

# OGP Steering Committee Meeting

Virtual Call Minutes | 2 October 2019

## Attendees

- Government of Argentina: Rudi Borrmann, Carolina Cornejo
- Government of Canada: Melanie Robert, Benoit Frenette
- Government of France: Sarah Hayes
- Government of Georgia: Ketevan Tsanova
- Government of Germany: Sebastian Haselbeck
- Government of Indonesia: Erie Febriyanto
- Government of Italy: Marco Marrazza
- Government of South Africa: Kgothatso Semela
- Government of South Korea: Yujin Lee
- Robin Hodess and Anabel Lee Hogg, The B-Team
- Maria Baron, Directorio Legislativo
- Asma Cherifi, TACID Network
- Glynnis Cummings John, Restless Development
- Helen Darbishire, Access Info Europe
- Aidan Eyakuze, Twaweza
- Delia Ferreira Rubio, Transparency International
- Nathaniel Heller, Geneva Global
- Giorgi Kldiashvili, Institute for Development of Freedom of Information
- Suneeta Kaimal, Natural Resources Governance Institute
- Tur-Od Lkhagvajav, Asia Democracy Network
- Lucy McTernan, University of York
- Elisa Peter, Publish What you Pay
- Zuzana Wienk, Fair Play Alliance

## Apologies

- Government of Croatia
- Government of Mexico
- Government of Nigeria
- Government of Romania

## Overview of Argentina - Hodess Co-chair Priorities

The Government of Argentina of Robin Hodess presented an overview of their co-chair priorities for 2019 - 2020. The specific priorities are:

1. **Create an Open State:** Matching the efforts that have been made on opening government beyond the executive on open parliament and open judiciary - which will be strongly linked to strengthening OGP's work on Access to Justice.



2. **Building Trust in Digital Governance:** Building governance frameworks and establishing best practices for governance in the digital area to open up government and private businesses and foster greater levels of trust and integrity on digital technologies.
3. **Cross Cutting Priorities:** Maintaining continuity on Partnership-wide priorities to deepen the impact of ongoing efforts - including Anti-Corruption, Inclusion and Civic Space - and helping the OGP Support Unit push through key programs to strengthen the overall partnership - including the IRM Refresh, OGP Local Strategy and Three-Year Implementation Plan.

The SC provided comments and input following the presentation of the Argentina - Hodess priorities. A summary of the main discussion points are below:

- Expanding beyond the executive would allow OGP to engage parliamentarians in a much more cross-cutting manner than before. This cross-cutting approach to parliament engagement would allow them to be involved in the most pertinent debates around OGP's priority themes (i.e. Gender and Inclusion, Access to Justice and Anti-Corruption).
- In order strengthen OGP's work to protect and expand civic space, the Partnership's engagement on this issue needs to expand beyond the ministries that manage the domestic process. Doing so would allow for greater implementation of impactful civic space policies.

## Highlights from the GL Retreat

The Government of Argentina and Robin Hodess shared with the full Steering Committee (SC) the highlights of the discussions from the GL Retreat that took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 19 - 20 September. The summary of the topics covered during the retreat and comments from the SC are summarized below.

### **Champions Concept:**

The Government of Argentina and Robin Hodess presented the Champions Concept, which is a model that intends to drive attention to governments already driving priority themes forward in OGP and devolve this thematic leadership beyond the SC. This model would also enable the broader OGP community access and opportunities to collaborate with the SC on collective objectives across these priority themes.

The SC comments and inputs regarding the Champions Concept were the following:

- Presenting countries as an OGP champion is politically challenging and frequently, not representative of the efforts undertaken by an entire government administration. The champions denotation should instead highlight the impactful and innovative open government work being done by specific teams/departments within government ministries.
- The concept of "champion" needs to be more clearly defined and a concrete set of criteria for the selection of the champions needs to be developed and should be framed in a consultative way.
- There should be a concerted way to involve civil society, including in implementation of this initiative.



- The development of this initiative should take into account, and integrate other thematic leadership initiatives in OGP such as Ambassadors/ Envoys, Trust Fund, MoUs, etc.

### OGP Local Strategy

The Government of Argentina and Robin Hodess provided an overview of the discussions among the Local Taskforce, GL and the Support Unit and next steps. These discussions were non-decisional and were only intended to further inform the input on design for all elements of the strategy. The highlight recommendations that came from this discussion were:

1. Develop an overarching narrative and comms strategy for describing all three pillars approved by the SC as one, comprehensive strategy;
2. Develop detailed options for the selection process and criteria for Local membership. Further work will be needed to consider how civic space violations will be addressed;
3. Integrate the learning components of the Local strategy into the broader OGP learning and innovation to scale learning efforts to a much broader audience;
4. Ensure that the Local Strategy caters to and works for countries across different levels of maturity in their local government engagement; and
5. Helps connect leaders in open local government, and facilitates connections between networks of reformers across different regions and countries.

As next steps, the Local Taskforce will:

1. Conduct further consultations with different stakeholder groups, including a design workshop in Brussels taking place on October 10 - 11, and will invite SC members for one-on-one calls to gather further input on the design phase of the strategy and will regularly update the SC on the progress made; and
2. Present the implementation plan for SC approval in early 2020 with a target to launch the approved Local Strategy in Q2 2020.

### IRM Refresh

The Government of Argentina and Robin Hodess provided an overview of the discussions among GL and the Support Unit and next steps. These discussions were non-decisional and were only intended to gather input on the political direction of the IRM refresh and more broadly, the value proposition of the IRM. The highlights from the discussion were:

1. **IRM Purpose and Value Proposition:** Overall, there was agreement among the group that the core purpose of the IRM is to serve as OGP's accountability mechanism and foster country-level learning. The accountability function of the IRM brings credibility to OGP and its data can be used for global and thematic research.
2. **IRM Scope and Method:** Overall, there was consensus that the current approach is not the most efficient and there are issues in the understanding and implementation. There was also consensus among the group on the need for the IRM to diversify its products that are fit for purpose and can better inform the different stages of the action plan cycle.

As next steps, the IRM will bring back the proposed direction of travel and proposed changes to the IRM charter in December 2019 - January 2020 before tabling it for full SC approval in 2020.



## Brief Overview of Three-Year Implementation Plan

The OGP Support Unit provided a brief overview of the scope of OGP's Three-Year Implementation planning process. This would cover: 1) Clarify what collective results would indicate a successful OGP; 2) What activities should OGP pursue to achieve these collective results; and 3) How to maintain continuity between the leadership priorities across OGP.

As next steps, the Support Unit will circulate an early draft for review and discussion by the SC at its December 6th call. Additional consultations with the SC will take place ahead of the February Berlin SC meeting (in-person) where the 3YP will be tabled for SC approval.

## Thank You to Outgoing Members

The OGP Support Unit extended their gratitude to the outgoing members of the Steering Committee - Nathaniel Heller, Suneeta Kaimal, the Government of Mexico and Government of Croatia for their service and contributions to OGP.

