

OGP Civil Society Steering Committee
Monthly Call: February 2017
Key points of discussion and action items
February 14, 2017

Civil Society SC members in attendance:

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

Absent:

Suneeta Kaimal

Support Unit:

Suzanne Cunningham (for Tonu Basu), Jaime Mercado, Paul Maassen, Joe Powell.

1. Review of Key SC Decisions for 2017 and outcomes from Support Unit retreat

Discussion highlights:

The Support Unit briefed the Steering Committee members on the outcomes and reflections from the OGP Support Unit & IRM retreat in February 2017. The Support Unit outlined a set of collective deliverables for the Partnership in 2017 and 2018. The top two collective “must-wins” included:

- Country Level Support: to help a set of priority countries develop and implement more ambitious commitments on thematic priorities
- Global Level Positioning: to build a global advocacy strategy to position OGP as a global movement and as a positive, countervailing force to declining trust in government and economic populism.

The five supporting “must-wins” included:

- Thematic Ownership: to encourage an uptake of ambitious commitments, we need to enhance thematic ownership and leaders with citizen centric governance and elite capture/grand corruption being priority themes
- Rules of the Game: to fix the OGP mechanism with changes to the timeline and process rules and co-creation guideline
- One OGP & Spin Off: to build a truly stand-alone global organization with emphasis on the spin-off from Tides and recruitment of new staff
- Enhance peer learning and exchange and knowledge and research activities (e.g. new central SU unit, revisit PLS priorities and redesign WGs)
- IRM Refresh

The Support Unit provided an overview of the Steering Committee feedback for the policy playbook and how the Support Unit is moving forward with the Strategic Refresh, the feedback, revised included:

- How do we use of OGP events strategically and how do we use events to advance Steering Committee leadership? For example: how does the Argentina Regional Meeting fit into this? Do we need to hold a public event at UNGA in addition to a Ministerial Meeting? A reformers retreat?
- How will OGP follow-up on the parliamentary policy decision taken in 2016?
- How will we proceed with private sector engagement?
- There is a need to publicize the opportunities for input on the Rules of the Game among the Steering Committee and the public
- What options are there for a more communications-oriented synthesis report on IRM findings that are a bit more cross-cutting than the current reports (‘State of the Partnership’ report)?

- What options are there to have a meeting during the year to check-in and evaluate OGP's multilateral partnerships?
- On imminent decisions: The Steering Committee was requested to comment on the status of the recruitment of government Steering Committee members, there is a lot of interest

The discussion that followed helped sharpen the questions to the current form, as presented above. Some key points that were raised include:

- Criteria and Standards ready to begin developing the roadmap when given the green light - SU replied that an initial roadmap will be ready in a week or two.
- PLS is a critical component that speaks to the Partnership and needs to be strengthened on the government side, we need to make a call to government to engage
- It is important to make sure that our plans moving forward with the Strategic Refresh go beyond 'business as usual'. A key action should include comparing our set goals with the collective deliverables that reflects the needs on the ground, through a stronger focus on ambition, implementation, and reinventing some of the weaker points in the OGP mechanism
- Considerations for priority countries support should take into account where conditions are right for external support and where OG interventions may have the most impact

Action:

- SU to send notes from Steering Committee meeting
- Short Survey (led by Chair of the PLS Subcommittee) to present the initial set of ideas and plans out of PLS

2. Civil Society SC retreat: discuss draft agenda and any prep work/homework needed, as discussed on previous calls

Discussion highlights:

The Civil Society Steering Committee discussed the agenda for the retreat in March. The feedback, revised included:

- The agenda should include a discussion regarding the next co-chairs for the caucus (government and civil society), including how the Committee will surface viable successors in September 2017
- There is a need for a more general discussion regarding the working groups, not solely in the context of the Peer Learning Sub-Committee and support of implementation
- There is a need to define what the expectations are for cross-cutting implementation and align them with the resources that we have
- It is important to determine how to move forward with implementation to show progress at the country level, including what resources will be necessary, define support for civil society, and an update on the status of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund
- The agenda should include more time to discuss how to move forward on our approach to parliament OGP plans during the lunch hour
- It is important to make space to discuss how OGP demonstrates its relevance, but also have time for very specific decisions that need to be made by the Steering Committee
- There is a need to make space in the agenda to address the big global changes - including within the OGP framework, there is an appetite for a more free-flowing strategic discussion
- The last hour on the second day will be set aside to develop a clear work-plan and a list of outcomes for the Steering Committee after the retreat
- A request to try and find time during the Paris retreat where Civil Society Steering Committee can meet with Government Steering Committee members in town

Action Items:

- The Civil society Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee and the Support Unit to reach out to Steering Committee Members bilaterally to address preparatory work for the retreat and assign tasks
- Support Unit to rework the agenda based on comments in document
- Support Unit to update logistics as Minister Place's schedule develops
- Civil Society Co-Chairs to integrate the comments and provide an updated copy of the 'Walking the Talk' paper by the retreat

3. Civil Society SC rotation: update on process and inviting suggestions on potential candidates

Discussion highlights:

The Support Unit briefed the Steering Committee members on the recruitment process for the co-chair rotation in September 2017. There are three candidates and eight volunteers to support candidate selection, however there is a need to identify strong civil society leaders with a global presence. There is also a need for a second volunteer from this group to help with the selection (Mukelani as co-chair is the other volunteer).

- Need more efforts to mobilize candidate pool from the Asia region
- The deadline for submission is February 21, 2017, however the Support Unit decided to extend the deadline to March 8