

OGP Civil Society Steering Committee
Monthly Call: January 2017
Key points of discussion and action items
January 10, 2017

Civil Society SC members in attendance:

Manish Bapna, Maria Baron, Helen Darbishire, Mukelani Dimba, Aidan Eyakuze, Alejandro Gonzalez, Nathaniel Heller, Robin Hodess, Suneeta Kaimal, Marie Lintzer (second for Suneeta), Mark Robinson (second for Manish).

Absent:

Sugeng Bahagijo, Zuzana Wienk

Support Unit:

Tonu Basu, Paul Maassen, Joe Powell.

1. Summit takeaways and follow up

Discussion highlights:

- The Support Unit provided a brief summary of the feedback they have received from various stakeholders. On the positive side, the community was appreciative of the greater diversity of topics and newer audiences than in past summits, the message of OGP's geopolitical positioning in the context of current global politics came through clearly, and civil society representatives also felt like some controversial issues like civic space were given prominence in the agenda. Civil society attendees also appreciated that the CS SC made an attempt to be more visible, including through Helen's initiative of having a rotating CS SC desk. On the negatives - people found that the agenda was too packed in terms of sessions, conversations, speeches (duration of the opening plenary), and not enough time and format focus given to more open, interactive space such as the CSO day.
- Steering Committee also provided quick takeaways:
 - Appreciated the subnational pilot programming at the Summit - exciting learning experience and space at the Summit and also a lever to keep the pressure on the central government in Tanzania (Aidan)
 - Needed more strategic coherence between tracks and the overall strategic message (including the Paris declaration). (Helen)
 - Time given to the SC meeting was too little (Helen).
 - The SC rotating table idea, as devised by Helen, should be discussed and the group could think of how to institutionalize/ make similar efforts at future OGP events. (Mukelani)
 - The bilaterals meetings organized greatly helped in providing a strategic push to governments. (Maria)
 - The 45 minute SC was not very valuable. An open conversation/ meeting space might have been a more effective way to use that time. (Suneeta)
 - Need to discuss how to balance representation of high-level political leadership and momentum of stories from the ground, like the case of speeches in the opening plenary vs the awards stories that came towards the end of the opening

- when a lot of the audience had left. (Suneeta)
- Often those from government and civil society who're engaged with the Working Groups on a thematic issue, are not those who attend the Summit, so there's a break in the conversations. How to ensure that there is the right level of cross-sector representation at the Summit. (Suneeta)
- There were new actors/ types of civil society groups this Summit, who haven't been engaged previously, which was great to see (Mark).
- Need to find better ways of making the speaking opportunities serve as accountable moments for governments (Mark)

Action Items:

- The Support Unit will provide more suggestions on what kind of follow up could be possible on the Paris Declaration and what kind of strategic support this group could provide.
- In the coming year, the Support Unit will be initiating an effort on a re-think on OGP events - structure, participation, content and more detailed thoughts from this group will be very useful.

2. Preliminary discussion on 2017 strategic priorities and CS SC retreat

Discussion highlights:

- Manish positioned the strategic refresh and mid-term review conversations in the context of how they will shape the 2017 priorities. He also reminded the group of the three sets of priorities that this group had identified to take on in sub-groups: rules of the game, implementation, co-creation. The next steps, starting from the retreat would be in exploring how work on these can be concretely taken forward by the group.
- He also asked the group what preparatory work/ homework would be useful for all of them to undertake in advance of the retreat, a suggestion that had come out of the December meeting.
- The Support Unit provided a summary of issues - including related to strategy and process such as rules of the game, raising the bar on implementation, key governance decisions such as on the future of the subnational programme, roadmap to deal with political transitions and leadership in OGP, among others.
- The group suggested priority issues and approaches they would find useful to take this discussion forward:
 - Development of a policy decision-making/ Steering Committee policy playbook for the year, to flag key points of governance and strategic decisions for the SC. (Nathaniel, reiterated by Aidan, Manish, and several others)
 - Rules of the game (Aidan, reiterated by Helen, Alejandro, Maria), as also what this specifically means - for the community and for the caucus - and thereafter what specifically the caucus can support (Mukelani)
 - Future strategy for the subnational pilot (Aidan, reiterated by Helen)
 - How to provide meaningful support to new countries and relatively new countries (Aidan)

- How best to initiate and develop an event bringing together a *OGP Reformers Network*, to be hosted somewhere like Bellagio (Aidan)
- Reflecting on (and enhancing) performance of NAPs (Aidan)
- Steering Committee elections/selection (Helen)
- Mapping the overarching OGP (govt + civil society) priorities, but also those are specifically a priority for civil society within that and how this group could help move forward on those (Suneeta)
- Response policy, for which a review will be undertaken in the coming year (Suneeta)
- A gameplan for political transitions/ leadership, including the role that the SC caucus could proactively play (Alejandro)
- An assessment of OGP reforms - how OGP reforms are doing, including on implementation (Alejandro)
- Explore and map what incentivizes governments - to participate in OGP, to do well in OGP, what's working across regions and what could be replicated (Maria)
- How the SC and SU can work together on implementation, and how these will be prioritized (Robin)
- How can the country work be supported strategically through peer learning and other activities (Robin)

Action Items:

- Manish and Mukelani to lead on the first draft of the agenda for the retreat, with help from the Support Unit
- Support Unit to share its implementation plan with the SC in the coming weeks
- This group to further identify which of these topics to prioritize and break the issues down in sub-groups.
- The retreat is tentatively scheduled for the week of March 20 - the Support Unit will confirm by Friday, January 20.