OGP STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
30 July 2020
Virtual Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Open
Government
Partnership

Open Government Partnership
Steering Committee Working–Level Meeting Minutes
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Welcome & Introduction - commenced 08:01 EDT

Civil Society Co-Chair Robin Hodess opened the Steering Committee (SC) meeting, followed by welcoming remarks from César Gazzo Huck and Carolina Cornejo from the Government of Argentina, Government Co-Chair. In their statements, the Co-Chairs acknowledged the new challenges that have arisen in the world since the last SC meeting due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, and the opportunity to leverage the OGP platform to address some of these challenges.

Session 1: Round on Steering Committee Open Gov Initiatives, Including OR+OR

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the SC Co-Chairs launched the Open Response + Open Recovery (OR+OR) campaign to provide a strategy to address the implications of the crisis on open government work, provide resources and tools for the Open Government Partnership (OGP) community to use, and call attention to civic space rollbacks and help uphold open gov values and principles in government responses. This session provided an opportunity for the SC to discuss what initiatives their governments and organizations have taken under the OR+OR framework in response to the pandemic since the last meeting in Berlin, as well as forward looking activities. These included:

- In Nigeria, the Minister of State, Budget and National Planning convened a virtual discussion with various stakeholders from government and civil society, as well as representatives of multilateral organizations, to discuss COVID-related budget changes in Nigeria. The virtual roundtable focused on Nigeria's upcoming stimulus and safety net package amounting to approximately 3 trillion Naira (7.7 billion USD), and how to ensure the aid will reach those in greatest need as quickly as possible while avoiding waste and corruption;
- Twaweza, East Africa conducted citizen opinion surveys in Uganda and Kenya around the impact of COVID on their lives to inform government response strategies.
- Transparency International launched a tracker of all International Monetary Fund (IMF) funds and analyzed whether contracts signed include transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption measures.
- In Germany, a coronavirus contact-tracing app was launched with very little data collection and high privacy standards which helped create trust by citizens. In addition, civil society organizations held the "We vs Virus" digital hackathon where thousands of participants helped develop digital solutions in collaboration with the government. It was also highlighted that Parliament passed an emergency law to to ensure infrastructure projects could move to working online without risk of lawsuits or standstills in planning;
- Directorio Legislativo has been closely monitoring the impact of the pandemic on parliaments, and their impact on policies on procurement and expenditures, and has launched the "Civic Space Guardian" tool to monitor regulations that could impact civic space in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- In France, a website was launched by the largest network of hospitals in the country to track lack of equipment and other information, and request the help from civil society to build out response information, and daily extensive raw data is published by the government in open data standards with testing, deaths and other pandemic-related data;
- In South Korea, the government implemented a whole-of-government approach to combat the pandemic engaging with civil society, private sector and local governments. The government launched a call for ideas to sustain service delivery in marginalized

communities, and collaborated with civil society organizations from the OGP Korea Multistakeholder Forum to develop an app to show supplies and identify queues in front of pharmacies depositing masks to avoid crowding.

In addition to these contributions, several SC members emphasized the importance of maintaining a co-creation spirit during the pandemic and ensuring that civil society and citizens are included in the upcoming conversations. Many SC representatives also underlined the importance of high-level leadership and buy-in to open government, and that open government values and principles do not need, and should not be sacrificed during the crisis.

During this session the Support Unit (SU) also presented the next phase of the OR+OR campaign, focusing on safeguarding the transparency of the upcoming safety net and stimulus packages to prevent corruption and ensure the inclusion of all citizens including vulnerable and marginalized groups. By launching an actionable campaign around transparency and oversight of these packages, OGP members can make a real and sustained difference in millions of lives, and show the concrete value of incorporating open government principles in COVID-19 responses. Suggested actions for OGP members to take can be found in the call to action, led by the OGP CEO, included in "Making Trillion Dollar Stimulus and Safety Nets Work for All: The Essential Steps We Can Take Now."

Session 2: Reflection on 2020 OGP Priorities
This session reviewed ongoing activities to foster global leadership and respond to the challenges presented by the global pandemic.

Session 2a: OGP Leaders Network Update
The Co-Chairs presented a brief overview of the criteria and incentives (found on page 9 of the SC Pre Meeting Packet) of the Leaders Network, as well as a timeline for the completion of the longlist and recruitment of candidates. Following the last SC committee meeting, the SU was tasked with developing the criteria and incentives, and building out a longlist of candidates based on the criteria on behalf of the Co-Chairs. The SC will be invited to provide suggestions on the longlist in August, reviewed by the Co-Chairs. The pilot Network (with 3-5 Leaders) is then expected to launch in September at the virtual Leaders Summit. In parallel, the Thematic Leadership Subcommittee (TLS) will help develop an SC engagement and accountability model for the Leaders Network.

Session 2b: Virtual Leaders Summit & Handover Event
The virtual nature of UNGA 2020 provides an unprecedented opportunity to engage all Heads of State/Government and civil society leaders from the OGP SC to speak on how the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the context for advancing open government and democracy, and how the OGP platform can be leveraged to uphold these values during the recovery, response and rebuild phases of the pandemic. The Virtual Leaders Summit will also mark the handover of SC leadership from the Government of Argentina and Robin Hodess to the Government of the Republic of Korea and Maria Baron as new Co-Chairs. The Virtual Leaders Summit will seek to combine video statements from Heads of State and Government with a live, virtual roundtable with Ministerial and civil society participation from the SC and other key actors from the OGP Ambassadors, Envoys, etc. A finalized concept note, together with a draft program and technical brief, will be shared with all SC members to help secure high-level participation at the earlier possibility. All SC governments are requested to work with their Head of Government's team to secure a video message.

Session 2c: IRM Refresh Update
A brief update was provided on the status of the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) Refresh, initially approved by the SC during the Berlin SC meeting in February. Despite COVID-19

disruptions, the IRM Refresh implementation remains on track and the IRM team has begun working drafting the guides and templates needed to roll out the changes to the community. The IRM will continue engaging with the Criteria & Standards (C&S) and the Governance and Leadership (GL) Subcommittees, and engage members of the SC to participate in targeted user approaches in the coming months.

Session 2d: OGP Local Update

The SU provided an update on the implementation status of the three strategy pillars of OGP Local: expanding the local cohort, supporting national-local collaboration and establishing a knowledge & learning hub. The SC was requested to encourage local governments to apply to join the expanded local cohort, support the orientation process for new members (both governments and civil society), and explore future engagement on OGP Local beyond the formal SC task force. The SC recommended thinking through a self-evaluation process to be utilized by the local governments to keep ambition high and maintain momentum and growth of the program.

Session 3: OGP@10

The SU provided an overview of the five proposed work tracks under the OGP@10 umbrella: i) global campaign, ii) global summit, iii) governance and rules of the game refresh, iv) research and evidence, and v) fundraising, as well as a proposed timeline. The SU emphasized that the current OR+OR campaign is still ongoing with immediate opportunities for engagement (such as responding to the call to action around stimulus and safety nets) while the new campaign is being developed. The SC expressed the importance of beginning work on OGP@10 as soon as possible so that there is a full year to implement the changes during the 10th anniversary year, as well as an appetite for SC to support in fundraising. The SU called for volunteers from the SC to join a task force to help shape the tracks and engage the wider Partnership. In parallel, the SU will convene a learning session with the evaluation and lessons learned from Break the Roles and OR+OR campaigns to support the development of the new campaign, which will also be sent to the SC as a document. Any SC members interested in joining the OGP@10 task force should contact jaime.mercado@opengovpartnership.org.

Session 4: Rules of the Game

One of the OGP@10 tracks is reviewing the OGP Rules of the Game to safeguard OGP values and processes, and to encourage increased innovation and ambition across the Partnership. To this end, the SU and the C&S Subcommittee presented two early-stage proposals to i) allow for more flexibility in the action plan cycle, and ii) review and streamline the participation and co-creation standards. The objective of this session was to seek input from the SC and endorse the direction of travel for C&S to continue developing the proposals with further SC input and consultations. The SC provided the following feedback:
- The decision to utilize a longer timeline should be a joint decision between the government and multi-stakeholder fora.
- The action plan process is a crucial part of the OGP framework, and the decisions to change the action plan cycle should not be rushed.
- Risks of the changes as proposed include:
  - A greater chance of administration changes with longer action plans
  - Losing the global sense of community if the cohort system is dismantled.
  - Getting more time for action plans might lead to taking more time for action plans development rather than utilizing the additional time for greater or more ambitious reforms. Some kind of pace check should be built into the process, including regular check-ins and forced participation.

The SC also shared feedback regarding the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), which was not

planned for discussion during this meeting. As agreed at the Berlin SC meeting, the C&S Subcommittee developed and endorsed a version of the RRM which was presented to GL for discussion before being sent to the full SC for its consideration. The GL Subcommittee has since provided suggestions that would require additional deliberation before it can be submitted for full SC approval. In order to facilitate this discussion and to reach consensus, C&S Co-Chairs invited the full SC to submit comments in writing and consider joining a meeting to discuss the mechanism in greater detail. The SC will be requested approval of the final version of the RRM. **Please send all written comments by August 17** in order to circulate a consolidated version ahead of the proposed meeting (Alonso.Cerdan@opengovpartnership.org and Jaime.Mercado@opengovpartnership.org).

Session 5: Incoming Co-Chair Priorities: Government of the Republic of Korea & María Baron

The incoming Co-Chairs, the Government of the Republic of Korea and Maria Baron, presented a draft overview of their priorities. Using three overarching objectives and approaches, including i) engaging high-level political leadership, ii) alignment with the 3YP and collective actions for OGP@10, and iii) collective efforts of the SC to promote stronger response and recovery, the Co-Chairs will focus on three priority areas:

1. **Public Participation & Civic Space**: Many countries will be designing their action plans next year, and the co-chairs would like to support governments & civil society design more and better commitments to protect public participation and civic space; create a multi-stakeholder regional and global network; fortify dialogue with the OGP community through local-national collaboration; and provide targeted peer-learning opportunities in these specific issues.
2. **Anti-Corruption:** The Co-Chairs will encourage member countries and organizations to design more and more ambitious anti-corruption commitments; encourage organizations and governments to use and analyse data more effectively to mitigate corruption risks; bring international attention to stronger and more effective legal frameworks and implementation; and converge the different agendas between governments, parliamentary bodies, oversight bodies and civil society organizations to work together and include COVID-19 lens over their efforts.
3. **Inclusive Digital Governance:** The Co-Chairs will work to consolidate the numerous digital innovation initiatives and reflect them in their action plans; reinforce the efforts that recognize the digital divide developing to discourage further marginalization of groups; recognize the global platforms and coalitions forming; and provide more peer-learning support.

The incoming Co-Chairs will finalize their priorities for presentation to the SC at the proposed handover event at the end of September.

Session 6: Board of Directors Update

María Baron, member of the Board of Directors, provided a brief update from the Board including the appointment of Mukelani Dimba to Board Chair as of March 2020, and board approval of the 2020 revised budget due to COVID-19 impacts. Additionally, it was noted that at least one Board member will be stepping down from their role in February 2021, therefore the Board will be looking for volunteers from the SC to fill the gap(s). Further updates from the Board will be circulated in writing after the SC meeting due to time constraints.

Following closing remarks, the meeting was adjourned at **11:20 EDT.**

List of Attendees

Government Steering Committee Members

Government of Argentina (Lead Government Co-Chair 2019-2020)

César Gazzo Huck	Undersecretary of Open Government and Digital State, Secretariat of Public Innovation
Carolina Cornejo	Director of Open Government, Secretariat of Public Innovation
Carola Del Rio	First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nicolás Vidal	Director, Innovation and International Technological Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Government of Canada

Barry Kong	Acting Executive Director, Open Government, Office of the Chief Information Officer (Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat)
Sarah MacLeod	Acting Director, Open Government, Office of the Chief Information Officer (Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat)
Sarah Bérubé	Acting Team Lead, Program Implementation and Intergovernmental Relationship, Open Government, Office of the Chief Information Officer (Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat)
Darine Benkalha	Policy Analyst, Program Implementation and Intergovernmental Relations, Open Government, Office of the Chief Information Officer (Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat)
Sydney Pagan	Junior Policy Analyst, Program Implementation and Intergovernmental Relations, Open Government, Office of the Chief Information Officer (Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat)

Government of France

Henri Verdier	Ambassador for Digital Affairs

Government of Georgia

Ketevan Tsanava	Head of the Public Administration Division, Administration of the Government of Georgia

Government of Germany

Sebastian Haselbeck — Policy Advisor, Division for Digital State, Federal Chancellery

Government of Indonesia

Slamet Soedarsono — Deputy Minister for Political Affairs, Law, Defense, and Security, Bappenas

Maharani Putri S. Wibowo — Deputy Director for Institutional and States Apparatus Capacity , OpenGov Indonesia Secretariat

Erie Febriyanto — Head, Open Government Indonesia Secretariat

Government of Italy

Marco Marrazza — OGP Advisor, Department for Public Administration

Government of Nigeria

Clement Ikanade Agba — Minister of State Finance, Budget & National Planning

Benjamin Ogu Okolo — OGP Coordinator Nigeria

Stanley Achonu — Adviser, OGP Nigeria

Chidinma Ilechukwu — Team Lead, Program and Admin, OGP Nigeria

Government of Romania

Larisa Panait — Advisor and OGP Point of Contact, Secretariat General of the Government

Constantin Cernega — Advisor, Secretariat General of the Government

Government of South Africa

Patrick Sokhela — Chief Director

Government of South Korea (Incoming Government Co-Chair 2020 – 2021)

Yujin Lee — Deputy Director, Innovation Planning Division, Government Innovation Planning Bureau

Jihye Park — Assistant Deputy Director, Innovation Planning Division, Government Innovation Planning Bureau

Government of Kenya (Incoming Steering Committee member - Observer)

Philip Thigo — Senior Adviser, Data, Innovation and Open Government, Office of the Deputy President of Kenya

Civil Society Steering Committee Members

María Baron (Incoming Civil Society Co-Chair 2020 – 2021)	Directorio Legislativo
Helen Darbishire	Access Info Europe
Aiden Eyakuze	Twaweza
Delia Ferreira Rubio	Transparency International
Robin Hodess (Lead Civil Society Co-Chair 2019 - 2020)	The B Team
Tur-Od Lkhagvajav	Asia Democracy Network
Lucy McTernan	University of York
Elisa Peter	Publish What You Pay
Zuzana Wienk	White Crow
Asma Cherifi (Additional Steering Committee member)	TACID Network
Glynnis Cummings-John (Additional Steering Committee member)	Restless Development
Lysa John (Incoming Steering Committee member - Observer)	*CIVICUS*
Blair Glencorse (Incoming Steering Committee member - Observer)	*Accountability Lab*
Stephanie Muchai (Incoming Steering Committee member - Observer)	*HIVOS*
Oluseun Onigbinde (Incoming Additional Steering Committee member - Observer)	*BudgIT*
Anabel Cruz (Incoming Additional Steering Committee member - Observer)	*ICD Uruguay*

Apologies

Giorgi Kldiashvili	Institute for Development of Freedom of Information

Additional Participants

Michelle Volpin	Directorio Legislativo
Mercedes de los Santos	Directorio Legislativo
Maria Emilia Berazategui	Transparency International