

Civil Society Steering Committee

Monthly Call | Wednesday 12 May 2021

8:00-9:00 EST / 14:00-15:00 CET

Attendees

- Maria Baron, Directorio Legislativo
- Aidan Eyakuze, Twaweza
- Anabel Cruz, ICD Uruguay
- Blair Glencorse, Accountability Lab
- Delia Ferreira Rubio, Transparency International,
- Elisa Peter, Publish What You Pay
- Helen Darbishire, Access Info Europe
- Lucy McTernan, University of York
- Oluseun Onigbinde, BudgIT
- Robin Hodess, The B Team
- Steph Muchai, Hivos
- Zuzana Wienk, White Crow

Guests

- Olena Pavlenko, Dixie Group

Apologies

- Lysa John, CIVICUS

Call Summary

Olena Pavlenko was introduced as Elisa Peter's designated substitute while on sabbatical from June - August 2021.

I. Update and discussion on El Salvador civil society situation and [Rapid Response Protocol](#) case.

Reference Material: [Letter of concern submitted by civil society](#)

Maria Baron and Anabel Cruz and the OGP Support Unit (SU) met with local civil society representatives from El Salvador in early May to discuss their concerns regarding the dismissal of all five magistrates from El Salvador's Constitutional Chamber and the Attorney General, as well as the broader trend of closing civic space in the country.

In light of these concerns, civil society representatives from El Salvador submitted a request for OGP's [Rapid Response Protocol](#) (RRP) on May 5. As per the RRP policy, the OGP SU has conducted an initial assessment and determined that it meets the eligibility criteria for a RRP case. The OGP SU has informed the filers of the request, as well as the government of El

Salvador of this assessment, and invited the government to provide a formal response within five business days, which can be found [here](#).

Civil Society Steering Committee (CS SC) members supported publishing a statement from the OGP CEO alongside a statement from the Steering Committee to express concern regarding these issues. An emphasis was placed on moving as quickly as the RRP will allow.

II. Update on call to action efforts and discussions with civil society

CS SC members have met with local civil society from various Steering Committee member countries to discuss domestic opportunities and how to leverage the co-chair call-to-action to advance these through OGP action plans. The suggested opportunities and asks discussed with local civil society will be coordinated with the SU to be delivered to government counterparts through the appropriate channels.

III. Strategizing for the June 10 ministerial SC agenda

CS SC members are supportive of finding time ahead of the Ministerial meeting to strategize as a cohort on how to maximize the meeting. CS SC suggested that its June 9 meeting be shifted one week earlier to account for this. **Date TBC.**

IV. Updates on cohort rotation and next steps (10 minutes)

A series of public webinars were held on May 11 and May 13 for the community to meet the 2021 CS SC candidates. The CS SC Selection Committee will meet on May 20 to reach a decision on the final list of candidates. CS SC members will be asked to endorse the list of finalists at its upcoming monthly meeting in June. A full description of the process is available on [the website](#).

