

# Open Government Partnership

## Criteria & Standards Monthly Call Summary

11 February 2021 | 10:00 - 11:00 EDT

### Attendees:

- Government of Germany: Sebastian Haselbeck
- Government of Nigeria: Stanley Achonu, Chidinma Ilechukwu
- Government of Canada: Benoit Frenette, Darine Benkahla
- Government of Georgia: Diana Endeladze, Ana Barisashvili
- Lysa John
- Elisa Peters
- Lucy McTernan
- Delia Ferreira Rubio
- Guests: Denisse Miranda (Chief, IRM)

### Call Summary

#### I. C&S work plan recap & 2020 recap of action plans received

The Criteria and Standards (C&S) Co-Chairs shared a brief recap of the 2021 C&S work plan objectives and rough overview of the 2021 calendar for the subcommittee, which can be reviewed [here](#).

Additionally, the Support Unit (SU) presented a year-end update on the latest number of action plans received. OGP received 11 action plans in 2020, and is expecting an additional 6 due to the resolution passed by C&S to allow for extensions into February 2021 due to COVID-19. In 2021, 47 countries will co-create action plans.

A dedicated discussion on potential cases of acting contrary to process will be included in the March C&S call (date TBD), once final data is available.

#### II. Rules of the Game Updates

*Reference materials:* [Action Plan Flexibility proposal](#); [IRM considerations for streamlining standards](#)

##### A. Action Plan Flexibility

The SU presented a revised draft of the Action Plan Flexibility proposal for discussion which integrated feedback from the community and Steering Committee in finding a balance between flexibility and simplicity. Two key changes are proposed, both of which would align well with the IRM refresh and would require no additional modifications:

- A choice between 2- or 4-year Action Plan cycles, with a mandatory refresh period at the 2-year mark if the 4-year cycle is chosen.
- Two delivery windows in the year, with an extension of maximum two administrative cycles.

The full proposal can be viewed [here](#).

C&S members were asked to consider if there are any outstanding concerns that should be addressed before proceeding with the proposal. The following feedback was provided:

- Continue to think through how to ensure 4-year plans are as ambitious (or more so) than 2-year plans, and avoid a drop in commitment levels over such a long period of time.
- Clearly articulate the expectation that will be placed on countries who choose the 4-year plan option, including an increase in ambition and a well-thought out reason for choosing the longer cycle. This option should be prioritized in order to achieve reforms that would not be possible with a shorter timeline.
- Avoid a “gap year” between the end of implementation and the beginning of a new Action Plan cycle.
- Clarify the definition of the ‘refresh period,’ and explore adding an additional IRM product.

**There was C&S agreement on moving forward with the proposal for action plan flexibility and taking it through public consultation.**

#### **B. Participation and Co-Creation Standards**

Following the discussion on the Action Plan Flexibility proposal, the IRM shared input and perspectives for consideration of the Participation and Co-creation Standards proposal that is being developed.

The IRM suggestions will be taken into consideration to finalize the Standards proposal which will be brought back to the C&S at its March call. Please see a [summary of inputs](#) gathered regarding the Co-creation and Participation Standards through public consultations, including with SC members, during 2020.

Any comments on the considerations presented are welcome via email.

**Reminder of process:** Following approval from C&S on the flexibility and new standards proposals, the SU will present the proposals to the global community through a series of webinars for final solicitation of inputs. The SU will then present the proposals back to C&S for final approval before bringing them to the full Steering Committee for approval. This process aims to be completed by July 2021 for enough time to develop guidance materials and present at the OGP Global Summit in December 2021, and begin the roll out in 2022.

### **III. AOB: COVID-19 related flexibility provision for 2021**

In light of the pandemic, the C&S issued a [resolution](#) on 18 March 2020 to provide additional flexibility to countries that were implementing and co-creating action plans in 2020 by allowing countries to extend their APs or miss delivery deadlines.

Several countries have made initial inquiries about whether additional flexibility measures are being considered. The current SU technical recommendation is to continue to monitor the situation, but to not commit to any further deadline extensions.