

Civil Society Steering Committee
Monthly Call | Wednesday 13 April 2022
8:00–9:00 EST / 14:00–15:00 CET

Agenda

Attendees

- Aidan Eyakuze & Sammy Awami, Twaweza
- Joe Bardwell, Publish What You Pay
- Anabel Cruz, ICD Uruguay
- Helen Darbishire, Access Info Europe
- Blair Glencorse, Accountability Lab
- Steph Muchai, ILP
- Luben Panov, ECNL
- Doug Rutzen & Nikhil Dutta, ICNL

Additional Guests

- Vinay Bhargava, Haleh Bridi, Richard Stern & Samuel Stalls, Partnership for Transparency

Apologies

- Lysa John, CIVICUS
- Lucy McTernan, York University
- Elisa Peter, PWYP (represented by Joe Bardwell)
- Zuzana Wienk, Currents

I. Discussion on recommendations for World Bank funding for CSO engagement

Open Society Foundations is supporting a study by the Partnership for Transparency Fund (PTF) to analyze potential options for the World Bank to finance civil society organization (CSO) engagement in International Development Association (IDA) lending programs. PTF representatives joined this Civil Society Steering Committee (CS SC) call to briefly present the study, which will be used to present the case for increased CSO support and engagement to the World Bank and IDA donors.

Emerging recommendations include conducting a comprehensive implementation review and reporting on citizen-centric project portfolio and IDA commitments, expanding opportunities for CSOs in the implementation of programs, and securing dedicated funding for CSOs as accountability agents. CS SC members were asked for their initial reactions and feedback to the study, and ideas on how the CS SC could get involved, which could include requesting the World Bank and IDA to conduct an implementation review and report it publicly, as well as lobbying for CSOs to be involved in accountability



in IDA funding and for a dedicated funding mechanism. CS SC members provided the following feedback:

- Consider if the World Bank is the right mechanism for distributing funding for CSOs in a quick and efficient manner;
- ‘Third-party monitoring’ may be a more appropriate term than ‘citizen engagement’;
- Consider the political strategy for approaching the World Bank and IDA with this study - a smaller pilot during a midterm review could be more effective;
- Accountability should not only come from contracted CSOs, but a more concerted effort to empower and support organizations and beneficiaries of programs; accountability to primary constituents is missing;
- Ensure there is a differentiation between funding for CSO core mandates, rather than being instrumentalized as service contractors;
- Consider including guidance on how CSOs could meet the requirements needed to act as accountability agents;
- Consider at what point CSOs should be engaged in accountability to ensure maximum effectiveness and relevance.

The study is expected to be completed by the summer of 2022.

I. Status update on 2022 CS SC rotation process

The application for the three Civil Society Steering Committee seats opening on October 1, 2022 closed on April 8, receiving 30 candidates from all regions and a variety of backgrounds. The Selection Committee for this year’s process was also selected, and is composed of two members from the current civil society Steering Committee (Anabel Cruz and Blair Glencorse), two volunteers from the broader OGP civil society community (Romina Damini, IOM; and Laura Neuman, Carter Center), and Paul Maassen, Chief of Country Support with the Support Unit.

The community is invited to [share feedback on all candidates](#) by April 22, after which the Selection Committee will develop a shortlist of candidates. The final selection is expected to be made and announced by June 8. More information is available on the [OGP website](#).

