

Governance and Leadership Subcommittee Meeting

January 13-14, 2015: Mexico City

Summary of Discussions

GL Subcommittee Priorities for 2015

GL members discussed the subcommittee's top three priorities for 2015, resulting in the attached one-pager (Annex I) to be shared with the full Steering Committee.

With respect to the priority of 'renewing OGP leadership,' GL members discussed ways to consolidate the current Steering Committee, as well as the need to ensure a strong pool of candidates for the 2015 SC elections. The Support Unit noted that it would be particularly important to have at least one government candidate this year from Africa and at least one from Asia to ensure regional diversity on the Steering Committee.

GL discussed the process to identify the next government co-chair and agreed that, as in 2014, GL should send a letter to the governments that would be eligible to serve as chair to gauge their interest in being considered for this position. The current government co-chairs will offer to speak with any interested countries to share more information about what the chair role entails. A similar process on the civil society side will be led by the current civil society co-chairs. As was the case last year, both government and civil society chair candidates will then be asked for additional information about how they would meet the requirements of the position.

Another opportunity to ensure strong leadership is the Steering Committee decision to bring on board several high-profile individuals to join Mo Ibrahim as "OGP Ambassadors" (as agreed by the SC in September 2014). The Support Unit and the UK have now discussed this with Mo Ibrahim, who is very supportive of the decision to expand the Senior Advisor mandate. During the discussion, South Africa confirmed that Graça Machel is no longer able to serve as Senior Advisor, so will not become an OGP Ambassador.

The subcommittee also provided input on a draft 'asset mapping survey' that GL will send to SC members along with the summary of this meeting. GL and the Support Unit will use the results of the survey to help identify opportunities SC members to support and advance the OGP strategy.

April 2015 Subcommittee Meeting

GL members discussed an initial list of agenda items to be covered on the first day of the April 22-23 SC meeting, and agreed that this 'business meeting' would be held at the working-level. With that in mind, it will be important to share the meeting agenda and any background documents far enough in advance that working-level OGP leads can secure ministerial approval if necessary.

The Support Unit noted that it is currently undertaking the annual review of OGP's Articles of Governance to incorporate Steering Committee decisions taken in 2014. It was agreed that this

process should be completed - including holding a public comment period - in advance of the April SC meeting, so that final approval can be secured at that meeting.

Reaffirming GL's discussions in November, the second day of the April meeting will be at ministerial-level and will include a series of substantive discussions on challenges and opportunities that OGP is facing as we launch our new 4-year strategy. We may consider breaking the Steering Committee into two groups to facilitate more active participation and allow us to cover more topics if needed.

Possible topics for discussion include: strengthening OGP's multilateral partnerships, increasing OGP's visibility through improved external communications, connecting OGP and the post-2015 development framework, learning from open government innovations in cities, and advancing impact research on how citizens are benefitting from open government initiatives. As part of the asset mapping survey, GL will ask SC members to indicate which of these topics they would be most interested in discussing in April, and whether they would be willing to help organize or facilitate a particular session.

In addition, the Support Unit and IRM will organize an initial (ministerial-level) session for all SC members to provide an update on the overall performance of OGP countries, as well as on the type of support needed to help improve country-level results.

2015 Global Summit

Mexico updated GL on progress to date in identifying a venue and possible themes for the Global Summit. All agreed that the Summit dates and location should be publicly announced by early February. The Support Unit will work with Mexico to widely disseminate a Save the Date to the OGP community. Shortly thereafter Mexico should be in a position to begin issuing high-level invitations.

The Support Unit presented several key lessons learned from the 2013 London Summit and reminded GL that according to the Articles of Governance, the four OGP co-chairs serve as the chairpersons of the biannual Summit. All agreed that the national-level planning committee for the Summit should include the Mexican government (Office of the President and other relevant ministries), Mexican civil society and the Support Unit, but that it should be relatively small to ensure decisions can be taken efficiently.

Mexico will begin work on a concept note for the Summit to be shared with GL for discussion on an upcoming subcommittee call. This note will outline the proposed theme for the event and timeline for Summit planning. It was agreed that the April SC meeting will provide an excellent opportunity to solicit wider Steering Committee input on the concept note. For example, one important question is what – if anything – OGP participating countries will be asked to 'deliver' at the Summit. This could take the form of a new pledge or commitment, or perhaps just a well-documented example of an OGP success.

Finally, GL decided that the third Steering Committee meeting of 2015 should be held at the working-level one or two days before the start of the Global Summit in October. This would be a very short business meeting with the primary goal of welcoming the new SC members and briefing the full SC on final details regarding the Summit agenda and participants.

Fundraising for the Four-Year Strategy

The Support Unit updated GL on the status of fundraising efforts to date, reporting that approximately \$US 15M of the \$US 25M 4-year budget has been committed.¹ This leaves a funding gap of approximately \$US 10M for 2016-2018.

GL discussed ways to fill this gap, including securing several significant, multi-year grants – to match those of our foundation donors - from the bilateral aid agencies of supportive OGP countries. GL members also committed to help the Support Unit secure the requested annual financial contributions from all participating countries, noting that a strong response rate could play a key role in closing our funding gap. On that note, the Support Unit updated GL on the package of materials recently sent to all participating countries to substantiate their internal request for an annual financial contribution to OGP. The next step is to invoice all countries for the requested amount.

Incorporation of the OGP Secretariat

After reviewing previous discussions and decisions, GL members noted that several government SC members still have concerns regarding the May 2014 SC decision to begin the process of incorporating the OGP Secretariat (comprising of the Support Unit and Independent Reporting Mechanism). Mexico agreed to schedule calls with the governments that have objected to better understand the nature of the concerns. In the meantime, South Africa will review all of the analysis done to date and determine whether there may be other institutional models – for example that used by the APRM - that should be considered.

All expressed concern that a significant amount of time and resources have already been invested by the Support Unit and GL in the effort to resolve this question. Given the many competing priorities for 2015, it was agreed that if the SC does not achieve consensus on incorporation in the next several months, it would be preferable to maintain the status quo for now and revisit the question of OGP's organizational status at a later date. That said, GL noted that a decision not to incorporate will have two important financial implications: 1) the Support Unit will have to continue to pay substantial administrative fees to the Tides Center; and 2) some OGP governments may continue to have concerns about making their OGP financial contributions via the Tides Center.

2015 Support Unit and IRM Work Plan

The Support Unit summarized some of the highlights of the work plan circulated to the SC at the end of December, which also outlined activities that will require support from SC members. The group then discussed the following:

- How to ensure the work of the Direct Country Support team is helping to identify concrete opportunities for bilateral peer exchanges between countries;
- Asking each SC member to lead by example by initiating AND documenting the results of at least one bilateral exchange with another OGP country in 2015;

¹ This figure assumes that one pending grant comes through, and that there is strong compliance by participating countries in making their required (as of 2015) annual financial contributions to OGP.

- How to mobilize the country offices of OGP's multilateral partners to support the design and implementation of ambitious OGP commitments;
- The pros and cons of organizing an OGP Africa Regional Meeting in 2015, given the fact that a host country has not yet been identified. (South Africa will continue to work on this, but all agreed that the meeting would need to be no later than June if it is to happen in 2015.)
- South Africa's commitment to organize several bilateral meetings on OGP on the sidelines of the upcoming African Union Summit. There was strong GL consensus to use events like this to raise awareness of OGP, network with existing OGP participating countries and (as appropriate) encourage new countries to join.

Country Updates

GL reviewed the list of 28 countries that are eligible to join OGP but have not yet done so and discussed potential outreach to some of the countries on the list, particularly in Africa and Asia.

The Support Unit updated GL on the status of OGP countries that have received one or two 'late letters' from the Support Unit after failing to submit their action plan by the deadline. Since these letters were sent, three countries have submitted their action plans, six have switched to the 'odd year' group and will submit their action plan by June 2015, and three countries are still considering whether they will continue participating in OGP. The Criteria and Standards subcommittee will meet March 10-11 in Washington D.C. to follow up on these issues.

Following these developments, 26 countries will now be developing new OGP action plans in the first half of 2015. The Support Unit shared this list of countries (see Annex II) and encouraged GL members – and the Steering Committee – to support them in whatever way possible in the coming months. This could include helping to promote national-level debate on the findings and recommendations of the IRM progress reports that will be published in the first quarter of 2015. The Support Unit noted that the IRM researchers are working to organize launch events in a number of countries in the next several months.

GL then reviewed basic analysis done by Support Unit staff to assess three key 'conditions for success' in all OGP countries: 1) level of responsiveness of the official government point of contact, 2) degree of high-level political support, and 3) level of civil society engagement. The group discussed how this analysis is informing the 2015 work plans of the Direct Country Support and Civil Society Engagement teams, and how we can also use it to make specific asks for country-level outreach by individual Steering Committee members. The Support Unit will pilot a briefing call in February that all SC members will be invited to attend to get information on OGP countries that might benefit from additional support.

ANNEX I

Governance and Leadership Subcommittee Priorities for 2015

1 - Increasing OGP Outreach and Building High-level Political Support

- Significantly increase external outreach (both diplomatic outreach and peer exchange) by individual SC members, particularly to support other OGP countries in designing and implementing ambitious commitments
- Ensure that Steering Committee members are helping to put OGP on the agenda of other high-profile international events and debates in 2015
- Organize a dynamic and inspiring 2015 Global Summit that helps raise OGP's visibility, build high-level political support, and bring new actors into OGP

2 - Securing 'Second Generation' OGP Leadership

- Consolidate the current Steering Committee to ensure solid, active leadership
- Identify and recruit several new committed open government champions from OGP participating countries to run for the Steering Committee in 2015
- Bring on board several high-profile 'OGP Ambassadors' to help advise and promote OGP globally

3 - Consolidating the OGP Secretariat

- Work closely with the Support Unit to secure the necessary funds (US \$25 million/4 years) to implement OGP's 4-year strategy (by July 2015)
- Identify and implement mechanisms for the Steering Committee and Support Unit to share information and work together more effectively to advance the goals outlined in our 4-year strategy