

2022

# OGP Youth Toolkit



# Table of Contents

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01	—	<b>Background</b>
05	—	<b>What young people want</b>
07	—	<b>Why OGP and young people?</b>
09	—	<b>5 best practices for youth participation in OGP</b>
11	—	<b>Making youth voices count</b>
23	—	<b>Conclusion</b>
24	—	<b>Annexes</b>
27	—	<b>Bibliography</b>

# Background

Young people aged 15-24 account for 16% of the global population. In some regions, Africa for instance, youth make up 60% of the continental population. As such, they are a key stakeholder group in any policy or decision-making process and bring different experiences, needs, and expertise that are vital to the success of government policies and approaches.

Young people have always been willing to challenge the status quo but have historically had difficulty ensuring that their voices and ideas are included in policymaking processes. With massive demographic shifts around the world, enhanced connectivity, and rapidly evolving ideas and networks, youth are now more able, powerful, and willing to drive open governance than ever before.

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) mandates all its members to co-create the Action Plans in a participatory way by engaging a variety of different stakeholders. Hundreds of National and Local OGP Action Plans are due each year- in 2022 alone over 80 OGP national and local action plans were being drafted by members. OGP participation and co-creation standards around inclusive and representative participation in co-creation and implementation, in particular, provide crucial entry points for young people to make their voices heard in meaningful ways and to ensure strengthened accountability from governments.

A World Bank study identified three main reasons why policies addressing the needs of youth tend to fail. Besides siloed approaches in sectors that affect youth outcomes and lack of accountability and feedback mechanisms for young people, it identified insufficient success stories that demonstrate the impact of engaging youth in policy making. This Toolkit aims to address these potential pitfalls by sharing open government success stories and best practices around the value of engaging young people in open government processes. It is a collaboration between Accountability Lab and OGP. It builds on learnings from the OpenGov Youth Collective, which was created during the 2019 OGP Summit in Ottawa through which 16 delegates from 14 countries fed ideas for youth inclusion in open government efforts.

It also builds upon the Lab's experiences working with young people all over the world to make governance work for citizens. Each year we have seen more and more youth groups engage in OGP, and this has to some degree been formalized through the OpenGov Youth Collective. Similarly, campaigns like "Break the Roles", championed by OGP and key allies, have supported governments to develop inclusion strategies that have brought more young people into this movement. Youth participation in the OGP process has challenged governments to be more ambitious. Young people have shaped national and local agendas, and pushed for reforms that otherwise would not have taken place. But there are also gaps, including a failure to recognize the value young people bring to the table; the absence of meaningful investment in their capacity to participate in formal political processes; a lack of access to the tools they need to do so; and the inability to intentionally open opportunities for them to participate and lead.

With this in mind, the OGP Youth Toolkit is designed to:

- Demonstrate the necessity and value of the intentional inclusion of young people in the co-creation of OGP National and Local Action Plans;
- Offer a model for effective youth participation and cooperation between young people and Points of Contact (PoCs) in OGP and other formal political processes;
- Facilitate the meaningful and active participation of youth in OGP co-creation processes by providing practical tools, sample commitments and recommendations supporting the implementation of the Youth Engagement Power Plan; and
- Provide tools and resources to young reformers as well as points of contact and government officials looking to engage young people in open government reforms.

This Toolkit is a living resource which incorporates new ideas and lessons around youth participation in open government processes. It includes key lessons, case studies, tools and other resources to meaningfully engage with youth groups. It builds on previous engagements and conversations, as well as active participation throughout the drafting process by youth groups and OGP PoCs who believe youth engagement in policy making can improve governance.

# What Young People Want

In November and December 2021, Accountability Lab, in collaboration with OGP, organized a Youth Boot Camp ahead of the 2021 OGP Global Summit, to connect with young people from across the globe and engage them in open government issues. Through these conversations, we learned from a vibrant community that demands the space to be heard, and government accountability for improved policy making. Young people want:



## **Their engagement in public policy to be truly inclusive**

It should be streamlined across all walks of life, rural and urban, and across sectors and interest groups.



## **To be in leadership roles and make their own decisions**

They are the bearers of innovation, and therefore want to be empowered to play a vital role in their own and their communities' development, and to leverage each others' capacities.



## **Creative, innovative and effective approaches to open governance**

With a focus on improving service delivery using new technologies and facilities.





## **To be recognised as a diverse and intersectional group**

Young people are affected by multiple factors like gender, race, ethnicity, and class. They are not just a single and clustered group, but composed of a variety of individuals within their societies with particular interests, contexts, backgrounds and demands.



## **Governments to avoid tokenism**

Youth want governments to meaningfully engage with them. This means having the resources, time and will to listen and implement changes.



## **Governments to communicate in simple ways**

Governments need to acknowledge the importance of creating safe spaces for dialogue, creativity, and citizen feedback.

# Why OGP and young people?

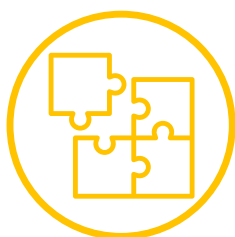
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OGP is a platform for action but also a global community of government and non-government champions that work to build more transparent, accountable, and participatory societies. OGP creates spaces for engagement like national co-creation processes and multi-stakeholder forums, as well as a global community to leverage best practices and local or regional policy reform opportunities.



## Co-creation processes

The Open Government Partnership currently includes 77 National and 78 local members, co-creating action plans every two years. These co-creation processes provide a crucial entry point for young people to make their voices heard in meaningful ways and ensure strengthened accountability from governments, as there is an obligation to consult and collaboratively identify priority areas and formal commitments to be included in the action plans.



## Multi-stakeholder forums

The national and local Multi-Stakeholder Forums (MSF) provide access to decision-makers and a voice to influence policy decisions, and are co-led by government representatives, CSOs, academia, and think tanks. Youth organizations can also be part of these fora, as has been the case in Jamaica, Colombia, Panama, Honduras, Korea, and Liberia where youth organizations have meaningfully influenced the direction of OGP processes in their countries.



## Leverage of the global community

The worldwide community that takes part in OGP processes provides valuable contacts and experiences to exchange ideas and engage in peer learning. Nearly 80% of government officials involved in OGP take advantage of peer exchanges to improve the development and implementation of their country's action plan. This means that youth groups can also learn from each others' experiences, and strategies, and develop joint advocacy efforts and events- such as the OpenGov Digital Youth Summit – or connect and build regional or global networks, such as the OpenGov Youth Collective.



## Local change through context-specific approaches

OGP is a powerful platform to link global or regional commitments to domestic action on reform. Local stakeholders and networks can use their governments' action plans to deliver results that trigger local change and impact their community. This means engaging in particular areas of policy that are urgent based on the local context, such as the climate crisis, public contracting, money laundering, or electoral reform. Youth groups can then hold their governments to account and push for local changes based on international commitments that their governments may have made (such as the SDGs).



# 5 best practices for youth participation in OGP

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Based on consultation with youth organizations and government representatives through focus group discussions and interviews, below are 5 recommendations for points of contact within governments to meaningfully engage with young people in policy making.



## 01. Define youth

Young people represent a diverse group of people with different backgrounds, expectations, and needs. They may be from migrant communities, indigenous groups, gender, and sexually diverse groups, and from urban and rural backgrounds or vulnerable populations. Embracing intersectionality and identifying which type of youth governments might want to reach out to is the first step for meaningful engagement.



## 02. Build on previous networks

Keeping networks such as youth led groups informed and engaged is key to building as well as sustaining relations. This can be done by inviting them to relevant events, sharing resources and also promoting their work through social media channels or other media.



### **03. Ensure cross-cutting engagement**

Young people want to be involved in important conversations and have things to say on issues as diverse as budgets, public procurement, health, education, elections and more. It is, therefore, important to widen the scope for youth engagement beyond what can be seen as “traditional” youth interests such as sports or the arts.



### **04. Consider resource and capacity gaps**

Be aware of limitations and available resources. Allocate a specific budget for youth outreach as well as the implementation of commitments, and consider other sources of potential funding (such as other agencies, international donors, etc). Invest in human resources through targeted capacity building initiatives relevant to young people. Assigning important roles, such as by appointing a young person as the OGP PoC, demonstrates sincere commitment and can help build trust in government.



### **05. Communicate in a youth-friendly way**

Young people have their own networks, language, and ways to interact with each other. When reaching out to young people, develop creative materials (such as infographics, podcasts, videos) and meet them in spaces where they are likely to engage, such as social media.

# Making youth voices count

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Youth engagement efforts in OGP can be categorized into four levels of engagement: dialogue, capacity development, impact, and accountability. For each section below, we include key lessons, followed by case studies and relevant tools and resources under each category. The case studies include two government-led examples and one led by a youth group.



## 01. DIALOGUE

Governments are engaging (or have engaged) with youth groups through open dialogues designed to listen to youth needs and promote active participation on issues that matter most to young people. The examples below highlight some of the most effective ways that young people have been brought into OGP processes through inclusive, sustained dialogue.

### Key lessons

**Bring your allies to the table:** experiences from Chile and Panama show how different allies, including youth groups and pre-existing networks, can add value to discussions, and can be brought together to build coalitions on issues of common interest. Working with allies can be instrumental, especially if the OGP lead agency does not have prior experience with the co-creation process.

**Youth engagement can widen the agenda:** young people have varied needs and no assumptions should be made regarding young peoples' interests. Examples from Chile and Scotland demonstrate how they are keen to engage on issues as diverse as environment infrastructure and gender and inclusion.

**Share data but also personal stories:** stories can be a powerful tool to engage stakeholders. Besides presenting data and evidence, young people should not hesitate to share their grassroots experiences and stories. Sometimes all it takes is a good story for decision makers to pause and listen.

## Case studies

### Chile

During the co-creation of their 4th National Action Plan, the Chilean multi-stakeholder forum organized a 'Youth Table' to identify potential commitments to be incorporated in the Action Plan. They worked with the National Youth Institute to invite young people aged 15-29, including both civil society representatives and young public officers. All information related to the process was published on a [public consultation website](#), through which people could provide input for government proposals. This was the first time the open government team interacted directly with youth groups. Although the COVID-19 pandemic prevented in-person meetings, over 150 young people joined the online discussion. The final proposal from the co-creation process was to develop a Citizen Participation Manual for 14-19 year olds. The Social Development Ministry continues to engage with youth groups to draft the manual.

### Scotland

As part of the government's commitment to [open policy making and participation in service delivery](#), it [held dialogues](#) with young people through webinars to gather input for the second OGP NAP. Besides engaging during the co-creation, Scotland is also promoting youth participation in an oversight role. This will allow them to scrutinize the government and ensure the NAP is implemented effectively by engaging with youth organizations in the monitoring and evaluation phases of the Action Plan as part of the new IRM mechanism. The government is also working to include up to 2 young people in the Multi Stakeholder Forum, which currently includes people over 25 years old. All of this has helped the government to see how difficult but meaningful it is to engage with youth groups, and the danger of making assumptions about what young people want. The government is planning to scale-up this work during the next co-creation phase.

**\*This experience was evaluated as potentially transformative by an [IRM assessment](#)\***

## Buenos Aires City

Young people are also interested in deliberating and advocating for sexual and reproductive rights of children and adolescents, although for various reasons this is an area where governments are usually reluctant to address issues concerning young people. In Buenos Aires City (Argentina), youth organizations have made good use of the OGP dialogue spaces, to channel their demands and focus their priorities, even when this meant “hacking” the space. By demanding policies around sexual reproductive rights, local organizations like [Huesped Foundation](#) reshaped the objective of a gender budgeting working table. The CSOs who were originally involved in the dialogue invited other youth groups- whose active participation was key to channeling this demand- into the co-creation space. The [final commitment](#) incorporated suggestions to specifically improve training and education on sexual and reproductive rights in the city.

## Tools and other resources

### Chile

[Sabes que es un Gobierno Abierto- Do you know what Open Government is?](#)

[Results of Public Consultation](#)

[Gender and Inclusion- Group 1 Meeting Minutes](#); [Group 2 Meeting Minutes](#)

### Scotland

[Top Tips for Supporting Young People in Youth-Led Research](#)

[Toolkit on Working with Youths on Environmental Issues](#)

[Storytelling Tips](#)

### Buenos Aires City

[#Dónde Video](#)

[Donde Database](#)





## 02. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Young people need resources, tools and knowledge to effectively engage in public matters and make their voices heard. Many OGP governments are either developing commitments aimed at building capacity for public participation generally, or are directly training young groups to engage in open policy making and co-creation.

### Key lessons

**Introduce the concept of open government:** as seen in the example for South Cotabato, often more outreach is needed with young people when it comes to open government, freedom of information, and issues such as open contracting. Examples from South Cotabato, Nigeria, and Croatia demonstrate why raising awareness around these issues through campaigns and building their capacity is important to empower them to take direct action and facilitate informed participation in the OGP process.

**Ensure political will and allocation of resources:** success will be difficult if two things are missing: political will and financial and human resources. Examples from South Cotabato and Morocco demonstrate the importance of allocating resources to secure the implementation of the commitments for long-term outcomes.

**Bottom-up approaches:** building ownership through bottom-up approaches was key to success in South Cotabato. Youth groups identified what they needed and proposed it to the government, which in turn listened and followed through with the implementation of OGP commitments.

## Case studies

### South Cotabato

South Cotabato (Philippines) introduced a commitment to harness youth power to integrate open government values and mechanisms to respond to local interests and needs through an Open Government Youth Ambassadorship Program. Research from civil society organizations had demonstrated a lack of youth understanding of the values of an open government. The Government reached out to youth organizations and schools to invite young people to be part of the co-creation process, and trained at least 50 youth ambassadors on open government values, processes, and best practices. The objective, activities and milestones for the OGP commitment were then proposed by the young ambassadors. The government acted as a facilitator and incorporated young people's ideas in the 2021-2022 Action Plan which was a collaborative effort with local civil society actors, the Provincial Development Council and other stakeholders

### Morocco

Morocco's first action plan included a commitment aimed at increasing opportunities for citizens to visit the legislature. The commitment aligns with the constitutional reforms made in 2011 around principles of openness, transparency, accountability and citizen engagement in decision-making processes. The commitment included the development of a communication portal to specifically reach out to young people and introduce them to parliamentary activity to ensure visibility of the government's work. Part of the implementation of this commitment was the creation of comics, booklets and leaflets designed for youth groups in 5 languages (Arabic, Amazigh, French, English and Spanish), redesigning the website into these languages and the creation of a Public Relations Unit. This work has increased the government's outreach and public engagement efforts, especially among young people. Given the digital divide, the country recognizes the importance of proactively reaching out to rural communities- a proposal has been made to create a "Mobile Parliament", so that MPs and officials can travel to rural areas of Morocco to discuss these issues further.

## Nigeria

Nigeria passed the Access to Information Act in 2011, under which both the national and sub-national governments are obliged to publish and disseminate public information. YMonitor, under The Future Project (TFP), conducted an awareness campaign with young people in Plateau State to inform them about their right to access public information. Through local ambassadors, 300 copies of the National Freedom of Information Act were printed and distributed locally to empower young people to use the Act as a resource to access public information through guidance and factsheets, and to push Plateau State to implement the FOI Act. The campaign also engaged local radio stations to further amplify the campaign. As a result, the ambassadors were able to change perceptions around government intentions, especially among young people who were skeptical about the enforcement of the FOI Act.

## Croatia

Open Cohesion is an European Commission funded programme aimed at engaging high school students in monitoring the effectiveness of European Union cohesion policy using open data. The regional program, which was initiated in Italy, engaged high schools across Croatia. Students were trained on topics like open data policies and access to information, as well as participatory budgeting. Besides being informed of international best practices, students were also made aware of local accountability practices and how they can engage in local government. For instance, how to engage in the budgeting process in cities like Rijeka and Pazin; and how to use resources like e-Citizens, or the Open Data Portal to find out about local projects. A 'Youth as Active Citizens' questionnaire was shared to collect data around youth understanding of and attitudes towards OGP, which is going to be used to design the 2022 Action Plan.

## Tools and other resources

### South Cotabato

OGP Commitments

Online Archive- Documents

Co-creation Survey Questions

### Morocco

Introduction to the National Citizenship

Participation Portal

Youth Space- Videos

Youth Space- Games

### Nigeria

FOI Ambassadors Map

FOI Request Guide

FOI FAQs

### Croatia

Open Government in Croatia

Youth as Active Citizens- Questionnaire

Open Data, Civic Monitoring, Cohesion Policy for High-School Students



## 03. IMPACT

Below are case studies of governments leading by example in engaging young people in the co-creation process, and delivering concrete impact in terms of how commitments are framed and the objectives they achieve.

### Key lessons

**Listen to the demands of young people:** in Uruguay, the National Youth Advisory Committee was the result of demands led purely by young people. While the government opened the space to listen and identify their needs, it was a decision of the participants as to how to consolidate their space and organize themselves. Incorporating this initiative to the OGP action plan helped consolidate it and strengthen it.

**Engagement with different levels of government:** expand allies through interactions that bring young people and the government together. Most public policies usually require articulation at different levels, such as national government, states, regions or municipalities. The Youth Conference led by Germany is an excellent example of this, where young people could interact with civil servants about their work and objectives, and civil servants were able to learn from young people about their needs at all levels.

**Always report back:** experience from Elgeyo Marakwet (Kenya) shows the importance of creating feedback loops with young people to let them know how their input was used, and how government policies will impact them. Providing a reasoned response is good practice, and an OGP requirement for co-creation processes.

## Case studies

### Uruguay

The National Youth Advisory Committee was an OGP commitment created in 2016 as a platform for young people from all over Uruguay (with 2 representatives from 19 Departments) to voice concerns on issues such as: decentralization, entrepreneurship, volunteer work and young people's role as socially relevant political actors. Youth engagement continued with the inclusion of two specific commitments: middle school students: protagonists of citizen participation and gender and youth perspectives in rural areas engaging more than 500 students to develop project ideas to be implemented by the government. As part of the first commitment, students presented 21 ideas, out of which 8 were shortlisted through a voting process and the winner- a project to build a sports complex- was approved and funded by the national government. Similarly, under the second commitment, the government engaged more than 200 young people from rural parts of the country, who deliberated and created an agenda for rural youth; and developed a course on sustainable rural development for young rural women leaders.

### Elgeyo Marakwet

In 2018, Elgeyo Marakwet (Kenya) committed to creating secure and dedicated spaces and mechanisms to facilitate participation of youth and other special interest groups in planning, budgeting and setting policy priorities. They further committed to the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) spectrum by providing justified feedback where input is not used; and collaborating with the county assembly to advance components of the county's first OGP Action Plan relating to strengthening of participation. The local government established forums for special interest groups to channel their views and inputs into the county budgets and policies. This initiative also helped to strengthen public feedback, complaints and compliment mechanisms by grounding these and other deliverables in relevant government staff performance contracts.



## Germany

In their 2018-2021 action plan, Germany committed to developing a Youth Strategy that identifies how the federal government should start dialogue and engage with young people in different policy areas. This new strategy delivered by and for young people, targeted over 14 million people aged between 12 and 27, accounting for approximately 17% of the German population. This strategy was approved by a cabinet decision in 2019 and engaged young people through targeted activities including Youth Policy Days through which over 500 young people engaged with high-level officials from ministries, and developed joint recommendations for the Strategy; youth focus groups organized under different policy areas; a Youth Conference, through which young public servants shared their work and brainstormed ideas on specific policies with young people; and virtual events attended by 1000 young people where government shared achievements and defined a way forward.

## Tools and other resources

### Uruguay

Co-creation Process

Public Consultation Platform

Commitment Monitoring Tools

### Elgeyo Marakwet

OGP Local Action Plan Co-creation

Open Procurement Portal

County Performance Dashboard

### Germany

Youth Strategy

Open Government Partnership Resources



## 04. ACCOUNTABILITY

For an open dialogue and trusted relationships to be in place, reciprocal accountability is needed. Governments and youth groups need to be accountable to one another, and talk to each other on an ongoing basis. The Multi Stakeholder Forums (MSFs), when used effectively, provide an excellent space for governments and youth groups to engage continuously through an institutionalized platform.

### Key lessons

**Representation should mean inclusion:** multi-stakeholder forums provide an opportunity to incorporate voices and experiences from across gender, age, and sectors. Not everybody can be an expert in open government. There is value in widening networks, including citizens with expertise in other areas- as seen in the case of Jamaica where the MSF is inclusive of representatives from different genders, ages, experiences and sectors.

**Technology is not always the solution:** young people are not always in the digital space, and technological platforms are not always the best way to engage with them. As demonstrated in the example from Romania, physical dialogue, human connection and listening to demands is a dedicated process that needs to be in person as much as online. Digital platforms can only be effective once the demand is created and networks are built.

**Young people are equally responsible:** besides demanding change, young people also have a responsibility to create accountability mechanisms. The Nigeria OGP Youth Network was created to put young people in the driving seat to demand accountability on the open government agenda. Established local CSOs can play an important role by bringing together motivated young people to create such mechanisms.

## Case studies

### Jamaica

Jamaica is developing its first OGP action plan. As part of the co-creation process, they created an OGP multi stakeholder forum (MSF). The MSF provides oversight and guidance to the co-creation process for the development, submission, implementation, monitoring and reporting for each national action plan. It is composed of six (6) representatives from government and six (6) members from civil society and will be co-chaired by one representative from civil society and one from the government. In 2021, they opened a call for applications through which any person or organization could propose a civil society partner to take part in the first MSF for a two-year period. One seat from the six is available to a youth member, defined by a person aged under 24. This person should not only meet the age criteria, but also provide proof of past engagement and leadership in promoting youth policies or youth engagement in public matters. The application also called for consideration of gender equity in the selection process. In this way, diverse engagement has been hardwired into the OGP process.

### Romania

The Romanian government has engaged with youth groups through different mechanisms while drafting the OGP Action Plan. One of the mechanisms is the National Working Group for the Implementation of the Structured Dialogue with Young People, which carries out regular dialogues between youth groups and government representatives to implement youth policy priorities at local, regional, national and/or European level. In 2020, it organized 105 online dialogues with over 2,100 youths to prepare the National Report of the EU Youth Dialogue, which was presented internationally. Similarly, the Romanian Youth Council is responsible for the development, monitoring, and evaluation of the implementation of public youth policies at the national level. The documents from the council are used as supporting documents for the elaboration of public policies by the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The Plenary of the Council - designed to be as representative as possible for addressing several key areas and issues of interest to young people - consists of 10 specialized commissions and has 50 member organizations. The working group and the youth council are OGP commitments made by Romania to increase youth participation in open decision making processes.

## Nigeria

The [OGP Nigeria Youth Network](#) comprises young people who are working in or interested in the areas of accountability, open governance, and innovation. The network is led by OpenGov Youth Collective members based in Nigeria. Currently, it includes 36 gender-diverse champions from 6 regions in Nigeria. The Network is responsible for carrying out national and sub-national advocacy to ensure youth representation at OGP Summits and in OGP Nigeria Working Committees; peer-to-peer mentoring on OGP and networking with OGP and Open Alliance members. They will also engage with the OGP inclusion and diversity working group in Nigeria to mainstream youth issues in all OGP thematic areas both at the state and the federal levels. The network is being piloted as a model for youth engagement in OGP at the grassroots level. The aim is to adopt the model in other OGP member countries, particularly in Africa.

## Tools and other resources

### Jamaica

[Open Government Partnership Jamaica](#)

[Multistakeholder-Forum-Handbook](#)

[Youth Survey Questionnaire](#)

### Romania

[Romanian Youth Council](#)

[Tools to Strengthen Structured Dialogue](#)

### Nigeria

[OGP Nigeria Youth Network Concept Note](#)

[Call for applications](#)

# Conclusion

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Government PoCs consulted for this Toolkit mentioned that including young people in co-creation discussions allowed for ways to disrupt what can be traditional processes; and bring in innovative ideas. They also mentioned that including young people pushes governments to use alternate ways of communicating that are less technical and that it can open up avenues to include young people in conversations around critical issues ranging from climate change, to corruption to equity and inclusion.

Supporting the development of an enabling environment for youth voices is of pivotal importance to ensuring effective accountability mechanisms. In a world where young people are constantly being excluded from the public agenda OGP can provide the space to address historical marginalization by ensuring meaningful participation.



"Supporting the development of an enabling environment for youth voices is of pivotal importance"



# Annex I

## Open Gov Youth Collective

In 2018, [Accountability Lab](#) and [Restless Development](#) gathered a group of youth activists to talk about youth issues for the OGP Georgia Summit. It was the first time that OGP formally and specifically invited a youth delegation to the Summit. As youth tend to do, they shined. Youth activists brought a fresh voice to the sessions, pushed innovative themes and encouraged participants to be more ambitious. The delegation won the popular vote for best side event and secured a speaking role at the closing plenary session to speak about the engagement of young people in OGP.

As a result of this gathering, they drafted OGP's first ever youth 'policy' and encouraged Canada, the next Summit host, to scale up their support for young people within their own OGP processes. In 2019, Canada took the initiative and scaled it, inviting 16 delegates from 14 countries, which participated in an open government bootcamp before the start of the OGP Summit in Ottawa. They learned about different models for involving youth in government, met with OGP Steering Committee members, and developed their ideas for youth inclusion in open government efforts.

This group of delegates decided later to build sustainability into their activities by creating the Open Gov Youth Collective. Their first includes the [OGP Youth Collective Declaration](#) and the [Youth Engagement Power Plan](#), a checklist with recommendations on how governments can meaningfully engage young people in action plan processes, implementation, and evaluations. Moving into 2020, with the onset of the pandemic, the [Open Gov Youth Collective](#) decided to run a Summit of their own - a Summit where young people were both the speakers and the audience (90% of them were under 30!), a place where young people's work and ideas would be center stage. The Collective put together 28 sessions in 3 languages for over 1,000 youth activists and allies from 112 countries to talk about anti-corruption, civic space, and digital innovation during the [OpenGov Digital Youth Summit](#). Youth groups from Uruguay to Zimbabwe to the Philippines shared their work to promote and guide open government movements in their countries and communities.

At the 2021 OGP Global Summit, the Youth Collective extended its network by inviting 30 youth activists and leaders interested in the three co-chair priorities: civic space and public participation, anti-corruption, and inclusive digital innovation. The youth delegation were part of a 2 day bootcamp and the global summit where they shared and discussed creative ideas on the future of open government with one another and with decision makers. You can read more about some of the ideas from the Summit [here](#). Recommendations from the youth delegation are included in Annex II. Going forward in 2022 the Youth Collective will continue to engage at the national and local levels to push for open government agendas in line with the priorities of the Government of Italy.

# Annex II

## Youth Delegation Policy Recommendations

In 2021, the co-chairs of OGP, the Republic of Korea and Maria Baron, launched a [global call-to-action](#) for all OGP members to use their new and existing action plans to make ambitious commitments that address core challenges around anti-corruption, civic space and participation and digital governance. As a result of the 2021 OGP [Youth Summit](#), young leaders across the globe developed their own [Youth Delegation Policy Recommendations](#).

The key recommendations that the group came together collaboratively can be summarized as follows:

### Civic Space and public participation

- Comprehensive access to government information: Linguistic accessibility of government websites and online accounts.
- Participation of marginalized groups and grassroots communities in decision-making processes.
- Long-term system for involving a diverse collective of non-government groups and organizations in OGP processes
- Baseline commitments for OGP countries: OGP Action Plans include open budget, open contracting, and open data as standard commitments.

### **Anti-corruption**

- Better Information: development of an index of integrity for public agencies, based on information collected by users of public services, civil servants, academics, and members of civil society organizations.
- Better Institutions: Multi-stakeholder councils/boards that oversee, evaluate, and suggest improvements for anti-corruption agencies; .Recruitment and selection mechanisms for public professionals within anti-corruption bodies that ensure hiring processes are conducted in a transparent, open manner and test for integrity and compliance behaviors.
- Better Civic Participation: Anti-corruption monitoring panel; Generational diversity goals for citizen consultation spaces; Youth empowerment instruments.

### **Inclusive digital innovation**

- Creation of a single, mobile-compatible online platform where all government information can be accessed.
- Digital access and digital literacy training to marginalized groups so they can successfully utilize technology, digital services, and data.
- Increase public awareness of open data and seek civic engagement.

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