

Civil Society Steering Committee Application
Elizabeth Oziri

What is your motivation to serve on the OGP Steering Committee? What is the greatest asset that you would bring to the SC?

My motivation to serve on the OGP Steering Committee stems from a profound belief in the transformative power of open government to create more just, equitable, and prosperous societies. I am particularly inspired by the OGP's 2023-2028 strategy and am eager to contribute to its ambitious goals. My work in environmental advocacy on the power of THE THUMB to encourage inclusion, Participation and digital rights has shown me the critical need to protect and expand civic space, a cornerstone of the OGP's mission. I am driven by the opportunity to collaborate with diverse stakeholders on the Steering Committee to proactively advance an agenda that makes open government a practical reality for more people around the world. I am particularly motivated to contribute to the OGP's work to foster a new generation of open government leaders.

My greatest asset to the OGP Steering Committee is my proven expertise in leveraging technology for citizen engagement and government accountability. For over a decade, I have led initiatives that centres around accountability of electoral officers during elections and the transparency of the judiciary after elections. This experience has given me a deep understanding of both the potentials and the pitfalls of digital governance and has equipped me with the skills to design and implement effective and inclusive open government solutions. I have a strong network of digital rights organizations and civic tech innovators across Nigeria that I can mobilize to support the OGP's work. My experience in co-creating national action plans has provided me with practical insights into the challenges and opportunities of the OGP process at the country level. I am confident that I can leverage this asset to contribute to the Steering Committee's strategic discussions, support member countries in developing ambitious and impactful commitments in the digital sphere to ensure that the OGP remains at the forefront of the evolving open government landscape.

Please outline your open government experience and skills. Have you personally engaged in OGP processes or activities at the subnational, national or international level? If so, how?

My Open Government Experience and Skills:

Policy Advocacy & Legislative Reform: I have over a decade of experience in advocating for open government reforms. As the Executive. Chairperson of Women and Child Disaster Rescue Initiatives I led a successful coalition that campaigned for and contributed to more legislative space for women. This involved extensive policy analysis, building relationships with legislators, and mobilizing public support.

Multi-Stakeholder Facilitation: A core part of my work has been building and leading coalitions. I served as the civil society chair for the Coalition of Civil Society Organizations on Leadership and Democracy where I was responsible for facilitating dialogue and coordinating joint advocacy strategies among over 50 diverse civil society organizations and government anti-corruption agencies.

My Personal Engagement in OGP Processes:

Co-creation: I have been an active civil society member of our National Multi-Stakeholder Forum since 2019. During the development of the 2023-2025 NAP, I was the civil society lead for the "Beneficial Ownership Transparency" commitment. In this role, I facilitated public consultations, negotiated technical details with the Corporate Affairs Commission, and co-drafted the final commitment language to ensure it met global standards.

Monitoring: I actively track the implementation of NAP commitments.

At the International Level: I have shared my national-level experience to contribute to the global conversation. I was a speaker at the 2023 Summit in Nigeria on a panel discussing scaling up Civic Space and the Role of Open Government in a Digital Age.

At the Subnational Level: Recognizing that open government is most impactful when it reaches local communities, I have recently been advising the city government of the FCT as they prepare their application to join the OGP Local program.

Please outline your experience representing or advocating for civil society interests when engaging with government or multi-stakeholder fora.

My experience is defined by serving as a dedicated bridge between civil society and government, ensuring our collective voice is not just heard but is instrumental in shaping policy.

As a civil society representative, my primary role was to consolidate diverse CSO priorities. For the 2023-2025 National Action Plan, I successfully negotiated the inclusion of a landmark commitment on open contracting, ensuring it contained strong provisions for proactive disclosure which government partners were initially hesitant to include.

During the parliamentary review of the proposed Digital Rights Bill, a coalition of over 40 human rights and tech CSOs selected me to present our unified position. I articulated our collective analysis to the legislative committee, which led to the amendment of critical clauses on data privacy.

In these roles, I consistently build consensus among civil society actors and present our positions with clear, evidence-based arguments. My approach is to be a firm but constructive partner, protecting civic space while demonstrating the value civil society brings to creating better policy.