

Civil Society Steering Committee

Monthly Call | Wednesday 10 May 2023

8:00-9:00 EST / 14:00-15:00 CET

Summary

- **Governance Review Update:** As agreed by the Steering Committee (SC), the Governance Review process is being taken forward through a Task Force of SC representatives who will be responsible for prioritizing and fleshing out the suggestions provided by the full SC to review its role description and ensure it remains fit for purpose to deliver on the new strategy. The draft concept note being discussed by the Taskforce can be found here ([link](#)). CS SC requested building in time for internal discussion by the SC ahead of the approval meeting in September.
- **Response Policy Cases:**
 - A. **Azerbaijan:** In late May C&S will discuss a proposed resolution for the [Azerbaijan case](#) which will then be tabled for full SC approval in Q3 2023. CS SC members expressed support for closing the case if the desired impact is not being achieved through the OGP platform.
 - B. **Georgia:** Georgian civil society recently submitted a request for a [Response Policy](#). The C&S Chairs, in coordination with the SU, will undertake a review of the merits of the concern(s) raised in the letter. Considering her involvement in the domestic OGP process and her role in the OGP Steering Committee, Eka Gigauri requested a formal note of her recusal of any decisions or discussions related to the case to avoid any conflict of interest. Other CS SC expressed their support for Eka and broader Georgian civil society.
- **Summit Preparation:** The Summit agenda draft has been published for public consultation, and will remain open until May 19. SC members are invited to provide feedback via [discuto](#). **Registration will be open until May 28, and all SC must register via the [public link](#).** The SU is beginning to reach out to SC members to plan travel; CS SC are requested to let Bianca Nelson know as soon as possible if there are any specific visa needs.
- **Feedback:** CS SC asked for clarification around local participation and service delivery in the agenda; further information around outreach to other Summits for political and thematic connections; and concerns around the language and focus on the Ukraine war given different regional perspectives.
- **Update on OGW as of Tuesday, May 9:** OGP [hosted a webinar](#) featuring the SC Co-Chairs to officially launch the strategy with close to 200 participants. 103 countries registered 304 events (Africa: 66; Americas: 133; Asia-Pacific: 24; Europe: 69; Not specified: 12) as of Tuesday AM. The most popular themes (in order of popularity) included: right to information, digital governance, gender and inclusion, civic space, and public service delivery. Steering Committee members participated in the launch webinar, wrote blogs, and sent videos.



- **Next steps:** OGW concludes on Friday, May 12. All SC members are invited to contribute content for OGW or beyond to continue disseminating the strategy. The SU will share a more comprehensive report in the coming weeks.
- **Update on CS SC process [written] + call for co-chairs 2023-24 / 2024-25:** Following personal conflicts, Edwin Ikhuoria and Rabina Rasaily have withdrawn their candidacies. Interviews with the remaining shortlisted candidates are currently underway, and will be completed by May 12. The final selection meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 6, after which the final list of candidates will be available for CS SC review and (if needed) discussion during the June 14 CS SC meeting.
- A slight change was made to the process this year, following approval by the Co-Chairs and the Selection Committee. In place of a webinar for public consultation, each of the candidates was asked to submit a 3-4 minute video responding to questions about their candidacies. Those videos were posted [here](#), and will be available for public comments and questions until May 19. Candidates will be able to respond directly during this window.
- **Next steps:** Following the conclusion of the 2023 CS SC rotation process, we will launch the call for two sets of co-chairs in late June (one to serve as Lead Chair for one year starting on October 1, 2023, and the other to serve as incoming chair until until they would begin their one-year Lead chair term on October 1, 2024). Interested CS SC members are asked to contact Jaime Mercado for more information.

Attendees

- Anabel Cruz, ICD Uruguay
- Aidan Eyakuze, Sammy Awami, Twaweza
- Eka Gigauri, TI Georgia
- Blair Glencorse, Accountability Lab
- Steph Muchai, International Lawyers Project
- Luben Panov, ECNL
- Doug Rutzen, Nikhil Dutta, ICNL
- Barbara Schreiner, Water Integrity Network

Apologies

- Nati Carfi, Open Data Charter
- Lysa John, CIVICUS
- Lucy McTernan, Scottish OGP

