

OGP Civil Society Steering Committee
Monthly Call: April 2017
Key points of discussion and action items
April 27, 2017

Civil Society SC members in attendance:

Manish Bapna, Maria Baron, Aidan Eyakuze, Alejandro Gonzalez, Nathaniel Heller, Suneeta Kaimal, Marie Lintzer (second for Suneeta), Mark Robinson (second for Manish)

Absent:

Helen Darbshire, Mukelani Dimba, Robin Hodess, Zuzana Wienk,

Support Unit:

Tonu Basu, Joe Foti, Jaime Mercado, Joe Powell

1. IRM Refresh

Joe Foti provided an overview of the plans for the IRM refresh, including the [call for proposals](#) that was recently published inviting applications for the refresh. The IRM is inviting inputs from this group on the scope of the review and important questions to address.

2. Update on the CS SC rotation

The 2017 SC rotation is now in its second phase. Out of the 29 candidates who were initially nominated (or nominated themselves), 10 were shortlisted. One shortlisted candidate - Angelita Mendel - withdrew her candidacy citing support for the second candidate from Philippines. The Selection Committee has conducted first round interviews with all 9 candidates, in addition to which 8 candidates appeared on public webinars to share their vision and ideas for OGP with the civil society community.

As a member of the Selection Committee Aidan shared that as next steps, the final decision of selecting two candidates will be made out of three that the Selection Committee agreed on. This will be done after second round interviews with two of those three candidates. The selection committee should be able to arrive at a decision by the end of next week.

3. Update on the June full SC meeting

In addition to making room for the key decisions in the proposed meeting agenda, the Support Unit is currently working on a format for the meeting to create opportunities for more conversations around building stronger connections within the SC, and re-energizing the movement. The meeting will also look to test out ideas like in partners and influential voices in DC, integrating the meeting agenda with things like TED Talks, potential offsite meetings/visits, among other ideas.

SC member shared that while she realizes it is valuable to have external voices inform the SC discussion, there is also value in having an informal retreat-like setting to allow all the members to together get to know people around the table, unpack perspectives on different issues, and share backgrounds and stories. Others also suggested having a couple of meetings offsite - outside of conference rooms - by meeting some

community workers in less privileged areas of DC, to help provide a new space and ground the conversations in the real world.

The civil society members also raised the concern of having governments represented at very junior levels and urged the SU to follow up with governments with a reminder about prioritizing working level representatives at the most senior level.

Action Items

- The SU will send a note to all government SC members about the importance of having senior level representation at the meeting. If the response and confirmations do not indicate the desired level of seniority, then the CS SC members have proposed that they could write a joint letter communicating their expectations and reiterating the importance of high level political engagement at OGP meetings.