

**Public Minutes from the OGP Governance and Leadership subcommittee meeting  
January 20-21, 2016  
Liliesleaf Farm, South Africa**

**Attendance**

**OGP Governance and Leadership subcommittee of the Steering Committee:**

**Governments**

*South Africa (government chair)*

	Deputy Minister Ayanda Dlodlo
	Deputy Minister of Public Service and Administration
	Qinisile Delwa
	Department of Public Service and Administration
	Tenji Mayekiso
	Department of Public Service and Administration
Mabaeng Dlamini	Department of Public Service and Administration
Mesuli Macozoma	Department of Public Service and Administration
Moses Mushi	Department of Public Service and Administration

*France (government co-chair)*

Clotilde Valter (via VC)	Secretary of State for State Reform and Simplification
	David Martinon
	Ambassador for Cyber-diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
François Legué	Head of Department for Democratic Governance Development and Global Public Goods Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Laure Lucchesi	Etalab
Claire-Marie Foulquier-Gazagnes	Etalab

**Civil Society**

Alejandro Gonzalez (civil society chair)	GESOC
Manish Bapna (civil society co-chair)	World Resources Institute
Mark Robinson	World Resources Institute
Suneeta Kaimal (former civil society chair)	Natural Resource Governance Institute

## **Chairs of other OGP Steering Committee subcommittees**

Roberta Solis Ribeiro Martins (by VC)	Government of Brazil
Martin Tisne (by VC)	Omidyar Network

## **Open Government Partnership Support Unit**

Joe Powell	Support Unit
Sangita Sigdyaal	Support Unit

*Others by VC, including incoming Support Unit CEO Sanjay Pradhan*

## **Apologies**

*Mexico (former government chair)*

Guillermo Ruiz de Teresa Mariscal	Coordinator of the National Digital Strategy
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## **January 20th - Day 1**

### **Session 1 - OGP political strategy for 2016:**

Deputy Minister Ayanda Dlodlo opened the meeting, welcoming participants to Liliesleaf Farm, an important site for the South African liberation movement. She asked her fellow co-chair, Alejandro Gonzalez, to present their joint proposed priorities for 2016. These included:

- Providing an implementation platform for the UN Sustainable Development Goals as a means to link OGP with the most pressing challenges faced by society and the policy framework that is being put in place to address them globally and nationally.
- The formalization of an option for subnational government participation, which would take OGP to the level of government that is often closer to citizens and a source of open government innovations.
- Boosting performance and political leadership to foster ambition and a race to the top between OGP countries, including by involving parliaments more systematically in OGP at the national level.
- Enhancing internal OGP processes, instruments and governance systems.
- Broadening and deepening civil society engagement internationally and nationally in OGP.

Following this presentation the incoming co-chairs, Minister Clotilde Valter from France and Manish Bapna from the World Resources Institute, and the outgoing co-chair, Suneeta Kaimal from the Natural Resource Governance Institute, were invited to comment, along with the Support Unit. The roundtable discussion included the following points:

- Strong endorsement of the priorities of the lead co-chairs.
- A reflection on how OGP can build on the major international agreements of 2015, including Financing for Development in Addis, the new Sustainable Development Goals at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) and the COP21 in Paris. These agreements set global high-level goals and OGP is well placed to help with their universal implementation, provided that we

encourage national governments and civil society to take advantage of the platform available to them.

- It is vital to keep high-level political interest in OGP, including ministerial attendance at Steering Committee meetings and Heads of State/Government at UNGA meetings. The UNGA meetings could be organised annually with SC Ministers to encourage a more regular dialogue with government leadership.
- To inspire action OGP needs to improve its story-telling, so that we can point to specific examples of how open government approaches can deliver real changes for people around the world, and then share them through the peer learning networks that OGP is helping to build. These examples should be as concrete as possible and all Steering Committee members should be invited to contribute. The policy wins that have been achieved through OGP should form part of this effort, and will require more investment of time and resources in communications, outreach and engagement.
- OGP's events in 2016, including the Africa Regional Meeting in South Africa, the Americas Regional Meeting in Uruguay, the 5th year anniversary at UNGA and the fourth Global Summit in France in December should be firmly part of this strategy, helping with action-forcing moments at the political level.
- The support co-chairs indicated that they are developing open government and climate change as a key priority for 2017, and requested that discussions begin on this agenda at the next Steering Committee in May.
- The importance of continuing to attract new countries to join OGP, particularly those countries which are eligible but have not yet signed up to the initiative.
- OGP should further develop its narrative as a political mechanism for coordinating different parts of government, especially with the development of the subnational program pilot, the emergence of parliamentary action plans, and the push on SDG implementation. We will also need to consider how these new actors in OGP fit into the governance structure.
- Legislation is key to the delivery of many OGP commitments, something that has often been overlooked in previous years. Bringing parliaments more firmly into OGP will help ensure supporting legislation can be passed.
- We should strategically engage in a few other external events, in order to promote OGP's offer as a platform for implementation of global agreements and to broaden the network of reformers who use OGP. This needs to be much more strongly communicated in future.

The group then moved to discussion of the planned event for the UN General Assembly, which coincides with OGP's 5th anniversary. The organization of the event will be led by the Government of South Africa, with the objective of reviving OGP's momentum among Heads of State and Government. They will invite attendance from all government Steering Committee members at that level, along with the civil society leaders. To maximize the likelihood of a successful event the co-chairs decided to host a meeting in New York in the months prior to UNGA, with all Permanent Representatives from OGP countries invited.

Finally, there was a discussion on future leadership of OGP, including both candidates for the OGP Steering Committee and for future co-chairs. There was a strong desire to bring in new people with fresh ideas, in addition to those that can provide institutional memory to OGP. It was also agreed that outreach on both the civil society and government side should primarily be focused on Asian

and African candidates, given their current under-representation on the Steering Committee. Specifically on the civil society vacancies there was a strong desire to fill positions with candidates who could contribute to the agreed overall goals of OGP in the next two years (e.g. subnational expertise), and to think of ways to ensure size of organization was not a barrier to serving. The group also discussed at what point previous chairs could be considered for the position again, but agreed for 2016 at least the focus would be on finding new chairs.

## **Session 2 – Broadening the base of civil society engagement in OGP through networks and coalitions**

Paul Maassen, Director for Civil Society Engagement, introduced the topic. He reminded people of the complexities of many CSOs, in particular the international NGOs and coalitions, but of the major role they have to play in encouraging greater ambition within OGP.

The discussion included the following points:

- In the short-term the need to engage new CSOs in the co-creation of the 51 National Action Plans due in June 2016.
- Priority networks and coalitions to engage should be related to the overall goals outlined at the start of the meeting, for example trying to bring in more CSOs working on access to justice issues which are core to goal 16 of the SDGs.
- The possibility of using the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOC) at the African Union as a vehicle for engaging CSOs.
- The importance of inclusivity, for example through more established CSOs helping smaller organizations engage in OGP, including by opening up the possibility of joining the Steering Committee to them.
- In national level processes OGP needs to find ways of empowering smaller NGOs and marginalized groups to engage in the process, and in some places also reach out directly to citizens by using new technology that exists to make public participation easier. OGP also need to explore providing knowledge pieces and building financial capacity for small NGOs.
- In addition to the regular action planning cycle, OGP must continue to be vigilant about violations of civic space.
- Civil society has not to date been very proactive in most OGP countries in influencing IRM reports, which is a missed opportunity.

## **Session 3 – Transition to the new Support Unit CEO**

Sanjay Pradhan, who will join the Support Unit as CEO in the next few months, introduced himself to the meeting via VC. He explained some of his background working on open government issues, and

his timeline for taking up the role. Sanjay joining presents an opportunity for engagement with political leadership, civil society leadership, media, funders, external partners and staff.

The group discussed priorities for the transition, including:

- Meeting Steering Committee ministers and civil society leaders and doing some country visits.
- Using the opportunity to introduce OGP to new communities, and using Sanjay's personal story to help do that.
- An updated staffing plan and structure for the Support Unit.

#### **Session 4 - Supporting OGP countries to improve performance**

The Support Unit presented some ideas for helping OGP countries to produce strong action plans in 2016, and a provisional list of priority countries where a good opportunity exists for OGP to help catalyse some important reforms. An update was also provided on the 'buddy system' which pairs Steering Committee members with new OGP countries, or those who have been inactive for some time.

Ideas discussed to support this work included:

- Reinforcing the importance of targeted support amongst the 69 OGP participating governments, so that the Support Unit is not stretched too thinly.
- The opportunity to engage smaller groups of countries around particular themes, such as the issues the OGP Working Groups focus on, or emerging topics like access to justice and anti-corruption.
- Generating and disseminating more examples of the impact of open government reforms, to inspire and support reformers in difficult contexts.
- Updating the OGP guidelines and requirements on consultation and working with civil society to reflect best practice.

The chair of the Peer Learning and Support subcommittee, Martin Tisne, then joined to discuss the OGP Working Groups and peer exchange.

Ideas discussed to support this work included:

- How to encourage shared commitments between OGP participants based on theme or region, especially those that will benefit from wider take up (e.g. strengthening the international architecture to fight corruption).
- Using the OGP awards to encourage take up of the ideas that were given prizes.
- Better communicating what peer exchange and learning resources are available to people, and improving the OGP website to make it much clearer what topics different countries have in their OGP commitments.

- A discussion over how and when new OGP Working Groups should be added, based on demand.

The chair of the Criteria and Standards subcommittee, the Government of Brasil, then joined to discuss countries who are under review.

Ideas discussed to support this work included:

- Greater support and diplomatic outreach from the co-chairs to help get countries back on track.
- Earlier assistance and guidance from the Steering Committee when problems appear to be arising, to avoid the Criteria and Standards subcommittee review process. This should include countries who are at risk of seeing their score drop on the eligibility criteria.
- The need for a thorough review of the implementation of the OGP Response Policy.

## **January 21st - Day 2**

### **Session 5 – OGP Governance**

Day 2 began with a discussion on the ways of working within the Steering Committee, and between the Steering Committee and the Support Unit. The lead co-chairs presented some ideas aimed at reinvigorating ministerial presence and improving the efficiency of the Steering Committee.

Some of the ideas proposed and discussed were:

- Setting a very clear expectation for all governments joining the Steering Committee that ministers are required to attend at least one in person meeting per year.
- More inter-ministerial dialogue between Steering Committee meetings.
- Designing Steering Committee agendas that allow ministers to focus on strategic issues, and encourages their leadership on specific topics.
- A combined report from each of the subcommittee chairs to be delivered at the start of ministerial Steering Committee meetings.
- Having a short period of time for each subcommittee at ministerial level once a year.
- Improving the transparency, openness and accountability of the Steering Committee in the decision-making processes.
- Standardising minutes and action points for Steering Committee meetings.
- Whether the OGP meeting requirements guidance note is clear enough on the division of roles and responsibilities between host government and Support Unit, and on the standard protocol for OGP events.
- Introducing a short report after each OGP event to be produced by the host with the Support Unit.
- Topics proposed for the May ministerial Steering Committee included: expanding OGP's work with parliaments; high-level planning for the UNGA 5<sup>th</sup> year anniversary event; the subnational pilot program; highlights from upcoming action plans; the Steering Committee 'buddy system'; implementing the OGP-SDG declaration; the links between climate change and open government; and ratifying the next co-chairs. In addition, all Steering Committee

members will be contacted in advance to see what topics they would like to discuss and potentially lead.

The Support Unit provided an update on the proposal to establish an OGP Trust Fund at the World Bank. This would support the implementation of national OGP commitments, increase the resources for peer exchange and learning, and provide a vehicle for paying annual contributions to the Support Unit – IRM for governments who find it difficult to pay a US non-profit directly. The meeting agreed to move forward in approaching potential donors, pending the following changes:

- A stronger narrative on the purpose of the Trust Fund and case for funding.
- Including the role of OGP in implementing the SDGs.
- An expanded explanation on the importance of not duplicating or competing with other Trust Funds at the World Bank.
- Ensuring that donor and OGP Support Unit participation in the Trust Fund management is efficient.
- Setting a target for fundraising.

The Support Unit then outlined progress on the proposed incorporation of the OGP Secretariat (made up of Support Unit and IRM) as an independent non-profit. The timeline agreed at the Mexico Steering Committee in October 2015 called for GL to make a recommendation by January 29<sup>th</sup> on incorporation, and on nominees for the board of directors of the new non-profit. The discussion in GL focused on making progress towards that recommendation, and included the following:

- The group reviewed four existing nominations (three from governments, one from civil society) from the Steering Committee, including nominations for the Chair and Secretary roles, and agreed that it would be prudent to make one more push for names to aim for six nominations, including a specific ask for someone qualified to take on the position of treasurer and additional civil society nominations.
- GL discussed their definition of a 'Steering Committee member', agreeing that current civil society seconds could be candidates and that government candidates should be clearly nominated by the principal, and be current serving members of that government.
- A decision that it was preferable (though not mandatory) that candidates have familiarity with OGP's work and programs - governments and civil society – and have direct engagement with OGP, preferably international Steering Committee experience. The expectation is that the individual is able to serve as board member for 3 years - this is for continuity purposes and separate from the 2, 3 and 4-year term limits outlined in the bylaws.
- GL agreed the initial priority was to fill the three officer positions of the board, which would allow the process of incorporation to move forward. Other names (up to the total of 6 agreed by the Steering Committee) can be added at a future point.
- All nominees should be asked for a CV and short explanation of how they meet the criteria to serve on the board, so that GL can more easily reach a decision on its recommendation during a special meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup>.
- It was suggested that in event of the Steering Committee not agreeing to GL's recommendation there should be a vote.

## **Session 6 – OGP Research**

The Support Unit presented two research projects for feedback and input. The first is collaboration with the Brookings Institute and University of Cape Town to produce a synthesis of the evidence on the impact of open government reforms, backed by a panel of experts that would include some people who have been involved with OGP. The second is a call for proposals issued by the Support Unit for research on the intermediate outcomes from a selection of OGP commitments made in 2011-12.

Feedback during the discussion included:

- Ideas of names for the expert panel that would elevate the Brookings/UCT study, and provide strong messengers for the launch event at the fourth Global Summit.
- Producing a short summary document with clear findings and recommendations from the Brookings/UCT study for OGP at the national and international level.
- Co-branding with UCT in South Africa to make clear that the report is commissioned by and for OGP.
- The need for a clearer media and outreach strategy for both projects, involving the Support Unit's communications team and including data visualizations.
- The call for proposals on intermediate outcomes should be opened up to institutions as well as individuals to conduct the studies.
- The work on whether OGP commitments have made a difference will be crucial to unearthing new stories and helping reformers make the case internally.

## **OGP Work Plan and Budget**

The Support Unit will make any necessary updates to the work plan and budget following the GL discussion, and re-circulate a version to be considered final.