

Open Government Partnership

Thematic Leadership Monthly Call Summary

23 June 2022 | 08:00 - 9:30 EDT

Attendees

- Government of Korea: Yujin Lee
- Government of Indonesia: Yudhi Ramlan, Andrieta Rafaela
- Government of Morocco: Zineb Mahrez, Ouiame El Moustamide
- Government of United Kingdom: Elena Hess-Rheingans
- Blair Glencorse, Accountability Lab
- Helen Darbishire, Access Info Europe
- Luben Panov, ECNL

Apologies

- Government of Kenya
- Steph Muchai, International Lawyers Project
- Zuzana Wienk, Currents

Call Summary

OGP 2023-28 Strategy: Snapshot of progress so far; discussion on direction of travel

OGP is currently undergoing the development of its new strategy, set to finalize in March 2023. The strategic development process will run from April 2022 to March 2023, and has been designed for community input and feedback with a large participatory element. Following the launch of the strategic development process in April, the Support Unit (SU) has led, facilitated, and supported a number of community consultations. During this meeting, the SU provided an initial and provisional look into feedback and trends received so far from the consultations and research conducted by the SU and partners.

On the role and contribution of OGP, there has been discussion around deepening democratic participation, digital governance and tackling misinformation, and tackling corruption. When asked to consider the trade-offs concerned with OGP's scope, emphasis on inspiration or action plan process improvement, focus on building coalitions or supporting implementation of reforms, and on expanding or strengthening membership, participants have chosen not to strongly endorse one side over the other. Some of these provisional findings are also available in a recently-published [blog](#).

There are some potential trade-offs for thematic work as well. In the course of the strategy development, OGP is considering whether the Partnership should act as a universal big tent for all themes, or a more targeted approach on a few; the role and approach of the SU in prioritizing and supporting thematic work; and how and at what level OGP should identify and enter thematic discussions in countries. Thematic Leadership subcommittee (TLS) members were asked to consider these trade-offs and offer their thoughts on what might be missing, is

or is not particularly important to the work of OGP, as well as guidance on how OGP could address these trade-offs. TLS offered the following inputs on the strategy:

- Continue expanding the number of ‘unusual suspects’ to engage in the process, including the private sector and journalists; consider how to frame Phase 1 questions for an audience that may not be familiar with OGP’s work;
- Emphasize the importance of high-level commitments to open government values;
- Consider the role of Local in OGP’s structure;
- Explore how to close the distance between citizens and OGP, for the strategy process and in general.

And the following thoughts on thematic work:

- The proposed trade-offs aren’t necessarily a binary exchange, and OGP can consider how to do both at once (ex. Strengthen the Partnership to emphasize strong implementation);
- Consider minimum standards to measure progress in themes;
- Consider intersectionalities in thematic work rather than standalone topics (ex. Civic space and inclusion, public service delivery and open contracting);
- Discuss the categorizations of themes as central or non-central to the primary mission of OGP.

Phase 1 of the strategy process will come to a close in August, with a large range of consultation opportunities available before then. Phase 2 (Models and Strategies) will launch in August, building off of the learnings and findings from Phase 1. Phase 3 (Operationalizing) will run from November - March 2023. There will be an opportunity for further TLS discussion ahead of the Regional meetings in Q4 of 2022.