

Open Government Partnership

Governance and Leadership Monthly Call Summary

7 April 2022 | 08:00 - 9:30 EDT

Attendees

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

Call Summary

I. Burkina Faso

The Support Unit (SU) provided an update on the situation in Burkina Faso and OGP's response to date, including conversations with domestic stakeholders and regional actors such as the African Union. The OGP process in Burkina Faso remains on pause, with no proactive engagement with the government at this time. The SU will remain in touch with civil society and other key stakeholders at national and regional level and the response will be adjusted as the situation continues to develop. Further updates will be shared with GL as they become available. [Burkina Faso's](#) member page has been updated to reflect the current status.

GL was supportive of the approach, and suggested that the SU should share updates with the OGP community more proactively to ensure visibility of the response.

II. 2022 Steering Committee Elections

Government Steering Committee Election: Three government seats will open in the Steering Committee on October 1, 2022 as the terms of Georgia, Germany, and Indonesia come to an end. Out of these three countries, Germany and Indonesia are eligible to run for a second term. Georgia will rotate out of the SC after having served two consecutive terms. Indonesia and Germany are likely to submit an application for a second term. To ensure regional diversity, application(s) from Latin America especially are encouraged. The deadline for applications is May 27. More details on the process are available [here](#).

Civil Society Steering Committee Selection: The Civil Society Steering Committee is also seeking to fill three seats starting on October 1, 2022, as the terms of Helen Darbshire, Elisa Peter and Zuzana Wienk come to a close. Elisa is eligible to run again, while Helen and Zuzana will rotate out after serving two consecutive terms. Candidates with backgrounds in digital governance and/or anti-corruption, and/or from the Asia-Pacific region were strongly encouraged to apply. The deadline for applications is April 8, and candidates will be posted on the [OGP website](#) following the close of applications.

III. Open Gov Week (May 16-20) and Options for GL Engagement

The 2022 OGP strategy encourages the community to share their experiences, lessons and achievements, with a focus on more country-led events and fewer top-down OGP-led events. In addition, in 2022 the SU will be focusing on promoting [OpenStories](#) and building capacity within the community through a new mini campaign called “Your Story. Short.” Current planning includes creating a “story generator” to help people get powerful stories started. More details forthcoming.

Other ideas for GL and SC engagement included:

- Leading by example and organize events for the week, and encouraging the OGP community to do the same;
- Host small community dialogues to feed into the OGP strategy refresh (TBC);
- The co-chairs to co-host a OGP Twitter chat on the future of democracy, similar to the recent successful [Accountability Lab chat](#) on Summit for Democracy commitments;
- The SU will also keep GL informed about upcoming events that may benefit from GL and SC engagement.

GL encouraged the SU to consider strategic engagement of stakeholders outside of the usual OGP circles.

IV. AOB

A. Update on OGP Ambassadors recruitment efforts

The SU provided a brief update on recruitment of 1 - 3 new OGP Ambassadors in the last year, drawn from a previous SC-approved and vetted list of candidates to fill gaps identified in the current representation (private sector, media, and the Asia region). The SU will continue recruitment efforts in 2022, prioritizing the gaps outlined above. The SU also suggested the addition of Audrey Tang, Digital Minister Taiwan, to the list in line with the eligibility criteria for the role and the representation gaps identified in the current roster.

GL members were asked to explore potential support with outreach efforts to approved and vetted candidates, and to discuss with the relevant counterparts the option of adding Audrey Tang to the list. A follow up discussion will be included in upcoming GL meetings.

B. Tanzania re-engagement efforts

Re-engagement of Tanzania is progressing well following the delivery of a GL letter inviting the government to consider rejoining OGP. Updates will be provided in due course.

C. Readout from the Board of Directors meeting on March 30, 2022

The Board approved shifting OGP's fiscal year to be April to March, rather than January to December, effective 2023. This will better align OGP's fiscal year (for financial planning and reporting) with the calendar for program implementation. The Board also formally approved the 2022 budget with no additional changes to the version endorsed by the SC on March 24.

D. Q2 GL activities

The SU provided a brief overview of upcoming GL activities and opportunities in the coming year, including country visits and the Nordic+, Europe, Africa and Americas regional events.