

Civil Society Steering Committee Monthly Call

13 November 2019 | 8:00–9:30 DC / 14:00 Brussels

List of Participants

Attendees

Maria Baron, Glynnis Cummings-John, Asma Cherifi, Aidan Eyakuze, Robin Hodess, Tur-Od Lkhagvajav, Lucy McTernan, Michelle Volpin, Zuzana Wienk

Support Unit:

Paul Maassen, Maia Koytcheva

Apologies:

Helen Darbshire, Delia Ferreira Rubio, Giorgi Kldiashvili, Elisa Peter

Call Summary

1. Updates across the Civil Society Steering Committee

Each subcommittee provided the cohort with a brief update on past and upcoming calls. Minutes from all past subcommittee calls are available publicly on the [Steering Committee Website](#).

Following a conversation around Rapid Response Cases and their resolution, Aidan requested further information on the closure of the cases and the revision of the mechanism from the Support Unit. Detailed feedback can be found [here](#).

Action Items

- The cohort suggested that the Support Unit should include the proposed leaders' program as a discussion item in the upcoming one-on-one calls with Steering Committee members.
- In the year since its inception, the Thematic Leadership Subcommittee has worked closely with the Support Unit to advance progress on OGP's thematic priorities. The cohort suggested to include an update on the thematic discussions and results in the December full Steering Committee Call.

2. Governance structures

Following a conversation within the Governance and Leadership subcommittee, the cohort discussed the current Support Unit governance structures with an emphasis on the Board. The discussion showed that awareness around the distinct roles of the Steering Committee and the Board of Directors could be improved, especially with newer members that were not around when the board was created. In essence, OGP's Steering Committee provides the strategic and policy direction to the initiative while the Board of Directors (BoD) provides the legal and fiscal oversight to the independent non-profit, OGP Secretariat.

Action Items



- With the term of some current board members coming to end, the Support Unit has been asked by the Board to informally reach out to eligible candidates and provide information on the role. The application period for Board candidates will open 2. December 2019 and close 10. January 2020.
- Aidan and Maria volunteered to work with the Support Unit to create a briefing document with further guidance and suggestions in advance of the Steering Committee meeting in February.

3. **The Buddy System**

With the latest Steering Committee members joining the cohort in October, it was decided May 2019 to introduce an informal buddy system to assist the onboarding process for new Civil Society Steering Committee members. The buddies were introduced to each other at the summit in Ottawa: Aidan was paired with Elisa, Helen with Asma, and Zuzana with Glynnis. Aidan confirmed that he and Elisa have been in touch and that the system was working well for them.

Action Item

- The Support Unit is to check in with the buddies and based on experience suggest adjustments going ahead.

4. **February 2020 Steering Committee Meeting**

The full Steering Committee is taking place in Berlin, Germany 25-27 February 2020. The Civil Society Steering Committee will be taking that opportunity for a strategic get-together. An agenda for the week is being prepared by the Support Unit and the Governance and Leadership Subcommittee. An agenda for the cohort meeting is being drafted at the moment, based on information from bilateral calls amongst the cohort.

Action Items

- A date needs to be agreed for the meeting in coordination with the Support Unit
- An agenda draft is to be shared by the cohort for discussion and further coordination with the Support Unit.

