

Open Government Partnership

Criteria and Standards Subcommittee Call

Monthly Call Summary | 25 June 2020

Attendees

- Government of Georgia: Ketevan Tsanava
- Government of Italy: Stefano Pizzicannella (Government Chair) and Marco Marazza
- Government of Nigeria: Stan Achonu and Chidinma Ilechukwu
- Aidan Eyakuze, Twaweza (Civil Society Chair)
- Lucy McTernan, University of York
- Delia Ferreira Rubio, Transparency International
- Paula Pérez, OGP SU [guest speaker]
- Denisse Miranda, OGP SU [guest speaker]

Apologies

- Government of France
- Elisa Peter, Publish What You Pay

Call Summary

I. Updated resolutions for Jamaica & Pakistan

Reference materials: Amendment to Pakistan Inactivity Resolution from February 25, 2020, Amendment to Jamaica Resolution from February 25, 2020 (attached)

In line with the guidelines approved by Criteria and Standards (C&S) in March 2020 to address the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on OGP processes, the Support Unit (SU) drafted short amendments to the Steering Committee (SC) resolutions on Pakistan (inactive) and Jamaica (at risk of becoming inactive), extending each country's deadlines by one year to comply with the resolutions.

Decision: The resolutions were endorsed by the C&S. The SU will send the resolutions to the full SC for approval by circular on a no-objection basis.

II. OGP Eligibility Scores update (2019 data)

Reference material: Memo on 2020 OGP Eligibility Data Update & unpublished updated master database of OGP eligibility scores (attached)

The SU presented the main findings of the 2019 Eligibility Update for C&S review and endorsement. The three main findings include:

1. Four OGP countries (Burkina Faso, El Salvador, Papua New Guinea and Tunisia) have fallen below minimum core eligibility threshold. Articles of Governance (II.B.3) state that countries should take immediate and explicit steps to address the situation so that it meets the criteria within one year of that determination (by June 30, 2021). If a country fails to meet the Core Eligibility Criteria within that one-year period, C&S will place the country under Procedural Review.



2. Four OGP countries (Azerbaijan (suspended), Kenya, Morocco, and Pakistan (inactive) fail the Values Check. N.b. the Values Check assessment only applies to countries that are yet to join OGP and does not affect countries that are already OGP members.
3. There are 15 non-participating countries that are eligible to join OGP: Austria, Belgium, Bhutan, Ethiopia (newly eligible), Guyana, Iceland, Japan, Madagascar (newly eligible), Mozambique, Nepal, Niger (newly eligible), Poland, Slovenia, Switzerland, Timor-Leste.

Some C&S members requested to be informed of OGP countries with declining Values Check scores, to be able to engage in advance, and provide any early warnings to the C&S.

Decision and next steps:

- C&S endorsed the memo; the SU will share the memo with the full SC and publish the updated scores database on the OGP website to make the update official.
- The SU will inform the four OGP members that have fallen below core eligibility threshold.
- In light of the coronavirus pandemic, C&S approved a one-year extension for Papua New Guinea to raise above the minimum core eligibility threshold.
- SU to think through ways to inform all countries about the updated scores more proactively beyond publishing the data on the OGP website

III. Rules of the Game: Action Plan Flexibility & Streamlining of OGP Participation & Co-Creation Standards

Reference material: PPT including input from consultations (attached)

Building on the results of consultations with members of the SU, national CSOs and POCs, the SU presented an updated proposal regarding flexibility in the calendar and implementation period of OGP action plans and the simplification of OGP Participation & Co-Creation Standards. Clarification was provided around whether OGP is considering any potential additional workloads the new processes might add, and the difference between standards and requirements. C&S provided general support of the proposal with the following input:

- Ensure civil society partners are a part of the co-creation process beyond the initial creation of action plans, especially with longer implementation timelines and specifically in designing the timeframe with government partners;
- Consider developing milestones to track progress for countries that choose a longer timeline, especially with plans that extend through administration changes;
- Ensure the process is as simple and straightforward as possible;
- The SC would like a further conversation about how to ensure the quality and ambition levels of action plans.



Next Steps: A final draft of the proposals will be sent by email for C&S endorsement, which will then go in the pre-meeting packet of the July 30 SC meeting for review and input.

