

Open Government Partnership

Criteria & Standards Monthly Call Summary

3 June 2021 | 10:00 - 11:30 ET

Attendees:

- Government of Germany: Sebastian Haselbeck
- Government of Canada: Mélanie Robert, Benoît Frenette, Shannon Baker, Darine Benkalha
- Government of Georgia: Kety Tsanova
- Lucy McTernan, University of York
- Lysa John, CIVICUS
- Olena Pavlenko, Dixi Group (substitute for Elisa Peter, Publish What You Pay)

Guests:

- Lotte Geunis (OGP Consultant)
- Shreya Basu (OGP Regional Lead)
- Helen Turek (OGP Regional Lead)
- Theo Chiviru (OGP Regional Lead)

Apologies:

- Delia Ferreira Rubio, Transparency International
- Government of Nigeria

Call Summary

I. Parliament Policy Review

Reference Material: [Parliament Policy Review Update for the C&S Subcommittee](#)

Lotte Geunis, OGP consultant, presented a proposed review process of OGP's Parliamentary Engagement Policy Guidance (Parliament Policy). The review process is designed to identify the key challenges and opportunities for parliamentary engagement in OGP, and to propose a revised Parliament Policy that responds to those findings. In order to present the proposal to the full Steering Committee in October, the task force leading this effort will use three tactics: evidence-building, community consultations, and consultations with the Criteria & Standards (C&S) subcommittee.

The goal of this review is to ensure i) OGP is better positioned to engage parliaments when their participation is important for the co-creation and/or implementation processes; ii) OGP is better positioned to draw on the political leverage of parliaments and their Members; iii) OGP rules and guidance for legislative engagement are fully aligned with the revised Rules of the Game and compatible with the IRM refresh; and iv) parliaments and partners who currently support 'open parliaments' through

dedicated open parliament plans can continue to do so, emphasizing the need for improved co-creation and delivery of ambitious commitments.

C&S was supportive of the proposal and direction of this review, and provided the following feedback:

- Account for the complexity of countries with multiple parliaments, and each parliament's own executive branch and administration; the policy cannot approach parliaments as a singular entity.
- Be mindful of the role of parliaments in oversight of the executive branch, and the separation of power; consider if there is a way to strengthen parliaments' role in oversight in OGP policy implementation monitoring and assessment.
- Consider how to align the action plan processes for parliaments and executive, as they are currently separate in many countries.

Next steps:

- Considering that C&S led in the development of the Parliamentary Policy in 2015, and given C&S mandate on the rules of engagement for OGP members, the revision of the Legislative Engagement Policy will be channeled through this subcommittee, who will be consulted at regular intervals during this process.
- In this line, it is proposed that C&S will review and table the revised policy for approval by the SC, as it did for the current policy.

II. Countries Under Review

Reference Material: [Q1 2021 Update on Countries Under Review](#)

C&S oversees the Procedural Review mechanism established to ensure that all participating members act in accordance with the OGP process. The Support Unit (SU) provided an update on the status of countries that are currently under Procedural Review due to late action plan delivery (Bulgaria, Ghana, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Malawi and Malta); due to not meeting participation & co-creation standards on their most recent action plan (Greece, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom) and due to not meeting the minimum eligibility scores (Papua New Guinea).

C&S expressed concern over the new group of countries placed under review due to not meeting standards. The SU conducted a webinar series earlier in the year focused on providing enhanced support in meeting standards in the next round of action plans, and will continue to provide targeted support while the countries start their co-creation processes.

III. Eligibility Update [2020 data] - for C&S endorsement

Reference material:

- [2021 Memo on OGP Eligibility Data Update;](#)
- [Updated master database of OGP eligibility scores.](#)

The C&S Subcommittee is responsible for overseeing the update of OGP eligibility scores on an annual basis. The Support Unit presented the main findings from the most recent update completed, including changes from the previous year's scores, which were summarized in a memo tabled for C&S endorsement. C&S endorsed the memo and updated data, with a request for support from the SU in identifying opportunities to engage with the eligible countries that are not yet a part of OGP, and support those who are falling below eligibility minimums.

Next Steps: The memo has been shared with the full Steering Committee and the updated database was published on the OGP [website](#) on June 7, 2021.

IV. AOB

Update on the Standards Proposal

The SU is currently finalizing a new draft of the proposal, and will aim to send the draft during the week of June 21 for review for discussion during the next C&S meeting, tentatively set for July 1.

