

Civil Society Steering Committee

Bi-Monthly Call | 16 April 2026

8:00–9:30 ET

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Natalia Carfi, Anabel Cruz, Blair Glencorse, Katerina Hadzi-Miceva Evans, Maira Martini, Steph Muchai, Laura Neuman, Doug Rutzen, OGP Support Unit (SU) [Paul Maassen, Jaime Mercado, Rowan Sockwell]

Apologies: Cielo Magno, Zuki Kota, Barbara Schreiner

1. Strategic Debrief: Opportunities and Engagement (30 min)

Session Objective: Agree on opportunities for engagement, shared messaging and/or actions for [Open Gov Week \(OGW\)](#) and inform the Civil Society Steering Committee (CS SC) approach for future SC engagements.

- a. Drawing on recent SC engagements, including the March Leadership Subcommittee Retreat and April 8 Full SC meeting, and looking ahead at Open Gov Week (OGW, May 18-22), members discussed how to leverage opportunities moving forward. Highlights of the discussion include:
 - i. **Multilateralism:** Rather than creating new fora for multilateral engagement, SC members can actively promote OGP as the preferred existing multilateral structure for future uses.
 - ii. **Driving, not following, the open government agenda:** OGP should take a more proactive posture on priority themes, rather than reacting to others' trends, while continuing to balance thematic leadership with respect for governments' domestic public policy aims.
 - iii. **Open Gov Week (May 18-22):** To promote open government and OGP's impact across the week, CS SC members will leverage existing standing meetings/engagements to incorporate a focus on OGP, and participate in government-led OGW events.
 - iv. **Recruiting new OGP members:** CS SC members offered to open doors with prospective members that may be well-positioned to energize OGP in the coming years.
 - v. **Better leveraging full SC meetings:** Members will hold a pre-meeting ahead of each full SC meeting to go through the agenda together and agree on key outputs, asks or messages for each agenda item.

2. Cohort Recommendations Paper: Priorities & Path Forward (50min)

The recommendations paper, drafted collaboratively by a subset of CS SC members, captures a range of strategic, operational, and relational issues shaping how the SC operates, and in particular, how the CS SC plays a more strategic and supportive role. The CS SC discussed the paper, and in particular, considered if the recommendations speak directly to the drivers that prompted this conversation.

Session Objective: Prioritize actions to take based on the recommendations– What if addressed would unlock the most?

a. CS SC members agreed to use the paper to collectively identify ‘low-hanging fruit’ for swift implementation. This may include systematizing document sharing for more efficient access to SU materials.

b. CS SC members agreed to rework the paper to better align with high-impact initiatives, i.e. action items that will best unlock the potential of the cohort to engage externally and globally on behalf of OGP.

c. The SU noted that some of the recommendations are already being implemented, such as increasing the coordination between the SC and the Board of Directors.

d. The CS SC agreed not to propose a full governance review, as the [2024 Governance Review](#) recently assessed and revised key issues pertaining to OGP’s governance structures. However, the SU will work with the co-chairs to ensure subcommittee and task force structures remain fit for purpose in line with the work plan and priorities.

3. AOB - 10 mins

a. Incoming Co-Chair Meetings: As the next lead co-chairs, Laura Neuman and the Government of the UK are meeting in the UK at the end of April to develop their co-chair agenda. Laura solicited input on the co-chair priorities ahead of this convening.

b. Upcoming Events: In the next couple of months, members will attend: Africa Xchange, Skoll, RightsCon, Asian Development Bank Forum, and the UK Illicit Finance Summit. Some members are already in the process of coordinating with the SU for these engagements.