

Open Government Partnership

Criteria & Standards Monthly Call Summary

22 April 2021 | 10:00 - 11:30 EDT

Attendees:

- Government of Germany: Sebastian Haselbeck (Chair)
- Government of Canada: Melanie Robert, Benoit Frenette, Darine Benkahla and Shannon Baker
- Government of Georgia: Kety Tsanova
- Government of Nigeria: Stanley Achonu
- Lucy McTernan, University of York (Chair)
- Lysa John, CIVICUS
- Elisa Peters, Publish What You Pay
- Delia Ferreira Rubio, Transparency International

Call Summary

I. Revised Participation & Co-Creation Standards proposal

Reference material: [Presentation of draft materials](#); Draft OGP Participation Standards [attached]

The Support Unit (SU) undertook a review of the OGP Standards based on ample input from the OGP community over the past few years - including from POC and civil society surveys, and other project consultations like the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) refresh and OGP local strategy, and February and July 2020 meetings of the Steering Committee (SC). The main concerns surfaced were that there are [too many standards that often overlap](#) and have a complex structure and that standards introduced multiple frameworks of participation, making their understanding and assessment difficult. Last year, the SU held broad consultations [led by Criteria & Standards \(C&S\)](#) with governments, civil society and Steering Committee members.

Based on this feedback, and extensive research done by the Analytics and Insights team, the SU put together an initial draft of a streamlined set of standards that reinforce key elements found to be relevant for strong processes. This resulted in **consolidating the existing 30+ recommended standards into a set of 5 new standards** that address the key aspects for robust OGP participation, and are underpinned by overarching principles of transparency, inclusive participation, accountability and innovation and ambition. All standards would include a brief description of the standard and scope of application; guidelines to consider to meet the standard (flexible and adaptable); minimum requirements that all OGP members should meet; and compliance and assessment.

This format moves away from a large list of smaller, over-prescribing tasks, resulting in a set of more concise standards that are easier to understand, follow, and be assessed by the IRM.

The Support Unit presented the revised Participation and Co-Creations Standards proposal, seeking overall feedback on the proposal, and endorsement on two specific components i) the set of five proposed standards; and ii) the proposed structure for all standards.

C&S members had the following feedback:

- The proposal would benefit from an editorial upfront to provide clear context, framing and directive for the standards.
- Description language for each standard would help clarify what each standard is about, what is suggested, what is required, and the intended result.
- Standards could help promote peer shared responsibility between government and civil society, which could promote greater empowerment for ambition and implementation.
- Consider clarifying how the metrics were decided, and what ideal process the metrics encourage (e.g. High quality dialogue is an important part of the process during co-creation, and an MSF is one way to measure if dialogue is facilitated).
- Consider adding a maturity model for countries with varying levels of experience with OGP.
- Ensure that the final products allow OGP actors to easily explain the new standards to those unfamiliar with the Partnership.

Next Steps:

- C&S did not raise objections to the proposed set of standards or the structure of the standards.
- C&S agreed to send any additional feedback to the SU by **April 29**.
- The SU will integrate C&S input into a revised draft, which will be circulated with the C&S. A call will be scheduled within two weeks of circulating the document to seek endorsement from C&S.
- Once C&S approves the proposal, the next steps are requesting wider input from the SC and community through a global consultation process, and bringing back a final version for C&S, and subsequent SC approval.