

Open Government Partnership
Criteria and Standards Subcommittee monthly call
Monday October 5
0930 WASHINGTON / 1030 BRASILIA / 1530 ZAGREB / 1630 DAR

Attendants:

- Roberta Solis and Cristina: government of Brazil
- Corrina Zarek and Lawrence Sperling: government of the United States
- Nathaniel Heller (Results for Development)
- Tamara Puhovski: Government of Croatia
- Joseph Foti and Tinatin Ninua: Independent Reporting Mechanism
- Joseph Powell and Alonso Cerdan: Support Unit

Agenda items

1. Summit update and Q&A
2. IRM preview for October Steering Committee meeting.
3. Response Policy First-year Report. (draft structure attached)
4. Updates on Turkey, Hungary, Australia and Azerbaijan.

Action Items

1. Summit update:

- The Support Unit (SU) presented the agenda of the days leading up to the Summit and the Summit.
- The Criteria and Standards Subcommittee (CS) will have a 30-minute slot in the work level Steering Committee session to discuss the “Draft first year report on lessons learned from implementation of the “Policy on Upholding the Values and Principles of OGP”” and country updates.

2. IRM preview for October Steering Committee meeting.

The Independent Reporting Mechanism presented a brief summary of their Plans for the Summit:

- On the Work level SC meeting the International Expert panels will attend and the discussion will center on a comparison of results between 2013 and 2015.
- On the Ministerial level SC meeting IRM and SU will give a brief update on the state of the Partnership.

3. Response Policy First-year Report. (draft structure attached) (15 min)

- The SU gave a brief presentation of the Draft first year report on lessons learned from implementation of the “Policy on Upholding the Values and Principles of OGP”.
- The CS gave feedback and agreed to present the document to the SC during the Work level SC meeting in Mexico.

- The SU will incorporate comments made and sent by the CS members and send to all the SC members in preparation for the meeting.

4. Updates on Australia, Azerbaijan, Hungary and Turkey. (20 min)

Australia

Status: Under review

Australia has not delivered a National Action Plan since they sent their letter of intent in May 2013. According to the OGP Articles of Governance, this means that the Government of Australia has acted contrary to the OGP process once and if the National Action Plan is not delivered by October 31st, it will be considered to have done this for a second consecutive time. Following a change in Prime Minister in September 2015, the government has indicated it is considering reengaging with OGP. The SU has conveyed to the Government of Australia the importance of indicating their reengagement before October 31st to avoid inactive status.

Azerbaijan

Status: Response policy review stage 1 actions

On March 2 2015, the OGP Steering Committee received a letter regarding threats faced by civil society in Azerbaijan, which was considered a relevant concern after an initial review. The CS has sent a series of recommendations to the Government of Azerbaijan to follow while drafting their second National Action Plan. The Government of Azerbaijan has publically committed to conduct an open, participatory and wide consultation for a new National Action Plan to be published by the end of December 2015. CS will meet with Azerbaijan representatives during the Summit and continue to monitor the situation.

Hungary

Status: Response policy review in progress

On July 8, the OGP Steering Committee received a letter of concern on the deterioration of the space for civil society in Hungary over the last several years. The review team is still drafting the initial report to establish the relevance of the concern. There are delays.

Turkey

Status: Under review.

Turkey's participation has been under review by the OGP Criteria and Standards subcommittee after they were found acting contrary to the OGP process for two consecutive action plan cycles due to inactivity. Although the Government POC has engaged with the Support Unit, the political situation has prevented the development of a new National Action Plan. The elections in Turkey are scheduled to take place on November 1st. CS has agreed to give the government a two-month extension to indicate its interest in participating in OGP, before considering Turkey for inactive status on December 31st, 2015.