

Open Government Partnership

Criteria and Standards Subcommittee

Monthly Call Summary | 6 February 2020

Attendees

- Government of Nigeria: Chidinma Ilechukwu and Stan Achonu
- Government of Georgia: Ketevan Tsanova
- Government of Italy: Stefano Pizzicannella
- Elisa Peter, Publish What You Pay
- Aidan Eyakuze, Twaweza

Apologies:

- Government of France
- Delia Ferreira Rubio, Transparency International
- Lucy McTernan, University of York

Call Summary

- I. **2020 C&S Work Plan** - The Support Unit presented the draft Criteria and Standards (C&S) work plan for 2020 for initial comments and input from the Subcommittee, before the plan is tabled for endorsement at the Subcommittee meeting on February 25 in Berlin. Outlined below are the main inputs from the Subcommittee members and next steps.

A. Rules of the Game

1. Streamline and simplify the OGP Participation and Co-Creation Standards

- a) C&S recommended the Support Unit to work with the IRM to outline the main lessons learned regarding Participation and Co-Creation Standards to inform the discussions of the Subcommittee.

2. Develop a flexible, multi-year action plan model

- a) For the development of a flexible, multi-year action plan model, C&S further suggested that the proposal assesses:
 - (1) The impact these changes may have on OGPs cohort model (which divides countries into “odd” and “even” categories);
 - (2) The criteria and possible mechanisms that countries would need to follow when opting to develop multi-year action plans of different lengths;
 - (3) A way for local actors to revert to a two-year plan should the extended action plan not prove favorable as assessed by the local stakeholders;



- (4) A way for action plan calendars to include a period for the development of the government self-assessment report that does not overlap with the development of the following action plan;
- (5) The need to update OGP's Procedural Review process to incorporate any changes derived from flexible multi-year action plan model.

Next steps:

1. The Support Unit will further explore the options available for flexible action plan multi-year model and will develop proposals for discussion and input from the Subcommittee at the Steering Committee February 2020 working-level meeting in Berlin;
2. The Support Unit will also gather input from other members of the Steering Committee during the breakout session on "Strengthening Rules of the Game" during the Berlin meeting.
3. Since the IRM Refresh will have implications on this product, after its conclusion and approval by the Steering Committee, the Support Unit will work with the IRM to refine these proposals and present them to C&S for discussion and input.

II. Procedural Review cases and inactivity decisions

A. Updates on Procedural Review cases - The Support Unit presented the list of countries no longer under review, countries that acted contrary to process for the 2019-2021 action plan cycle (Bulgaria, Colombia, Ghana, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Liberia, Malawi, Malta, Pakistan, Panama, Senegal, South Africa, and Spain) and countries placed under Procedural Review as a result of acting contrary to process for two consecutive cycles (Bulgaria, Ghana, Ireland, Israel, Malawi, Malta and South Africa). The Support Unit clarified that the IRM is still finalizing its assessment of countries that may have acted contrary to the OGP process by not reaching the minimum co-creation and participation standards. This may result in additional countries being added to the Procedural Review list.

Next steps:

1. A small summary describing the situation of countries placed under Procedural Review will be shared with C&S in the Steering Committee February 2020 working-level meeting in Berlin.
2. The Steering Committee will have the opportunity to discuss in regional breakouts what support it can provide to these countries.

B. Inactivity cases: Pakistan and Jamaica - The Support Unit presented the inactivity resolutions for Jamaica and Pakistan for C&S comment and input.



Decision item: C&S endorsed the inactivity resolutions for Jamaica and Pakistan. Resolutions will be presented for full Steering Committee endorsement at the February 2020 working-level meeting in Berlin.

III. Response Policy Cases

A. Azerbaijan - The Support Unit provided a brief update on the Response Policy case of Azerbaijan. The Government of Azerbaijan adhered to the established timeline and milestones for 2019, outlined in the Steering Committee resolution. In December 2019, the government submitted an action plan in Azerbaijani, in order to comply with the final milestone requirement for 2019. The government Point of Contact indicated that given changes to a number of key government positions and the dissolution of the parliament in December 2019, and legislative elections in February 2020, the plan still needs to be subject to approvals within the government and additional consultation with civil society. The action plan will then be resubmitted to OGP, in line with the procedures set out by OGP for all members to update submitted action plans. The Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) will review and assess the scope of the commitments outlined in the action plan, as is the case for all other OGP participants. Once the IRM assessment is concluded (expected at the end of 2021), inputs from the report will be considered by C&S to assess whether the plan adequately addresses the requirements of the resolution and review Azerbaijan's participation status. Azerbaijan will continue to remain suspended in OGP until its participation status is reviewed.

Next steps:

- i. The Support Unit will continue to monitor and update the C&S on any developments.*

