

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

*Tuesday October 11, 2016*

*10:00 WASHINGTON / 11:00 BUENOS AIRES - SANTIAGO/ 15:30 ZAGREB / 16:00 MADRID -  
JOHANNESBURG / 17:00 BUCHAREST*

**Agenda items**

1. Letters of concern received: Australia and Turkey
2. Response policy countries under review updates: Azerbaijan and Hungary
3. Process countries under review updates on Australia, Montenegro, and South Korea.
4. Response Policy two-year review
5. Consultation Guidelines: update

Participants:

- Francisco Sánchez and Rodrigo Mora – Government of Chile
- Radu Puchiu - Government of Romania
- Qinisile Delwa and Mesuli Macozoma - Government of South Africa
- Camille Eiss and Corinna Zarek - Government of the United States
- Preston Whitt - Results for Development
- Suneeta Kaimal - Natural Resource Governance Institute
- Maria Baron - Directorio Legislativo
- Helen Darbishire - Access Info Europe
- Tinatin Ninua and Denisse Miranda - Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM)
- Paul Maassen, Alonso Cerdan and Helen Turek - Support Unit (SU)

**Action items**

Before the formal agenda began, it was agreed that a standing call for Criteria and Standards should be set up, with ad hoc calls for certain items as necessary. The second Tuesday of every month at 10am Eastern Time was proposed.

**1. Letters of concern received: Australia and Turkey**

**Australia** – The response policy has been triggered and a review team will be formed once the shift within the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee is finalized.

Action points:

1. SU to inform the Australian Government that the response policy has been triggered. (done).

2. Interested members of the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee should notify Alonso Cerdan of interest in participating in the review team by October 31st. The Support Unit will write a first draft of this report.

**Turkey** – A complaint letter was submitted. The policy cannot be triggered because they are inactive and there is no OGP process going on. The SU has drafted a response proposal outlining this fact and the inactivity decision for CS approval.

Action points:

1. Response should be updated to reflect comments received from committee members. (done)
2. Also to include clear information about how Turkey can re-engage in the process and that there is a year to do so. (done)
3. Also to include information about the review of the response policy, and that this is the first time a letter of concern relating to an inactive country has been received. (done)
4. SU will also draft an informal response to the Turkish CSO to suggest how we can work on these issues and keep them engaged. This will be sent once the official response is out.
5. During the review of the response policy, the case should be used as a starting point to understand how to address concerns that fall outside the scope of the policy. (done)

## **2. Response policy countries under review updates: Azerbaijan and Hungary**

**Azerbaijan.** The subcommittee received an update of recent communications with the Azeri government and civil society.

Action points:

1. SU has received details about a new multi-stakeholder platform, but more information-gathering needs to be done to find out whether this has improved the operating environment for CSOs. The upcoming End of Term IRM report should help inform the answer to this question as well. SU will share an update on the new platform with information gathered to date before the next call.
2. Reach out to embassies and other stakeholders (e.g. EITI) for information gathering.

**Hungary.** The Government of Hungary has sent a response to the SU, rejecting the findings of the report of the review team.

Action points:

1. Reach out to the Community of Democracies and organize a meeting with them in DC.
2. SU to put the response from the Hungarian Government online (done).
3. Peter Varga, Civil Society Coordinator for Europe, is currently in Budapest gathering information on the issue. SU will send a summary of his findings shortly.

4. SU will draft a response to the Hungarian Government.
5. SU to reach out to the Hungarian Government to attend the Global Summit and meet with Criteria and Standards. Done: It is likely that working level representatives will attend the Summit, no confirmation from Ministers yet. The POC reacted positively to the idea of a meeting.
6. Explore further diplomatic outreach opportunities

### **3. Process countries under review updates on Australia, Montenegro, and South Korea.**

**Australia.** Australia has not delivered a National Action Plan since they sent their letter of intent in May 2013. On November 24, the Support Unit received a letter from Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, that announced the government's intention to finalize Australia's participation in OGP by developing a National Action Plan to be delivered by July 1. However, the government called an early election in April which stalled the process. A new government was formed after the July 2 elections and they have resumed the process of developing an NAP. The Plan is expected by the summit. Since they will miss the October 31st deadline, CS expects a letter from the highest level.

**Update:** On October 14 we received a letter from Deputy Secretary of Innovation and Transformation, Steven Kennedy, where he outlines that they expect to deliver their National Action Plan before the end of 2016 in order to have enough time to properly finalize their consultation. This letter is attached.

**Montenegro.** The OGP Support Unit has informed the government of Montenegro that it acted contrary to OGP process through emails as well as through official letters in November 2014, November 2015 and January 2016. The government has continued to actively participate in OGP conferences over this time (including the European point of contact conference, Western Balkans regional meeting, and Mexico Global Summit). However, the plan was not submitted before June 30, 2016 and the Support Unit once again sent a letter in early August to the Minister responsible for OGP, urging the government to finalize the plan.

**Update:** The Montenegrin government has informed the SU that they will deliver the Action Plan before the deadline.

**South Korea.** South Korea failed to conduct OGP-specific consultations on the development of their first and second National Action Plans, which is acting contrary to OGP processes. As a result, they are now under review. The Support Unit sent South Korea a letter informing them of this development. The Support Unit informed the subcommittee that a consultation is taking place for the development of the third Action Plan which is expected before the end of October.

**4. Response Policy two-year review.** Criteria and Standards is to undertake a review of the response policy within the context of the strategic refresh.

Action points:

1. SU to carry out a mapping of the issue areas to address.
2. SU, Nathaniel Heller and Radu Puchiu to prepare a roadmap of how to undertake the review, using the Global Summit as the key moment to hold discussions
3. Reach out to other organisations who have response policies, and invite them to the discussions at the Summit
4. Mapping and roadmap to be presented at the November Criteria and Standards call.

**5. Co-creation Guidelines.** The guidelines are currently under a 30-day public consultation. There are different ways to comment, and two webinars for CSOs will be held in English and Spanish. Separate webinars will be held for OGP points of contact.

Action points:

1. SU to translate information about process for consultation into French and Spanish. (done)
2. Committee members and SU to suggest other formats for consultation that fit into the current timeframe.