

Welcome and introductions

The chair opened the meeting, asked participants to introduce themselves (list below) and provided an overview of the agenda.

State of the partnership; strategic refresh update

The Support Unit provided an update on the state of the partnership since the last Steering Committee meeting in May. An overview of this is provided in the state of the partnership framing note, available [here](#). Highlights included regional events in Africa, the Americas and Asia-Pacific, Nigeria joining OGP and 23 governments submitting new national action plans. The Steering Committee was asked for support particularly for countries where there was little discernible progress in co-creating a national action plan, and was reminded of previous commitments to support countries to do so.

The IRM has now reviewed 1733 commitments, of which 17% are considered transformative (though not all of these commitments have been implemented in practice; only 5% of commitments fall into that category). 16 countries have starred commitments in their national action plans (criteria available [here](#)). While the Support Unit and Steering Committee acknowledged this progress, it also fed into the discussion about OGP's strategic refresh and how to ensure success in the next five years of the partnership. Multiple steering committee members expressed concern over the low rates of transformative commitments adopted by countries.

OGP's CEO, Sanjay Pradhan, outlined the main areas emerging from consultations thus far on the strategic refresh, where the overarching objective is to deliver a transformative impact in the lives of ordinary citizens over the next five years. He presented a highlight of those areas to allow further discussion about what they mean and what leadership the Steering Committee would need to provide to make further progress. These areas highlighted the need for:

- Protection and enhancement of civic space, deeper co-creation and civic participation, and a push for more direct impact on people's lives, with the Steering Committee role modelling and leading by example.
- Re-energized high level political commitment, particularly in countries with weak or waning political commitment, with Heads of States and senior ministers from OGP Steering Committee governments and civil society members playing a proactive role in high-level political outreach and engagement in peer countries.
- Broader collective ownership across cabinet, groups of CSOs and new OGP actors (subnational entities, legislatures, private sector, youth), with Steering Committee opening political doors for cabinet and CSO workshops and providing peer learning and inspiration.
- OGP governments and CSOs, led by Steering Committee members, to join forces to raise collective ambition in key thematic areas (e.g., beneficial ownership, open contracts), heading into the Paris Global Summit.

- Clarity around OGP's 'rules of the game' - what are the consequences for governments not improving their transparency, accountability and opportunities for participation when they join OGP? A wider review of this will be undertaken for the second part of the strategic refresh towards the middle of 2017, but the implication once again is for Steering Committee members to role model high-standards, even potentially as a criterion for SC membership.

The Steering Committee was asked to respond to these areas, both in the meeting but also with written comments over the next week. In discussion the following points were raised: OGP has always been very ambitious, and the emerging areas for the strategic refresh are no different. There should be a focus though on areas where OGP can really make a difference - OGP is seen as one of the most effective fora to address challenges in government policy and there was considerable support for deepening the commitment of governments in OGP already, rather than widening participation to governments that are not committed to open government.

Steering Committee members welcomed a much stronger focus on increasing the share of commitments that can make a real difference in the lives of ordinary citizens, including a stronger focus on service delivery sectors like health, education, water, as well as a broadening to subnational entities which are responsible for delivery of key public services. Steering Committee members also stressed a stronger focus on implementation, given the implementation gap across several countries, including mobilizing multi-donor financial support for developing countries with ambitious commitments but weak implementation.

Some Steering Committee members said that OGP needed to improve its leadership on protecting civic space. For example, how can participating governments balance openness with emerging security concerns? They talked about how to broaden the base of people involved in the process overall. A challenge that OGP faces is how to keep momentum going in countries that have been involved since the beginning, where they feel like they have already made a lot of progress and further work is tough. There was support for re-emphasising the notion that OGP is a race to the top and questions about what kind of incentives OGP was offering reformers. The world has changed since OGP was launched five years ago so the same narrative about reform does not necessarily hold true today. The Steering Committee needs to more confidently represent and champion open government to provide vision and inspiration and it challenged itself to be a role model to the wider OGP community, both in the way it acts as a decision making body and in how individual members embed OGP domestically.

One of OGP's successes has been the support it can offer reformers and the Steering Committee stressed the need to continue that focus. Steering Committee members said OGP needed to be able to provide real tools that help reformers in government and civil society. Some members also said that more needed to be made of the wealth of information and data OGP has, particularly from the IRM. One member highlighted efforts, that began last year, to link OGP and the sustainable development agenda of the UN, saying that there was more that could be done in national action plans that would help make OGP more relevant and helpful to a broader range of issues governments are facing.

In summary the chair reminded the Steering Committee that they were being asked to submit further comments in writing, and asked the Support Unit to analyse and review the priority areas based on the additional feedback provided.

Co-chair priorities and briefing on the Global Summit with discussion about the political deliverables

The chair provided some context for this discussion - OGP is at its fifth anniversary and is at an important stage of its growth. In particular, the rotation of Steering Committee members, including some of the founding members, a new Chief Executive and an agreement, by undertaking the strategic refresh, to renew OGP's vision and ambition.

The French government introduced this discussion, highlighting the strength of political commitment to OGP, demonstrated by President Hollande's participation at the OGP event the previous day. They are trying to marry distrust in government with the advantages of a more ambitiously open approach. The French government and Manish Bapna presented their co-chair priorities to the Steering Committee, which are available [here](#). The French government then presented the developing agenda for the OGP Summit in December and their vision for its success. Their overarching objective is that this be presented as a discussion about democracy and that the OGP community of reformers can demonstrate leadership on democratic renewal. They presented a plan for an OGP outcome statement that would be a catalyst for political participation and commitment and asked the Steering Committee for their advice and input on potential high level political outcomes, including the idea of using the Summit to achieve domestic priorities by encouraging collective actions between OGP governments and CSOs.

In discussion the Steering Committee asked about the incentives for collective actions, highlighting that there was broad support for the idea of asking governments to make joint commitments but also agreement that it would be difficult to achieve without Steering Committee support and leadership on particular areas. For example, the Mexican government highlighted efforts so far that a number of governments have made on open contracting and volunteered to lead work to get more to make commitments in this area. The Steering Committee urged the Support Unit and Steering Committee members to look at examples of what has worked elsewhere and what networks can help achieve ambitious outcomes. There was discussion about how to use the Summit to refresh OGP participation after the event, i.e. focusing on what can be achieved in Paris to sustain momentum afterwards.

The Steering Committee were asked to focus their efforts in the next couple of months on helping to shape and agree the outcomes of the Summit (which GL will draft and share) and focus on how to make or encourage commitments and actions that demonstrate what OGP can achieve and incentivise more collective ambition.

Countries under review: ratify the resolution passed in May on Turkey; updates on Azerbaijan, Hungary and other countries under review.

The chair of the criteria and standards subcommittee reminded the Steering Committee of the conditions of the resolution agreed in May on Turkey's participation in OGP, and the subcommittee's recommendation that because those conditions had not been met Turkey should now be considered inactive in OGP for failing to demonstrate any activity. The Steering Committee agreed and ratified the resolution. The Government of Turkey was therefore placed in inactive status, and has one year to co-create a national action plan with Turkish civil society to show renewed interest in participating in OGP.

The Support Unit presented an update on Azerbaijan's engagement with OGP in the months since the Steering Committee decided the government should be made inactive under the response policy. Since then the government was invited to the OGP Asia-Pacific regional dialogue but did not attend. The Steering Committee members who volunteered to support Azerbaijan through the year of inactivity need to agree their plan for outreach and work with the government and civil society in the country and will be doing so over the coming months. The government of Georgia volunteered to lead that effort.

An update was provided on the review of Hungary, under the response policy - more information on that is available in the meeting papers. There was an update on other governments under review for not meeting deadlines or demonstrating activity and the Steering Committee was told of two new cases submitted under the response policy concerning Israel and Australia. In the case of Israel, the Steering Committee was informed that the criteria and standards subcommittee would not be taking forward the case as it is out of scope of the response policy. In the case of Australia, the letter received will trigger the response policy and the subcommittee will begin investigating the case.

The ministerial Steering Committee closed with a farewell and thanks to outgoing members, Martin Tisne, Veronica Cretu and Warren Krafchik.

Criteria and Standards

- **Presentation of co-creation guidelines**

The chair of the criteria and standards subcommittee presented new co-creation guidelines, which strengthen the guidance OGP provides to governments and civil society about how to ensure effective collaboration around national action plans. One of the objectives of this is to improve co-creation throughout the whole cycle of the action plan - from development through implementation. The Steering Committee agreed the need for OGP to update guidance on this and that the guidelines should be published for public consultation in October.

- **Decision on open parliaments paper**

Mukelani Dimba presented this proposal on legislative engagement with OGP, setting out what had been achieved since the launch of the legislative openness working group in 2013. The full proposal is available in the meeting papers and provides a set of guiding principles to clarify how OGP will work with legislative bodies wanting to develop commitments and engage more fully. The IRM's International Experts' Panel is meeting later this week to discuss how this proposal might affect their assessment of

national action plans. There was wide support for the proposal, particularly from members who have been trying to encourage more legislative engagement in their OGP efforts, and it was approved by the Steering Committee.

Peer Learning and Support

The chair of the peer learning and support subcommittee provided a summary of the meeting the previous day, focusing on how OGP can elevate and prioritise peer exchange in the strategic refresh. Although there is often so much energy after events and face to face meetings, it is a challenge for OGP for that to be where the greatest investment of resource goes. The question of scale still challenges OGP and so there is a need to find ways to bring people together for collective action. The subcommittee had been considering a number of options and ideas to address this and will continue to develop proposals over the coming months.

In discussion the Steering Committee talked about some specific ideas the subcommittee had proposed - for example the idea of making better use of OGP held data, particularly from the IRM, to enhance partnerships with other organisations and institutions and having a dedicated 'helpdesk' that could support people looking for practical advice about reforms. Some urged the subcommittee to test some ideas and consider how much some of options would cost, to help the Steering Committee and Support Unit understand how they could support them. Other members proposed exploring online support and courses for people who cannot attend OGP events and putting greater emphasis on what is expected of points of contact in governments with regard to peer exchange activities.

Subnational pilot update

Nathaniel Heller, Mark Robinson and the Support Unit provided an update on the subnational pilot program, including a workshop that had been held the previous week for the 15 governments directly participating in the pilot. Engagement from these governments has been good and they are working on commitments to launch at the Paris Summit, where there will be a dedicated subnational track at Paris City Hall. One of the observations from the workshop was that there needed to be a balance between OGP process, and using the platform developed with national governments to support subnational participation, and giving the governments the space to use OGP to innovate and reform. Over the next few months the focus will be on the Summit but there is also an opportunity to engage with Habitat III in Quito, Ecuador next month.

In discussion Steering Committee members asked about the relationship between the subnational participants and their national governments and asked OGP to bear in mind that that is a relevant consideration when it comes to assessing the pilot. They also asked whether in the absence of "professionalized" civil society organisations in many subnational locations could be an opportunity to democratise citizen input and what that might look like. Steering Committee members who are interested in providing further input and leadership to the pilot will be asked to join existing members who are working closely on it, to enhance the shape of what OGP can achieve over the next year and

strengthen recommendations that will ultimately be put to the full group about ongoing participation of subnational governments. This will need to consider carefully how OGP calibrates demand and growth with existing capacity.

Fundraising

The Support Unit provided an overview of OGP's financial health and the status of country contributions for 2016. The SU-IRM budget for 2016 is \$6.68 million. The expected revenue for 2016 comes 32% from OGP country contributions, 25% from bilateral aid agencies and 43% from private foundations.

Contributions to date in 2016 total \$1,050,716 from: Armenia, Australia, Croatia, Denmark, France, Georgia, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Philippines, Romania, Serbia, United Kingdom, United States

The Support Unit informed the Steering Committee they expect up to 20 more countries to make contributions for 2016. They also provided an update on the Steering Committee decision to set up an OGP multi-donor trust fund at the World Bank, which is making progress and the Support Unit and World Bank were going to host a meeting the following day for potential donors and interested parties.

Proposal for new multilateral partnerships

The chair presented a proposal for a new OGP multilateral partnership with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which was agreed by the Steering Committee. In brief discussion members asked for more information on plans to make the most of this new partnership, and build on existing multilateral partnerships.

Any other business

The Support Unit presented a timeline of things the Steering Committee should be aware of over the next few months, to ensure the necessary decisions are able to be made ahead of the Summit.

Friday 30 September: Steering Committee written comments on the scope of the strategic refresh so far, specifically focusing on what their role in it should be.

13 October: Governance and leadership subcommittee meeting to consider inputs on the strategic refresh and agree the draft of the Summit declaration.

First week of November (TBC): Steering Committee call to agree political deliverables for the summit and receive update on the strategic refresh

Participants

Open Government Partnership Steering Committee - Governments

South Africa (lead co-chair)

Ayanda Dlodlo Deputy Minister of
Public Service and Administration
Qinisile Delwa Department of Public
Service and Administration

France (support co-chair)

Jean-Vincent Placé Secretary of State for State Reform and Simplification
Boris Jamet-Fournier Ministry of State Reform and Simplification
Pauline Carmona Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Laure Lucchesi Etalab
Amélie Banzet Etalab

Brazil

Torquato Jardim Minister of Transparency, Oversight and Control
Otavio Neves Director of Transparency, Comptroller General's Office

Chile

Nicolás Eyzaguirre Minister General Secretariat of the Presidency
Rodrigo Mora OGP focal point for Chile
Cristián Barros Ambassador of Chile to the UN

Croatia

Amir Muharemi Assistant Minister, Ministry of Foreign and European
Affairs

Georgia

Thea Tsulukiani Minister of Justice
Zurab Sanikidze Director of Analytical Department, Ministry of Justice

Indonesia

Bambang Brodjonegoro Minister of National Development Planning
Yanuar Nugroho Deputy Chief of Staff, Executive Office of the President
Agung Hikmat Assistant Adviser, Executive Office of the President
Raden Siliwanti Ministry of National Development Planning
Muhsin Syihab Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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Mexico

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Counsellor, Prime Minister's Office

United Kingdom

Ben Gummer
Paul Maltby
Oliver Buckley
Thomas Townsend

Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General
Director of Data, Cabinet Office
Deputy Director, Policy and International, Cabinet Office
Cabinet Office

United States

Megan Smith
Scott Busby
Camille Eiss
Cori Zarek

Chief Technology Officer
Deputy Assistant Secretary of State
Department of State
Office of Science and Technology Policy, White House

Open Government Partnership Steering Committee - Civil Society

Names in brackets below members are their designated seconds.

Alejandro Gonzalez (lead co-chair)
Manish Bapna (support co-chair)
(Mark Robinson)
Veronica Cretu
Mukelani Dimba
Aidan Eyakuze
Nathaniel Heller
Suneeta Kaimal
Warren Krafchik
Martin Tisne
(Julie McCarthy)
Zuzana Wienk

GESOC
World Resources Institute (WRI)
World Resources Institute (WRI)
Open Government Institute
Open Democracy Advice Centre (ODAC)
Twaweza
Results for Development Institute
Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI)
International Budget Partnership
Transparency and Accountability Initiative
Transparency and Accountability Initiative
Fair Play Alliance

The following people attended as observers and are due to join the Steering Committee on October 1, 2016.

Helen Darbishire
Robin Hodess
María Baron

Access Info Europe
Transparency International
Directorio Legislativo

Apologies: Sugeng Bahagijo, INFID