

## Civil Society Steering Committee

Monthly Call | Wednesday 14 July 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
- Helen Darbishire, Access Info Europe
- Lucy McTernan, University of York
- Olena Pavlenko, Dixie Group (temporary substitute for Elisa Peter)
- Oluseun Onigbinde, BudgIT
- Robin Hodess, The B Team
- Steph Muchai, Hivos
- Lotte Geunis, OGP Consultant
- Shreya Basu, OGP Support Unit

### Apologies

- Lysa John, CIVICUS
- Zuzana Wienk, White Crow

## Call Summary

### I. Parliamentary Engagement Policy consultation

*Reference Materials:* [Blog outlining the purpose and process of this review](#); [Parliament Evidence Base Paper](#)

Maria Baron, Shreya Basu (OGP Support Unit) and Lotte Geunis (OGP consultant) presented a proposed review process of OGP's Parliamentary Engagement Policy Guidance (Parliament Policy). This 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. [This blog](#) outlines the purpose and process of this review.

The C&S Subcommittee has led the development of the [parliamentary engagement policy](#) in OGP since 2015. 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 in 2021. As part of the development process, Civil Society Steering Committee (CS SC) members were consulted for their input. CS SC members had the following feedback:



- Consider how inclusive the language of the proposal is, and how it can encourage or discourage certain types of collaboration between government and parliament.
- Keep in mind the heterogeneity of parliaments across the world, and how the proposal considers the different forms of parliaments that will engage with the policy.
- Add examples for how different forms of parliament can engage with the policy into the guidance.
- Consider the individual aspect of engaging parliaments, and how to identify key figures to push reforms in parliaments.
- Consider further development of the role of local actors in the policy.
- Consider opportunities to engage with parliaments' leadership members in addition to parliaments as a whole to gain more traction, where specific issues may be more relevant to some MPs than others.
- Parliaments open government commitments need to have the same level of civil society engagement as the traditional OGP action plans.
- Ensure that when addressing issues related to separation of powers, OGP does not inadvertently promote siloed approaches to open government.

The Support Unit will continue developing the policy, and will consult the Steering Committee again before the final submission of the policy.

