

OGP Steering Committee Meeting

Virtual | March 24, 2022 | 08:00 - 11:00 ET

Call Summary

Session 1

Results vision for 2022 and the imperative for Steering Committee leadership

Leveraging the strategic oversight and political role of the Steering Committee to achieve 2022 objectives

The Steering Committee (SC) meeting opened with a presentation by OGP CEO Sanjay Pradhan on the role of the SC in achieving the Partnership's objectives for 2022, based on the 2022 Work Plan. OGP's work in the coming year will continue to be structured under the [3-Year Implementation Plan](#), focused on Global, Country, Thematic and Universal Services, and set against the backdrop of continued attacks on democracy and freedom throughout the world. The Strategy Refresh has been added as a major deliverable for 2022. The full range of activities planned for 2022 can be found in the [Work Plan](#).

The SC has a crucial role to play in each of the primary categories of work in 2022, including providing political and strategic guidance, modeling ambition in national action plans, advancing key thematic topics in global fora, and engaging in the upcoming regional meetings in Africa, Europe, and the Americas. SC members provided additional ideas on their role in supporting 2022 activities:

- Support efforts to engage countries at risk of becoming inactive;
- Support efforts to widen the audience of OGP and open government values;
- Find ways to link high-level political support for open government values to action, such as through global fora.

The SU then provided a more in-depth look at the Strategy Refresh process, which is expected to conclude in early 2023. This will be the first time in eight years for OGP to conduct a full strategic refresh, and the SU is committed to ensuring an open and participatory process to develop a clear and compelling strategy. The SC will play a key role in all phases of the strategy refresh, with opportunities to provide guidance and feedback throughout the year. The SC participated in targeted discussions in smaller groups focused on the design of the process, including ways to meaningfully engage the community and any refinements to the scope of the foundational questions.

The SC provided the following feedback on engaging the community during the strategy refresh:

- Consider how to best engage OGP Local, and ensure that engagement at the country level is not solely through the government or POC;
- Use Open Gov Week as an opportunity for community engagement;
- Consider engaging audiences outside of the usual suspects, like university/college students, and business associations;
- Consider how civil society resourcing can affect engagement;



- Make communications around the process simple and accessible, with clear feedback loops to the community and explanations for decisions.

The SC suggested simplifying and clarifying the scope questions to avoid jargon and make them more accessible to a wider audience, and had many suggestions on questions to consider around scope. A few of them included:

- How does OGP measure its impacts and strengths? What is its ultimate value proposition?
- How does OGP work with other global initiatives, and what are the strengths of OGP comparatively?
- What is OGP not good at?
- Should OGP aim to expand its membership, and find more ways for non-members to participate? What communities are missing from the partnership?
- Should global contexts drive OGP's prioritization of countries, and to what extent?
- What should the role of national members be with an increase of Local members?
- How can OGP strengthen the processes and the design of the partnership to enable systemic changes across governments?

The full list of the questions put forward by the SC during the session will be reviewed by the SU as part of the next steps to refine the process.

Next steps and SC role

The SU will continue adjusting the design, scope questions and process of the Strategy Refresh with the SC's feedback from this session in mind as the SU aims to launch the refresh in the coming weeks. In April, guidance will be developed on leading community engagement, available to SU and SC. SC members are encouraged to lead or contribute to community discussions beginning in May, in coordination with the SU.

Session 2

Addressing political crisis situations and disengagement from OGP members

Political crises and their impact on open government values

The SU provided a brief update on OGP's response to the situation in Ukraine, 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 and adjust its response if needed. The SC also extended efforts toward this situation, including direct support to Ukraine, political support, statements, as well as civil society efforts encouraging freezing investments in Russian extractives, working towards greater beneficial ownership transparency and company ownership transparency, protecting civic space, and convening civil society coalitions.

The SU then provided an overview of internal operational guidance developed with support from the Governance and Leadership Subcommittee to address these and similar situations in the future. The guidance is not a formal OGP policy tool, but rather a flexible, internal agreement to follow in extraordinary circumstances and when formal OGP responses mechanisms do not apply, such as i) when an OGP member country government is undemocratically replaced (e.g., a military coup);



and/or ii) conflicts/war between OGP members or between OGP and non-OGP members.

The SC requested a one-page update on what Ukraine has done as an OGP member, and to consider the following - for both Ukraine and in general as part of its Theory of Change:

- How to promote and highlight the work of civil society actors in the country as they support Ukrainian citizens and work in close partnership with the government;
- OGP's ultimate role in crisis situations, and how OGP should build in capacity for (post-) emergency responses, including surge support for reform opportunities;
- How to support civil society actors in Ukraine and in other crises to continue their work.

Disengagement of OGP members and country inactivity decisions

The SU provided a brief overview of the five resolutions recommending inactivity status by the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee. Bulgaria, Malawi, and Malta were recommended for immediate inactivity following approval by the SC due to their acting contrary to process for three consecutive action plan cycles. Israel was recommended for conditional inactivity status, contingent on submitting an action plan by December 31, 2022.

El Salvador was recommended for immediate inactivity status for its failure to meet minimum OGP eligibility criteria for two consecutive years, failing to meet minimum standards in its 2018-2020 action plan, and failing to deliver a new action plan in 2021. Given the severity of El Salvador's situation, the SC discussed the need to support civil society in-country as a way to re-engage El Salvador with OGP, and highlighted the need to maintain close communication channels with civil society during this process.

In response to the discussion around OGP member disengagement, SC members requested continued efforts and opportunities to support OGP processes in each country, including those in danger of disengaging, increased vigilance around protecting civic space and citizen engagement, and renewed commitment towards open government values throughout the Partnership.

Decision point and action items

The SC approved all five resolutions. Bulgaria, El Salvador, Malawi, and Malta were designated as inactive in OGP effective immediately. Israel will remain under Procedural Review until December 31, 2022; failure to deliver an action plan by this date will automatically result in being designated as inactive, effective January 1, 2023. OGP will continue to engage with each of the five countries to support any efforts in regaining active status. The five resolutions may be found on OGP's website ([Bulgaria](#); [El Salvador](#); [Malawi](#); [Malta](#); [Israel](#)), where the terms of inactivity are outlined for each.

Session 3

Approval of 2022 work plan & budget recommendation

Before tabling the Work Plan for SC approval, the SU presented a summary of the input received from the SC on the 2022 Work Plan throughout the meeting:

- Leverage other non-OGP hosted regional and global events as moments for regional coordination;
- Use the Head of State/government momentum of the 2021 OGP Global Summit as a way to advance political support for the OGP work in select countries;



- Continue exploring strategic expansion of its member base;
- Develop and strengthen the narrative on how open government is a catalyst for democracy;
- Continue sharpening work on civic space, including efforts like the civic space peer learning network and convening regional/sub-regional dialogue spaces on norms around democracy and participation.

OGP's Chief Financial and Operations Officer then presented an overview of the 2022 budget to support the Work Plan. The finances of the organization are healthy moving into 2022. Specifically, in 2021, OGP received country contributions from 37 members, and exceeded the year's goal by 18%. Nine of the current 11 SC members contributed, and the United Kingdom contributed through a bilateral aid agency.

The SC requested the SU to consider how to motivate more countries to fulfill their country contributions, especially in geographic areas that are not well-represented currently, as a crucial source of OGP funding. The SC also requested creating an updated list of decisions made by the SC not yet reflected in the Articles of Governance, for reference.

Decision point and action items

The 2022 OGP Work Plan was approved by the Steering Committee, conditional on feedback being reflected into the final draft of the document. The OGP 2022 budget was endorsed to move to the Board of Directors for their approval on March 30, 2022.



List of Attendees

Government Steering Committee Members

Government of Canada

Melanie Robert	Executive Director, Open Government, Chief Information Officer Branch (Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat)
Jean Cardinal	Director, Open Government at Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat
Sarah MacLeod	Team Lead at Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat

Government of Estonia (Incoming Government Co-Chair 2022 – 2023)

Ott Karulin	Advisor, Government Office
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Government of Georgia

Ketevan Tsanava	Head of the Public Administration Unit, Policy Planning and Coordination Department
Ana Barisashvili	Senior Specialist, Public Administration Division

Government of Germany

Sebastian Haselbeck	Policy Advisor, Division for Digital State, Federal Chancellery
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Government of Indonesia

Maharani Putri S. Wibowo	Deputy Director for Institutional and States Apparatus Capacity, OpenGov Indonesia Secretariat
Prahesti Pandanwangi	Director for States Apparatus, Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency
Yudhi Ramlan	Public Policy Specialist, Open Government Indonesia

Government of Italy (Lead Government Co-Chair 2021 – 2022)

Sabina Bellotti	OGP Advisor, Administrative Innovation, Skills Development and Communication Office
Francesco Leone	Diplomatic advisor to the Minister of Public Administration
Ilenia De finis	Junior Public Sector Consultant, Public Function Department

Government of Morocco

Sarah Lamrani	Director of Communication and Cooperation in the Ministry of Reform of Administration and Civil Service
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Government of Nigeria

Clement Ikanade Agba	Minister of State Finance, Budget and National Planning
Gloria Ahmed	National Coordinator of OGP in Nigeria
Abayomi Akinbo	Civil Society Specialist, Nigeria OGP Secretariat

Government of South Korea



Yujin Lee Deputy Director, Innovation Planning Division, Ministry of the Interior and Safety

Government of the United Kingdom

Sam Roberts Head of Open Data & Open Government, Cabinet Office

Elizabeth Watson Open Government and Open Data Policy Advisor

Civil Society Steering Committee Members

Anabel Cruz (Incoming Civil Society Co-Chair 2022 - 2023)

ICD Uruguay

Helen Darbishire

Access Info Europe

Aiden Eyakuze (Lead Civil Society Co-Chair 2021 – 2022)

Twaweza

Blair Glencorse

Accountability Lab

Lysa John

CIVICUS

Lucy McTernan

University of York

Stephanie Muchai

International Lawyers' Project

Luben Panov

European Center for Not-for-Profit Law

Elisa Peter

Publish What You Pay

Doug Rutzen

International Center for Not-for-Profit Law

Zuzana Wienk

Currents

Additional Guests

Sammy Awami

Twaweza

Apologies

Government of Kenya

For any changes to these lists, please send to bianca.nelson@opengovpartnership.org.

