

Open Government Partnership

Governance and Leadership Monthly Call Summary

8 September 2022 | 08:00 - 10:00 EDT

Attendees

- Aidan Eyakuze, Twaweza
- Government of Italy: Sabina Bellotti, Ernesto Belisario, Gian Mario Aresu, Dante Brandi, Ilenia de Finis
- Anabel Cruz, ICD Uruguay; Mauricio Alarcón Salvador, Fundacion Ciudadania y Desarrollo
- Government of Estonia: Ott Karulin
- Maria Baron, Directorio Legislativo [OGP Strategy Leadership Task Force]

I. OGP Strategy Process Update & upcoming SC discussions

The Support Unit (SU) presented an advanced draft of the “What We Heard” report from Phase 1 consultations (OGP’s Role and Contributions) of the strategy process. Since launching the process in April, the SU have received feedback from over 800 stakeholders total.

The SU will continue analyzing the results of Phase 1, and present to the Steering Committee (SC) early findings on September 15. SU will begin diving deeper into the initial emerging strategic directions to begin analyzing their potential impacts on OGP’s role and model, and report back to the Governance and Leadership subcommittee (GL) and SC.

GL was supportive of the direction of travel presented by the SU and provided the following feedback:

- Consider OGP’s convening power in its role and contribution; and what would happen if OGP didn’t exist, i.e. OGP’s overall value proposition.
- Consider the relationship between OGP and other organizations working in the same or similar spaces, and the value add and/or potential overlaps;
- Focus on what OGP is currently doing as well as what has had less success
- Consider ways for the SU and SC to encourage country-level MSFs to engage more in Phase 2 consultations;
- SU to share materials for future discussions in advance, when possible.

The SU then provided an overview of the agenda for the SC briefing on September 15, and the upcoming SC retreat (October 13-14) which will largely focus on the strategy process, including the Governance Review, and emerging strategic directions following the conclusion of Phase 1 consultations.

II. Participation of non-universally recognized entities in OGP

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.

III. Preview of draft co-chair agenda by Estonia and Anabel Cruz & co-chair handover

The incoming co-chairs presented a draft of their 2023 co-chair agenda before it's taken to the Steering Committee for further input before it is finalized and presented during the co-chair handover taking place during the European Regional meeting on October 11. The co-chair agenda will be published and disseminated after this date.

IV. Update incoming co-chair recruitment and selection

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).

The Support Unit will continue to update the GL on any candidates that apply through the extension, and will consider the broader issue of candidate pipelines during the Governance Review portion of the strategy.

V. Candidates for OGP Board of Directors

Following the call for candidates that closed on September 5, GL endorsed Ketevan Tsanava's candidacy (Head of the Public Administration Unit, Policy Planning and Governmental Coordination Department of the Government of Georgia) to join the Board for a three-year term beginning on October 24, 2022.

GL also endorsed Aidan Eyakuze's reappointment for a second three-year term on the Board, beginning March 10, 2023. GL will now seek the Steering Committee's final approval of both candidates via circular on a no-objection basis before the end of September.

