

Open Government Partnership

Criteria & Standards Monthly Call Summary

19 November 2020 | 10:00 - 11:00 ET

Attendees:

- Lucy McTernan (Co-Chair)
- Delia Ferreira
- Lysa John
- Elisa Peters
- Government of Germany: Sebastian Haselbeck (Co-Chair)
- Government of Canada: Mélanie Robert, Benoit Frenette, Darine Benkalha & Mariana Brandao
- Government of Georgia: Kety Tsanova

Apologies:

- Government of Nigeria

I. Welcome

The Support Unit (SU) welcomed new Criteria and Standards (C&S) Subcommittee Co-Chairs Lucy McTernan and the Government of Germany, and new subcommittee members Lysa John and the Government of Canada for their upcoming terms.

II. 2021 C&S work plan

Reference materials: [2021 C&S work plan](#) and [Q3 2020 update on countries under review](#)

The SU presented the 2021 C&S work plan, starting with a general overview of the C&S mandate and five areas of work for the year: i) Rules of the Game, ii) Procedural Review, iii) Response Policy, iv) Eligibility Scores, and v) Rapid Response Protocol.

C&S members were asked for their feedback on the plan, and any pieces that might be missing. The following feedback was provided:

- It's important to consider the impact of COVID-19 on the work of C&S and how that might affect the activities of OGP more broadly. This is reflected across the 2021 OGP work plan activities, such as considering virtual and/or hybrid models for events (including Global Summit), workshops and country support. It also recognizes the need to remain agile and adapt to emerging opportunities and/or implications to our work.
- There was overall agreement on the proposed way forward for the Rules of the Game. The importance of clearly signaling the issues and drivers for changing the current rules to inform the new model was highlighted.
- Regarding the proposal to provide flexibility in the delivery of action plans, it should include milestones along the action plan process, what the criteria for public participation will be, how to maintain the current motivation of the Action Plan cycles, and to carefully consider the risks of eliminating cohorts.

- Regarding the Procedural Review cases, it will be important to separate the long-standing noncompliance cases from COVID-19-specific circumstances in 2021 and react accordingly.
- Regarding the annual eligibility scores update, C&S requested an overview of OGP members that fell under the minimum scores and to consider what support can be provided (e.g. peer exchange, outreach, etc.). See *the 2020 Eligibility Update memo sent to the SC in June* [here](#).

Action item(s):

- The Subcommittee endorsed the 2021 C&S Work Plan, which will be published on the OGP website.
- To inform the future Rules of the Game discussions, the SU will prepare a summary of the feedback received to date (including from the July 30 SC meeting), and prepare proposals for C&S review.

III. AOB

A. Overview of 2021 OGP work plan

The SU provided a brief update on OGP's 2021 work planning process and the timeline for final approval at the December Steering Committee meeting. It was suggested to consider how to best work remotely as a group if telework continues through at least the first half of 2021.

B. Resolution to extend Action Plan delivery timeline

Recognizing that many countries are well advanced in their 2020 action plan co-creation processes and would benefit from remaining in the current 2020-2022 cohort, even if the action plan is delivered in early 2021, the SU tabled the suggestion for a C&S resolution providing this option. **Please see below the proposed resolution for C&S approval on no-objection basis.**

Please send any comments or concerns to jaimemercado@opengovpartnership.org by **December 1, 2020**. If no objections are received by this date, the resolution will be considered approved.

Resolution of the Criteria & Standards Subcommittee regarding the 2020/22 - 2021/23 Cohort Shift

1 December 2020

On 18 March 2020 Criteria and Standards Subcommittee passed a [resolution](#) to provide flexibility in the delivery and implementation of OGP action plans in 2020 given the constraints presented by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Notwithstanding, the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee recognizes that the Pandemic continues to disproportionately tax public services and cause delays in national OGP processes.

The Criteria and Standards Subcommittee also acknowledges and commends the ongoing efforts that several countries have made to continue domestic OGP agendas despite the unprecedented challenges faced this year, and recognizes that some OGP members are well advanced in the co-creation process and near the completion of their 2020-22 action plans.

Considering that for some of these countries shifting to the 2021-23 cohort would present additional complexities, the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee hereby resolves to extend the option for countries to remain in the 2020-22 cohort if they choose to, as long as they deliver an action plan by February 28, 2021.

**While this option could be useful in particular contexts, the OGP Support Unit standard recommendation is to opt for the cohort shift to allow for a longer implementation period.*

End Resolution