

Open Government Partnership

Criteria and Standards Subcommittee In-Person Meeting

Tuesday 25 February 2020 | Berlin, Germany

Attendees

- Delia Ferreira Rubio, Transparency International
- Lucy McTernan, University of York
- Elisa Peter, Publish What You Pay
- Government of Georgia: Ketevan Tsanava
- Government of Italy: Marco Marrazza
- Government of Nigeria: Clement Ikanade Agba; Anne Nwanyife Lynda Nzegwu; Philip Ibukun Ugbodaga; and Stanley Nnabugo Achonu
- OGP Support Unit: Denisse Miranda, Chief, IRM; Alonso Cerdan Verastegui, Deputy Country Support

Apologies:

- Government of France
- Aidan Eyakuze, Twaweza

Meeting Summary

I. Update on Inactivity cases: Pakistan and Jamaica

The Criteria and Standards Subcommittee (C&S) reviewed the two resolutions that were on the agenda of the full Steering Committee (SC) approval at its meeting in Berlin (25-27 February 2020).

A. Pakistan: Despite several attempts the Support Unit (SU) received no further communications from the government of Pakistan regarding the status of its action plan and possibility of being designated inactive on 25 February 2020. The C&S agreed to proceed tabling the inactivity resolution endorsed at its 6 February 2020 [meeting](#) (see attached).

B. Jamaica: C&S received a letter from the Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Nigel Clarke, dated 24 February 2020, indicating Jamaica's high-level commitment to develop its first OGP action plan. During the meeting, C&S reviewed and approved the roadmap shared in this letter to develop, publish, and adopt Jamaica's OGP action plan by late August 2020.

In light of this, the C&S endorsed a revised version of the resolution it had previously endorsed was updated to reflect these developments. The resolution further stated that "in desiring to maintain a consistent and fair approach to enforcing OGP requirements asked of all participating countries, and considering



that the government of Jamaica has acted contrary to OGP process by not delivering an OGP action plan for three consecutive cycles, the OGP Steering Committee hereby resolves that **failure to deliver an action plan by 31 December 2020, will automatically result in Jamaica being designated as inactive in OGP..**

C&S also agreed to send a letter addressed to the Jamaican government and to the civil society organizations participating in the process to offer their support to successfully develop an ambitious action plan by the deadline (see attached).

II. 2020 C&S Work Plan & Reflecting on the work of the Subcommittee

During the second part of the meeting, the SU discussed some of the work that will be undertaken in 2020. This included an intervention by the Chief IRM on the IRM refresh and discussing the context behind the letter that Guatemalan Civil Society organizations sent to the SC regarding recent legal reforms that could potentially hinder the ability of civil society organizations to operate.

During this part of the meeting C&S agreed to:

- Request that the SU provides quarterly check-ins regarding the status of countries that have acted contrary to the OGP process in order to avoid having to place them under review or in inactive status.
- Request that the SU establishes a space to discuss with the Governance and Leadership Subcommittee (GL) a mechanism to allow OGP and the SU to rapidly respond to civic space threats.



Resolution of the OGP Steering Committee Regarding the Status of the Government of Pakistan's Participation in OGP

25 February 2020

The OGP Steering Committee welcomes Pakistan's participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) since 2016, and recognizes the efforts made to develop a draft OGP action plan in 2017. The OGP Steering Committee further acknowledges the potential delays to the OGP process caused by the political transition in 2018.

However, considering that the Government of Pakistan has acted contrary to the OGP process by not delivering an action plan for three consecutive cycles (2017, 2018, 2019), **the OGP Steering Committee, under the provisions set out in the Articles of Governance, hereby resolves to designate the Government of Pakistan as inactive in OGP.**

For countries placed on inactive status by decision of the OGP Steering Committee after acting contrary to the OGP process, the inactive status lasts up to a maximum of one year, or:

- Until the country publishes an action plan, developed in line with OGP Participation and Co-Creation Standards, or
- The country works with the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee and the OGP Support Unit to set a clear timeline to start a new action plan cycle and re-engage with civil society for producing the new action plan.

This inactivity status will be immediately lifted upon the submission of an OGP action plan. The OGP Steering Committee further agrees to offer all the necessary support in order to help Pakistan remain engaged in the Partnership.

If, however, a country remains on inactive status for a year without communicating to the OGP Support Unit that it wants to continue to participate in OGP, the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee will recommend that the OGP Steering Committee instructs the OGP Support Unit to remove such country from the list of participating countries.

In addition, the following inactivity conditions apply:

- While inactive, Pakistan will continue to receive Steering Committee and Support Unit assistance, and the IRM will assess its future action plan.
- While inactive, Pakistan will not be eligible to vote or run in Steering Committee elections, and may only attend OGP events as observers for learning purposes.
- While inactive, Pakistan's inactivity will be noted on the OGP website and public information materials, where appropriate (e.g., in a list of participating OGP countries).
- Any country, whether in active or inactive status, may at any time decide itself to withdraw from OGP.

END RESOLUTION



ANY REPLY OR SUBSEQUENT REFERENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE
FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE NUMBER QUOTED:-

Telephone No. 92-28600-16
Website: <http://www.mof.gov.jm>
Email: info@mof.gov.jm

MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE
30 NATIONAL HEROES CIRCLE
P.O. BOX 512
KINGSTON
JAMAICA

24 February 2020

Stefano Pizzicannell
Department for Public Administration
Government of Italy

Aidan Eyakuze
Executive Director
Twaweza

Co-Chairs
Criteria and Standards Subcommittee
Open Government Partnership
1110 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Preparation of GOJ's Open Government Partnership 2020 National Action Plan

The Government of Jamaica affirms its commitment to the principles of transparency, accountability and public participation in government.

The Government of Jamaica (GOJ) remains committed to the development of an Open Government Partnership National Action Plan (OGP NAP) in 2020 in fulfilment of the requirements for continued membership in the forum.

In this regard, the Government of Jamaica hereby advises the OGP Criteria and Standards Subcommittee of the definitive steps which will be undertaken to prepare and submit Jamaica's first OGP NAP by end-August 2020. The process will be led by the Minister of Finance and the Public Service, the Ministerial Focal Point reporting to the Cabinet.

Preparation of the NAP, based on the co-creation and participatory principles of the OGP, is scheduled to take place over a period of six (6) months commencing in March 2020 and concluding in August 2020. Submission of the NAP to the OGP Steering Committee is scheduled for end August 2020.

Consultations with stakeholders are scheduled to commence in May 2020, and will be preceded by the following activities:

- a) Statement in Parliament by the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Public Service in March 2020;
- b) Official launch and sensitization to the OGP and NAP preparation processes led by the Minister of Finance and the Public Service in April 2020, with invitations to major civil society groups and private sector representatives; and
- c) Establishment of a Multi-stakeholder Working Group MSWG by end April 2020, comprising senior technocrats and representatives of key civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

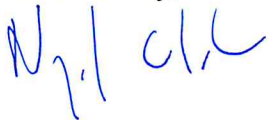
"Development through excellent service"

Mobilization of the various groups for membership in the MSWG is expected to be assisted by the local OGP Civil Society Technical Working Group, from whom the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service will be seeking support. Identification and confirmation of the membership of the MSWG will be followed by a period of sensitization of members to clarify roles and responsibilities and build a common understanding of the principles and process of open government and the OGP framework.

Consultations with civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector will involve appropriate strategies which are expected to yield high-quality proposals for review and recommendation by MSWG for inclusion in the NAP. In addition to use of public media and workshops, a Call for Proposal will be issued to the major civil society and private sector umbrella organizations.

The GOJ intends to work closely with the OGP Support Unit to ensure completion of the NAP in keeping with OGP NAP standards and within the timeline outlined herein.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Clarke'.

Nigel Clarke, DPhil, MP
Minister of Finance and the Public Service

Resolution of the OGP Steering Committee Regarding the Status of the Government of Jamaica's Participation in OGP

25 February 2020

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) Steering Committee welcomes Jamaica's participation in OGP since 2016, and is pleased to have received the letter from the Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Nigel Clarke, dated 24 February 2020, indicating Jamaica's high-level commitment to develop its first OGP action plan.

The Criteria and Standards Subcommittee reviewed and approved the roadmap shared in this letter to develop, publish, and adopt Jamaica's OGP action plan by late August 2020, including important milestones such as establishing a Multi-stakeholder Working group and commencing consultations by May 2020.

However, in desiring to maintain a consistent and fair approach to enforcing OGP requirements asked of all participating countries, and considering that the government of Jamaica has acted contrary to OGP process by not delivering an OGP action plan for three consecutive cycles, the OGP Steering Committee hereby resolves that failure to deliver an action plan by 31 December 2020, will automatically result in Jamaica being designated as inactive in OGP.

Should Jamaica be designated as inactive, the following conditions would apply:

For countries placed on inactive status by decision of the OGP Steering Committee after acting contrary to the OGP process, the inactive status lasts up to a maximum of one year, or:

- Until the country publishes an action plan, developed in line with OGP Participation and Co-Creation Standards, or
- The country works with the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee and the OGP Support Unit to set a clear timeline to start a new action plan cycle and re-engage with civil society for producing the new action plan.

This inactivity status will be immediately lifted upon the submission of an OGP action plan.

If, however, a country remains on inactive status for a year without communicating to the OGP Support Unit that it wants to continue to participate in OGP, the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee will recommend that the OGP Steering Committee instructs the OGP Support Unit to remove such country from the list of participating countries.

In addition, the following inactivity conditions may apply:

- While inactive, Jamaica would continue to receive Steering Committee and Support Unit assistance, and the IRM will assess its future action plan.
- While inactive, Jamaica would not be eligible to vote or run in Steering Committee elections, and may only attend OGP events as observers for learning purposes.
- While inactive, Jamaica's inactivity would be noted on the OGP website and public information materials, where appropriate (e.g., in a list of participating OGP countries).
- Any country, whether on active or inactive status, may at any time decide itself to withdraw from OGP.

END RESOLUTION