

Open Government Partnership

Criteria & Standards Monthly Call Summary

9 September 2021 | 10:00 - 11:30 EDT

Attendees

- Government of Germany: Sebastian Haselbeck
- Government of Canada: Mélanie Robert, Benoît Frenette, Darine Benkalha, Jean Cardinal
- Government of Georgia: Ana Barisashvili
- Government of Nigeria: Dr. Anne Nzegwu
- Lucy McTernan, University of York
- Delia Ferreira Rubio, Transparency International
- Elisa Peter, Publish What You Pay
- Shreya Basu, Support Unit Regional Lead
- Lotte Geunis, OGP Consultant

Apologies

- Lysa John, CIVICUS

Call Summary

I. Revised Participation & Co-creation Standards Proposal

Reference materials: [Participation and Co-Creations Standards Draft](#); [Presentation](#)

In its April 22, 2021 Criteria and Standards Subcommittee (C&S) [meeting](#), the Support Unit (SU) presented a first draft of the revised Participation & Co-Creation Standards (“Standards”) which consolidated 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 maximum transparency, inclusive participation, accountability, and innovation and ambition.

This draft was based on extensive input from the OGP community over the past few years, including from governments and civil society and Steering Committee members. The draft was also drawn on ample research by the Support Unit’s Analytics & Insights team drawing on over 170 IRM reports over the past 10 years of OGP. The SU also presented a proposed new structure for each standard to raise the bar and make the standards easier to understand, follow, and be assessed by the IRM. C&S did not raise objections to the proposed five standards or structure, but provided ample feedback to make the standards clearer and strengthen their framing and directive.

Over the past months, the SU continued to improve the document with input from 1:1 Steering Committee feedback sessions and with the support of a consultant in order

to clarify and tighten the language. The primary updates to the proposal included adding:

- Gender and inclusion lens;
- Partnerships / role of CS;
- Clarified roles and responsibilities (e.g. the MSF, where established, or the government where there is no MSF);
- Clarified minimum requirements with IRM input;
- Guidance on length and delivery date of the National Action Plans (already endorsed by C&S).

This latest draft was presented for C&S endorsement before going for public consultations. A final version will be brought back for final sign-off in Q4. The timeline for the remainder of the year is:

- **September 9:** C&S meeting to endorse Standards for public consultation
- **September 13 - October 13:** Global public consultation takes place; opportunity for full Steering Committee to provide any additional feedback
- **October 14 SC meeting (TBC, at working-level):** Non-decisional briefing on the direction of travel for the new standards including summary of input received through global consultation.
- **November C&S meeting (November 4, TBC):** Review and endorse final version with any feedback received during global consultation integrated. Send final to full SC for working-level sign-off.
- **December SC meeting (December 13/14, TBC, at ministerial level):** High level endorsement of new Standards.
- **2022 onwards:** guidance developed, rollout and implementation

Decision: The Criteria and Standards subcommittee endorsed the revised Participation & Co-creation Standards proposal to move to public consultations, to begin the week of September 13.

II. Parliamentary Engagement in OGP: Review and Way Forward

Reference materials: [Parliamentary Engagement in OGP: Review and Way Forward](#)

In its June 2021 C&S meeting, the SU presented the review process and emerging direction of travel for OGP's Legislative Engagement Policy Guidance. The C&S members endorsed the proposed approach and agreed to shepherd the review of this policy on behalf of the SC, aiming to table the revised guidance for review at the October Working Level meeting.

Since then, the SU carried out extensive consultations with the broader Steering Committee as well as the OGP community. The findings of these consultations, along with the proposed way forward, were presented for C&S review and input and questions. A provisional timeline is also included, with the following proposed steps for C&S:

- **September 9:** Feedback from the C&S subcommittee
- **September 27:** C&S to review and endorse final version, with any feedback received incorporated. This version will be tabled for working-level Steering Committee approval.
- **October 14 2021 (working-level SC meeting, TBC):** C&S to table the Review and Way Forward for discussion and approval of the full SC
- **December 2021:** Announcement of new policy at the Global Summit.

C&S members provided the following general feedback:

- Incorporate consideration of the separation of powers into the policy;
- Consider clarifying the multiple paths countries could take in engaging their parliaments depending on the individual situation, as a ‘menu of options’;
- Reinforce that the policy is not a requirement for OGP participation, but instead an option for increased participation, with guidance on how to approach it;
- Include examples of best practices;
- Consider how to maintain coherence when single plans are not possible.

More detailed feedback on the proposal is incorporated into the attached document.

Next Steps: The Support Unit will incorporate the input provided in this call and through other consultations underway and circulate it to the subcommittee via email for endorsement to be sent to the full Steering Committee.

III. AOB

A. New countries placed under review

The Support Unit provided an update on Albania and Mongolia, which recently were found to have failed in meeting minimum requirements in the co-creation process and are now both considered under Procedural Review. The Support Unit will keep C&S updated with further developments or areas for support.

B. Steering Committee Rotation

The Support Unit and Criteria & Standards Subcommittee would like to express a heartfelt thanks to Delia Ferreira Rubio for her work on the Steering Committee and subcommittee, as her term ends on October 1.