

**Thematic Leadership Subcommittee**  
**Bi-monthly Call Summary**  
**15 November 2018**

**Attendees**

- Government of France: Amelie Banzet
- Government of Georgia: Pelagia Makhauri
- Government of Mexico: Alejandra Rascon, Eduardo Vargas
- Government of Romania: Larisa Panait
- Helen Darbishire, Access Info Europe
- Tur-Od Lkhagvajav, Asia Democracy Network
- Scott Miller, Trust Democracy Australia
- Zuzana Wienk, Fair Play Alliance (TLS subcommittee civil society chair)
- OGP Support Unit: Tonu Basu, Jaime Mercado, Enrico Campos
- **Regrets:** Government of South Korea, Giorgi Kldiashvili, Delia Ferreira Rubio

**Call Summary**

**1. Welcome to TLS**

The TLS civil society chair welcomed new subcommittee members and outlined the subcommittee objectives and the structure of bi-monthly calls for 2018-2019. A proposed restructuring of the TLS bi-monthly calls was discussed. This would benefit from i) TLS members to formulate goals and priorities around emerging open government themes, ii) individual TLS members leading on the discussion - sharing progress and surfacing ideas, and iii) identify and engage other SC and non-SC governments and civil society colleagues who can anchor specific thematic communities. This will also be discussed in future calls.

**2. December SC Meeting Thematic Discussions**

The TLS discussed the proposed structure of the thematic sessions to take place at the upcoming December 5-6 Steering Committee (SC) meeting in Washington D.C., and the role of the TLS and wider SC to advance these topics in the lead up to the Canada Global Summit in May, and other key action forcing events in 2019 such as the HLPF.

The goal of the December SC meeting is to discuss progress on a subset of SC-endorsed themes and emerging topics in OGP, with the aim to build coalitions in OGP. These discussions will take place in three breakout groups: **i) Beneficial Ownership Transparency, ii) Open Government for Gender Equality, and iii) Governance of New Technologies/ Digital threats to Democracy.** These topics are based on priorities where the Support Unit (SU) is seeing an emerging and growing demand but no coalitions exist yet in OGP, signaling a potential leadership role for the SC or other OGP members. These themes also touch on those flagged by the TLS members who filled out a survey

circulated by the SU to learn which key issues TLS members would like to scale up through OGP.

Some of the key inputs by TLS members include:

- To make the December SC discussions concrete and forward-looking, it would be helpful to have the following information for each of the themes set for discussion: a) *Who are the different actors both within and outside of OGP working on these topics;* b) *What are these actors doing;* and c) *How can they participate in the discussion to share knowledge and best practices ?*
- Some members shared how these themes resonate for them (i.e. for those governments working on Beneficial Ownership, such a discussion would be helpful in informing their work domestically). Other members offered to share their expertise on implementation and advocacy related to these issues across different regions.
- Regarding TLS' role in the coming year, it was proposed that a key role for the subcommittee would be to examine and establish the organizational mechanisms by which OGP defines its thematic priorities. It was suggested that OGP should look at what has worked and what has not worked and report back on their findings to the full SC. Others also recognized that the OGP Trust Fund is a valuable tool to advance thematic priorities, and would like to discuss ways in which it could be closer aligned with TLS' strategic input and the SU's insights.

### **3. Future TLS calls scheduling**

The SU proposed to alternate the bimonthly call schedule between different time zones to accommodate colleagues in the Asia-Pacific region, and those in the Americas. This idea was well received by TLS.