

OGP Steering Committee Meeting

Virtual | October 14, 2021 | 07:00 - 10:00 EDT

Call Summary

Welcome and introductions

Steering Committee Co-Chairs Maria Baron (Directorio Legislativo) and the government of Korea welcomed new Steering Committee (SC) members Luben Panov, Doug Rutzen, and the governments of Estonia, Morocco, and the UK. The Co-Chairs congratulated the re-elected members Anabel Cruz, Lucy McTernan, and the governments of Korea and Nigeria. The Co-Chairs also recognized and thanked outgoing members Robin Hodess, Delia Ferreira Rubio, Oluseun Onigbinde, and the governments of Argentina, France and Romania.

Session 1

OGP support to Afghan open government community

The OGP Support Unit (SU) provided an update on the OGP efforts to support the open government community in Afghanistan following the crises that unfolded in August of this year. After the collapse of the government, the OGP SU facilitated the evacuation of over 150 individuals associated with the open government community. These individuals are now in North Macedonia awaiting final resettlement to other countries.

The SU requested the following support from the SC:

- Continue to support colleagues in Afghanistan, through financial support, supporting additional evacuation flights, or other in-country relief measures;
- Advocate for the rapid resettlement of Afghan refugees;
- Provide employment support once the OGP-affiliated group is settled in different countries, keeping in mind their strong professional and education qualifications;
- Explore potential financial support for the OGP-affiliated group, based on acute funding needs for their stay in Skopje and the evacuation costs.

SC members provided their appreciation for the efforts of the SU, emphasized their willingness to help as much as possible, and shared some examples of what SC members have already done to help. In order to assist in these efforts, the SC requested the following from the SU:

- A written briefing that SC members can use to request support from their governments and other partners and organizations;
- A mapping of concrete opportunities for support that SC members can coordinate efforts on;
- Additional information on specific funding needs related to these efforts.

The SC also expressed an interest in discussing how to rebuild civic space infrastructure in Afghanistan in the coming years, and to learn from this experience, from both a global and organizational perspective, in order to prepare for future emergencies.



Session 2

Briefing on the OGP Global Summit and strategic priorities

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

During this section, the OGP SU provided a briefing on the upcoming OGP Global Summit, set against the current geopolitical backdrop and within the context of OGP's 10th anniversary. This also included an update on the upcoming U.S. Summit for Democracy (S4D) taking place the week before the OGP Summit and the linkages between both events, which represent a critical opportunity to galvanize the community and deliver ambitious commitments around reforms like anti-corruption, digital governance and civic space. Given their coordination role in both events, representatives from SC government foreign ministries were invited to attend this session to learn more about the opportunities and linkages between them.

2021 represents the biggest alignment of local, national and global opportunities for OGP since its founding, with 100+ action plans being delivered, and several key global fora themed on democracy and openness taking place throughout the year. The OGP Global Summit in particular will create several key opportunities to advance open government agendas at country and global levels:

- **Potential to be the biggest gathering of OGP Heads of State/Government and other leaders recommitting to OGP values and principles**, and sharing a bold and ambitious vision for the future of open government and democracy in their countries and globally;
- **Be an action-forcing moment for the delivery of the 100+ action plans** due this year, and provide an opportunity to showcase OGP members' most ambitious commitments, including on the three themes of the Summit and co-chair Call to Action (civic space, anti-corruption, digital governance);
- **Be a space to reflect on the progress of OGP in the last 10 years and present a vision for the future**, including by providing opportunities to showcase the brightest ideas, reformers, and results, by enhancing peer learning, and by supporting networking, as well as community engagement.

To maximize these opportunities, these are some of the actions discussed that the SC can take at the OGP Global Summit:

- **Attend the OGP Summit as a coalition**; all SC Heads of State/Government must participate via virtual or pre-recorded attendance to secure the highest level of commitment to open government values and to building back better democracies post-pandemic, and should consider integrating civil society into the videos;
- **Secure Ministerial participation and pre-recorded videos** from all SC governments, and encourage the rest of the Partnership to do so as well to showcase their most ambitious reforms as well as ambitious forward-looking commitments to advance open government, as well as consider integrating civil society into the videos;



- **Advocate as ambassadors for OGP** by amplifying common key messaging through each members' participation in the Summit activities, and helping promote the Summit to encourage the community's engagement.
- **Ensure an equal civil society and government participation throughout the Summit**, as well as finding space for private sector voices in discussions.

A detailed written briefing about the structure of the OGP Summit week and pre-Summit events, as well as the opportunities and ways to maximize them, will be sent to the SC following the meeting.

The SC also discussed the following suggestions to maximize the political opportunity of the S4D, including ensuring clear connections are made with the OGP Summit:

- Identify and connect with the relevant government point person within each SC country working on S4D to ensure they are aware of the OGP process;
- Identify OGP commitments that can be included as S4D pledges, potentially around one the three announced US commitment themes: anti-corruption, countering authoritarianism and human rights;
- Engage the OGP forum to ensure civil society input on S4D pledges;
- Ensure the relevant Head of State references OGP in their S4D speech;
- Showcase results from OGP work that have helped to strengthen democracy in-country during S4D;
- Integrate any open government-relevant pledges made at S4D into current or future OGP action plans from January 2022.

Some SC members shared their approach to connecting with their foreign ministries on these two events. The SC also requested additional information in writing regarding the S4D opportunities and ways to link with their OGP work.

Session 3

Rules of the Game: Participation & Co-Creation Standards & Parliamentary Engagement Guidelines

Reference material: [Presentation: OGP Participation and Co-creation Standards](#) (pg 24); [Guidelines for Parliamentary Engagement in OGP](#) (pg 10)

The co-chairs of the Criteria & Standards Subcommittee (C&S) and the OGP SU presented two core policies and guidelines that aim to help inform ambitious national OGP processes and how Parliaments can be leveraged in this process: i) the revised Participation & Co-Creation Standards, and ii) the revised Parliamentary Engagement Guidelines. Both items were presented for SC feedback, and to discuss any outstanding concerns to be addressed before they can be approved by the SC by circular in November.

A. Participation & Co-Creation Standards

The SU presented the revised Participation and Co-Creation Standards which were previously endorsed by C&S. These Standards seek to foster ambition and clearly outline the minimum requirements that are expected from all participating countries. The presentation also included an overview of the public comments received through a



[global consultation](#) that took place between September 13 - October 13. SC members provided the following feedback:

- Consider how the standards reflect parallel, non-OGP related activities in-country;
- Ensure that the minimum requirements are appropriate for the level of engagement that is encouraged, and suggest provisional levels of compliance to support IRM's development of assessment principles;
- Consider the representation of both government and civil society throughout the standards;
- Ensure the SC has a clear understanding of how the IRM will develop the assessment of compliance with the Standards;
- Ensure there is adequate focus on improving OGP processes throughout the whole action plan cycle, including during the implementation phase.

Action items and next steps on Participation & Co-Creation Standards

- The SC raised no objections to the proposed revised Participation and Co-Creation Standards.
- The SU will integrate feedback from the SC and the public comments received during the global consultation into the final version of the Standards. A reasoned response to public comments will also be published in parallel.
- The SU will present the updated version of the Standards to C&S for final endorsement during the November C&S meeting.
- Once endorsed by C&S, the final draft will be sent to the full SC for approval in November.
- The approved Standards will be announced at the OGP Global Summit. Additional guidance materials, rollout and implementation will take place over the course of 2022.

B. Parliamentary Engagement Guidelines

The OGP SU presented a proposed revised draft of the Parliamentary Engagement Guidelines that are currently in effect since 2015. As part of the priorities of SC Co-Chairs Maria Baron and the government of Korea, the SU undertook a review of the Guidelines which included an extensive consultative process designed to identify the key challenges and opportunities for parliamentary engagement in OGP. The review process also included multiple discussions with C&S and the Civil Society SC cohort.

Action items and next steps on Parliamentary Engagement Guidelines:

- The SC was generally supportive of the guidance, and had no objections to the draft.
- The SU will incorporate any remaining feedback as appropriate, and a final draft of the guidelines will be sent to C&S for their endorsement during the November C&S meeting.
- The endorsed draft will be sent to the full SC for final approval by circular in November.
- The approved Guidelines will be launched at the OGP Global Summit. Additional guidance materials, rollout and implementation will take place over the course of 2022.



Session 4

Election of the new incoming co-chairs of OGP

Reference material: Steering Committee Co-Chair Expressions of Interest: [Anabel Cruz](#); [Government of Estonia](#); [Government of Nigeria](#)

The OGP SU received expressions of interest from the governments of Estonia and Nigeria, and from Anabel Cruz (ICD - Uruguay) from civil society to serve as the next co-chairs of OGP. All candidates presented a brief overview of their candidacies during this session. The candidates also responded to questions from other SC members, which focused on the candidates' approach to leading the Partnership by example and through high-level outreach, how would the co-chairs emphasize the importance of civic space and role of civil society during their co-chair year, and their time commitment and capacity to fulfill the co-chair role.

As outlined in the OGP [Articles of Governance](#), the SC elects all new co-chairs. Since there were two government candidates, all 22 SC members — government and civil society — were invited to elect the next government chair through simple majority vote. Of the 21 votes casted, the government of Estonia received 20 votes, and Nigeria received one vote. Anabel Cruz was elected as the next civil society chair by consensus of the SC. Both will begin their term as incoming co-chairs on January 1, 2022, and as lead co-chairs on October 1, 2022.



List of Attendees

Government Steering Committee Members

Government of Argentina (outgoing member)

Carolina Cornejo National Director of Open Government, Secretariat of Public Innovation

Government of Canada

Mélanie Robert Executive Director, Open Government, Chief Information Officer Branch (Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat)

Benoît Frenette Acting Director, Open Government (Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat)

Darine Benkhala Policy Analyst, Program Implementation and Intergovernmental Relations, Open Government office of the Chief Information Officer (Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat)

Government of Estonia (new member)

Taimar Peterkop Secretary Of State

Ott Karulin Advisor, Government Office

Government of Georgia

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

Nino Shekrladze Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

Government of Germany

Sebastian Haselbeck Policy Advisor, Division for Digital State, Federal Chancellery

Hannah Elten Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany

Government of Indonesia

Maharani Putri S. Wibowo Deputy Director for Institutional and States Apparatus Capacity, OpenGov Indonesia Secretariat

Prahesti Pandanwangi Director for States Apparatus, Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency

Dwiana Cahyani Public Policy Specialist, National Secretariat of Open Government Indonesia

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

Sabina Bellotti OGP Advisor, Administrative Innovation, Skills Development and Communication Office



Luigi Matriolo Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy

Government of Kenya

Philip Thigo Senior Advisor, Data, Innovation and Open Government,
Office of the Deputy President

Government of Morocco (new member)

Ahmed Laamoumri Secretary-General, Ministry of Administration and Public
Service Reform of Morocco

Sarah Lamrani Director of Communication and Cooperation in the Ministry of
Reform of Administration and Civil Service

Government of Nigeria

Anne Nzegwu Nigeria OGP National Coordinator

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

Eun Young Ko Director of the Innovation Planning Division, Ministry of
interior and safety

Jihye Park Assistant Deputy Director, Innovation Planning Division,
Government Innovation Planning Bureau

Minchan Park Ministry of the Interior and Safety

Government of the United Kingdom (new member)

Sam Roberts Head of Open Data & Open Government

Isabella Fudge Policy Advisor, Government Digital Service, Cabinet Office

Alan Pettigrew Policy Officer, Digital Democracy and Open Governance,
Open Societies and Human Rights Directorate, FCDO

Civil Society Steering Committee Members

María Baron (Lead Civil Society
Co-Chair 2020 – 2021) Directorio Legislativo

Anabel Cruz ICD Uruguay

Helen Darbishire Access Info Europe

Aiden Eyakuze (Incoming Civil Society
Co-Chair 2021 - 2022) Twaweza

Blair Glencorse Accountability Lab

Lysa John CIVICUS



Lucy McTernan	University of York
Stephanie Muchai	International Lawyers' Project
Luben Panov (new member)*	European Center for Not-for-Profit Law
Doug Rutzen (new member)	International Center for Not-for-Profit Law
Zuzana Wienk	White Crow

**Formal term with voting privileges begins on January 1, 2022.*

For any changes to this list, please send to jaime.mercado@opengovpartnership.org.

Additional Guests

Nikhil Dutta	ICNL
Noel Alonso Murray	Directorio Legislativo

Apologies

Elisa Peter	Publish What You Pay
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