

**Governance and Leadership Subcommittee**  
**Monthly Call Summary | 1 March 2019**  
**08:00 - 09:00 EST**

**Attendees**

- Government of Canada: Mélanie Robert, Jaimie Boyd, Moses Iziomon, Natalia Little, Zainab Feroz
- Government of Argentina: Rudi Borrman, Carolina Cornejo
- Nathaniel Heller and Preston Whitt, R4D
- Robin Hodess, The B-Team
- OGP Support Unit

**1. Overview and Feedback on Proposed Next Steps on OGP Local Strategy**

The Support Unit presented an overview of the proposed next steps for the development of the OGP Local strategy. The revised strategy will reflect the lessons learnt from the OGP Local pilot program as well as other existing models of encouraging open government at the local level being piloted by several OGP countries. The aim is to present a strategy to the Steering Committee in May which elaborates how scale and inclusion, incentives for ambition and impact, protection of OGP principles and reputation, alignment with overall OGP strategy, and costs and trade offs can be considered as we move forward.

The process for developing this new strategy will include research into existing models of open government at the Local level, with inputs from a temporary Steering Committee Local Taskforce comprising GL and Lucy McTernan. Advice and inputs will also be sought from civil society and government practitioners at local and national levels, convenors of networks for local governments and civil society, and OGP partners and funders. The Local Task Force will guide the development of the strategy and present it to the rest of the Steering Committee for consideration in May. The implementation design phase will run from May to October 2019.

The Support Unit sought feedback on the following:

1. Suggestions on the process, thoughts on the timeline and stakeholder groups we plan to consult.
2. Initial ideas you have on options for scaling, so we can make sure we consider these as we move forward.

The major feedback received from GL was the following:

**a. Considerations for scaling up**

1. OGP should consider how the expansion of the OGP Local program would impact OGP's capacity to provide intensive support to existing national level members.

Relatedly, while OGP is figuring out the expansion strategy, support to the existing Local participants needs to continue at current levels.

2. The degree of rigor of the OGP process required in the current local program would not be possible once the program scales up. OGP will need to strike a balance between a light- touch approach that lifts the many, with safeguards to protect the OGP brand/principles.
3. Results and good return on investment politically on the current Local program will also need to be considered as we move forward - with arguments both in favour of and against maintaining a similar high-touch program as we move ahead.
4. In the scale-up of the local program, OGP should capitalize on any potential linkages to partnerships it currently has. OGP should also consider the role of digital platforms for networking and knowledge sharing in the scale up, building on lessons learnt from the successes and failures of past approaches.
5. For countries that are eager or already have local programs in place, the scale-up of the local program should build upon the work that national governments are doing to promote OGP and suggested that OGP should consider the type of support it can offer to these countries.
6. Members who have excelled from the program's pioneer cohort are potential champions that can inspire future participants and serve as valuable sources of knowledge for helping future cohorts address implementation challenges and obstacles.

**b. Stakeholder engagement during the consultation phase**

1. To maximize the scope of the inputs captured in the consultations, the range of stakeholders engaged during the consultation phase needs to be expanded beyond the entities/individuals that have been deeply involved in the OGP Local program (i.e. previous applicants that were not accepted into the current Local cohort).
2. The Support Unit assured GL that the consultation process would include a variety of entities that provides a balance between national-local perspectives and government-civil society perspectives. The categories of organizations/individuals that will be consulted include:
  - National governments and civil society with initiatives to promote open government at local level through their OGP NAP processes (e.g. Argentina, Indonesia)
  - Local governments and civil society working on open government initiatives who have not received any 'OGP treatment' i.e. not OGP Local pioneers and not included within NAP processes (e.g. members of UCLG; Kenya)
  - Local governments and civil society from the current OGP Local pioneers program
  - Local governments and civil society from locals that applied but didn't get into the OGP Local program (i.e. applicants from the 2016-2017 rounds)

- International or regional networks that promote practice at local level (e.g. UCLG, C40 others)
- Initiatives that promote government-to-government networking and peer learning (e.g. GovLab, Local Governance Initiative and Network. Additional suggestions needed here!).

**c. Timeline concerns**

1. The Government of Canada inquired about the timeline of the strategy development process, and what exactly would be accomplished at the Summit, noting concerns about the potential loss of momentum on Local in 2019.
2. The Support Unit noted that the preferred options for OGP's strategy for local expansion will be put to decision at the May Steering Committee. Simultaneously, local stakeholders will be asked to provide feedback/input on implementation design. OGP Local perspectives will be integrated into the main agenda, and additionally there will be a Local event which is already under discussion.

**2. Takeaways and Next Steps**

The Support Unit will work on integrating the GL input into the process for the development of the revised local strategy. Both GL and the Support Unit agreed that the primary point of concern is in the scale up of local program in a sustainable and cost-effective way.

- a. On substance there was agreement on the scope of convergence between different viewpoints. Agreement on looking at national systems and incentives that can expand and scale up OGP Local.
- b. Some thinking being done around an Open Gov Institute that could work on a set of curricula, training programs, resources etc, innovation, indexes etc - without huge amounts of resources - this is a longer term effort linked not just to the decision on Local.
- c. On the high touch program - everyone agreed this cannot be the scale up model as it is expensive. Need to explore if there is a light touch way to achieve similar results, and if a subset of high-touch participants within a larger scale up portfolio is needed.
- d. Likely to arrive at a strategy similar to the parliament work that the SC has approved - a menu of different ways in which local government engage, and what the association with the international OGP brand will be for each of these and the level and type of support they can expect.

The Support Unit will provide the SC Local Taskforce and the Steering Committee all the information they need to make an informed decision. Important for the Taskforce to provide timely input and own the process as we move forward.