

Open Government Partnership

[Opt-in] Working Level Steering Committee Briefing

15 September 2022 | 08:00 - 10:00 ET

Summary

I. OGP Strategy Process Update and Next Steps

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. The first phase of the strategy process focused on OGP’s contribution areas, and its role in the open government community. Since launching the process in April, the SU have received feedback from over 1,000 stakeholders total, from a variety of civil society, government and private sector participants. An internal assessment by the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) has determined that the strategy process so far has met OGP’s minimum participation and co-creation standards.

On contribution areas, the following conclusions are emerging:

- Open government values and approaches are still seen as vital, but there are calls for a more strategic focus in OGP’s second decade;
- OGP should not limit the scope of issues members and partners can work on, but it can identify a few strategic topics in which members are encouraged and incentivised to take action and show progress;
- OGP Local is a growth area for improved democratic participation, public services. More support for national-local collaboration; and
- Themes emerging consistently as significant contribution areas for open government include digital governance, tackling mis- and dis-information; tackling corruption, climate change; and public services.

So far, stakeholders have supported OGP to play a role in: catalyzing action through co-creation; establishing and advancing open government norms, benchmarks, standards and/or maturity models; building leadership and skills, and sharing knowledge and inspiration; catalyzing and building the field and community for open government; strengthening political incentives, improving the value proposition and acting on political windows of opportunity; and investing in OGP Local.

Early potential emerging strategic directions include: moving from “one-size-fits-all” approach to menu of options model of action; “letting a thousand flowers bloom” to a more intentional role in establishing and advancing open government norms, investing in strengthening the leadership, mindsets, skills and capabilities of reformers; and clearer articulation of OGP’s role and a more explicit strategy for catalyzing or building and strengthening the field and community for open government. An important aspect of



potential strategic directions will be a close look at financial and resourcing prioritization.

The Steering Committee (SC) provided the following feedback and requests ahead of the SC Retreat in October:

- Develop an ecosystem analysis of touchpoints with other organizations and multistakeholder initiatives working on themes we're exploring (i.e. digital governance, climate change, etc.), in order to identify where OGP can leverage and build upon them;
- Include a simplified analysis of current strategic directions versus potential future directions;
- Include background information on OGP's current funding and organizational structure;
- Ensure discussion time for the SC's role in future strategic directions;
- Encourage developing clear questions for each aspect of the strategy at the Retreat to aid discussions;
- For topics like OGP's role in encouraging members, through standards- or norm-setting, incentives or disincentives, ensure adequate discussion and testing with member governments. The SC requested additional context behind the requests of various stakeholders related to this topic, and clarity behind the purpose of such a shift for a discussion at the Retreat.

Next Steps: The Phase 1 report will be published in late September, with validation opportunities at the upcoming Regional Meetings. The SC Retreat in Rome will be a crucial moment for validation of findings, and brainstorming, refining and prioritizing future strategic directions. A pre-meeting briefing packet will be available two weeks ahead of the Retreat.

II. October SC Retreat agenda and information

The SU provided an overview of the draft agenda for the SC Retreat taking place in Rome, Italy on October 12-14. The final agenda, with SC feedback integrated, will be circulated two weeks prior to the retreat. As planned, the Retreat will largely focus on the strategy process, with opportunities for SC and subcommittee feedback on a variety of topics including the Governance Review, and emerging strategic directions following the conclusion of Phase 1 consultations.

The SC requested an additional segment focused on the last 10 years of OGP and its successes before turning to the strategy and future direction, which will also be included in the SC packet. It was also suggested to discuss failures of OGP, in order to learn from them moving forward.



III. Draft Co-Chair Agenda for SC feedback

The incoming SC Co-Chairs, the government of Estonia and Anabel Cruz, presented a draft of their 2023 co-chair agenda for feedback and reflections. The agenda emphasizes the uniqueness of OGP's model of convening government and civil society for cooperation and co-creation. The four primary priorities are: i) mobilizing and energizing the community and strengthening political support for the development of the 2023-28 OGP Strategy; ii) hosting the next OGP Global Summit; iii) incentivizing collective action to advance open government reforms on topics emerging through the 2023-28 strategy; and iv) supporting the OGP civil society community in their efforts towards promoting greater resilience and sustainability. The co-chair year of Anabel and the government of Estonia will be dictated by the conclusion of the OGP strategy process, so the SC will be kept informed of any changes in the agenda and direction of the co-chairship as the year progresses.

The SC supported the agenda, and requested the following:

- An explanation behind the continuity between this agenda and previous, what elements are continued and what were not, and why;
- Clarity on the distinctions between thematic, operational and strategic focuses of the agenda.

The co-chair handover moment is planned for October 11, the first day of the Europe Regional Meeting in Rome, Italy, where a final draft of the agenda will be available.

Attendees

- Government of Italy: Sabina Bellotti, Ilenia De Finis
- Government of Estonia: Ott Karulin
- Government of Canada: Jean Cardinal, Minerva Hernandez
- Government of Georgia: Kety Tsanova
- Government of Germany: Tobias Plate
- Government of Indonesia: Andrieta Arifin
- Government of Nigeria: Dr. Gloria Ahmed
- Government of Chile: Valeria Lübbert Álvarez (Incoming member)

- Aidan Eyakuze, Twaweza
- Anabel Cruz, ICD Uruguay, and Mauricio Alarcón Salvador, Fundación Ciudadanía y Desarrollo
- Blair Glencorse, Accountability Lab
- Aarti Narsee, CIVICUS
- Lucy McTernan, University of York
- Stephanie Muchai, International Lawyers Project
- Luben Panov, ECNL



- Doug Rutzen and Nikhil Dutta, ICNL
- Natalia Carfi, Open Data Charter (Incoming Member)
- Barbara Schreiner, Water Integrity Network (Incoming member)
- Maria Baron, Directorio Legislativo (Strategy Task Force)

Apologies

- Government of Kenya
- Government of Morocco
- Government of Korea
- Government of United Kingdom
- Helen Darbishire
- Lysa John
- Elisa Peter
- Zuzana Wienk

