

Motivation Letter for Second Term on the OGP Steering Committee

Dear Members of the OGP Civil Society Community,

I am writing to express my interest in serving a second term on the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Steering Committee (SC) as a civil society representative. The work of OGP has never been more vital. At a time when democratic values are under threat, civic space is shrinking, corruption remains deeply entrenched, and global trust in public institutions is waning, the need for resilient, responsive, and truly open government is urgent. Civil society has a critical role to play in this moment — not only in demanding transparency and accountability but in co-creating the mechanisms through which they are realized.

My experience spans decades of struggle — from the fight for liberation in South Africa to present-day efforts to build institutions rooted in democratic values. I have the privilege of serving on South Africa's National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council, where I work to advance systemic reform and restore public trust. My role in the Water Integrity Network has deepened my engagement in integrity-focused, citizen-led oversight in key sectors that matter profoundly to people's daily lives.

Having served within government and within civil society, I bring a perspective that bridges both sides of the open government partnership. I understand the internal challenges and opportunities that public officials face, and I value the unique insights and energy that civil society brings. This dual lens enables me to navigate complex dynamics with a solutions-oriented mindset.

My grounding in the Global South further shapes my approach to the OGP. I understand first-hand the resource constraints, governance challenges, and community-led innovations that characterize many Global South contexts. I bring this perspective to global conversations with a deep sense of responsibility — to amplify the voices of those too often marginalized, and to ensure that our global movement remains anchored in solidarity, equity, and practical impact.

During my first term on the Steering Committee, I have gained invaluable insight into the systems, processes, and internal dynamics that make the OGP work. I have developed strong relationships with fellow SC members and civil society colleagues, which I believe are foundational to effective collaboration. This grounding, along with my extensive experience in governance — from grassroots organizing to board leadership of international organisations — positions me to make an even more meaningful contribution in a second term.

I believe I still have much to offer. The challenges we face require experienced, committed, and principled leadership. They require people who can connect the global and the local, who can build bridges between government and civil society, and who can help ensure that open government is not merely a slogan but a lived reality for communities around the world.

I am committed to continuing this work with passion, integrity, and humility.

Thank you for considering my nomination.

All the best

Barbara Schreiner