

Open Government Partnership

Leadership Subcommittee (LS) Monthly Call

July 2, 8:00–9:00 AM ET

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Government of Brazil: Livia Sobota (National Secretary for Transparency and Access to Information, CGU); Taís Julião (Project Coordinator, CGU); Carolina Salazar (Project Coordinator, CGU)

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

Government of the UK: Stefan Kossoff (Head of Democratic Governance, FCDO)

Civil Society: Steph Muchai (OGP Lead Civil Society Co-Chair); Laura Neuman (Senior Advisor, Office of the Vice President of Peace Programs, The Carter Center)

OGP Support Unit (SU): Aidan Eyakuze (CEO); Paul Maassen (Deputy CEO); Alessandro Bellantoni (Director of Policy & Partnerships); Jaime Mercado (Lead, Governance & Global Programs); Rowan Sockwell (Global Programs and Partnerships Officer)

Apologies: Cielo Magno (President, Bantay Kita/Publish What You Pay- Philippines)

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Meeting Preparation (20 min)

Context: OGP is launching a light-touch, voluntary, peer-based MFA initiative to extend the Partnership's value into diplomatic and multilateral spaces. The initiative will include quarterly updates and two virtual briefings in 2026. The Lead and Incoming Government Co-Chairs (Brazil and the UK) will chair the first virtual briefing in September.

Discussion: LS discussed the desired outcomes, key messages, and the Co-Chairs' roles in preparing for the briefing.

- **Key Messages:** LS suggested emphasizing the central message of collaboration. OGP needs both domestic and international stakeholders to maximize its impact, and MFAs are key partners in strengthening the Partnership globally.
- **Desired Outcomes:** LS members recommended strengthening the value proposition for MFAs regarding why they should engage in OGP and the role they can play going forward. The briefing should emphasize how MFAs can advance open government more broadly, beyond supporting the OGP platform itself, and provide a space for dialogue and exchange of experiences among participants.
- Members also emphasized the importance of including OGP government points of contact to connect domestic open government practitioners with MFAs. The meeting

can serve as an opportunity for government points of contact to share examples of how they have collaborated with MFAs to advance open government in the past.

- LS noted the importance of using terminology that resonates with foreign affairs officials, recognizing that language used with domestic audiences may land differently in a foreign policy context.

Next Steps: The SU will circulate a draft agenda and proposed run of show for the September MFA virtual briefing. The governments of Brazil and the UK will coordinate with the SU on meeting preparations in late August.

2. Call to Action Proposal for the OGP Leaders Roundtable (25 min)

Context: To mark OGP's 15th anniversary, OGP and the Ford Foundation will co-host a high-level Leaders Roundtable. The event will provide a platform for participants to articulate their vision for OGP as an action-oriented mechanism to advance democracy and good governance, while positioning the Partnership as a response to current geopolitical challenges. At the Leadership Subcommittee's request, and building on support expressed during the June 23 SC meeting, the SU developed a proposed Call to Action for the Roundtable that brings together the 2023–28 OGP Strategy, the Open Gov Challenge, current and emerging Co-Chair priorities, and the Transformation Agenda into a single narrative outlining why OGP is the right platform to act now, what it offers, and the commitments it seeks from members and partners.

Discussion: The SU presented the Call to Action proposal as well as the validation process before it can be sent to the wider SC, coalition leads, and partners ahead of UNGA. LS discussed the proposed approach, opportunities to strengthen it, and how members could help advance it through their networks.

- Several members called for a stronger global frame, encouraging the Call to Action to extend beyond domestic reform and highlight open government as a response to global challenges. They also suggested including a call for support from partners, funders, and diplomatic networks.
- Members further recommended simplifying and shortening the text to make the core commitment clearer and more compelling.

Next Steps: The SU will circulate a revised draft of the Call to Action for LS feedback .

3. SC Government Elections – Next Steps on Candidacies (15 min)

Context: The deadline to submit candidacies for the [SC government elections](#) was July 1. OGP received two nominations, South Africa and Spain, for the three government seats open this cycle. Both candidates meet the criteria to serve on the SC.

As Spain serves on the LS but is also a candidate, the government recused itself from the discussion and decision for this item.

Discussion: LS discussed next steps for the elections process, including whether and how to extend the nomination period for the remaining seat(s).

- Members noted that for the 2025 elections, [LS endorsed the candidates](#) that applied by the initial deadline and extended the nomination deadline for only the remaining seat.
- Members also discussed the importance of encouraging candidates to submit their nominations on time by endorsing those that apply by the initial deadline.

Decision: In line with precedent from 2025, LS agreed to endorse the two candidates for election to the SC and extend the nomination deadline for only the one remaining open seat until August 31.

Next Steps:

1. SU to notify the two endorsed candidates.
2. SU to inform the full SC and all OGP government points of contact about LS decision and new deadline; update OGP webpages accordingly.

4. AOB

SC Calendar: LS discussed upcoming LS and SC meetings and key governance milestones for the remainder of 2026. LS agreed to hold the next LS call and first MFA call in early September.

Next Steps: The SU will share an updated calendar with the full SC outlining key governance meetings and activities for the next 12–18 months.