

Civil Society Steering Committee Application

Maira Martini

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 deep commitment to advancing open government as a cornerstone of democratic resilience and social justice. With over 15 years of experience at the intersection of civil society, public policy, and international governance, I have seen first hand that transparency, accountability, participation, and inclusion must be more than aspirations - they must be embedded into how governments function every day.

As the world faces mounting threats to civic space, transparency, and accountability, OGP remains a vital platform to build political will, foster collaboration, and promote reforms that respond to people's needs. I am inspired by the opportunity to help guide OGP's strategic direction, strengthen its global influence, and support reformers in delivering concrete change, particularly in a context where trust in government is declining.

The greatest asset I bring to the Steering Committee is the ability to bridge local, grassroots needs and global influence. I've led advocacy campaigns that turned complex technical issues - like beneficial ownership transparency and illicit financial flows - into political priorities, helping secure reforms at the FATF, EU, and G20 that catalysed national-level action. I've built strong alliances with civil society, governments, journalists, and private sector actors across different countries. I also bring proven experience as a board and steering committee member, committed to inclusion, integrity, and impact. As a member of the SC, I would actively shape strategy, support subcommittees, and use my platform to amplify reformers and ensure OGP's values are upheld globally.

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?

I have engaged in OGP processes at all levels. Internationally, I have collaborated with the OGP and contributed to efforts that integrated transparency and anti-corruption reforms into national action plans, including commitments on beneficial ownership, enablers, access to information, and open contracting. I have supported OGP civil society leaders with technical guidance and strategic advocacy, and helped amplify their work in global platforms and policy arenas.

Nationally, I have worked with partners from Brazil to France, and from Indonesia to Canada, to co-create and implement open government commitments - developing model legislation, advocacy tools, and strategic guidance tailored to local contexts. In Brazil, I supported an initiative to develop 70 anti-corruption proposals through a participatory process that reflected OGP's co-creation ethos and emphasis on inclusive policy design.

My core strengths lie in designing inclusive and participatory policy formulation processes that are realistic, context-sensitive, and adapted to varying political and institutional

environments, facilitating civil society–government collaboration, and translating evidence into concrete policy change. I have built vibrant communities of practice, mobilised multi-stakeholder coalitions, and supported reformers in driving impactful, people-centred governance. I am deeply committed to OGP’s mission and would bring experience, energy, and a strong track record of helping turn commitments into meaningful results.

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

Advocating for civil society in multi-stakeholder and intergovernmental spaces is central to my career. I’ve represented civil society at the G20, FATF, UN, OECD, and other bodies, always ensuring that grassroots voices and accountability demands are heard. I led a successful global campaign that helped revise FATF’s beneficial ownership standards—mobilising over 700 organizations, academics, and businesses in a coordinated civil society push. The result was a significant shift in the global standard-setting space, with concrete implications for transparency in countries worldwide.

More recently, I played a key role in advocating for civil society access to EU beneficial ownership registers following the 2022 Court of Justice of the EU ruling that restricted access and had far-reaching implications beyond the EU. Working closely with partners, I supported journalists and civil society watchdogs in maintaining access, identified critical flaws in early drafts of the 6th EU Anti-Money Laundering Directive, such as provisions that could enable tipping-off, and successfully advocated for the inclusion of protective safeguards. In parallel, we pushed for interim solutions to mitigate the impact of the court decision and ensure continued access for those working to expose financial crime. These efforts culminated in 2024 with the adoption of a new directive that grants generalised access for civil society and the media, and expands transparency requirements to include foreign companies owning assets across EU member states.

I’ve also facilitated direct engagement between civil society and public officials in politically sensitive environments, contributing to inclusive, co-created policy reform. As a Steering Committee member, I would continue to be a strong and independent voice for civil society, working to protect civic space, promote meaningful participation, and hold all OGP stakeholders accountable to the values of transparency, inclusion, and reform ambition.