

Open Government Partnership

Governance and Leadership Monthly Call Summary

3 March 2022 | 07:30 - 9:00 EDT

Attendees

- Government of Italy: Sabina Belloti, Ernesto Belisario, Jessica Cupellini, Ilenia De Finis, Francesco Leone
- Aidan Eyakuze & Sammy Awami, Twaweza
- Government of Estonia: Ott Karulin
- Anabel Cruz, ICD Uruguay

Call Summary

I. Addressing crisis situations in OGP countries & upcoming inactivity decisions

The Support Unit (SU) provided an update on the situation in Ukraine and OGP's response to date, including OGP's CEO issued [statement](#), along with a [statement](#) from the Steering Committee (SC) Co-Chairs. OGP continues to provide support to staff - including a member based in Ukraine - on handling the crisis. OGP remains in close contact with partners on the ground and will continue to provide relevant updates.

A. Addressing crisis situations in OGP countries

GL and SU discussed a proposed informal operational guidance to follow when political crisis situations emerge in OGP member countries that would not be addressed by existing formal mechanisms like the Response Policy or Rapid Response Mechanism since those require dialogue between domestic actors and with OGP.

This guidance is not a formal OGP policy tool, but rather a flexible, internal agreement to follow in extraordinary circumstances such as i) when an OGP member country is overthrown by a military coup or a takeover by non-state actors; and/or ii) conflicts/war between OGP members or between OGP and non-OGP members.

GL was supportive of the approach, and suggested:

- Clarify how to remain neutral but supportive to two OGP countries at war with each other;
- Add explanation text into the memo on what would trigger usage of this process (e.g. A violation of the Articles of Governance);
- Highlight positive examples of collaboration and support provided by other organizations, civil society and governments

GL and SU agreed on the proposed approach, and the revised version incorporating GL comments can be found [here](#).

B. Upcoming Inactivity Decisions

SU presented an overview of the Procedural Review policy and the five countries that the Criteria & Standards subcommittee (C&S) is recommending for 'inactivity' due to acting

contrary to OGP process for three consecutive action plan cycles: Bulgaria, Israel, Malawi, Malta and El Salvador.

Draft resolutions and a brief overview of each country's OGP status will be sent to the SC ahead of its March 24, 2022 meeting for approval on a no-objection basis by this date.

II. Update on 2022 work plan & strategy refresh direction of travel

OGP's 2022 Work Plan is structured under the [3-Year Implementation Plan](#), rolling over many 2021 activities with key updates under Global Advocacy, Countries, Themes, and Universal Services. The strategic refresh has been added as a major focus of 2022, emphasizing a strong design before launching the process. Key elements include defining the purpose and conditions for success, the scope of the refresh, and leveraging other moments throughout the year to engage the open gov community.

A memo on the strategy and the draft work plan will be shared with the SC ahead of its March 24 meeting. The work plan will be tabled for approval and the budget will be presented for endorsement to be sent for final approval by the Board of Directors.

GL agreed with the focus on the initial strategy design phase, and emphasized the need to build in room for uncertainty and flexibility. GL also requested adequate time to review the materials in order to best prepare feedback and consider how to motivate the rest of the SC to support execution of the activities for the year.

III. Agenda for Steering Committee meeting on March 24

The SU presented the draft agenda. GL members supported the agenda as presented:

- **2022 Objectives and opportunities & the role of the SC.** Context setting presentation including overview of the workplan and headline results for 2022.
- **Strategy refresh 2023-202X.** Presentation of the early thinking for the strategy refresh process with opportunities for SC to provide input on key elements of the design and the scope of the strategy.
- **Update and reflection on the situation in Ukraine** and other challenging political situations and OGP's response.
- **2022 Work plan & budget (for SC approval).** Workplan (including role of SC) tabled for SC approval; budget tabled for endorsement to then be sent to the Board for final approval.
- **Country inactivity decisions (for SC approval ahead of meeting).** The C&S recommendations to place five countries in inactive status will be tabled for approval on no objection basis ahead of the meeting.

IV. AOB

A. Tanzania engagement opportunities

Aidan Eyakuze requested support from GL members on signing a letter inviting Tanzania to rejoin the partnership once they meet OGP eligibility. GL members expressed their support while requesting additional background information about Tanzania's previous exit from the Partnership.

