

# Open Government Partnership

## Full Steering Committee Call

### Working Level

20 March 2025 | 8:00AM- 10:00AM EST

## Meeting Minutes

### Attendees:

- Governments- Government of Brazil (Livia Oliveira Sobota), Government of Chile (Claudia Montero), Government of Estonia (Marten Lauri), Government of Germany (Sebastian Haselbeck), Government of Indonesia (Karina Apriladhatin), Government of Spain (Lázaro Tuñón), Government of Morocco (Ikram HIMMI), Government of Philippines (Ericka Blas, Pearl Clemente), Government of United Kingdom (Eva Corral, Matt Donnelly), Government of United States (Kiril Jakimovski, Daniel York)
- Civil Society- Anabel Cruz, Barbara Schreiner, Cielo Magno, Doug Rutzen, Katerina Hadzi-Miceva Evans, Laura Neuman, Natalia Carfi, Steph Muchai, Zuki Kota
- OGP Support Unit

Apologies- Government of Kenya, Blair Glencorse, Eka Gigauri

### 1. Introduction and Reflections from recent Steering Committee meetings (20 min)

- a. Government Co-Chair, Lázaro Tuñón, on behalf of the Government of Spain, called the meeting to order, conducted a roll call, and shared a readout from recent SC meetings, opening the floor for additional reflections from others.
  - i. Full Steering Committee (SC) Manila Retreat (February 3-4)
    1. The global context and shifting political priorities require OGP to take stock of its narrative, priorities and approaches. The SC shared agreement for strengthening political support for the open government agenda and OGP platform, with the SC playing a leading role. Various discussions at the Retreat directly informed the Support Unit (SU) 2025-27 work plan.
    2. The retreat also covered a range of governance issues, including: the remit and formation of the Accountability Mechanisms Task Force; proposals to improve OGP's action framework; and ways to enhance the strategic engagement of OGP Ambassadors to better support the objectives outlined in the OGP 2023-28 Strategy. SC members approved by consensus the [resolution](#) discussed at the retreat to streamline the role, appointment, and engagement of OGP Ambassadors.

3. SC members reflected on the importance of building esprit de corps by convening in-person, and expressed appreciation for progress made on several matters.
- ii. Leadership Subcommittee Meeting (March 10-11)
  1. The Subcommittee discussed OGP's political and financial response to current geopolitical and funding shifts, as part of the broader SU work plan for 2025-27. This included strategizing to maximize the impact of the OGP Global Summit agenda, aligning the current and future co-chair agendas to support these efforts, and conducting an in-depth analysis of country opportunities and risks for coordinated action.
  2. The Subcommittee also discussed key governance issues, including revising eligibility criteria for governments to serve on the SC and addressing Afghanistan's membership in OGP. Resolutions on these issues are forthcoming for final SC approval.
- iii. Lázaro Tuñón introduced OGP's new CEO, Aidan Eyakuze, who emphasized the value of meeting as a full SC in-person and the critical role the SC will play in bolstering political engagement ahead of the OGP Global Summit.

2. **Strategy implementation update + 2025-27 SU and IRM work plan and budget**  
[decisional] **(90 min)**

- a. Lázaro Tuñón emphasized the SC's strong complementary role to support the implementation of the SU work plan and clarified that the SC has the mandate to approve the work plan and inform the budget, while the Board of Directors has the mandate to approve the budget and inform the work plan.
- b. The SU presented an overview of the tabled work plan, incorporating OGP's response to the increased volatility of the current moment across three axes: politically, financially, and within the community. The SU also outlined the four work plan deliverables– deepening country action; advancing ambition, implementation and leadership on thematic priorities; building a stronger global ecosystem of open government; and strengthening the resilience of the Partnership and the OGP Secretariat– as well as the proposed leadership role that the SC could play in advancing the objectives of the work plan.
- c. SC members provided the following feedback:
  - i. **Global fora-** Members raised the importance of the 2025 Global Summit serving as a celebratory moment for OGP to showcase the strength and durability of the open government movement. SC members also recommended adding key digital governance events to the work plan. Members plan to share additional regional/global fora

- they will convene or attend for the SU to coordinate relevant messaging and facilitate connections as needed.
- ii. **SC engagement:** There are clear roles for the SC incorporated into each of the work plan deliverables– the SC plans to leverage bilateral and multilateral engagements to advance these deliverables and explore ways to better hold itself accountable. The work plan should more explicitly point to the need for both high-level and working-level roles for the SC. Civil society members offered their personal and organizational expertise to advance particular thematic focuses of the work plan, including climate and digital governance, at the summit and beyond.
  - iii. **Resilience:** Members highlighted the importance of resilience amid current geopolitical challenges– some suggested a bolder response in the work plan, while others emphasized staying focused on OGP’s core mission. Civil society members volunteered to work alongside government counterparts to address how OGP can support longer-term civil society positioning and sustainability. Members also expressed broad support for strengthening OGP’s evidence-based and impact narratives to bolster resilience. Members suggested new framing for value propositions to resonate in the current moment, including a focus on addressing economic inequality.
  - iv. **Feasibility:** Members asked the SU to consider the feasibility of the work plan’s activities, ensuring flexibility to accommodate capacity constraints.
- d. The SU then presented an overview of the proposed SU ‘25-26 budget for the SC’s feedback: The SU emphasized that the OGP Secretariat is building from a position of strength but anticipates a volatile financial context. While the proposed budget supports an ambitious work plan to meet the political moment, the SU is proceeding with mitigation measures and scenario-planning to ensure adaptability to revenue shifts. Any changes to the fiscal situation will lead to a review of work plan activities to ensure continued feasibility.
  - e. SC members asked about how specific revenue streams may be impacted by shifting political priorities. Members also suggested consideration of alternative funding mechanisms, e.g. public donations. The SU emphasized that the current focus remains on securing government contributions and funding. Additionally, members requested a breakdown of the budget by each of the four deliverables in the work plan.
  - f. **Decision & Next Steps:**
    - i. The SC approved the work plan, contingent on the SU incorporating feedback from the SC in the final version.

- ii. The SU will circulate the final version of the work plan as well as the summary of the budget breakdown per deliverable to the SC.
- iii. The budget will be presented to the board for approval, including feedback from the SC.

### **3. AOB & Closing**

- a. Lázaro Tuñón shared that the Board of Directors is seeking two new members, preferably government representatives in order to maintain a balance of government and civil society perspectives. As outlined in the OGP Bylaws, the Governance and Leadership Subcommittee initiates the process of identifying new members for the Board of Directors, who must be current SC members at the time of appointment and serve in their individual capacity for 3-year terms. The TORs will be circulated via email with the full SC.
- b. The co-chairs thanked everyone for attending, and closed the meeting.