

# Civil Society Steering Committee

Monthly Call | Wednesday 15 September 2021

8:00–9:00 EST / 14:00–15:00 CET

## Call Summary

### Attendees

- Maria Baron, Directorio Legislativo
- Aidan Eyakuze, Twaweza
- Blair Glencorse, Accountability Lab
- Elisa Peter, Publish What You Pay
- Helen Darbishire, Access Info Europe
- Lucy McTernan, University of York
- Lysa John, CIVICUS
- Robin Hodess, The B Team
- Anabel Cruz, ICD Uruguay
- Oluseun Onigbinde, BudgIT
- Lotte Geunis, OGP Consultant
- Shreya Basu, OGP Support Unit

### Apologies

- Delia Ferreira Rubio, Transparency International
- Steph Muchai, International Lawyers' Project
- Zuzana Wienk, White Crow

#### I. Update on Afghanistan

The Support Unit provided a brief update on OGP activities related to recent events in supporting the open government community in Afghanistan. Civil Society Steering Committee (CS SC) members offered their continued support as needed. The Support Unit will continue to update the Steering Committee as the situation develops.

#### II. Overview of upcoming decisions related to rules and processes; Deep dive on Parliament Policy proposal

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

As part of a continuing consultative process to develop updated OGP's Parliament engagement guidelines, the Support Unit presented proposed changes to the existing policy guidelines. These changes include clearer articulation of the value proposition of the guidelines, increased flexibility by offering various models, and opportunities for countries and parliaments that are not yet ready for formal recognition within OGP. The Parliamentary Engagement Policy review is part of a larger participation and



accountability package of work currently being undertaken by the Support Unit, which also includes the Co-Creation Standards refresh and IRM Charter.

CS SC members were asked for their feedback on the proposed changes, and had the following suggestions:

- Place more emphasis on the single action plan being the preferred option, rather than the separate national and parliamentary action plans option while recognizing that the latter is an option that might be more feasible in some situations.
- Plan to create a document that clearly lays out the guidelines, as a simplified and easier document to read and use.
- Include the opportunities for civil society within the document.

**Next Steps:** The Support Unit will continue updating the document with feedback received. Endorsement of the revised engagement guidelines will be channeled through Criteria & Standards Subcommittee, in line with its mandate, before being tabled for final approval by the full Steering Committee.

### III. **Co-chair rotation next steps**

Expressions of interest from governments and Civil Society Steering Committee members to become the next SC Co-Chairs are due by September 24. Interested candidates are asked to contact the Support Unit with any questions about the role or interest.

### IV. **AOB and farewells to outgoing members**

The Support Unit and Civil Society Steering Committee cohort would like to express a heartfelt thanks to Delia Ferreira Rubio, Robin Hodess, and Oluseun Onigbinde for their work on the Steering Committee, as their terms end on October 1.

