

**Open Government Partnership  
Criteria and Standards Subcommittee monthly call**

*Thursday December 10, 2015.*

*0930 WASHINGTON / 11:30 SANTIAGO/ 1230 BRASILIA / 1530 ZAGREB / 16:30 CAPE TOWN*

**Attendants:**

- Nathaniel Heller (Results for Development)
- Roberta Solis and Cristina Borges: Government of Brazil
- Rodrigo Mora and Francisco Sánchez: Government of Chile
- Katarina Andric: Government of Croatia
- Camille Eiss: Government of the United States
- Joseph Powell and Alonso Cerdan: Support Unit

**Agenda items**

1. Response policy review
  1. Azerbaijan
  2. Hungary
2. Countries under review
  1. Australia
  2. Turkey
  3. Kenya
  4. Malawi
  5. Montenegro
3. Eligibility criteria
4. Next call
  1. Next call January 19.

**Action Items**

**1. Response policy review**

**1.1. Azerbaijan**

- The CS discussed the latest communication from the government of Azerbaijan and focused on the following topics and action items.

***On participation of Azeri Civil Society on the consultation process***

- CS agreed to request the list of participating organizations.
- CS agreed to request to be informed of the the date, place and time of upcoming public hearings at least 7 days before the meeting, as per the Government of Azerbaijan guidelines.
- CS requests the minutes of all the public hearings.
- CS agrees that for the time being a visit by a SU staff is not necessary.

***On the new National Action Plan timeline***

- CS reminds the government of Azerbaijan is under Criteria and Standards review.
- CS agreed that the new deadline is January 30.

### ***On the expert recommendations on securing civic space***

- CS agreed to send the government of Azerbaijan the list of expert recommendations.

### ***Official response from CS***

- CS will send a letter to the Government of Azerbaijan to summarize their review process, the communications we have had so far and the above agreements and requests.

### ***Documentation of the case***

- The SU will draft a public and an internal table with all the documents and communications that CS has had with the government of Azerbaijan during their review process.

## **1.2. Hungary**

CS agreed on the following timeline for the Hungary report:

- a. CS will send comments to the draft report by December 23.
- b. SU will include the comments in one document that will be sent to the review team by January 5 and approved on January 8.
- c. The review team will work on a list of concrete recommendations or [Proposed Actions for the Government of Hungary](#) and integrate into a single document.
- d. The final document will be sent to CS for approval on January 14.
- e. The document will be approved and sent to GL and the Hungarian government by the week of January 25.

## **2. Countries under review**

### **2.1. Australia**

- The [letter from Australian Prime Minister Malcom Turnbull](#) has been uploaded to the OGP website.
- SU will update CS on advances on the development of their National Action Plan regularly.

### **2.2. Turkey**

- CS agreed to request Governance and Leadership to Draft a letter to the Prime Minister in order to incentivize their renewed involvement.
- Engin Kucet, informed the SU on December 17 that he will no longer be the Turkish Point of Contact.

### **2.3. Kenya**

- SU will update CS on advances on the development of their National Action Plan regularly.

### **2.4. Malawi**

- SU will update CS on advances on the development of their National Action Plan regularly.

### **2.5. Montenegro**

- SU will update CS on advances on the development of their National Action Plan regularly.

## **3.0 Eligibility Criteria**

SU presented a request to revisit the specific language of measurement the fiscal openness indicator,

in light of several outstanding questions about how to score a government's' performance.

Current text	Proposed change
<p><i>Measurement: Two points awarded for publication of each of two essential documents (Executive's Budget Proposal and Audit Report) for open budgets, using a sub-set indicators from the 2015 Open Budget Index, conducted by the International Budget Partnership, which covers more than 100 countries.</i></p>	<p><i>Measurement: Two points awarded for publication of each of two essential documents (Executive's Budget Proposal and Audit Report) for open budgets.</i></p> <p><i>Documents must be publicly available in a timely fashion (at least one month before budget period for Executive's Budget Proposal and within eighteen months of budget period for Audit report) as indicated either in the Open Budget Survey or through the online tracker at <a href="http://OBStracker.org">OBStracker.org</a>. Governments can also provide evidence of publication and the data will be verified by the International Budget Partnership. Governments must present evidence by December 1 to be credited for the following year's eligibility score.</i></p>

- CS approved the proposal pending review of all the members in the subcommittee, in particular IBP.
- CS approved the 2015 process and timeline for updating the eligibility data as follows:
  - Mid November 2015 - the 2015 eligibility data were reviewed by the Support Unit
  - Late November - the data were reviewed by an independent third party
  - Early December - the Support Unit worked with third party validators to settle remaining questions in the data
  - Mid December - data was sent to the Criteria and Standards subcommittee for review
  - Late December - data will be sent to the Steering Committee with end of year updates
  - January - revised data will be publicly announced on the OGP website

#### 4.0 Next Call

The next CS call will take place on January 19 at 9:30 EST.