

Civil Society Steering Committee Monthly Call

10 February 2021 | 8:00-9:30 EST / 14:00 - 15:30 CET

List of Participants

Attendees: Maria Baron, Aidan Eyakuze, Robin Hodess, Lysa John, Lucy McTernan, Steph Muchai, Elisa Peters, Jean Scrimgeour, Zuzana Wienk, Anabel Cruz, Oluseun Onigbinde

Guests: Felicitas Torrecilla (Directorio Legislativo, Speaker)

Apologies: Blair Glencorse, Helen Darbshire, Delia Ferreira Rubio

Call Summary

I. Strategizing for the year ahead

Reference materials: Summary of [December 2020 SC meeting outcomes](#)

This session opened with a brief recap by the Support Unit (SU) of Partnership-wide objectives for 2021, and highlight of key global summits and other advocacy opportunities for the year. See a draft calendar of events on slides 16-17 [here](#). The Civil Society Steering Committee (CS SC) was asked to strategize around the multiple opportunities throughout 2021 like the upcoming global summits - including OGP's Global Summit, UNGASS and COP26 - and to consider what specific actions members could take individually and collectively to advance the global advocacy objectives outlined in the [2021 OGP work plan](#).

CS provided the following feedback, updates on their organizational activity highlights and objectives for the year, and potential connections across SC work:

Country/Regional

- Twaweza is working to support OGP Local initiatives, especially in Kenya.
- Directorio Legislativo is focusing on civic space challenges in Latin America.
- Explore opportunities to engage the United States in 2021

Global/Thematic

- Ensure the SC collaborates on the various democracy summits and has cohesive messaging around and between each event. Some events include:
 - The B Team will be active at COP26 and the Generation Equality forum.
 - Accountability Lab is the SC co-chair for the C20 and is currently gathering volunteers for working groups. Accountability Lab is also working to align the work of the Open Gov Youth Collective at the B20.



- The Summit of the Americas is an opportunity to follow up on anti-corruption commitments made at an earlier summit.
- Consider what role the OGP can play at COP26 and in energy transition.
- Publish What You Pay has launched the “#disclosethedeal” around contract disclosure to promote transparency.
- CIVICUS is conducting an analysis of the last ten years of civic space trends to forecast potential trends of the next ten years and create a framework of long term shifts needed for civil society.
- Consider a ‘follow the sun’ event by SC members, possibly for Open Gov Week (suggested by Aidan, Lysa sharing her experience with the approach).

II. AOB

A. 2021 CS SC rotation update

The election cycle for incoming government and civil society members of the Steering Committee will be launching soon, with at least two seats on the CS side opening on October 1 of this year. All SC members are asked to start thinking about suitable candidates. If any SC members consider stepping down earlier than their term expires, they are asked to approach Maria Baron and/or Aidan Eyakuze.

The Co-Chairs tabled a proposal to discontinue the “additional member” pilot program to ensure that all CS SC members have voting powers, restore balance between government and civil society members (11 on each side), and to ensure the selection of new members focuses on candidates able to serve the full three-year terms, compared to the limited one-year term that “additional members” serve.

Next Steps: While there was overall agreement on the proposal during the call, the Co-Chairs requested CS SC approval on no-objection basis. **Please share any objections to this proposal by February 24th.** After this date, the proposal will be considered approved and the “additional members” position will no longer be advertised in the CS SC rotation process.

See p. 5 of the current [mandate and selection process](#) for more details.

B. OGP Trust Fund update

Representatives from the OGP Trust Fund Board presented an update on the latest meeting, which can be reviewed [here](#).

C. Update on INAI - Mexico

The SC did not have enough time for a full update on this situation, but was informed that there is a strategy in place for the international community to provide assistance. See the message from the Mexico civil society [here](#), and OGP response [here](#).

