and Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals

Suneeta Kaimal introduced the next session and invited Under Secretary Gomez Robledo of the Government of Mexico to provide a summary of the Post-2015 SDGs. His presentation covered a variety of topics, including the debate around Goal 16 -- promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. He noted Mexico's intention to host a high-level side event, with all the Heads of State/Government on the Steering Committee, on the margins of the UN General Assembly in September. At the event, Mexico proposes the adoption of a joint declaration identifying synergies between the post-2015 goals and OGP principles.

During the discussion, SC members made the following points:
- There is an opportunity for OGP to contribute to the data revolution discussion by pushing the principle that monitoring should rely on both government data and citizen-generated data.
- SC governments should consider forming a regular meeting group among their Permanent Missions in New York to support the inclusion of Goal 16, which remains contested.
- The SC could ask all countries to come to the 2015 Global Summit with examples of how they will link their OGP commitments to their country's implementation of the SDGs.
- OGP should encourage countries to bring their Ministers for the Environment to the Summit to promote more collaboration with the environmental community.
- All OGP countries could be asked to make a common commitment at the Summit to report regularly on revenues, investments and outcomes related to the implementation of the SDGs.

Strategic Discussion Sessions

Research on the Impact of Open Government

Goal of the Session: 1. To identify potential research partnerships; and 2. Begin to outline concrete priorities for OGP's research agenda for the 2016-2017 period.

The chairs of the session, Nathaniel Heller and the Richard Bon Moya of the Government of the Philippines opened by outlining the goals of the session. Linda Frey then provided an overview of the OGP Research Agenda, which includes three layers of analysis: 1) Compliance with the OGP process and completion of OGP commitments ; 2) 'Drivers of change' -- the factors that lead to the successful implementation of OGP initiatives; and 3) Short and long-term impacts of open government initiatives. She noted that impact research is arguably the most important, but also the most difficult to obtain.

The group agreed that the key objective for OGP should be to generate – or stimulate - more research on the uptake and impact of open government *initiatives*, not necessarily the impact or influence of OGP itself. Steering Committee members then made the following recommendations for consideration:

- To generate more research by OGP governments and their local partners, OGP could:
  - Promote models like that used in Mexico, where the government has partnered with a local research institute to study the impact of some of its OGP commitments.
  - Invite academics and interested multilateral partners to a research session at the Global Summit to stimulate their interest in doing research in OGP countries.
  - Launch an annual "OGP Research Award" in conjunction with the Open Government Awards
  - Ask governments to provide more information on the uptake and results of their initiatives as part of their OGP self-assessment reports.

- Develop or commission an analytic piece on the return on investment of open government initiatives. This would focus primarily on improvements in government efficiency in order to make the case to senior politicians.
- Put together a high-level synthetic piece on what we already know about the positive impact of open government. This would be targeted at a political audience and launched at the Global Summit in October.

Public Safety and Access to Justice

<u>Goal of the Session:</u> To start shaping a concrete plan on how to advance this agenda, including identifying potential champion countries and discussing outreach to leading human rights organizations.

The session started with an introduction to the topic by Tom Malinowski and Cecilia Blondet. They underlined the importance of this topic as a cornerstone of the open government agenda - one that is undersubscribed in OGP. Public safety and access to justice are areas where government becomes real for citizens. Improvements in these have multiple positive effects, including on building trust in government and its institutions.

Tom emphasized that each country in OGP has its challenges in this domain. Cecilia highlighted that many people in the South do not know about their rights, let alone how to exercise them. These communities suffer from a weak delivery of public services - including justice. Paul Maassen shared that only 5.2% OGP of the 2000 commitments are tagged with judiciary, law enforcement & justice, human rights and public safety and only 12 are 'starred commitments'.

Participants agreed with the notion that human rights, public safety and access to justice are key to the open government narrative and are currently underrepresented in the commitments made. For furthering the agenda they had a few main suggestions: focus on sub-themes that fits closely and naturally to the OGP narrative (tight definition); trying to link to other fora (like Post2015) and issues (open data); bringing the communities and ministries working on these topics onto the OGP platform.

The Support Unit CSE team will prioritize outreach to human rights and justice organizations in 2015. Furthermore, the group agreed to create a voluntary task force that would take the discussion further, including exploring:
- sub-themes that would be most promising to explore;
- countries that would be willing to show leadership, for example by jointly making commitments;
- a summit session on the topic;
- if OGP should adapt either eligibility criteria or IRM methodology to include country performance on these issues.

Open Data

Goals of the Session: 1. To surface opportunities and challenges for supporting countries to develop sustainable open data programs; and 2. To develop a shared understanding of efforts underway and the timeline for the development of an International Open Data Charter.

Martin Tisne and the Government of France chaired the session, which opened with a brief presentation by Joe Foti on open data commitments in OGP. He noted that current commitments focus on supply-side approaches to open data rather than building inclusive eco-systems that involve end-users.

Participants were invited to share examples of open data in their national contexts. The governments of France (Open National Addressbase), United Kingdom (Democratic Dashboard and Skills Route), Mexico (open data solutions to address maternal mortality), and United States (OpenFDA) presented specific examples of open data in action in their countries. Following the presentations, participants shared experiences and surfaced issues that encompassed:
- Crowdsourced approaches to open data
- Approaches to catalyze innovation across government
- Privacy, Security, and Liability
- Costs of opening data
- Costs of analytics and building capacity of end-users

Given the newness of open data as a tool for open government reform, the group agreed on the need for a new strategy centered on collaboration and peer learning to mobilize open data for public service delivery and unleash innovation across government. Specific ideas offered included:
- Utilizing the Working Groups and OGP's wider peer exchange strategy to share both experiences and tools among countries implementing open data programs.
- Formulating common open data commitments across multiple countries in future action plans to find collective solutions to the challenges identified.

Subnational Government Innovations

Goals of the Session: 1. To share examples of open reforms at different levels of government and consider which ones could be profiled at the Global Summit; and 2. To recommend what steps, if any, OGP should take to allow for closer collaboration with local government offices.

Manish Bapna and Minister Andrade of Mexico co-chaired this session, which opened by recognizing the leadership that many subnational governments have shown on openness, transparency and accountability. It was noted that the OGP 4-year strategy included a section on bringing different actors into OGP, including subnational governments. Minister Andrade gave a presentation on Mexico's open government efforts at the subnational level, including the role of civil society, the information commission (IFAI) and the private sector. Mexico aims to have 12 states embrace open government plans by the end of 2015, with some of those showcased at the Global Summit in Guadalajara at the end of October. Minister Tsulukiani followed with a presentation on the Georgian context, including bringing open government to the village level and combatting local corruption.

The discussion included further examples from the United Kingdom, Brazil and the Philippines, and addressed the challenges of digital divide, including local government commitments in National Action Plans, and building on existing networks of local government officials, such as platforms for Mayors to collaborate.

The session concluded with an agreement to hold a subnational track at the Global Summit, to ask the Peer Learning and Support subcommittee to encourage exchange between subnational actors in different OGP countries, and to establish a taskforce that will draft an options paper on subnational government collaboration with OGP for the Steering Committee to discuss at the July meeting.

OGP Leadership

Next Co-Chairs of OGP

Minister Andrade of Mexico opened the session by thanking the Governments of France and Georgia for their strong applications to serve as government co-chair of the OGP. He announced that after a careful review of the applications, GL had agreed to nominate France as the next co-chair.

The session chair, Suneeta Kaimal, read the resolution and with no objections the resolution passed as follows:

> *The OGP Steering Committee hereby approves the nomination of the Government of France to be the next OGP government co-chair, serving for a two-year term as follows: October 1, 2015- September 30, 2016 as Support Chair and October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017 as Lead Chair.*

The government of France thanked the SC for its support and recognized the Government of Georgia in particular for their strong OGP leadership.

Alejandro Gonzales provided an update that the civil society caucus was not yet prepared to make a nomination on the next civil society co-chair but would report back to the full SC soon.

2015 Steering Committee Elections

Joe Powell reviewed the timeline for the 2015 SC election and suggested that current SC members should encourage potential government candidates to run. He noted that the SU will inform all governments of the 1-month nomination period and provide guidance on what information candidates should include in their proposals. Finally, he reminded the SC that, given current SC membership and the rules to ensure regional balance, a maximum of one additional country from the Americas and one additional country from Europe can be elected in 2015.

OGP Ambassadors

Representing the Government of the United Kingdom, Ms. Kitty von Bertele introduced the session on the OGP Ambassadors. She reminded the SC of its September 2014 resolution outlining the role and mandate for the OGP Ambassadors, explaining that the next step is to identify two additional Ambassadors to join Mo Ibrahim in the role in advance of the Global Summit.

Ms. Von Bertele noted that in the preceding weeks the UK and Warren Krafchik had solicited Ambassador nominations from all SC members, resulting in a list of 27 names for consideration. Warren Krafchik then explained the criteria used to select the list of 6 candidates that GL was now presenting to the SC for approval. He noted that gender, regional and sectoral diversity were also taken into account in shaping the list.

In discussion, the SC agreed that these individuals should be approached in a coordinated manner with an emphasis on high-level outreach. Several members also endorsed the idea that in the future OGP might consider identifying at least one Ambassador who would speak to a younger generation.

Following the discussion and without objection, the SC agreed the resolution as follows:

> *Pursuant to the Steering Committee's September 2014 resolution regarding the role and mandate of the new OGP Ambassadors, the Steering Committee agrees that the current OGP co-chairs and Mo Ibrahim should begin approaching the six individuals discussed by the Steering Committee and now shortlisted as OGP Ambassador nominees. It is also agreed that the individuals should be approached in the order listed, with the goal of identifying two or three new OGP Ambassadors by July 2015. The term of the OGP Ambassadors moving forward will be for three years with the possibility of renewal.*
>
> *If none of the individuals listed on the agreed shortlist of nominees are able to accept the OGP Ambassador position, the Government of the United Kingdom and Warren Krafchik will work with the Governance and Leadership subcommittee to propose a second shortlist of 6 nominees. This second list will be circulated to the full Steering Committee for approval by circular.*

Conclusions and Next Steps

Linda Frey summarized the conclusions of the day, including resolutions agreed on the next OGP government co-chair and the OGP Ambassadors. She reminded participants of the full calendar for the next 6 months, including the Africa Regional Meeting in Tanzania (May), the European Point of Contact Meeting in Georgia (June), the next SC meeting in South Africa (July), the OGP side event at the UNGA in New York (September) and the OGP Global Summit in Guadalajara, Mexico (October). In conclusion, Mexico and Suneeta Kaimal thanked the participants for their excellent contributions during the meeting and closed the session.

Location:
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico

Open Government Partnership Steering Committee

Governments

Brazil
Roberta Solis Ribeiro	Office of the Comptroller General (CGU)
Juliana Soares Santos	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Croatia
Tamara Puhovski	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

France
Boris Jamet-Fournier	Office of the Prime Minister
Henri Verdier	Etalab
Laure Lucchesi	Etalab
Claire-Marie Foulquier-Gazagnes	Etalab
Alexandre Palka	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Georgia
Minister Thea Tsulukiani	Ministry of Justice
Zurab Sanikidze	Ministry of Justice

Indonesia
Ambassador Yusra Khan	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mohammad Syarif Alatas	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Juriani Nurhayati	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mexico
Minister Virgilio Andrade	Ministry of Public Administration
Under Secretary Gomez Robledo	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Hon. Alejandra Lagunes	Coordinator of the National Digital Strategy
Roberto de León	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Guillermo Ruiz de Teresa Mariscal	Coordinator of the National Digital Strategy
Pablo Villareal	Coordinator of the National Digital Strategy

Philippines

Under Secretary Richard Moya	Department of Budget and Management
Asst. Secretary Myrna Chua	Department of Budget and Management
Patrick Lim	Department of Budget and Management
Leilani Villanueva	Department of Budget and Management

South Africa

Deputy Minister Ayanda Dlodlo	Department of Public Service and Administration
Alex Mahapa	Department of Public Service and Administration
Qinisile Delwa	Department of Public Service and Administration
Renisha Naidoo	Department of Public Service and Administration

Tanzania

Minister Mathias Chikawe	Ministry of Home Affairs
Susan Mlawi	Government State House
Nelson Kaminyoge	Ministry of Home Affairs

United Kingdom

Paul Maltby	Cabinet Office
Oliver Buckley	Cabinet Office
Kitty von Bertele	Cabinet Office

United States

Asst. Secretary Tom Malinowski	Department of State
Lawrence Sperling	Department of State
Bruce Kay	US Agency for International Development (USAID)
Corinna Zarek	White House, Office of Science and Technology Policy
Ines Hori	Department of State

Civil Society

Manish Bapna	World Resources Institute (WRI)
Mark Robinson	World Resources Institute (WRI)
Cecilia Blondet	Institute for Peruvian Studies
Mukelani Dimba	Open Democracy Advice Centre (ODAC)
Alejandro Gonzalez	GESOC
Nathaniel Heller	Results for Development

Suneeta Kaimal	Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI)
Warren Krafchik	International Budget Partnership
Martin Tisne	Transparency & Accountability Initiative (Omidyar)
Julie McCarthy	Transparency & Accountability Initiative (OSF)

Open Government Partnership

Linda Frey	Support Unit
Joe Powell	Support Unit
Paul Maassen	Support Unit
Dietlind Lerner	Support Unit
Sangita Sigdyal	Support Unit
Abhinav Bahl	Support Unit
Emilene Martinez	Support Unit
Jack Mahoney	Support Unit
Joseph Foti	Independent Reporting Mechanism

Regrets

Sugeng Bahagijo	INFID
Veronica Cretu	Open Government Centre
Alvin Mosioma	Tax Justice Network - Africa