Open Government Partnership

Criteria and Standards Subcommittee

Monthly Call Summary | 21 May 2020

Attendees

- Government of Georgia: Ketevan Tsanava
- Government of Italy: Stefano Pizzicannella (Government Chair)
- Government of Nigeria: Stan Achonu and Chidinma Ilechukwu
- Delia Ferreira Rubio, Transparency International
- Aidan Eyakuze, Twaweza (Civil Society Chair)
- Lucy McTernan, University of York
- Elisa Peter, Publish What You Pay

Apologies

- Government of France

Call Summary

I. Rapid Response Protocol [for C&S approval]

Reference material: Rapid Response Protocol (May 21 2020 Version)

Following discussions from the previous Criteria & Standards (C&S) call, the Support Unit (SU) circulated the final version of the Rapid Response Protocol (RRP) which included minor revisions based on the last discussion. During this call, the SU requested any further comments from C&S members regarding the RRP before its final approval by the Subcommittee.

Decision: C&S endorsed the RRP. The document will be circulated for full Steering Committee (SC) approval on a non-objection basis. If there are objections or requests for further discussion by the SC, the SU will hold off on publishing the RRP until it is discussed in the next SC meeting, tentatively scheduled for late July (TBC).

II. Rules of the Game Updates [non-decisional]

The following updates were presented to the C&S members for informational purposes. While not for decision, C&S suggestions on these items have been listed accordingly.

1. Resources for Online Consultations

Reference material: Taking Your OGP Process Online

The SU and the IRM shared with the Subcommittee members a reference guide to the OGP Participation and Co-creation Standards for stakeholders to keep in mind when

organizing online consultations throughout the action plan cycle.

C&S suggested that the document and communications around it should emphasize that it is not meant to replace or shortcut the full Participation and Co-creation Standards and other rules, but rather provide a quick and easily-digestible set of highlights to keep in mind. The SU will incorporate minor edits received and publish it with the next round of Open Response + Open Recovery Campaign materials in June.

2. **Action Plan Flexibility Proposal Update**

   The SU provided a brief update on the state of play and next steps on the action plan flexibility proposal. In line with the timeline for this proposal, the SU will hold a series of online consultations with POCs and CSOs to shape the next version of the document to be brought back to C&S for further review and discussion. The C&S will continue to be informed of any emerging implications from this process, such as changes to other rules and guidance.

3. **Quarterly Update on 2020 Countries Under Procedural Review**
   Reference material: Quarterly Update on 2020 Countries Under Review

   The SU provided a quarterly update on all countries under review in 2020 as previously requested by the Steering Committee. No action is currently required as most processes have stalled due to COVID-19. The SU will follow up with the C&S members that offered to reach out and offer support to peers in these countries.

III. Watching brief and ongoing check ins with the IRM: IRM mitigation measures in the COVID19 context [non-decisional/update]
Reference material: IRM Mitigation Measures with COVID-19 + slides (attached), Open Gov Guide (link)

In the past few weeks, the IRM and IEP discussed implications and mitigation measures to continue to work on reports in the current pandemic context. This included planning the implementation phase of the IRM Refresh with adjustments to adapt to possible changes to current action plan cycles. After presenting these adjustments and recommendations, C&S provided the following feedback and suggestions:

- Emphasize that the role of OGP focuses on supporting resuming and advancing implementation plans versus playing a punitive role in light of the pandemic implications.
- The document presented should be a living document, understanding that the situation is ever-changing and needs flexible solutions that recognize an individual country's struggles rather than trying to find a one-size-fits-all solution.
- The IRM should consider the role they could play in facilitating information sharing around best practices and guidance on how to navigate difficult situations caused by COVID-19.