

Civil Society Steering Committee Monthly Call

2 October 2019 | 8:00-9:30 DC / 14:00 Brussels

List of Participants

Attendees

Maria Baron, Glynnis Cummings-John, Aidan Eyakuze, Delia Ferreira Rubio, Robin Hodess, Lucy McTernan, Elisa Peter, Michelle Volpin, Zuzana Wienk

Support Unit:

Paul Maassen, Jaime Mercado, Maia Koytcheva

Apologies:

Asma Cherifi, Helen Darbshire, Tur-Od Lkhagvajav, Giorgi Kldiashvili

Call Summary

1. Review of the civil society Steering Committee criteria and process

Following the first round of written feedback from the cohort, the proposed draft incorporating the suggestions was discussed and reviewed.

Four main areas were identified for revision.

a. Eligibility Criteria / underrepresented groups

Having reviewed the current criteria, the cohort was in agreement that they are overall fit for purpose and in line with the job description. However, room for simplification and clarification was identified. In particular, adjustments for more inclusive language are to be made. It was noted that in previous selection processes, the criteria did not leave sufficient room for flexibility from the selection committee. This review will aim to address this through an adjusted process and explicit guidance to the selection committee.

Action Item: Simplification of the basic criteria and more inclusive language. Guidance for the selection committee.

b. Process

The current scoring mechanism favors candidates known to the selection committee. Hence, more extensive scoring during the interview and webinar phase is to be preceded by a simplified eligibility check following the submission of a nomination through an online form. The nomination form will codify and structure the required information for an eligibility check. The cohort expressed support for the suggestion.

Concern was expressed over candidates being selected already in February 2020 when only 1 of them is to join the SC then and the other two only beginning October 2020.



Action Item: A detailed proposal for the revised process and steps is to be drawn up by the SU.

c. Seconds

With persistent misunderstandings surrounding individual and group seconds, suggestions for clarification were discussed. The language for individual seconds has been adjusted to no longer suggest that they are a requirement. Some adjustments to the language regarding additional members has been made to further clarify their term limits and position.

Concern was expressed that individual seconds become de facto mandatory for important votes, as the Articles of Governance currently do not allow for proxy votes.

Action Item: SU to consider amendment of the Articles of Governance to allow for proxy votes

d. Definitions

An important topic emerging from the discussion was the definition of “civil society” and who should be eligible for a seat on the civil society SC. The cohort agreed, that a globally applicable definition of civil society would not be workable. A wider strategic reflection on the structure of the SC and potentially currently excluded groups of interest such as trade unions was suggested to be had in the future.

The Support Unit’s suggestions of drawing clear lines as to who should not be eligible for candidacy was met with support. The following groups are to be excluded from nomination for civil society SC seats in order to avoid conflicts of interest:

- Private sector
- Government/ Parliament/ Judiciary/ Semi-autonomous bodies (e.g. state auditor, ombudsman or information commissioners)
- Multilateral organisation
- Donors/Funders
- OGP-like platform (e.g.: EITI)
- Persons whose livelihood is dependent on OGP

Action Item: SU to propose a suitable annex to the selection criteria and process

