

Open Government Partnership

Governance and Leadership Monthly Call Summary

21 July 2022 | 08:00 - 09:30 EDT

Attendees

- Aidan Eyakuze, Sammy Awami, Twaweza
- Government of Italy: Sabina Bellotti, Ernesto Belisario, Ilenia de Finis
- Anabel Cruz, ICD Uruguay; Mauricio Alarcón Salvador, Fundacion Ciudadania y Desarrollo
- Government of Estonia: Heleri Reinsalu
- Maria Baron, Directorio Legislativo [OGP Strategy Leadership Task Force]

Call Summary

I. Strategy Leadership Taskforce standing update and discussion

A. Strategy status update and ongoing direction of travel

The Support Unit (SU) provided a brief process update and latest developments since last month's taskforce discussion of the strategy's Phase 1 (OGP's Role and Contribution). Since launching in May, the SU and Steering Committee (SC) have hosted or supported over 30 events with more than 500 participants to date, as well as online engagement on Pol.is. Some of these consultations have been with 'unusual suspects,' including youth, human rights defenders, and climate groups, with deliberative democracy groups, state audit institutions, gender groups, and journalist groups planned for the coming weeks. There has been relatively small uptake of community self-organized events.

Some contribution areas emerging from these discussions include strengthening democratic participation, digital governance and tackling misinformation, tackling corruption, and climate. Discussions about roles have included OGP's role in catalyzing the field of open government, catalyzing action, in implementation support, and a discussion around balancing positive and punitive incentives as a critic of those acting against open government values. Phase 1 will run until the end of August, and findings will continue to be integrated into these discussions. A process update blog, with links to all raw notes and some highlights, will be published next Tuesday.

The SU then provided a preview of deep dive topics being developed by the SU and overview of direction of travel for the strategy's Phase 2 (Options for Models and Strategies). So far, these fall into three broad categories: Narrative and Positioning, Potential Pathways to Impact, and Operational Deep Dives. Topics may be added or adjusted as Phase 1 continues.

GL provided the following feedback on the direction and topics of Phase 2:

- Consider the current political and environmental context compared to OGP's founding, how to best position the Partnership for future salience and relevance, and how to attract high-level political leadership both now and in the future;
- Emphasize the importance of OGP's unique value proposition via its model of structured inclusion in decision-making and implementation, and ability to connect many other initiatives and actors throughout the open government space;
- Consider how to shift the focus from national action plans to open government strategies;
- On whether OGP should lean more towards 'democracy' or 'open government', continuing considering the risks and assumptions of one versus the other.

GL will be engaged as the SU conducts research and consultations about the deep dive topics through the next several months, and are encouraged to send feedback via email as well.

The SU then presented a calendar of upcoming meetings for the strategy Task Force and SC, and materials to inform these discussions. GL was supportive of the overall timeline and the proposed direction of travel.

II. Brainstorm components for the October 13-14 Steering Committee retreat

The SU presented an overview of core components to be included in the October SC retreat agenda, including focused discussions on the strategy development process, onboarding for new SC members, and space for subcommittee-specific discussions.

GL members were requested to share any additional input to be integrated in the draft agenda, which will be discussed by GL in September.

III. Recruiting next incoming Steering Committee co-chairs

The SU shared an overview of the proposed timeline to recruit new incoming co-chairs from government and civil society to follow Anabel Cruz and Estonia, including launching a call for co-chair candidates in late July. The GL will reconvene in early September to review and discuss the status of co-chair recruitment.

