

Open Government Partnership

Leadership Subcommittee (LS) Monthly Call

September 3, 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); Pedro Evans Barbat (International Affairs, CGU)

Government of the UK: Stefan Kossoff (Head of Democratic Governance, FCDO); David Osborne (Deputy Head of Democratic Governance, FCDO); Nicola Burgess (Senior Policy Lead, Democratic Governance, FCDO); Daniel Lawrence (Policy & Programme Support Officer, FCDO)

Civil Society: Cielo Magno (President, Bantay Kita/Publish What You Pay- Philippines); 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); Denisse Miranda (Chief Finance and Operations Officer); Alessandro Bellantoni (Director of Policy & Partnerships); Rowan Sockwell (Global Programs and Partnerships Officer)

Apologies: Government of Spain

1. OGP Leaders Roundtable Coordination — 25 min

Context: The SU presented an updated agenda for the OGP-Ford Foundation Leaders Roundtable, building on the discussion from the [July 2 LS call](#). The revised agenda brings the Outgoing and Incoming Co-Chairs together for a moderated conversation to mark the OGP leadership handover.

Discussion: LS discussed the agenda and run of show, with particular attention to the leadership handover and the Roundtable Call to Action.

- **Call to Action:** Members discussed how and when to introduce the Roundtable Call to Action, which will provide an opportunity for political recommitment to OGP and its values and serve as a key takeaway from the event. The Incoming Co-Chairs, the Government of the UK and Laura Neuman, suggested further distinguishing the Call to Action from their Co-Chair Agenda. Members agreed that the two products should have separate aims and be presented as distinct products. LS also discussed the intended audience for the Call to Action and agreed that it should be directed primarily to OGP's existing membership.

- **Logistics:** Members discussed logistical arrangements for the Roundtable, including the meeting room layout at the Ford Foundation. The Roundtable will be held in person, with no option for virtual participation.

Next steps: The Government of the UK will circulate a revised draft of the Call to Action for final approval by Laura Neuman and the SU.

2. OGP Steering Committee Rotations — 15 min

Context: The initial deadline for government candidacies to serve on the SC was July 1. LS received two candidacies for three available seats and endorsed the governments of South Africa (new term) and Spain (second term), leaving one seat vacant. LS subsequently extended the deadline for government candidacies for the remaining seat until August 31, by which one additional candidacy was received.

In parallel, the call for government candidates for the next incoming Co-Chairs, following the Government of the UK and Laura Neuman, was circulated to the SC in July. The deadline for government Co-Chair candidacies is September 23. The civil society SC cohort will discuss potential candidates at its September meeting, with the aim of presenting a candidate for full SC endorsement on the same timeline. No government Co-Chair candidacies have been received to date.

Discussion:

- **Government SC Elections [decisional]:** Noting Canada's eligibility to serve on the SC, LS endorsed Canada's candidacy. As there was one eligible candidacy for the remaining seat, no vote was required.
- **Co-Chair Candidates [non-decisional]:** LS discussed potential candidates to serve as Co-Chairs following the Government of the UK and Laura Neuman.

Next steps: The SU will notify the Government of Canada and the full SC of LS's endorsement. South Africa and Canada will join the SC for a three-year term beginning October 1, 2026 and Spain will start its second three-year term.

3. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Meeting Debrief — 15 min

Context: OGP held the first virtual meeting under its MFA initiative on September 1, with the aim of extending OGP's value-add into diplomatic and multilateral spaces. The meeting was co-moderated by the Governments of Brazil and the UK and included MFA representatives, government points of contact, and civil society SC members.

Discussion: LS members debriefed the meeting and discussed opportunities to build on the initial engagement.

- Members commended the strong turnout, with nearly 70 participants, as well as the clear communication of the purpose and scope of the MFA initiative.

- Members suggested strengthening the dynamics of future calls by alternating perspectives and voices from the Global North and South. They also suggested placing greater emphasis on thematic areas of shared interest.
- LS discussed how to build on the progress from the first call, including by: (1) defining what success would look like for the broader initiative; (2) considering targeted follow-up outreach from SC members to countries of relevance within the Initiative; and (3) focusing more on the mobilization of international networks and embassy connections in future engagements.

Next Steps: LS agreed that the next MFA call will focus on anti-corruption and will take place ahead of the International Anti-Corruption Conference (December 1-4). The SU will circulate a proposed concept note and agenda for the next call in due course.

4. Lead Co-Chair Closing Remarks — 5 min

Context: This was the final LS call chaired by the current Lead Co-Chairs, the Government of Brazil and Steph Muchai. On October 1, Brazil and Steph will become Outgoing Co-Chairs and hand over the Lead Co-Chair position to the Government of the UK and Laura Neuman. The Government of Spain and Cielo Magno will rotate out of the leadership troika.

Discussion: Members thanked the Government of Brazil and Steph Muchai for their leadership and welcomed the Government of the UK and Laura Neuman as incoming Lead Co-Chairs. Members also congratulated the Government of Spain and Cielo Magno on a successful last year as part of the leadership troika.