

# Open Government Partnership

## Thematic Leadership Monthly Call Summary

16 September 2021 | 08:00 - 9:30 EDT

### Attendees

- Government of Argentina: Carolina Cornejo and Nicole Grunbaum
- Government of France: Paul Schmite
- Government of Indonesia: Dwiana Fiqhi Cahyani, Yudhi Muhammad
- Government of Romania: Larisa Barac, Robert Lazaroiu
- Blair Glencorse, Accountability Lab
- Helen Darbishire, Access Info Europe
- Robin Hodess, B Team
- Steph Muchai, International Lawyers' Project

### Apologies

- Government of Kenya
- Zuzana Wienk
- Anabel Cruz
- Oluseun Onigbinde

### I. Check-in on 2021 TLS Work Plan

*Reference Materials:* [TLS Memo on Upcoming Global Fora and Updates](#); [2021 TLS work plan](#); [TLS meeting presentation](#)

The Support Unit provided a brief state of play on key areas of the Thematic Leadership subcommittee (TLS) work plan as the Steering Committee rotation approaches in October. The TLS work plan is divided into three large items of work: i) providing oversight on progress of focus themes across the Partnership, ii) informing strategic engagement with other global platforms, and iii) reviewing OGP's research related to thematic policy areas.

TLS members were asked to consider the following questions:

- How have TLS members linked foreign policy engagements in multilateral gatherings to domestic OGP work? What has worked well? What could be improved?
- How can the SC help maximize opportunities for elevating OGP as a global platform for implementation of multilateral commitments in key fora (including UNGA in September, the G20 in October, and the Summit for Democracy in 2022)?
- Reflecting on the previous year of TLS engagement, what are some areas that worked well and where could the TLS group focus more in 2022 to advance the core areas of its mandate?

TLS acknowledged a successful year of coordination and efforts to advance the thematic priorities for the year. TLS noted the following as particularly helpful:

- TLS has evolved into a space for exchanging ideas and challenges related to specific reform areas. It has been very helpful to bring other line ministries in charge of specific topics to learn how other governments are using OGP to advance similar reforms.
- Bringing in external experts and other Steering Committee members from outside TLS into meetings for a larger network of ideas and input;
- Working on global priorities over a sustained, longer period of time, which made it easier to integrate into other topics and lines of work;
- Advanced planning and coordination for global events this year was helpful in bringing a unified and cohesive message from the OGP community to each.
- The approach of TLS playing a strategic guidance role across thematic priorities, global advocacy and research related efforts from OGP has been a welcome shift from previous iterations of the subcommittee's mandate.

TLS members will continue to advance priorities as a new term begins in their various roles, including:

- France holding the Council of the European Union Presidency
- Romania as the Community of Democracies president until 2022;
- Argentina as the chair of the G20 Digital Economy Taskforce; and
- Indonesia as the G20 president in 2022
- Others are members of the G7/ G20/ respective regional bodies.

## II. **OGP Global Summit [December 13-17]**

*Reference Materials:* [Four Ways the OGP Global Summit Can Build Back Better Democracy](#); [Presentation](#)

With planning of the OGP Global Summit (December 13 - 17) well underway, the Support Unit provided a first preview to the TLS on the Summit. These will include a group of pre-Summit events, activities celebrating OGP's 10th anniversary, and the Summit week itself. A website has been [launched](#) with more information about how to participate in the Summit, Heads of State invitations are expected to be issued in the coming weeks, and a basic agenda is expected to be available to the public in late September.

The Global Summit can serve as a culmination and action-forcing moment for many of the global advocacy efforts the Support Unit and Steering Committee members have engaged in during 2021. TLS members were invited to discuss how to best leverage the Summit and think through potential big-picture goals to strive towards within the Summit framework.

As part of the pre-Summit events, TLS members were asked for their help in promoting the 10th anniversary with the available [OGP toolkit](#). TLS members

suggested considering integrating more civil society voices into the Summit videos, and to start thinking through post-Summit follow-up.

### **III. Farewell to outgoing Steering Committee members**

The Support Unit and Thematic Leadership subcommittee would like to express a heartfelt thanks to Robin Hodess, Oluseun Onigbinde, and the governments of Argentina, France, and Romania for their work on the Steering Committee and the subcommittee as their terms end on October 1, with a special thanks to Argentina for their leadership as subcommittee co-chair.