

# Open Government Partnership

## Governance and Leadership Monthly Call Summary

11 March 2021 | 08:00 - 9:30 EDT

### Attendees:

- Government of South Korea: Junny Kim, Jihye Park, Minchan Park
- Government of Italy: Marco Marrazza
- Maria Baron
- Aidan Eyakuze

## Call Summary

### I. Update on Call to Action and uptake strategy

Reference materials: [Suggested actions for GL/SC leadership](#), [discussion slides](#)

Following the previous GL discussion around the role of the Steering Committee and specific suggested actions for GL/SC leadership, this session focused on discussing what actions GL members and SU could take to ensure uptake of the Call to Action across OGP, and other priority actions for GL during March:

- Approve and send Call to Action to all members (South Korea and Maria Baron);
- Review policy guidance for Call to Action (SU will send to SC next week);
- Public launch of Call to Action at same time as the next phase of the OR+OR Campaign and policy guidance;
- Plan ministerial-level [Open Gov Week](#) plenary with co-chairs;
- Set date for Ministerial SC meeting in May focused on the Call to Action;
- Start outreach to Government and CSOs members of the SC on the Call to Action (e.g. for 2021 National Action Plans as Korea and Italy are doing).

The Support Unit also presented the next phase of the Open Response + Open Recovery campaign, “Open Renewal,” to be launched the week of March 22.

#### Agreed next steps:

- Government of Korea and Maria to sign the Call to Action letter in the coming week ending March 19th.
- SU to share anti-corruption and digital policy guides to the rest of the SC as a preview for any final comments before they are launched. These are OGP-branded policy guides that do not require GL/SC approval.
- SU to share the concept note for a high-level opening session for Open Gov Week (May 17 - 21) with Ministerial participation.
- SU to share proposed dates for SC meetings at ministerial and working level for May/June and begin planning with GL.

### II. Advancing OGP’s Civic Space agenda

GL discussed ideas how to implement the suggested next steps that were generated from the Ford Foundation and OGP partner's meeting on advancing a shared civic space agenda:

- Collate and publish examples of civic space commitments to date in OGP that tackle fundamental challenges to civic space.
- Produce a policy menu of civic space actions that go beyond enhancing public participation, to tackling tough civic space challenges for OGP members to use as a concrete and practical resource.
- Convene a smaller group of governments and civil society working with OGP that are interested in making open civic space commitments a part of their 2021 action plans.
- Offer all OGP member governments and/or civil society organizations one-on-one consultations with technical experts on potential relevant civic space commitments for their context.
- Organize to ensure OGP governments and civil society organizations are championing civic space at the major global summits in 2021, including G7, G20, COP, OGP Global Summit and US Summit for Democracy.
- Draft "Civic Space Policy Action Menu" to accompany the Call to Action. This menu builds on existing OGP materials like the [OGP Global Report](#) and [Guide to Open Government and Coronavirus](#), and we have incorporated important conclusions from the roundtable into the document.

GL suggestions included:

- Consider suggested actions more aligned with subnational member needs and perspectives.
- Identify new or different entry points for civic space, such as climate change or digital governance, to bring needed actors to the table.
- Consider a "Seoul Declaration" at the 2021 Global Summit around this issue. This idea will be brought back to future GL meetings for further discussion around scope and process.

### III. Update on 2021 SC elections

**Civil Society rotation:** The 2021 Civil Society rotation process began on March 4, with four seats available. Applications to join will be open through March 26. Detailed criteria and how to apply can be found [here](#).

**Government elections:** To be launched in mid-April. Five seats are opening up: Argentina, France, Nigeria, Romania and South Korea. **Argentina, Nigeria and South Korea** are eligible for reelection for a second term. More details will be available closer to the launch date.

The SU also proposed waiving the country contributions criteria this year in order to allow the greatest number of countries to participate in the Steering Committee elections. This proposal is in consideration of the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent financial recession, and based on previous three

years' precedent to waive this criteria. Upholding this criteria would prevent 49 out of 78 countries (63% of all members) from participating, thus undermining the participatory nature of these elections.

**GL is asked to approve the following resolution, on no objection basis, by March 19:**

**[DRAFT]**

**Resolution of the Governance and Leadership Subcommittee on the 2021 Steering Committee Elections | 19 March 2021**

The Governance and Leadership Subcommittee (GL) recognizes the vital leadership of the OGP Steering Committee, and the importance of recruiting strong candidates to serve as stewards of the partnership through an annual elections process.

The GL further recognizes the importance of the annual required country financial contributions to OGP, as stipulated in the Articles of Governance, and the central role that these play for the financial sustainability of the Partnership.

As stated in the Articles of Governance, one of the criteria to run for election is for participating countries to have paid their financial contribution to OGP. In accordance with this rule, a total of 49 countries would not be able to participate in this year's Steering Committee elections due to not having made financial contributions in 2020, thus excluding nearly two-thirds of all OGP countries from this process.

Recognizing the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent financial recession, and in the spirit of ensuring a credible, participatory and democratic elections process, the GL hereby resolves to waive this criteria for the 2021 elections. A review of these criteria will be undertaken in 2021.

We encourage all OGP members to meet their annual financial obligations in the future.

**–END RESOLUTION–**

**IV. AOB**

- A. Upcoming SC activities & events:** On March 18, the OGP Analytics & Insights (A&I) team will host a briefing for the Steering Committee on their findings of the **Vital Signs research project**, which analyzes data from nearly 150 IRM-assessed action plans to identify what is working in OGP and how it can be improved. Please let Jaime know if you plan to participate.
  
- B. Country contributions update:** Vast majority of invoices will be sent out in March. Few delayed invoices due to transition of OGP ministers. One country (Estonia) has already paid in 2021, and several more have indicated their intent to pay soon. OGP's country contribution target goal for 2021 is US\$2 million. An overview of historical contributions can be found [here](#).

