

# Civil Society Steering Committee

Monthly Call | 18 February 2026

9:00-10:30 EST / 15:00-16:30 CET

## Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:** Natalia Carfi, Anabel Cruz, Katerina Hadzi-Miceva Evans, Cielo Magno, Maira Martini, Steph Muchai, Laura Neuman, Doug Rutzen, Barbara Schreiner, OGP Support Unit (SU)

**Apologies:** Blair Glencorse, Zuki Kota

### 1. 2026 Civil Society Steering Committee & Co-Chair Selection

- a. CS SC members discussed the 2026 SC rotation and potential adjustments:
  - i. Members agreed that a streamlined process for current members seeking a second term best serves continuity and fairness. From 2026 onwards, the cohort will decide whether or not to endorse returning candidates, and only advertise open seats to be filled through the standard Selection Committee process.
  - ii. The cohort agreed not to revise the existing CS SC selection criteria, but to instead inform the Selection Committee of needs and gaps to help guide the recruitment of new members.
  - iii. Members also discussed the possibility of recruiting all seats for 2026+27 in one go, with most favoring this approach. This would enable a more competitive and robust selection process while streamlining OGP resources.
  - iv. Next steps: The chairs will review the proposed process to ensure alignment with governance rules and will share the final process for 2026-27 with the cohort.

### 2. CS SC Strategic Priorities for 2026

- a. The SU shared a readout from the recent Executive Committee meetings in Brussels with a focus on OGP's transformation process. This included a high-level overview of plans for the OGP@15 campaign, as well as considerations for how to best prepare OGP to meet the moment in the current geopolitical landscape.
- b. The cohort chairs also shared a readout from the February 13 Leadership Subcommittee (LS) meeting and previewed key items for the upcoming March LS Retreat. The retreat will focus on three objectives: 1. Aligning on political engagement priorities, 2. Agreeing on core outcomes and deliverables for OGP@15 campaign, and 3. Identifying viable options to ensure OGP's political and financial sustainability.
- c. The cohort discussed how to effectively leverage current geopolitical trends to better position the Partnership in 2026. Members suggested leveraging

embassy networks for political advocacy needs, as well as engaging SC government counterparts to jointly push forward a shared agenda.

**3. Civil society outreach following membership developments**

- a. The cohort discussed how to address recent membership developments, particularly the U.S. and Israel's withdrawals from OGP and highlighted the importance of extending the option to meet with civil society stakeholders from both countries.
- b. Members suggested that a high-level statement could be useful to reaffirm OGP's commitment to national sovereignty, among other values.

**4. Steering Committee Calendar**

- a. Members discussed the cadence of CS SC meetings for 2026 and agreed to meet every other month for an extended period (90mins), as opposed to shorter monthly meetings.