

Open Government Partnership

Steering Committee Meeting

June 23, 2026

Readout & Key Takeaways

1. Welcome and Opening from the Lead Chairs (5 min)

The Lead Civil Society Co-Chair, Steph Muchai, opened the meeting and previewed the call agenda.

2. OGP Leaders Roundtable: Overview and Securing Ministerial Participation (25 min)

Context: To mark OGP's 15th anniversary, OGP and the Ford Foundation will co-host a high-level OGP Leaders Roundtable — the highest-visibility OGP platform of the year. The Roundtable will convene government and civil society leaders, funders, and multilateral partners to articulate a shared vision for OGP as an action-driven mechanism to advance democracy and good governance.

Discussion:

- a. The Support Unit (SU) presented the objectives of the Roundtable, the proposed flow of the event, and two key asks of SC members: 1. Robust Ministerial & civil society participation, and 2. Submission of high-level video messages— all SC Heads of State/Government and SC civil society members have been invited to record video statements to mark this milestone anniversary, which will be featured in the lead up, during, and beyond the anniversary event. The SU also welcomed Head of Government/State participation for SC members that may be interested.
- b. **Call to Action:** Members suggested formalizing a 'call to action' that Roundtable participants can sign onto as a way to encourage high level attendance and to ensure there is a concrete takeaway from the event. The chairs expressed support and offered to lead on this initiative.
- c. **Thematic links:** Members discussed how to connect their experiences in OGP to the three main thematic areas of the Roundtable: 1. Inclusive and resilient institutions and societies; 2. Democratic digital governance; and 3. Prosperous and competitive economies. Several government members shared that the themes will resonate with their ministers and key domestic priorities.
- d. **Positioning at UNGA:** Members agreed that the Ford-OGP event should both link to wider themes at the 81st United Nations General Assembly, particularly as it comes to defending democracy, while also ensuring the Roundtable has its own unique role to play among the many events that take place around UNGA. High-level politicians and civil society leaders will have competing priorities during

the week, so the pitch to participate in the OGP Leaders Roundtable should be compelling and not duplicative of other events.

Next Steps: 1. The Leadership Subcommittee will further define the ‘call to action’ proposal for the Roundtable and will then share the agreed initiative with the wider SC. 2. SC members are asked to confirm ministerial/Head of Government/State participation in the OGP Leaders Roundtable to RSVP@opengovpartnership.org as soon as possible; 3. SC members are asked to submit high-level video messages to the SU in advance of the Roundtable.

3. Emerging agenda of the Incoming Co-Chairs (Government of the UK and Laura Neuman (30 min)

Context: As preparations begin for the leadership handover at the Leaders Roundtable in September, and at the invitation of the Lead Chairs, the Government of the UK and Laura Neuman presented their emerging plans for supporting [OGP's Strategy](#) during their chair year, beginning October 1, 2026.

Discussion:

- a. **Focus of the Co-Chair agenda:** The Incoming Co-Chairs highlighted emerging areas of focus for their agenda, building on OGP's strategy: democracy & civic space, with information integrity, participation, and anti-corruption as throughlines. They emphasized the importance of mainstreaming gender throughout the agenda. Additionally, during their co-chair year, they plan to strengthen OGP's governance structures.
- b. **Civic space:** SC members supported the focus on civic space and articulated the importance of separating the theme of civic space from other issues, such as public participation.
- c. **Call to action link:** Members suggested linking the OGP Leaders Roundtable ‘call to action’ to the co-chair agenda for continuity; the Incoming Chairs agreed to do so.
- d. **‘26-’27 OGP Event:** Members also discussed signature moments and key opportunities to take place during the UK and Laura's co-chair year, including the potential for a UK-hosted OGP convening. The Incoming Chairs and SU will continue to coordinate on options for upcoming events.

Next Steps: 1. The Incoming Co-Chairs will finalize their co-chair agenda, incorporating feedback from the full SC. 2. The SU will coordinate with the Incoming Chairs on a menu of options for an OGP event that helps advance the co-chair agenda and serves the needs of the Partnership.

Attendees

Government of Brazil: Livia Sobota (National Secretary for Transparency and Access to Information, Comptroller General); Adriano Freitas (Federal Auditor, International Affairs Office, Comptroller General); Taís Julião (Project Coordinator, Comptroller General); Carolina Salazar (Project Coordinator, Comptroller General)

Government of Estonia: Marten Lauri (Advisor, Government Office)

Government of Kenya: Viola Ochola (Director of Access to Information. Office of the Ombudsman)

Government of Philippines: (Glenn Miranda, Director, OGP Project Management Office, Department of Budget and Management)

Government of Norway: Maria Thorsnes (Policy Director, Ministry of Digitalisation and Public Governance)

Government of Morocco: Taouih Abdenbi (Head of Probity and Ethics Service, Ministry of Digital Transition and Public Administration); Latifa Benyad

Government of the Spain: Lázaro Tuñón (Deputy Director of Open Government, Ministry for Digital Transformation & Civil Service); Lourdes Calle (Head of Section, Subdirector General for Open Government, 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

Civil Society:

Natalia Carfi, Executive Director, Open Data Charter

Anabel Cruz, Founding Director, ICD Uruguay

Katerina Hadzi-Miceva Evans, Executive Director, European Center for Not-for-Profit Law

Zukiswa Kota, OGP, Civil Society Steering Committee Member

Maira Martini, CEO, Transparency International

Stephanie Muchai, OGP, Lead Co-Chair, 2025-2026

Laura Neuman, Senior Advisor, The Carter Center

Doug Rutzen, Executive Director, International Center for Not-For-Profit Law

Barbara Schreiner, Executive Director, Water Integrity Network

OGP Support Unit (SU): Aidan Eyakuze (CEO); Paul Maassen (Deputy CEO); Rudi Borrmann (Director, Communications, Content, and Community Engagement); Rosario Pavese (Director of Country Support); Jaime Mercado (Lead, Governance and Global Programs); Rowan Sockwell (Global Programs and Partnerships Officer)

Apologies: Government of Armenia; Government of the Dominican Republic; Blair Glencorse, CEO, Accountability Lab; Cielo Magno, President, Bantay Kita/Publish What You Pay Philippines