

Open Government Partnership

Governance and Leadership Call Summary

3 February 2022 | 08:00 - 9:30 EDT

Attendees

- Government of Italy: Sabina Bellotti & Ilenia De Finis
- Aidan Eyakuze & Sammy Awami, Twaweza
- Government of Estonia: Ott Karulin
- Anabel Cruz, ICD Uruguay

Call Summary

1. Italy & Aidan co-chair agenda

The government of Italy and Aidan Eyakuze presented a final version of their shared 2022 Co-Chair Agenda which will be launched in February. The agenda has three main areas of focus: mobilizing political support for ambitious reforms at country level; galvanizing collective action for citizen-centric actions across global and regional fora; and leading OGP into its second decade. The Governance & Leadership subcommittee (GL) provided the following feedback:

- The incoming co-chairs expressed their support to implement the agenda and continue ongoing efforts to widen the results during their own lead year;
- An effective value proposition will be crucial for OGP to move from a mechanism to a movement and continue to reinforce the values of open government in the next decade.

2. Organizational updates for GL

The Support Unit (SU) provided an update to GL on OGP efforts to support the individuals evacuated after the fall of the Afghanistan government in August 2021, including continued financial implications.

The SU then provided an overview of the OGP Work Planning and Strategic Planning timelines. As with 2020 and 2021, the 2022 OGP Work Plan will be structured under the [3-Year Implementation Plan](#), following the same organizational categories of Global Advocacy, Countries, Commitments, Themes, and Universal Services. The strategic refresh will be a major focus this year. The draft 2022 work plan will be presented to GL on March 3, and a final draft will be sent to the full Steering Committee for discussion and approval at its March 24 meeting.

The OGP strategy for 2023 onwards will aim to address the core global challenges and define OGP's value-add in addressing them. The strategy will be co-created with ample input from the Steering Committee and other stakeholders from across the open government community. The GL encouraged the SU to leverage SC guidance to develop OGP's approach to the strategic refresh. GL also emphasized the importance

of a participatory and inclusive process, and to create spaces for political-level discussions. The GL was asked to ensure their ministers were available for consultations and to encourage the rest of the Steering Committee to do the same.

GL also inquired about OGP’s response to unprecedented political crisis situations that unfold in OGP member countries (e.g. Burkina Faso) and recommended that future SC meetings include spaces for political level discussions regarding this type of cases.

3. Steering Committee Calendar for 2022

The SU presented a draft calendar of key meetings and events for the SC in 2022, including regional and global advocacy opportunities.

4. 2022 SC elections

The Support Unit provided the following overview of the upcoming elections for SC governments and civil society:

Government	Civil Society
Number of seats open: 3	Number of seats open: 3
Launch call for candidates: Feb 7	Launch call for candidates: Feb 14
Deadline for applications: April 1	Deadline for applications: April 8
GL endorsement of candidates: April 7	Selection Committee oversees process (shortlisting, community feedback, interviews): April 11 - June 3
Voting (if needed): April 18 - May 6	
Results announced: week of May 9	Results announced: week of June 6
Call selection period: May to July	
SC + co-chair rotation: October 1	

Government SC elections criteria: The SU tabled a recommendation to waive the country contributions criteria for governments to participate in the 2022 SC elections. This recommendation is in recognition of the financial difficulties presented by the last two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in the spirit of ensuring a credible and representative process that allows the greatest number of countries to participate. Upholding the country contributions criteria would prevent 37 out of 78 countries (48% of all members) from running or voting in the elections, and thus undermining the participatory nature of the elections.

GL requested the Support Unit to conduct a review of the reasons behind why a large portion of OGP members are not fulfilling their country contributions, and to provide

recommendations to address this situation in the future, including reviewing the eligibility criteria.

Decision: the resolution was approved.

Resolution of the Governance and Leadership Subcommittee on the 2022 Steering Committee Elections

3 February 2022

The Governance and Leadership Subcommittee (GL) recognizes the vital leadership of the OGP Steering Committee, and the importance of recruiting strong candidates to serve as stewards of the partnership through an annual elections process.

The GL Subcommittee further recognizes the importance of the required annual country financial contributions to OGP, as outlined in the Articles of Governance, and the central role they play for the financial sustainability of the Partnership.

One of the criteria to run for election is to have paid financial contributions to OGP. The Articles of Governance state that, absent exceptional circumstances, “countries that have failed to make financial contributions to OGP at or above their minimum amount for two successive years are ineligible to run for a seat on the SC or to participate in any formal vote of OGP participants.” In accordance with this rule, a total of 37 countries would not be able to participate in this year’s Steering Committee elections, thus excluding nearly half of all OGP countries from this process.

Recognizing the extraordinary impacts of the pandemic, including continued economic challenges faced by countries across the Partnership, and in the spirit of ensuring a credible, democratic and participatory elections process, the GL hereby resolves to waive this criteria for the 2022 elections.

GL further requested the Support Unit to provide recommendations to address the gap in country contributions, and to review the eligibility criteria moving forward. GL continues to encourage all OGP members to meet their future annual financial obligations.

—END RESOLUTION—