

OGP Steering Committee Working Level Meeting

Virtual | 21 March 2024 | 8am-10am ET

Meeting Summary

Summary of discussion agreed points, and next steps:

1. Strategy implementation update & the 2024-25 work plan for the Support Unit and the IRM [decisional]

Implementation update & 2024 work plan

- The Support Unit (SU) presented an update on the current status of the strategy implementation, including emerging opportunities and challenges, and how these have shaped the 2024-25 work plan for the SU and the IRM.
- The 2024-25 work plan derives from the broader strategic goals and the progress made last year, and is organized around a new results framework that will enable tracking of Partnership-wide progress and progress on SU/IRM priorities. The four collective deliverables for the year presented are: i) Deepening country-level action; ii) Advancing ambition, implementation, and leadership on thematic priorities; iii) Building a stronger global ecosystem for open government; and iv) Strengthening the financial resilience and organizational health of the OGP secretariat.
- Following the presentation, the Co-Chairs moderated a discussion emphasizing the imperative of galvanizing political leadership and how the chairs and the full Steering Committee (SC) could concretely support this effort. Insights from SC members highlighted prioritizing the civic space approach for community engagement, ensuring that staffing and resourcing for OGP Local are proportionate to the work plan objectives and deliverables, and incentivizing political leadership for greater accountability. Additionally, there was a call for clarifying the OGP value propositions at both domestic and international levels, emphasizing the need for increased clarity on membership value including its linkage to country contributions. SC participation and ownership were emphasized as crucial for implementing partnership activities, with members acting as ambassadors. Additional suggestions included establishing open government training, supporting a member-driven service model, leveraging learning networks and resources, and utilizing platforms like Regional Meetings, Summits, and the UNGA for engagement with Heads of State/Government and Ministries of Foreign Affairs.
- The SU then played back the input provided by the SC which will be incorporated into the final version of the work plan:
 - Clarify how staffing and resources plan to support the advancement and enhancement of OGP Local.
 - More explicitly highlight the need for member-driven services

- Emphasize OGP's contributions to solving global problems through refreshed value propositions and narratives.
- Highlighting the need to include the value of OGP membership on domestic agendas in value propositions.
- Referencing the importance of engaging MFAs to secure greater engagement of Heads of State and Government and support of OGP's overall objectives.

Decision: *The work plan was conditionally approved by the SC, pending the incorporation of final input received during the meeting.*

Fundraising, country contributions and 2024-25 Budget

- Following approval of the work plan, the SU presented the draft budget to support the work plan, including an overview of the fundraising strategy for the year, which includes securing country contributions at the new raised levels as approved by the SC in 2023.
- The SU emphasized that the SC is responsible for approving the work plan and is invited to provide input on the alignment between the work plan and the budget; and the Board of Directors is responsible for approving the budget and may inform the work plan by providing feedback and approving the budget envelope presented by the SU at the start of the work plan development process.
- The SC offered insights on various aspects of the budget and fundraising strategies, emphasizing the importance of attracting new donors and maintaining and expanding contributions from countries. The SC also queried about past government participation in fundraising endeavors to inform future initiatives. The SU emphasized the importance of SC members setting a precedent and cited instances of SC involvement that could yield positive outcomes, like conducting bilateral meetings and utilizing regional platforms to spur contributions from fellow OGP members.

Next steps: *In line with the budget approval process, the draft budget, including any feedback provided by the SC, will be presented to the Board of Directors on March 27th for final approval.*

2. Emerging directions from the Governance Review & next steps [non-decisional]

- The co-chairs, who are also members of the Governance Review Task Force, provided an update on the governance review process, emphasizing the objectives of the review to ensure the SC role, structure, and ways of working remain fit for purpose to meet the needs of today and of the new strategy, and reflect the maturity of the Partnership.
- The co-chairs then presented three main proposed shifts that have been developed by the ten-member SC task force, with the main ambition to shift the SC focus towards leadership and strategy in order to optimize their reach, potential and leverage:
 - Review and enhance the SC mandate to emphasize its political leadership role and to be more strategically and externally focused.

- Align the subcommittees structure closer to the needs of the strategy to make the SC more agile, inclusive, dynamic, and efficient.
- Creating space for new voices and perspectives – with a focus on Local - to source expertise and enhance their engagement in shaping and implementing OGP’s strategic direction.
- The co-chairs emphasized that implementing these shifts will require a change in practice and active engagement from all 22 SC members.
- The co-chairs then requested the feedback and support from the broader SC regarding the overall direction, principles, and proposed key changes. Some concrete ideas shared during the session about what these shifts could look like in practice include:
 - Chairs welcoming new members of the SC through ministerial-level letters and bilaterals;
 - Each SC government identifying 1-3 governments that they are willing and able to conduct ministerial outreach to and to coordinate with SU on specific needs and opportunities;
 - More deliberately activate the SC to integrate open government in political speeches, position OGP as an implementation mechanism, and highlight the specific value-add of being a government-civil society partnership focused on open government.
 - SC members leveraging platforms and fora they participate in or lead to make connections to OGP (e.g. UNCAC, G20, EU Presidency, S4D).
 - Strengthening engagement with MFAs - both by ensuring SC membership requirements highlight the need to bring MFA, and by increasing engagement with SC MFAs in upcoming regional and global OGP events
 - SC meetings to be more focused on strategy and less on procedural matters. Build in more time for in-depth conversations among the SC.
 - Create more spaces for cross subcommittee collaboration through the use of task forces and spaces for chairs from all subcommittees to engage and update each other.
 - Explore establishing an informal buddy system between senior and newer SC members.

Next steps: *The SC requested further clarity and elaboration on the different approaches toward implementing the proposed shifts, especially the mandate ones, and suggested that more spaces be created to socialize these changes, and invite interested SC members to provide insights and input as these are finalized.*

3. Any other businesses - 5 min [time permitting]

- 2024 Civil Society SC rotation: Blair Glencorse, Civil Society Co-Chair, provided an update on 2024 rotation process which culminated in the selection of five candidates who will

begin three-year terms on October 1, 2024: Anabel Cruz, Doug Rutzen, Katerina Hadzi-Miceva Evans, Laura Neuman, and Cielo Magno. Cielo has been invited to fill a vacant seat immediately following the departure of Juan Carlos Fernandez from the SC earlier this year, and she has also been endorsed by the civil society members of the SC as their candidate for civil society co-chair, alongside the Government of Spain, starting on October 1, 2024. The SC was asked for their final approval of Cielo's appointment on a no-objection basis by March 29, 2024.

- The SU then provided a brief update on the forthcoming elections to fill five government seats on the SC as the current terms of Estonia, Morocco, Nigeria, ROK, and the UK come to an end. Of these, Estonia, Morocco and the UK are eligible to run for a second term, while Nigeria and ROK will exit the SC after serving the maximum two consecutive terms allowed. Launch of the elections and call for candidates will take place in early April.

Attendees

Government Steering Committee Members

- Chile
 - Valeria Lubbert, Executive Secretary of the Public Integrity and Transparency Commission, Ministry General Secretariat of the Presidency
 - Claudia Montero Meza, Advisor, Commission for Public Integrity and Transparency, Ministry General Secretariat of the Presidency
- Estonia:
 - Ott Karulin, Advisor, Government Office
- Germany:
 - Sebastian Haselbeck; policy advisor, Modern Government Division, Federal Chancellery
- Indonesia
 - Andrieta Rafaela Arifin, Open Government Indonesia (OGI)
- Kenya (Co-Chair 2023 - 2024):
 - Philip Thigo, Senior Advisor, Data and Innovation, Legislative and Intergovernmental Liaison Office
- Morocco:
 - Mahassine El Amrani Omari, Consultant with the Ministry of Digital Transition and Administrative Reform
- Republic of Korea:
 - Yuyin Lee, Deputy Director of Innovation Planning Division, Ministry of the Interior and Safety

- Jisu Han, Assistant Deputy Director, Innovation Planning Division, Ministry of the Interior and Safety
- Spain
 - Lázaro Tuñon, Deputy Director General for Open Government
- United Kingdom:
 - Matt Donnelly, Open Data and Transparency Lead, Central Digital & Data Office
- United States
 - Kiril Jakimovski, Anti-Corruption & Governance Policy Officer, US Department of State
 - Daniel W. York, Director, IT Data Transparency, Office of Government-wide Policy, U.S. General Services Administration

Civil Society Steering Committee Members

- Blair Glencorse, Co-CEO, Accountability Lab (Co-Chair 2023 - 2024),
- Anabel Cruz ICD Uruguay
- Natalia Carfi, Open Data Charter
- Lucy McTernan, Chair, Scottish Open Government Partnership
- Stephanie Muchai, Program Director, International Lawyers Project
- Luben Panov, Senior Program Advisor, European Center for Not-for-Profit Law
- Doug Rutzen, President and CEO, International Center for Not-for-Profit Law
- Eka Gigauri, Executive Director, Transparency International Georgia
- Nikhil Dutta, International Center for Not-for-Profit Law
- Zukiswa Kota, Programme Head - South Africa, Public Service Accountability Monitor
- Barbara Schreiner, Executive Director, Water Integrity Network
- Cielo Magno, BK Philippines

Apologies

- Government of Nigeria