

Open Government Partnership

Thematic Leadership Monthly Call Summary

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

Attendees:

- Government of Argentina: Carolina Cornejo, Nicole Grunbaum
- Government of Kenya: Patita Tingoi
- Government of Romania: Larisa Panait, Robert Lazaroiu, Constantin Carnega
- Helen Darbishire
- Robin Hodess
- Steph Muchai
- Jean Scrimgeour
- Anabel Cruz
- Oluseun Onigbinde

Guests:

- Maria Baron, Lead Civil Society Co-Chair

Apologies:

- Government of France
- Government of Indonesia
- Zuzana Wienk

Call Summary

I. Advancing the 2021 digital work plan

Reference material: [2021 draft digital work plan](#); [Upcoming SC Events](#)

The Support Unit (SU) shared an overview of the revised strategy for advancing digital governance as a key theme for OGP in 2021, with four primary streams of work: i) use of digital technologies to promote transparent, accountable, and participatory approaches, ii) accountability of the use of digital technologies by government, iii) accountability of digital technologies used for political communication, and iv) promoting safeguards for civic space online, against the misuse and abuse of digital technologies.

Thematic Leadership (TLS) members were encouraged to provide input on specific activities being undertaken, including recent discussions on data privacy and digital platforms, and ideas on how these can be further supported, as well as any gaps that could be identified and any strong links to OGP work. The following suggestions were provided:

- Consider the role of open data in these work streams, building on the use and openness of digital technologies, and emphasizing the quality of data in addition to availability.

- Build on the resources developed so far by the SU during the Open Response + Open Recovery (OR+OR) campaign, like the guide to [Taking the OGP Co-Creating Process Online](#).
- Consider adding digital inclusion as a focus within the work plan.
- Be clear on the value add of the OGP platform, and connect with partners that are already working in these topics, including local chapters and groups that can share their experiences and challenges.
- Clarify what is meant by participation and accountability; currently too vague.
- Consider focusing on a single topic rather than broadly approaching several.
- Consider how to bring in OGP Leaders working on digital, such as New Zealand and its experience on algorithms transparency.

TLS members were also invited to join conversations with Co-Chair Maria Baron around the digital governance pillar of the Korea-Baron Co-Chair priorities, to further the work plan and streams of work raised in the Civil Society Steering Committee meetings and consider ways to coordinate and streamline efforts.

Next steps: The SU will integrate feedback into the work ongoing digital work plan for 2021.

II. Overview of 2021 global events and the role of OGP

Reference materials: [Memo on maximizing global summits](#); [slides 16-17 here](#)

In follow up to the December 2020 SC meeting, the SU provided a brief recap of main global summits and events taking place in 2021, followed by a discussion on the individual and collective activities that TLS members are planning this year in relation to these and other events. The subcommittee was asked to consider the following questions:

- What linkages are there between SC members' work across governments/organizations that can help strengthen OGP's global positioning?
- What would OGP's role of "connection tissue" between global events look like? What would be most helpful to SC members?

TLS members provided the following suggestions:

- The SU should develop a clear and cohesive narrative for the Partnership leading into the next year.
- The SC will consider opportunities for synergies, like connecting with the Italian government on the intersection of digital governance and open government at the upcoming G20.
- Consider how to allow countries to connect what they worked on last year with their focuses this year.
- Discuss how TLS can connect with OECD on open government work.
- Review how TLS can contribute to strategy and engagement around other global opportunities throughout the year, including UNGASS and COP26.

- Connect with events gathering the community, such as Open Data Day and other global and regional fora, such as OAS.
- Consider other thematic dives, such as gender and inclusion, and how they can connect with local members.

III. **AOB: Update on Leaders Network**

Following the launch of the [Leaders Network](#) (Mexico, New Zealand, Kaduna State, Buenos Aires, and Latvia) in November 2020, the SU has initiated conversations with the government and civil society representatives to identify linkages between the reforms they are advancing and other OGP activities, and brainstorm ideas on how to share and give more visibility to their efforts. The SU will develop strategies for all Leaders to engage in OGP and partner-led events throughout the year where those intersect with the areas of expertise of the group. An upcoming opportunity for engagement is Open Gov Week, and other upcoming events such as Generation Equality and International Women's Day.

The SU will provide periodic updates on Leaders' Network activities and consider opportunities to invite Leaders to join TLS discussions.

