

Civil Society Steering Committee

Monthly Call | Wednesday 14 September 2022

8:00–9:00 EST / 14:00–15:00 CET

Summary

Attendees

- Anabel Cruz, ICD Uruguay
- Helen Darbishire, Access Info Europe
- Blair Glencorse, Accountability Lab
- Lucy McTernan, York University
- Steph Muchai, ILP
- Aarti Narsee, CIVICUS
- Luben Panov, ECNL
- Doug Rutzen & Nikhil Dutta, ICNL
- Natalia Carfi, Open Data Charter (Incoming Member, observational only)
- Barbara Schreiner, Water Integrity Network (Incoming Member, observational only)

Apologies

- Aidan Eyakuze & Sammy Awami, Twaweza
- Lysa John, CIVICUS
- Elisa Peter, PWYP
- Zuzana Wienk, Currents

I. October SC Retreat agenda

The Support Unit (SU) presented an overview of the draft agenda for the upcoming Steering Committee (SC) Retreat on October 12-14. The meeting will focus primarily on OGP's strategy process, with opportunities for deep discussions in all phases of the strategy. There will also be opportunities for subcommittee-specific discussions and building an esprit de corp among the SC. Civil Society Steering Committee (CS SC) members requested:

- Having more spaces for relationship building (as a cohort, and full SC);
- Including an overview of OGP's history and past successes into the introduction of the strategy conversations;
- Confirming the timelines of any decisions that will need to be made by the Steering Committee through the rest of the year, if not at the Retreat.

II. Debrief from GL discussions on the participation of non-universally recognized entities in OGP

The Governance and Leadership subcommittee (GL) discussed OGP's position regarding non-universally recognized applicants (NURA), which for purposes of OGP membership



refers to countries who are not members of the United Nations. NURA are currently not eligible to become OGP members (see the current background and guidance regarding NURA participation in OGP [here](#)). GL also discussed Kosovo's request to join OGP.

GL agreed to bring the discussion of membership options to the full Steering Committee through the new strategy development process and governance review for OGP that are currently underway. Any changes to current policy falls under the purview of the Steering Committee and shall be reflected in the Articles of Governance once the new strategy is adopted in Q1 2023. Lastly, GL agreed to explore meeting with Kosovar representatives to discuss this matter further.

CS SC agreed on the proposed way forward and supported the proposal to discuss the participation of NURA as a whole rather than as standalone cases (e.g. Kosovo).

III. Update on the timeline for the selection of the next incoming co-chair

Following the September 1 deadline, GL received no expressions of interest from SC governments to serve as the new incoming chairs following Estonia and Anabel Cruz. GL agreed to provide an extension for co-chair candidates until Q2 2023, once the new OGP strategy is adopted. This extension will allow Steering Committee members (governments and civil society) that are elected in early 2023 to run for co-chairs. A detailed timeline for the elections will be communicated in due course.

The government of Estonia and Anabel Cruz will still assume the role of Lead Chairs beginning October 1, 2022 (as originally planned), and the government of Italy and Aidan Eyakuze will remain in GL in a troika/support role through April 1, 2023, to support the strategy development process until it's approved by the SC (as agreed by GL earlier this year).

