

Open Government Partnership

Leadership Subcommittee Monthly Call

February 13, 8:30-10:00 AM ET

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Government of Brazil: Livia Sobota (National Secretary for Transparency and Access to Information, CGU); Daniel Mol, Special Advisor for International Affairs, CGU); Taís Julião (Project Coordinator, CGU)

Government of the Spain: Lázaro Tuñón (Deputy Director of Open Government, Ministry for Digital Transformation & Civil Service); Lidia Perez Moreno (Deputy Assistant Director, Ministry for Digital Transformation & Civil Service)

Government of the UK: Stefan Kossoff (Head of Democratic Governance, FCDO); Nicola Burgess (Senior Policy Lead, Democratic Governance, FCDO); Roy Evans (Policy Advisor, Democratic Governance, FCDO)

Civil Society: Cielo Magno (President, Bantay Kita/Publish What You Pay- Philippines); Laura Neuman (Senior Advisor, Office of the Vice President of Peace Programs, The Carter Center); Steph Muchai (OGP Lead Civil Society Co-Chair)

OGP Support Unit: Aidan Eyakuze (CEO); Paul Maassen (Chief of Global Programs); Jaime Mercado (Lead, Governance & Global Programs); Rowan Sockwell (Global Programs and Partnerships Officer)

1. Leadership Subcommittee (LS) Retreat, March 10-12 in Brasilia - 30 min

- a. The subcommittee reviewed the draft agenda for the LS Retreat and agreed on the core objectives for its upcoming retreat:
 - i. Align on political engagement priorities needed to deliver on OGP's 2023–2028 strategy, and agree on what OGP's role should be within the current geopolitical context;
 - ii. Agree core outcomes and deliverables for OGP@15 campaign to ensure high-level political engagement, and define a clear leadership framework to operationalize the campaign (roles, sequencing, and expectations of the leadership troika);
 - iii. Identify viable options to ensure OGP's political and financial sustainability, clarifying the respective roles of the Leadership Subcommittee, the Steering Committee, and the Board.
- b. Members discussed the importance for OGP to deepen, demonstrate, and diversify its presence in a rapidly evolving geopolitical context.
- c. Members emphasized that OGP@15 should be framed as a forward-looking opportunity to catalyze renewed ambition and transformation as well as ensure the Partnership is equipped to meet the challenges of the future.
- d. Members also highlighted the importance of expanding and strategically activating a broader and more diverse group of OGP champions.

2. Membership developments and risk mitigation strategy - 20 min

- a. LS discussed the recent membership changes, including the withdrawal of US and Israel from OGP, and potential implications for the Partnership. The subcommittee reflected on steps to mitigate political and institutional risks, including the LS's role in reinforcing engagement with current participating governments and partners to sustain momentum and collective commitment and support for OGP.
- b. The discussion reaffirmed that OGP is a voluntary, country-led partnership grounded in national ownership, respect for democratic governance, and constitutional traditions, with governments working in partnership with their citizens. Members underscored the importance of communicating this narrative clearly and consistently as well as ensuring that OGP's accountability mechanisms (including the Response Policy) are effective and fit-for-purpose.
- c. LS also discussed the importance of deepening engagement of Ministries of Foreign Affairs in OGP to advance its broader global and political objectives.
- d. Members also discussed operational considerations for the OGP Secretariat in Washington, D.C.

3. 2026 Steering Committee & Co-Chair Elections - 25 min

- a. Three seats on the OGP Steering Committee (SC) are opening up for the 2026 elections. Spain is concluding its first term and is eligible for reelection. Kenya is leaving the SC after serving the maximum of two consecutive terms. The United States withdrew from OGP on January 15, vacating its SC seat.
- b. LS approved the timeline for the 2026 Government SC and Co-Chair elections. The call for candidates will launch on February 13, with applications due on April 8.
- c. The subcommittee agreed that the seat vacated by the US earlier this year will be filled following the conclusion of the election process, while the remaining seats will be filled at the start of the new term on October 1, 2026.
- d. Members exchanged views on encouraging a strong and diverse pool of candidates for the SC and Co-Chair roles, and discussed where LS engagement could support a competitive and representative election process.

4. Steering Committee Calendar

- a. LS approved the SC calendar on a no-objection basis via circular in advance of the February 13 meeting. The calendar will be shared with the full SC.