

# Open Government Partnership

## Criteria & Standards Monthly Call Summary

1 December 2022 | 08:30 - 10:00 EDT

### Attendees

- Lucy McTernan, Scottish OGP
- Government of Germany: Sebastian Haselbeck
- Natalia Carfi, Open Data Charter
- Doug Rutzen and Nikhil Dutta, ICNL
- Government of Canada: Jean Cardinal, Sarah MacLeod, Minerva Hernandez
- Government of Chile: Claudia Montero
- Additional Guests: Tinatin Ninua and Anastasiya Kozlovtseva, OGP Support Unit

### Apologies

- Government of Nigeria

## Call Summary

### I. Azerbaijan Response Policy: Overview of IRM assessment report

In line with the timeline agreed by the Criteria and Standards (C&S) at its last meeting, the IRM presented draft findings of the assessment of Azerbaijan's 2020-22 OGP Action Plan and progress made towards addressing the 2017 [C&S recommendations](#) that Azerbaijan has to meet in order to regain active status. A full report will be available in the coming weeks for public comment.

**Next steps:** The Support Unit (SU) will continue engaging Azerbaijani actors from government and civil society, as well as other partners in the coming months. C&S will reconvene in early 2023 to discuss any additional progress before submitting a recommendation to the Steering Committee on Azerbaijan's future participation status.

### II. Biannual update on Countries Under Review (Q3-Q4 2022)

The SU presented an update on the ten countries that are currently under Procedural Review due to acting contrary to process for two consecutive action plan cycles:

- |                       |               |                    |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. Albania            | 4. Greece     | 8. Seychelles      |
| 2. Cabo Verde         | 5. Israel     | 9. Sweden          |
| 3. Dominican Republic | 6. Luxembourg | 10. United Kingdom |
|                       | 7. Norway     |                    |

Additionally, the three countries currently in inactive status ([El Salvador](#), [Malawi](#) and [Malta](#)) are at risk of being automatically withdrawn from OGP if they fail to deliver an action plan by March 24, 2023, as outlined in their respective Steering Committee (SC) resolutions. The SU noted that some of the implications from the rules changes from 2016 (with implementation beginning in 2017 and 2018) are now being seen in current

action plans, and to expect the implications from the 2021 changes (e.g. new Standards and timelines) to take effect in the coming years.

Acknowledging the request from the wider SC for more regular updates on the statuses of countries undergoing challenges before they reach the need to discuss membership implications, the co-chairs of C&S will share the biannual [updates](#) with the full SC after C&S discusses them meeting. This will also provide an opportunity for the wider SC to consider the various challenges countries face in meeting OGP rules and standards as the strategy development process continues.

### III. The UK Procedural Review case

Following the initial discussion during the [October 13 C&S meeting](#), C&S was asked to make a recommendation on the future status of the UK's participation in OGP.

**Decision:** Recognizing the UK's recent engagement in the OGP process and ministerial-level commitment outlined in this letter, the subcommittee agreed to issue a resolution outlining that:

- The UK will remain under Procedural Review until the IRM concludes that it has met the minimum standards in the implementation of the 2021-23 Action Plan, as assessed in the Results Report to be published within four months after completing implementation (i.e. Q1 2024).
- To prevent being recommended for inactivity by the C&S Subcommittee, the UK government must provide evidence of meeting the minimum standards during implementation of the 2021-23 Action Plan by 30 June 2023.
- Failure to provide this evidence by June 30 would result in being recommended for inactivity by C&S for consideration and final approval by the full SC.
- Expresses concern about a current SC member being the subject of this situation given the expectation for SC governments to lead by example in their own domestic processes. Acknowledge that any discussion about the UK's membership in the Steering Committee would be brought to the full Steering Committee as it falls outside the purview of the Subcommittee.
- The resolution will be finalized and released in the next two weeks.