

**Open Government Partnership
Criteria and Standards Subcommittee Monthly Call**

Tuesday April 11, 2017

*10:00 WASHINGTON / 12:00 BUENOS AIRES – SANTIAGO / 16:00 MADRID / 17:00 BUCHAREST -
JOHANNESBURG*

Call Summary

Participation

In attendance:

- Claudia Montero, Government of Chile
- Radu Puchiu, Government of Romania
- Jennifer Lewis, Government of the United States
- Preston Whit, Results for Development Institute (R4D) (Nathaniel Heller's OGP second)
- Suneeta Kaimal, NRGi
- Hille Hinsberg, IEP
- Denisse Miranda, Lesly Baesens (IRM)
- Alonso Cerdan, Jaime Mercado: Support Unit (SU)

Apologies:

- Nathaniel Heller, Results for Development Institute (R4D)
- Maria Baron, Directorio Legislativo
- Helen Darbishire, Access Info Europe
- Government of South Africa

Agenda Items

1. General update
2. IRM Refresh
3. Azerbaijan updates and next steps
4. Countries under review
 - Montenegro
 - Tunisia
 - Turkey
5. Rules of the Game review and next steps
 - Response Policy review
 - Nathaniel's initial proposal
 - Timeline for review process

Highlights and Action Items

No quorum was reached. The participants went over the agenda items to collect questions, yet no decisions were taken

1. General Updates

- **June Steering Committee Meeting:** The dates have been set for Tuesday June 27 and 28. The meeting will be hosted by World Resources Institute at their headquarters in Washington D.C.

Decision point:

- *C&S meeting and objectives.*

Highlights:

- It was proposed that C&S hold 2 meetings on the margins of the Steering Committee meeting in June, 2017:
 - 1) pre-SC meeting for strategic discussion of the Azerbaijan case and Montenegro and Tunisia cases if needed
 - 2) post-SC meeting on Wednesday evening/Thursday morning to review input from SC meeting on C&S proposals. These meetings are not mandatory and subject to members' trip schedules and availability.

Actions items:

- The Support Unit will send proposed dates and times for each meeting along with agenda items ahead of the meetings.
- All members are requested to be up to speed on the countries under review in order to make a decision in June meetings.

2. IRM refresh

- The IRM is undergoing a review process in 2017 as part of the broader OGP review in order to identify areas where the IRM can maximize its effectiveness can be as effective as possible in ensuring accountability and learning across OGP.

Reference materials: IRM Call for Reviewers

Highlights:

- Hille Hinsberg from the International Experts Panel (IEP) presented an overview of the IRM call for reviewers. The IRM review is an opportunity for the IRM to gather input and feedback from a broader base of stakeholders beyond national researchers on how to maximize its effectivity.
- The review team will be selected in early May after IEP/IRM meeting. The TORs will incorporate feedback received and further elaborated after the review team is selected.
- The IRM refresh is part of the broader OGP strategic refresh and aims to maintain synergies with the Support Unit and other ongoing processes such as the response policy review.

3. Azerbaijan updates and next steps

Updates:

- Report on Azerbaijan visit from the government of France and Georgia. (sent)
- Government of Azerbaijan monthly update.

Proposed timeline to develop a C&S recommendation:

1. May 4th. **Document submission deadline.** One-year anniversary of the inactivity decision. All stakeholders will have until this date to submit documents and updates to be considered in the final CS recommendation.
2. May 17-23 (TBC) **Official OGP Steering Committee and Support Unit visit to Baku.** At least one SC government and one civil society representative (including one Criteria and Standards member), accompanied by SU staff, will conduct an official visit to Azerbaijan to review progress made against the original concerns, including specifically the functioning of the OGP Forum and the Civil Society Registration process.
3. May 5 to 28. **Review Period:** An updated review of the operating environment for civil society in Azerbaijan will be performed by an external advisor. We will solicit materials from all stakeholders involved to put together a comprehensive packet by May 4th (1-year anniversary since inactive designation). Materials received after this date will not be considered in the review, with the exception of input from the Official OGP Steering Committee and Support Unit visit to Baku.
4. May 30-June 6. **C&S recommendation review and approval:** The SU will draft a formal recommendation for C&S to send to full SC ahead of June meetings, including: 1) options available based on current interpretation of OGP policy [besides removal/reinstatement] and ways to move forward; 2) Status update of the situation in Azerbaijan. Based on the recommendation, the C&S will issue a final proposal for the full SC meeting to take place on June.
5. June 26. **C&S in person meeting.** Final strategy session on presentation of the Azerbaijan resolution to the SC.

Decision point:

- *Approve timeline and activities.*

Reference Materials: Trip reports from French and Georgian delegations to Baku in early 2017 and Government of Azerbaijan monthly update.

Highlights:

- The official Steering Committee/Support Unit trip to Baku in May will feed the final report that C&S will present to the Steering Committee ahead of its meeting in June.
- The Support Unit will liaise with the IETI secretariat to gather feedback from their earlier trip to Azerbaijan.

Actions items:

- Review and approve timeline
- The Support Unit will share with C&S all background docs and reports shared by EITI as input to inform decision on Azerbaijan.
- A trip report and updates will be shared with the C&S subcommittee during the C&S call on May 23.

4. Countries under review

- **Montenegro:** NAP expected in April – May. Possible trip of the SU in May.
- **Tunisia:** Deadline of June 30 to remedy eligibility situation (publish timely Budget Audit Report)
- **Turkey:** September 1st, 2017, deadline to submit NAP or NAP development plan (per resolution: <http://www.opengovpartnership.org/sites/default/files/Revised%20Turkey%20Resolution%20for%20SC%20May%204.pdf>)

Reference materials: Consult our [Countries Under Review tracker](#).

Highlights:

- Updates on the three countries under review will be provided to the C&S throughout the following months ahead of the Steering Committee meeting in June.

Actions items:

- Approve timeline

5. Rules of the Game review and next steps

- **Response Policy review:** Sophie Smyth, a lawyer who was part of the Mid-term Review team, has been selected as the consultant to take the response policy review forward. She will contact C&S members in the coming weeks. The adjusted timeline is as follows:
 - a. April (Wk. 1): Hire consultant.
 - b. April - May: Review undertaken: Desk research and Interviews.
 - c. May 2: Consultant sends preliminary draft to SU of GONGO definition and questionnaire; and inputs on Australia case; and outline of report.
 - d. May 17: First Draft report submitted to Criteria & Standards including recommendations on a) scope, b) process, and c) language/interpretation of the policy.
 - e. May 23: Criteria & Standards call to discuss draft report and take comments.
 - f. June 2: Second draft report and draft revised Response Policy provisions submitted to Criteria & Standards.
 - g. June 8: Criteria & Standards call to discuss final draft report to be sent to full Steer Co.
 - h. June 12: Final report with options sent to full Steering Committee.
 - i. June 27: Present preliminary findings to full Steering Committee for input.
 - j. June 29: feedback session with C&S in person.

- k. July 10: Final draft version shared with Criteria & Standards.
 - l. July 17: Criteria & Standards call to discuss final draft and take final comments from the subcommittee.
 - m. August 8: Final version agreed by Criteria & Standards and shared with SC.
 - n. September TBC: Revised Response Policy tabled for discussion with and approval of full Steering Committee.
- **Nathaniel's Initial thinking on Rules of the Game:** Please review document [see attached] and prepare comments and feedback for our C&S call. A 2-pager proposal with defined timeline and roadmap between now and June meetings will be drafted based on feedback from C&S. In order to organize the feedback, we will divide this feedback into smaller sections:
 - a. Eligibility criteria
 - b. Rules on NAP development and implementation (timelines, calendars, commitments, etc.)
 - c. Review Processes
 - d. Response policy (see above)
 - **Timeline for the review process.** CS will develop a series of two-pagers with proposals for discussion on the June SC meeting.

Decision point:

- *Would this will require additional calls or only emails?*
- *Smaller taskforces?*
- *Would it be useful to have a C&S post June meeting discussion?*

Reference materials: TORs for the response policy review consultancy; [Key elements and timeline for the Rules of the Game review](#); Nathaniel's "Options for changes to OGP's Rules of the Game" document.

Highlights:

- The Rules of the Game review will be divided upon 3 taskforces who, along with the Support Unit, will draft 2-page proposals for C&S to approve and submit to the full Steering Committee ahead of the June meeting. The taskforces and volunteers are as follow:
 - 1) Eligibility criteria: Potential changes to current criteria. Suneeta Kaimal, USA Government (pending internal approval) and an IRM staff.
 - 2) Review process: Includes acting contrary to process and the role of the C&S on countries under review. C&S members TBC; an IRM staff.
 - 3) NAP development & implementation: includes country calendars, possible flexibility, optional self-assessment reports, caps on number of commitment per action plan, etc. Radu Puchiu; an IRM staff.

Actions items:

- Response policy: Review and approve updated timeline.
- Rules of the Game: SU will send and email to the C&S to get consensus on these items and finalize composition of each taskforce.
- The Support Unit will share a calendar of activities and concrete deadlines for each component.