

# Open Government Partnership

## Thematic Leadership Quarterly Call Agenda

17 March 2022 | 08:00 - 9:30 EDT

### Attendees

- Government of Korea: Yujin Lee
- Government of Morocco: Sarah Lamrani
- Government of the UK: Sam Roberts & Isabella Fudge
- Blair Glencorse, Accountability Lab
- Helen Darbishire, Access Info Europe
- Steph Muchai, International Lawyers Project
- Luben Panov, ECNL
- Zuzana Weink, White Crow

### Additional Guests

- Aidan Eyakuze & Sammy Awami, Twaweza
- Government of Italy: Sabina Bellotti, Ilenia De finis & Alice Paone
- Tim Hughes, OGP Support Unit
- Sarah Dickson, OGP Support Unit

### Apologies

- Government of Indonesia
- Government of Kenya

#### I. High-level overview of 2022 thematic work plan for OGP

*Reference Materials: Thematic portion of the [Draft 2022 OGP work plan](#) (beginning on page 5); SC calendar for 2022 (annexed to March 24 SC [meeting packet](#) on page 34)*

The mandate of the Thematic Leadership Subcommittee (TLS) is to provide i) oversight on progress of focus themes across the Partnership, ii) inform strategic engagement with other global platforms, and iii) review OGP's research related to thematic policy areas. In line with the mandate, this session provided an opportunity for TLS members to review and give feedback on the thematic component of the draft 2022 OGP Work Plan. The Support Unit (SU) presented headline results for thematic activities included in the draft work plan, including i) strengthening existing coalitions on beneficial ownership, justice, gender, and algorithms, ii) establishing the Civic Space Learning Network, iii) utilizing peer exchanges to address specific challenges, and iv) linking to and leveraging global advocacy platforms and the OGP 2022 regional meetings. TLS members were asked to consider how they may help strengthen these coalitions, identify ways to support engagement with global fora, and any other considerations for the year.

TLS members had the following feedback:

- Find synergies and connections with existing and ongoing research from other organizations; ensure OGP does not duplicate the efforts of other coalitions that already exist;
- Continue to consider whether OGP should focus more on broadening or deepening its thematic focuses; and

- Consider OGP's thematic work in cycles longer than 1 year, in order to capture more opportunities with global fora, etc.

## II. Ukraine situation and OGP response

The OGP SU provided a brief update on OGP's response to the situation in Ukraine, including statements from [OGP's CEO](#), the [Governance and Leadership Subcommittee](#), and [OGP Ambassador Helen Clark](#), support to OGP's SU staff involved in and affected by the war, and support and work with partners internationally and within Ukraine. TLS also discussed ways to advance reforms on key areas close to OGP, such as beneficial ownership transparency (BOT), aid transparency, and civic space. TLS members emphasized the importance of having political support for this initiative, and to consider how to bring in political leaders.

The Civil Society members of the Steering Committee are discussing the scope of a potential call-to-action to incentivize reforms in these areas. TLS would be well-placed to discuss specific thematic approaches (e.g. beneficial ownership). The OGP SU agreed to help disseminate the call to action and make linkages with other OGP efforts like the BOT coalition, depending on the outcome of the call-to-action discussions.

## III. Advancing democracy, civic space and participation in 2022

*Reference Materials: [Democracy, Participation & Civic Space](#) presentation*

The OGP SU provided an overview of key activities to strengthen the narrative between open government and democracy, and to strive for more concrete commitments on civic space, including work on democracy, participation and civic space through country support, resources and training, and advocacy and communications, as well as the first meeting of the Civic Space Learning Network (CSLN) being convened in March. The Network will initially include members from the Partnership, but could potentially open to other members.

The government of Italy and Aidan Eyakuze joined this discussion to share how their Co-Chair agenda can help elevate political leadership across the Partnership and galvanize collective action in support of these activities at country, regional and global levels.

TLS members emphasized the importance of a clear and succinct value proposition to communicate the benefits of democracy and participation work. TLS members also supported the approach of structuring the CSLN to focus on key policy areas related to civic space, in order to approach the broad issue of civic space in an actionable and concrete way.

TLS members also suggested:

- Considering an approach for hesitant governments that are not interested in this line of work;
- Considering including how emergencies may impact civic space into CSLN discussions;
- Using Open Gov Week to gain interest and visibility for CLSN; and
- More emphasis on the "citizen support" for democracy and participation work.

