

**OGP STEERING  
COMMITTEE  
MINISTERIAL MEETING**  
10 June 2021  
Virtual Meeting  
**Briefing Packet**

# Table of Contents

<b>Logistical Note</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>OGP Steering Committee Meeting</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Pre-Meeting Materials</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Respond. Recover. Renew.</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Co-Chair Global Call-to-Action for All OGP Members</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Defending Civic Space: How OGP Can Step Up</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Effective, Efficient, and Equitable: Vaccines</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Open Opportunities: Making the Most of 2021 Global Summits</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Annex: Theme-Specific Reference Materials</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Draft List of Attendees</b>	<b>19</b>



# Logistical Note

## How to Connect

Connect on Zoom a few minutes before 07:00 Washington, DC Time with the following link. **We recommend that you join via the Zoom desktop app** so that you can utilize the interactive features such as the chat and live interpretation.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://opengovpartnership-org.zoom.us/j/94750601616?pwd=b0ZHNFN3QWpFVTA1UXVHOWRFekJJdz09>

Meeting ID: 947 5060 1616

Passcode: 264129

Find your local number: <https://opengovpartnership-org.zoom.us/u/adbNFgnqsu>

Join by Skype for Business: <https://opengovpartnership-org.zoom.us/skype/94750601616>



# OGP Steering Committee Meeting

Virtual | June 10, 2021 | 07:00 - 09:00 EDT

## Overview

This is a crucial year for democracy and openness, following 15 consecutive years of decline of political and civil liberties globally, and a COVID-19 pandemic that continues to threaten lives and livelihoods. The pandemic has also exacerbated pre-existing crises of systemic inequalities of income, gender and race, as well as the deterioration of civic space.

Open government has a role in tackling each of these issues, as shown for example by the vital role of open health data, open and effective medical procurement, and the role civil society has played as a partner to government in tackling the pandemic. The Open Government Partnership (OGP) can serve as the implementation platform to advance these types of reforms that can ensure that recovery from the pandemic is effective, equitable, and transparent, and that help to reverse democratic backsliding. As such, this is also a crucial year for OGP with unique opportunities before us:

- First, a record 100-plus new national and local open government plans will be co-created this year through OGP.
- Second, OGP has the opportunity to catalyse a stronger global coalition for openness and democracy, through the 10th anniversary Global Summit hosted by the Republic of Korea December 13 - 17, and through other significant global summits where openness is on the agenda.

This meeting aims to discuss how Steering Committee countries can advance reforms related to COVID-19 response, recovery and renewal using OGP, and how all Steering Committee members can work towards forging a stronger global coalition of governments and civil society advancing open government. As the stewards of OGP, Steering Committee members are exceptionally well placed to lead by example, incentivize the rest of the Partnership, and help position OGP as a connector and implementing platform for global summits in 2021.

In the following dossier you will find materials that provide a snapshot of the OGP strategy and direction in 2021 to maximize these opportunities. These include ways to leverage OGP to advance reforms for COVID-19 response, recovery and renewal, including for the effective delivery of vaccines, and the role of open government for countering the declining trend of democracy worldwide. It also includes practical ways to maximize the 2021 global summits on democracy (e.g., G7, G20, UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS), etc.) and translate global commitments to country action through the OGP platform.

Additionally, the annex lists several reference materials that dive deeper into key policy areas including civic space, digital governance, and anti-corruption, providing concrete steps towards making progress in these topics and highlighting some of the most compelling and innovative examples from OGP commitments. A link to the “Guide to Open Government and the Coronavirus,” OGP’s crowdsourced guide to using open government to tackle the pandemic, can also be found in the annex.



# Agenda

## I. State of democracy in the world & the imperative for the OGP leadership (30 minutes)

OGP CEO Sanjay Pradhan will provide a brief update on OGP's progress in 2021, including partnership-wide objectives, ways to maximize this year's unprecedented opportunities at country, thematic and global levels, and the role that OGP Steering Committee members can play.

Guest speaker Tom Carothers, interim president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, will provide a context-setting presentation on the current state of democracy worldwide, and how the coronavirus will continue to reshape governance and democracy globally.

## II. The role of open government for pandemic response, recovery and renewal, and where OGP can help (60 minutes)

The COVID-19 pandemic remains the top priority for governments worldwide, with countries at different stages of their pandemic response and recovery. Over the past year, we have seen how some of the more successful COVID-19 response plans have utilized open government approaches - from disclosing life-saving healthcare related data, ensuring transparency of recovery funds, to cooperating with civil society and other actors to develop innovative responses, and ensuring vaccine procurement and rollout is transparent, effective, equitable and efficient.

This will be an open discussion on how OGP can be leveraged in Steering Committee countries, sharing the reforms you are advancing on these areas, and how effective collaboration within this group and with other OGP champions can lead to better, more open and effective COVID-19 related reforms.

### Discussion:

- A. What ambitious reforms are Steering Committee members advancing in their own countries related to COVID-19 recovery and renewal, and how can Steering Committee members use OGP to build back better democracies post pandemic?
- B. What actions can Steering Committee members take to encourage the rest of the Partnership to advance ambitious reforms to be showcased at the Seoul Summit?

### Reference Materials [see summary on page 5]:

- [Respond. Recover. Renew.](#)
- [Co-Chair Global Call-to-Action for All OGP Members](#)
- [Defending Civic Space: How OGP Can Step Up](#)
- [Effective, Efficient, and Equitable: How Open Government Can Deliver on Vaccines](#)

## III. Building high-level political support for open government on the global stage in 2021 (30 minutes)

As the world looks to a post-pandemic future, a number of global fora in 2021 offer opportunities to chart the course toward building back better and renewing our democracies. Civil society champions and government reformers can use these summits to build international momentum around key policy goals, with the support of OGP.



During this session we will discuss the role that OGP can play, both as a connector and implementing platform, for upcoming global summits in 2021 (e.g., at G20, COP 25, OGP Global Summit, U.S. Summit for Democracy, etc.), and the role of Steering Committee Ministers and Heads of State/Government.

**Discussion:**

- A.** How can Steering Committee Ministers, with the engagement of the wider Partnership, help forge and mobilize a stronger political coalition for open government and democracy, including in the key 2021 summits which will focus on strengthening democracy?

**Reference Materials [see summary on page 5]:**

- [Open Opportunities: Making the Most of 2021 Global Summits](#)



# Pre-Meeting Material Summary

*The following pieces will help inform the discussion at the Steering Committee meeting.*

## Materials for Session 2: The role of open government for pandemic response, recovery and renewal, and where OGP can help

### **Respond. Renew. Recover.**

In this blog, OGP CEO Sanjay Pradhan and Steering Committee Co-Chair Maria Baron, Executive Global Director of Directorio Legislativo, launch the next phase of OGP's campaign Open Response + Open Recovery, *Open Renewal*, focused on demonstrating how open government is essential in how we respond, recover and eventually renew our societies. This piece supports the Global call-To-action.

### **Co-Chair Global Call-to-Action for All OGP Members**

A joint statement from the Steering Committee Co-Chairs, the Republic of Korea and Maria Baron, Executive Global Director of Directorio Legislativo, calling on all OGP members to co-create ambitious commitments as part of their OGP action plans centered on their co-chair priorities topics of civic space and public participation, digital governance, and anti-corruption. The OGP Global Summit in December will be the culminating moment to showcase these efforts.

### **Defending Civic Space: How OGP Can Step Up**

This piece dives deeper into the threats to civic space globally, and how collective action throughout the Partnership, mobilized by the call-to-action, can fight democratic backsliding, underpin efforts for an inclusive recovery from the pandemic, tackle systemic inequalities in society, and build more resilient and citizen-centered democracies across OGP member countries.

### **Effective, Efficient, and Equitable: How Open Government Can Deliver on Vaccines**

An open government approach to vaccine distribution so that it is maximally effective, efficient, and equitable, along with concrete ways to build open government vaccination policies into the co-creation process of the 100+ action plans expected in 2021.

## Materials for Session 3: Building high-level political support for open government on the global stage in 2021

### **Open Opportunities: Making the Most of 2021 Global Summits**

This piece lays out the many global opportunities throughout 2021 to build international momentum around key policy goals with the support of OGP, including the G7 and G20 Summits, the Summit for Democracy and the OGP Global Summit, as well as how to best leverage them for real action.



# Respond. Recover. Renew.

This blog was originally published [here](#).

In January 2020, the Republic of Korea became one of the first democracies to face alarming numbers of new COVID-19 infections. Due to an extensive program of fast and free testing, distribution of masks, contact tracing, and proactive disclosure of risks empowering citizens to take evasive actions, the curve was flattened without a major lockdown. While subsequent spikes have occurred, the country is aiming to vaccinate nearly 70 percent of its population by September and obtain herd immunity by November.

Yet, in other places, we see governments of all shapes and sizes failing to provide transparent, truthful information, costing lives. Stimulus funding meant to revive economies and provide emergency health care including vaccines, and safety net resources aimed at helping the most vulnerable is ending up in the hands of the politically connected. As a result, the personal protective equipment needed by frontline workers is arriving defective or not at all, while vaccine distribution is being captured by the elite. And, small business owners struggling to keep doors open and people in jobs are missing out on financial assistance. This list of missteps and misdeeds goes on.

It was these two dramatically different approaches that led the Open Government Partnership (OGP) to launch the [Open Response + Open Recovery](#) campaign. The campaign shows how the fundamental values of open government – transparency, participation, inclusion, responsiveness, and accountability – are essential as we work to rebuild health systems, return to school, vaccinate everyone, and get economies and communities moving again.

These values become even more important if we choose to build back societies in a manner that addresses the persistent and prevalent challenges and injustices the pandemic laid bare, including corruption, climate change, racism and inequality, economic decline, and democratic backsliding.

With this in mind and with the development and distribution of vaccines offering hope, we are adding a third “R” to our campaign - *Open Renewal*. This “R” is about more than resetting. It is truly about tackling the systematic weaknesses in our societies that for too long have held too many back.

In 2021, OGP members will co-create a record 100+ action plans. This is an opportunity to demonstrate how open government is essential in how we respond, recover, and eventually renew our societies. Through *Open Renewal*, we are asking all members to advance bold, ambitious reforms across four areas which showcase better democracy - post-pandemic - in service of citizens.

First, transparency measures, citizen input, and public oversight on stimulus, vaccines and safety net packages must become the new global norms. Here we should look to open contracting, open budgets, and beneficial ownership transparency, which help to stop corruption and ensure bailouts are not captured by the politically connected, but that vital resources go to those that need them most.





As an example, we can look to Nigeria where this past August, President Muhammadu Buhari signed a new beneficial ownership registry into law. The registry was created through two OGP action plan cycles and civil society activists have called it the “[most significant law in decades.](#)”

Second, we can take on systemic inequalities, including those of race and ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, religion, disability, age, and more. We can accomplish this by advancing policies to ensure the inclusion of historically marginalized groups, expand open data to expose gender pay gaps and other biases; and ensure transparency and accountability of law enforcement to root out biases, while expanding access to justice.

[Afghanistan](#) took important steps in this direction recently when it committed to systematically collecting gender data, increasing access to judicial services, and requiring the incorporation of women’s perspectives in policies impacting them. President Ashraf Ghani created the High Council of Women to oversee the implementation of these reforms.

Third, democracies must emerge from the pandemic more resilient themselves, better prepared to serve citizens. Democracies must also be more willing to engage in turning back the rising tide of authoritarianism. According to Freedom House, global freedom has now [declined](#) for the 15th straight year.

There are many actions to take here, but an excellent place to start is creating commitments to combat digital disinformation, illicit money and kleptocracy, and big tech impunity, and strengthen the media environment. For instance, [Mexico](#) is working with civil society to protect digital privacy while [Canada, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom](#) are collaborating on the responsible development of artificial intelligence and algorithmic transparency.

Additionally, the pandemic has also given cover to a further erosion of civic space and fundamental freedoms. We must continue to shine a light on these restrictions while also working to enhance civic space protection. Any COVID-19 restrictions must be time-bound, proportionate, and have appropriate democratic oversight.

Finally, a more citizen-centered democracy can help to renew trust in government, which has been so horribly damaged by the pandemic. Here participatory budgeting, social audits, citizen assemblies, and efforts encouraging consultation are critical. We can look to [São Paulo, Brazil](#) for inspiration. When the pandemic prevented in-person policy consultation, São Paulo officials and civil society members adopted an OGP commitment on digital participation from Madrid. Today, more people than ever before have taken part in participatory budgeting and public hearings online.

In order to lead by example, the OGP Co-Chairs have issued a call-to-action for all OGP members to use their action plans to showcase reforms on civic space, anti-corruption, and digital governance. These are areas where we have relevant experience and expertise which we will be sharing with all OGP members as part of *Open Renewal*.

OGP turns ten in 2021. With more than 4,500 commitments made to date, we have much to celebrate. We are launching *Open Renewal* in our anniversary year in order to look forward and



build on the lessons and accomplishments of the past. In doing so we hope we will also renew the spirit, optimism, and energy that first launched OGP, harnessing it all to create ambitious new commitments that rise to the challenges we face today, and renew democracy in service of its citizens.



# Co-Chair Global Call-to-Action for All OGP Members

The call to action was originally posted [here](#).

Dear OGP leaders,

As co-chairs of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), we are greatly pleased to work alongside you to build a stronger global coalition for open government and democracy throughout this challenging but critical year.

2020 saw a confluence of crises, from the health crisis unleashed by the COVID-19 pandemic, to a global economic recession, and social inequalities laid bare by the pandemic. Open government has a role to play in tackling each of these issues as an essential tool with the potential to save lives and livelihoods, and to protect democratic institutions and spaces for civil society. We now would like to ask the OGP community to join forces and use open government approaches to ensure an inclusive recovery from the pandemic and build back better.

To this end, **we call on every OGP member to co-create ambitious commitments as part of your OGP action plans based on the three co-chair priorities** announced at the OGP Leaders Summit in September 2020. Co-creation processes must be inclusive, with space for voices from marginalized communities not often heard at the center of power.

- **Civic Space and Public Participation:** The fight to strengthen civic freedoms, democratic accountability, access to information, and all the other structures that allow citizens to participate freely in public life, has been hard fought, and in many cases, hard won. However, the global pandemic has been affecting these structures for civic space and public participation. The Republic of Korea is making its utmost effort to empower citizens through transparent disclosure of all information related to COVID-19 with the principles of “openness, transparency and democratic process” and promoting public engagement in policy-making by seeking their proposals and ideas to respond to the pandemic.

As co-chairs, we would like to encourage OGP member countries to facilitate citizens’ engagement in policy-making, and pursue recovery from COVID-19 and to prosperity through citizen participation.

- **Anti-corruption:** In the front lines of the pandemic, as countries mobilize resources to meet urgent needs, every cent counts. Public trust in government can be secured only when the national budget is executed in a transparent and fair manner, and that trust in turn serves as a driving force to quickly bring us back to normal life as it was prior to the pandemic. For this, institutional frameworks must be improved in a way that allows citizens to participate in the budget process and monitor government spending. We would like to ask all OGP leaders to lead the way in strengthening public-civil society partnership to ensure public money is spent to improve the lives of citizens.



- **Digital Innovation:** Since its founding, OGP has looked to emerging technologies to help open up government. We intend to build on the progress made thus far and maximize the potential of digital technologies to further advance democracy. To this end, we would like to promote inclusive digital innovation to bridge the digital divide and embrace disadvantaged communities while continuing opening up high-demand public data.

In addition, as more COVID-19 vaccines become available across the world, we rely on the OGP community to work together toward ensuring fair, equitable, and efficient distribution of vaccines to reach the people who need them most.

The 2021 OGP Global Summit in Seoul can be the culmination of all these activities. We will invite Heads of States/Government and government, civil society and other leaders across our Partnership to present their commitments in these areas at the 2021 OGP Global Summit in Seoul. As OGP celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2021, we invite you to reflect on the progress and successes of our global Partnership, and renew our commitment to open government values that, a decade on, remain just as vital, relevant, and essential for meeting the most pressing challenges of our time.

Sincerely,  
OGP Co-Chairs, 2020-21

Hae-cheol Jeon  
Minister of the Interior and Safety  
Government of the Republic of Korea

María Baron  
Global Executive Director  
Directorio Legislativo



# Defending Civic Space: How OGP Can Step Up

*This blog was originally published [here](#).*

When the Open Government Partnership (OGP) was launched 10 years ago, one of the aims was to enhance public participation so that citizens could have a say in how they are governed and in decisions that affect their lives. Today, nearly all OGP members have implemented reforms that aim to improve participation opportunities. In addition, most OGP members have a forum where government reformers and civil society regularly meet to co-create and implement reforms that open up government.

However, civic space goes beyond public participation and overall it has been in [decline globally](#), including in OGP countries and local contexts. There have been 15 consecutive years of erosion of political and civil rights according to [Freedom House](#). This poses a challenge to the OGP community: how can OGP co-creation processes and action plans provide a space to make ambitious reforms that help to open and protect civic space, for example by enhancing and protecting spaces for citizens to express themselves freely, to organize in groups for a common purpose, and to gather together to make their voices heard?

The good news is that the current OGP co-chairs have launched a [Partnership-wide call to action](#), which has civic space as one of its top priorities and calls for all members to join. This builds on promising examples where reformers in government and civil society have started using the OGP space to commit to open civic space reforms and have begun the hard work of implementation:

## **Citizens Overseeing Police Accountability in Nigeria**

In 2020, there were massive protests against police brutality in many countries around the world. Following public outcry over videos and photos of police brutality in Nigeria, youth activists, civil society organizations and citizens gathered in massive protests across the country to call for the disbandment of the police's Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) and for accountability for officers' actions. They also used social media to bring the international spotlight to the protests and the government's response to them. [Media organizations](#) reported that just a few days after the protests started, over 100 people had been killed. The #EndSARS movement prompted discussions about how open government approaches could be used to protect civic space and safeguard people's right to protest safely.

Civil society and government agencies involved in the OGP process convened to discuss if the OGP action plan could be one way to move the conversation forward. Using the country's OGP multistakeholder forum, civil society organizations and government stakeholders – including the Police Service Commission (PSC) and the National Human Rights Commission – committed to improving the oversight role of the Police Service Commission, foster a dialogue between citizens and police forces, and ensure scheduled visits to police stations to assess the conditions of service and adherence to proper procedure. Despite the many challenges civil society in the country still face (such as funding and lack of frameworks to monitor the compliance of the PSC standards), the commitment to enhance police oversight and the inclusion of civil society in the



design and implementation of police reform is an important step. It is now part of Nigeria's formal [2019-22 OGP action plan](#).

### **Fighting for Restorative Justice in Indonesia**

In Indonesia, a coalition of civil society organizations reported significant constraints to freedoms of expression and assembly, as well as cases of police violence against protesters. In many instances, access to legal aid was not available to those arrested for exercising their right of expression. This coalition of organizations worked with the Indonesian government and proposed a [commitment in their OGP action plan](#) to ensure access to information on cases and arrests made based on protests, and ensure transparency in the criminal justice system.

Civil society groups continue to call on the government to enhance civic space protections and include even more groups in their co-creation process.

### **Preventing Illegal Government Surveillance in Mexico**

In 2017, civil society and media organizations found evidence that the government had misused sophisticated spyware which was then used to surveil lawyers, journalists, and human rights defenders. Civil society organizations decided to leave the Mexico OGP process until those responsible were held accountable and measures were put in place to avoid future incidents like this. It wasn't until a new government approached civil society and activists to put the issue back on the table that their open government process started anew.

The reestablishment of the OGP process was underpinned by the need to address the unregulated use of surveillance tools and to establish democratic controls that prevent the interception of private communications in Mexico. Using their [OGP action plan](#), civil society organizations in Mexico are working with government agencies to develop a framework to regulate the acquisition and use of surveillance technology. Despite the many challenges posed by the pandemic, civil society organizations continue to advocate for enhanced regulation on this issue and protect people's right to privacy.

### **Where to Next?**

More than 100 OGP members are co-creating new action plans this year and have a chance to add meaningful reforms that protect and enhance [civic space in their OGP action plans](#). When co-creating these new ambitious commitments, OGP members should:

- Engage and convene relevant implementing agencies in OGP co-creation processes, especially those that have the mandate over issues relevant to civic rights.
- Broaden their coalition of civil society partners working across different issue areas. Diversity and inclusion are key to developing commitments that respond to the needs of the community and advance civic space priorities.
- Use OGP action plans to ensure time-bound implementation for any civil society strategies. This could ensure that shared milestones are tracked by both government and civil society partners as co-commitment holders and implementers.



There is a major opportunity in 2021 to advance civic space reforms in OGP that go to the heart of some of the democratic backsliding the world has seen in recent years, and to showcase them at the 10th anniversary Global Summit in December of 2021, hosted by the Republic of Korea in Seoul and online. Open civic space can help to underpin efforts for an inclusive recovery from the pandemic, tackle systemic inequalities of income, race and gender in society, and to build more resilient and citizen-centered democracies across OGP member countries. The time for action is now.



# Effective, Efficient, and Equitable: How Open Government Can Deliver on Vaccines

This blog was originally published [here](#).

COVID-19 vaccines are an essential tool in the race to save lives and rebuild economies during the pandemic. As more vaccines become available, ensuring their distribution is an urgent, global challenge. At the time of writing, several types of COVID-19 vaccines are in circulation, with [more than 200](#) in development. Yet this unprecedented scale presents a series of challenges that are becoming increasingly clear:

- **Corruption risks:** Health procurement – particularly during emergencies – is [prone to corruption risks](#), including conflicts of interest, nepotism, favoritism, and diversion of emergency funds. We are already seeing cases of “[vaccine capture](#)”, where the powerful and well-connected have been able to cut the line to receive a jab.
- **Effectiveness and efficiency:** Although a well-planned distribution and supply chain is critical, the WHO has [found](#) that many countries are not prepared for the roll-out. We see [reports](#) of health facilities throwing out unused and spoiled vaccines, and vaccine wastage rates are [rarely reported](#).
- **Equity:** Vaccines are disproportionately going to well-off populations. Globally, more than 50% of all vaccines have been [reserved](#) by high-income countries representing 13% of the world’s population (see map below). And COVAX, a global initiative aimed at equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, [remains underfunded](#). At the domestic level, [early numbers](#) show that racial minorities and marginalized groups are getting vaccinated at lower rates – even though they suffer a higher burden of disease.
- **Trust:** [Vaccine hesitancy](#) – the refusal to accept available vaccines – is a critical barrier to achieving a comprehensive, global distribution. [Rushed approval](#) processes, [misinformation](#) around vaccines, and general [lack of confidence](#) in government are all contributing factors.

## The Open Government Approach

Open government can help to achieve the effective, efficient, and equitable delivery of vaccines. Applying the pillars of transparency, civic participation, and public accountability throughout the life cycle of vaccines can mitigate corruption risks, achieve value for money, build public trust, and ensure that vaccines are reaching the people who need them most.

### *Open Review and Approval*

Involving non-governmental expert scientists in the initial authorization process and being open about the safety and effectiveness of particular vaccines is critical for addressing vaccine hesitancy, particularly given the accelerated timelines of current approval processes. [Research](#) shows that government transparency around vaccine safety, combined with frequent communication throughout the regulatory process, increases trust in vaccines.

### *Open Contracting*





Open procurement processes – from tender to execution – ensure value for money, reduce corruption, and boost public trust. They are [particularly important](#) given early evidence of unfair pricing practices. Investigations show that pharmaceutical companies are [requesting](#) sovereign assets as collateral for legal costs, are being [exempted](#) from financial liability through public funds, and are often [charging](#) lower-income governments more than high-income ones.

### *Open Distribution*

Publishing timely information and partnering with citizens are essential to an open roll-out. Our analysis of [vaccination data](#) shows that several countries are not regularly disclosing basic data on recipients, highlighting the scarcity of details that can help ensure both a more equitable distribution and data privacy. In the United States, for example, state-level data on the number of vaccinations by race has spurred [new vaccine equity policies](#). On the engagement side, involving civil society in the planning and implementation of roll-outs can help tackle misinformation, address vaccine hesitancy, and empower marginalized groups to understand how to obtain vaccinations.

### *Monitoring and Oversight*

Establishing multiple, public-facing channels for monitoring – such as formal oversight bodies, corruption hotlines, and grassroots social accountability initiatives – can help to detect waste, fraud, and abuse. Governments should commit to 1) enabling space for civil society to play a monitoring function and 2) quickly addressing any deficiencies identified. This includes setting up grievance mechanisms that allow citizens to achieve redress if they are unfairly denied vaccines.

## **Moving From Ideas to Action**

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) provides a platform for government and civil society reformers to weave open government approaches into their vaccination policies. Although OGP members have not yet made commitments specifically about COVID-19 vaccines, other existing health-related commitments could be expanded to cover them, such as:

- Argentina expanded [health contracting disclosures](#) to include agreements signed with laboratories, open data on individual purchases, and a list of most-procured medications.
- Liberia [committed](#) to disclose supply chain management decisions and updates, including on emergency procurements during the pandemic.
- Colombia [committed](#) to establish citizen audits for government expenditures on COVID-19 emergency measures.

With more than 100 OGP members co-creating action plans this year, reformers can take advantage of this opportunity to make concrete commitments that apply an open government approach to vaccines. Doing so will be critical to ensure an effective, efficient, and equitable vaccine distribution, and by extension, to save lives and livelihoods.



# Open Opportunities: Making the Most of 2021 Global Summits

This blog was originally published [here](#).

As the world looks to a post-pandemic future, a number of global fora in 2021 offer opportunities to chart the course toward building back better and renewing our democracies. Civil society champions and government reformers can use these summits to build international momentum around key policy goals, with the support of OGP.

## A Full Calendar

The remainder of 2021 is packed with relevant international gatherings:

- **G7 Summit**, hosted by the UK in June, will include discussions on anti-corruption and the release of an Open Societies Charter
- **UNGASS**, hosted by the United Nations (UN) in June, the first ever UN General Assembly Special Session on corruption, followed by the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July, will focus on pandemic recovery, inclusion, and tackling inequality
- **G20 Summit**, hosted by Italy in October, will address corruption in sports, organized crime (with links to procurement and beneficial ownership), corruption measurement, and corruption in times of crisis
- **OGP Global Summit**, hosted by South Korea (in-person and virtually) in December, will emphasize anti-corruption, civic space and public participation, and digital governance
- **Summit for Democracy**, which U.S. President Biden has committed to hosting in December 2021 or January 2022, will focus on anti-corruption and kleptocracy, human rights, and countering authoritarianism

Below is a visual overview of the 2021 calendar:

### Summits to Advance Democracy and Anti-Corruption in 2021 include:

- UNGASS (UN General Assembly Special Session against corruption): June 2-4
- G7 Summit: June 11-13
- HLPF on Sustainable Development (High Level Political Forum): July 6-15
- G20 Summit: October 30-31
- COP26 (United Nations Climate Change Conference): November 1-12
- OGP Global Summit: December 13-17
- UNCAC (UN Convention Against Corruption): December 13-17
- U.S. Summit for Democracy: TBD



## ***Act Globally, Think Locally***

International convenings offer three significant opportunities to OGP stakeholders. First, international gatherings can help increase ambition domestically. Local actors crafting new action plans can highlight to government officials the opportunity they have to receive global recognition for announcing bold summit deliverables – especially at the OGP Global Summit and the Summit for Democracy. Given over 100 OGP national and local members are co-creating new plans this year, this is a major opportunity.

Second, the convenings can advance global norms on areas where progress is needed at the national or local levels. Key policy topics – such as beneficial ownership – could receive a boost, particularly if summit hosts advance new benchmarks and drive positive competition. Outside-in pressure could bolster bottom-up advocacy. OGP is paying particular attention to the thematic priorities of our co-chairs: anti-corruption, civic space and public participation, and digital innovation.

Third, these gatherings can provide a valuable opening for stakeholders to **access the lessons** learned they need to deliver on new reform commitments. Especially at the OGP Global Summit, targeted thematic exchanges can provide vital input to shaping implementation of action plan commitments.

### **OGP as a Force Multiplier**

OGP's Steering Committee and staff are working to maximize the opportunities of the 2021 calendar. OGP has started by providing coordination support to civil society groups working to influence these summits, so that they can share information and align strategies.

All too often, global summits are “talk shops” that generate warmly worded communiqués but little follow through. To help avoid this and advance local accountability, OGP will be encouraging summit attendees to enshrine summit commitments in their OGP action plans, which are then monitored by the [Independent Reporting Mechanism \(IRM\)](#).

We also plan to engage with summit hosts to offer lessons from OGP's experience of hosting participatory convenings so that citizen voices can be meaningfully incorporated before, during, and after the gatherings. For instance, consultations underway as part of action plan development can provide valuable input to government officials who are crafting deliverables for these summits. Throughout the year, we will also seek to draw connections between different summits, so they build on each other's momentum and achieve greater impact.



# Annex: Theme-Specific Reference Materials

## Policy Menus

In support of [Open Renewal](#), the Co-Chairs of OGP, the Republic of Korea and Maria Baron of Directorio Legislativo, have launched a global call-to-action for all OGP members in 2021 to use their new and existing action plans to make ambitious commitments that address core challenges. This includes **anti-corruption**, **civic space and participation**, and **digital governance** where they can share their expertise and experience. To support this initiative, OGP has developed policy menus aligned to the three core challenges, linked below.

### 1. Actions to Protect and Enhance Civic Space

Challenges respecting and ensuring fundamental freedoms have been observed in countries across the income spectrum. Trends include crackdowns on peaceful protest, constraints on online expression, societal problems treated as national security threats, and deployment of new technologies to invade privacy and constrain civic action. This policy brief reviews actions to protect the freedoms of expression, association, and peaceful assembly.

[Read the full brief here.](#)

### 2. Actions for Transparent and Accountable Digital Governance

The access and use of digital technologies have fundamentally changed the way democracy functions over time. While new spaces and platforms for engagement have opened up and have transformed citizens from passive beneficiaries into active participants, the use of digital technologies can be a double-edged sword. This brief reviews policy areas that highlight digital transformation, inclusion, and digital governance.

[Read the full brief here.](#)

### 3. Actions to Tackle Corruption

Corruption continues to be one of the greatest systemic problems faced by countries worldwide. 2020 brought unprecedented corruption-related challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and despite nearly \$11.7 trillion of spending by governments worldwide to address issues resulting from the pandemic, it continues to undermine democratic institutions. This policy brief provides several options related to tackling money in politics, open contracting and transparency of public procurement, beneficial ownership transparency, and others.

[Read the full brief here.](#)

## A Guide to Open Government and COVID-19

In 2020, OGP collated a comprehensive guide to how government projects and approaches can support tackling the pandemic by drawing on over [350 crowdsourced examples](#) from the open government community.

[Access the full guide here.](#)



# Draft List of Attendees

## Government Steering Committee Members

### Government of Argentina

César Gazzo Huck	Under-Secretary of Open Government and Digital Nation, Secretary of Public Innovation – Chief of Cabinet Office
Carolina Cornejo	Director of Open Government, Secretariat of Public Innovation

### Government of Canada

Joyce Murray	Minister of Digital Government
Melanie Robert	Executive Director, Open Government, Chief Information Officer Branch (Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat)

### Government of France

Amélie de Montchalin	Minister of Public Sector Transformation and the Civil Service
Henri Verdier	Ambassador for Digital Affairs
Clémence Pene	Direction interministérielle de la transformation publique

### Government of Georgia

Ilia Darchiashvili	Head of Administration
Ketevan Tsanava	Head of the Public Administration Unit, Policy Planning and Coordination Department

### Government of Germany

Markus Richter	Federal Government Commissioner for Information Technology
Sebastian Haselbeck	Policy Advisor, Division for Digital State, Federal Chancellery

### Government of Indonesia

Suharso Monoarfa	Minister of National Development Planning
Maharani Putri S. Wibowo	Deputy Director for Institutional and States Apparatus Capacity , OpenGov Indonesia Secretariat

### Government of Italy (Incoming Government Co-Chair 2021 – 2022)

Marcella Panucci	Head of Cabinet of the Ministry of Public Administration
Sabina Bellotti	OGP Advisor, Administrative Innovation, Skills Development and Communication Office



### **Government of Kenya**

Korir Sing'Oei	Legal Advisor / Convener-OGP Lead
Philip Thigo	Senior Advisor, Data, Innovation and Open Government, Office of the Deputy President

### **Government of Nigeria**

Clement Ikanade Agba	Minister of State Finance, Budget and National Planning
Anne Nzegwu	Nigeria OGP National Coordinator

### **Government of Romania**

István Zahoranszki	Deputy Secretary-General of the Government
Larisa Panait	Advisor and OGP Point of Contact, Secretariat General of the Government

### **Government of South Korea (Lead Government Co-Chair 2020 – 2021)**

Jae-young Lee	Vice Minister of the Interior and Safety
Sangmyeong Cho	Director General of the Government Innovation Planning Bureau
Jihye Park	Assistant Deputy Director, Innovation Planning Division, Government Innovation Planning Bureau
Minchan Park	Ministry of the Interior and Safety

## **Civil Society Steering Committee Members**

María Baron (Lead Civil Society Co-Chair 2020 – 2021)	Directorio Legislativo
Helen Darbshire	Access Info Europe
Aiden Eyakuze (Incoming Civil Society Co-Chair 2021 - 2022)	Twaweza
Delia Ferreira Rubio	Transparency International
Blair Glencorse	Accountability Lab
Robin Hodess	The B Team
Lysa John	CIVICUS
Lucy McTernan	University of York



Stephanie Muchai	HIVOS
Olena Pavlenko (Substitute for Elisa Peter, Publish What You Pay)	DiXie Group
Zuzana Wienk	White Crow
Anabel Cruz (Additional Steering Committee member)	ICD Uruguay
Oluseun Onigbinde (Additional Steering Committee member)	BudgIT

*Additional Members have no voting rights, but are welcome to actively participate in Steering Committee discussions.*

**For any changes to this list, please send to [jaimemercado@opengovpartnership.org](mailto:jaimemercado@opengovpartnership.org).**

