

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

Attendees

- Aidan Eyakuze & Sammy Awami, Twaweza
- Anabel Cruz, ICD Uruguay
- Helen Darbishire, Access Info Europe
- Blair Glencorse, Accountability Lab
- Steph Muchai, ILP
- Aarti Narsee, CIVICUS
- Luben Panov, ECNL
- Elisa Peter, PWYP
- Doug Rutzen & Nikhil Dutta, ICNL

Apologies

- Lysa John, CIVICUS
- Lucy McTernan, York University
- Zuzana Wienk, Currents

Call Summary

I. Concluding the selection of new cohort members

When the CS SC last met on June 8, it did not reach consensus on the slate of candidates recommended by the Selection Committee, and put forward a number of questions and proposals to the Selection Committee for consideration. After considering these, the Selection Committee felt it would fall outside their mandate to reassess their recommendation and requested the co-chairs to find a way forward. The Selection Committee shared a ‘shortlist of shortlist’ of the six top-ranked candidates and gave a number of suggestions on clarifying the selection mandate and process in the future. A detailed overview of this year’s rotation process can be found [here](#).

In line with the request from the Selection Committee, the co-chairs put forward a recommendation of three candidates for endorsement of the CS SC. This recommendation considered role fit, the scores and assessment provided by the Selection Committee, the outcomes of the interviews and the needs outlined for this selection round which would complement the existing membership of the CS SC and individual perspectives of the current CS SC members.

The full CS SC expressed their deep appreciation for the work of both the Selection Committee and the co-chairs to select the best candidates and find consensus and welcomed the strong shortlist of potential candidates to choose from. A majority of the CS SC endorsed the co-chairs



recommendation of the final three candidates, while strongly recommending a review of the selection process to clarify the mandate and role of the overall CS SC, the Selection Committee and the co-chairs. One member (Helen Darbshire) did not endorse the co-chairs recommended list of candidates, also for process reasons and not on the quality of the candidates. CS SC process review recommendations will be carefully considered in the governance review that is part of the ongoing OGP strategy refresh process.

Decision: **Barbara Schreiner** (Water Integrity Network), **Natalia Carfi** (Open Data Charter), and **Eka Gigauri** (TI Georgia) will begin three-year terms on the OGP Steering Committee starting October 1, 2022. In addition, in line with the [Civil Society Mandate and Selection](#), **Amitabh Behar** (Oxfam India) was nominated as the official runner-up, and will automatically join the Steering Committee should a spot open up during the coming year.

All shortlisted candidates were informed of their selection status following the meeting, and the [website](#) was updated accordingly.

II. Updates on OGP Strategy process

The Support Unit provided a brief overview of the OGP strategy development process. A [blog](#) was recently published with initial insights into Phase 1 community consultations, with another one expected in the next month. The September 15 Steering Committee (SC) meeting will provide an in-depth update to the SC on the progress of the consultation process, while the October SC Retreat will be a consultation moment for the group. Several themes have emerged from Phase 1 consultations, though there are still six more weeks of consultations left: i) the role of open government in strengthening and protecting democracy and democratic participation, ii) anti-corruption, and iii) digital governance.

In September, the strategy development process will shift to Phase 2, in which the process will move its focus from OGP and open government ‘role and contributions’ to considering ‘models and strategies’ for OGP to fulfill the emerging directions on its role and contributions.

CS SC asked for a one-pager of highlights ahead of the final briefing on Phase 1, and to consider how to ensure the OGP community can continue to provide feedback on the strategy after the conclusion of Phase 1.

