

PROPOSED 2014 WORKPLAN OGP Legislative Openness Working Group

The Legislative Openness Working Group (LOWG) will plan to hold one international meeting, while playing a role in regional OGP meetings over the course of the following year. Topics for these meetings will focus on the issues identified at the business meeting of the group in London at the 2013 Annual Summit, as well as additional feedback received from working group members.

JAN 2014

Distribution of LOWG Email List

Using OGP's platform, LOWG will curate an email list of members of the working group. The email list is open to the public, allowing anyone who is interested to participate in discussions about working group activities. Individuals interested in joining should email LOWG co-anchors. Co-anchors will also distribute a regular newsletter containing information on the activities of the group through this list. Individuals can email the list at LOWG@opengovpartnership.org.

Comment Period on Draft Workplan and Statement of Principles (ends January 31)

Based on feedback received at the business meeting of the working group, a draft workplan and statement of principles have been drafted for the LOWG. These documents will be open for review and comment by any member of the OGP community.

Advocacy regarding Cohort 2 Action Plan Development

The 44 countries that joined OGP as part of Cohort 2 are due to present Action Plans on March 31, 2014. OGP has asked the thematic working groups to provide support to countries in building commitments related to each group's topic area. The co-anchors have drafted a letter to the legislatures of Cohort 2 countries encouraging participation in the development of legislative openness commitments. The co-anchors are available to facilitate sharing of peer-to-peer experience regarding legislative openness commitments among Cohort 2 countries, as requested.

FEB 2014

Workplan and Statement of Principles Finalized

Launch of LOWG Website

Drawing on expertise within civil society organization members of the working group, LOWG will create a homepage for the working group, intended to house information on any events and news among working group members, as well as serve as the library for resources created by the working group.

Finalization of LOWG Coordinating Committee

Based on feedback from the business meeting at the London Summit, a coordinating committee will be formed consisting of LOWG members who have committed to support specific elements of this workplan. The coordinating committee will include representatives from the legislative and executive branches, civil society organizations, and multilateral institutions, as well as experts on legislative openness. Membership in the coordinating committee would be based on the willingness of coordinating committee members to contribute, in terms of resources or in-kind, to the working group.

MAR 2014

Legislative Openness Survey Part One

With the assistance of LOWG coordinating committee members, the co-anchors will coordinate a three-part survey of the legislative openness of OGP countries, focusing first on members of the working group and expanding, as resources permit, to all OGP countries. The goal of this survey will be to provide information useful in incorporating legislative openness into the OGP process, as well as to encourage targeted OGP commitments in response to identified weaknesses.

EVENT: OGP Steering Cmte./Asia Regional Meeting, Bali, Indonesia

The co-anchors may attend the next meeting of OGP's Steering Committee both to advance the idea of including parliaments in elements of the OGP governance structure, as well as to address issues of legislative openness at the Regional Meeting.

APR 2014

**Proposals for Session Topics for Annual LOWG Meeting
(ends April 30)**

The LOWG will hold an annual, international meeting for members in Chile at the end of June 2014 (details below). For members interested in participating either in person or remotely via the web, the co-anchors will begin accepting proposals for potential sessions or topics to be addressed by participating working group members as well as international experts.

MAY 2014

EVENT: OGP Europe Regional Meeting, Dublin, Ireland

JUN 2014

EVENT: OGP Latin America Regional Meeting, San José, Costa Rica

EVENT: International LOWG Meeting, Santiago, Chile

This will be the primary gathering of the working group during the first year. The Coordinating Committee will organize a two-day event, bringing together LOWG members to address topics proposed in previous months. Sessions will inform the development of commitments in Action Plans, and create opportunities for peer engagement. The meeting will also offer the opportunity to begin to develop resources for use by the broader working group on thematic topics of interest. The meeting may provide an opportunity to partner with mySociety and Fundación Ciudadano Inteligente, who are also planning on holding a conference for Latin American CSOs, to exchange knowledge on tools for monitoring parliaments and governments.

JUL 2014

Legislative Openness Survey Part Two

The working group will release results from Part One of the survey and will release a second questionnaire to LOWG members (addressing additional issues of legislative openness), informed by the results and comments received on the first iteration.

SEP 2014

EVENT: Worldwide Legislative Hackathon, Global

Modeled after events held with legislatures in countries like Brazil, the US, UK and elsewhere, the coordinating committee will mobilize LOWG members and partner parliaments to organize collaborative events between civil society and legislatures in countries around the world, including possible hackathons. The event would be timed in connection with the UN International Day of Democracy, September 15.

NOV 2014

Legislative Openness Survey Part Three

The working group would issue the third installment of the survey of comparative information on legislative openness. The data would be complemented with a data explorer that allows users to analyze the results of the survey by region, or to compare a particular parliament against global norms.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

In addition to the above timeline, the LOWG will support the following types of ongoing peer-to-peer support and sharing of experience, in response to specific requests from partners or as opportunities arise.

Partnerships and Consultations

Responding to the interest and needs of participating governments, parliaments and civil society, the LOWG will organize a limited number of direct consultations, both in-person and virtually, in order to address challenges faced by members. These consultations will aim to be a sustained effort to improve the offering of commitments on legislative openness in OGP Action Plans as well as the ability of organizations to effectively monitor implementation.

Webinars and Other Virtual Engagement

In addition to several in-person events, the LOWG coordinating committee will work together to curate a series of webinars and other online consultations with members on specific topics of interest to legislative openness. Co-anchors will release summaries of issues and resources to the full working group after each of these sessions, which focus specifically on operationalizing discussed topic areas into concrete commitments for OGP Action Plans.

Legislative Openness Resources

Drawing on events held over the course of the year as well as the survey research, the LOWG will develop resources relating to legislative openness. Members of the coordinating committee will help to contribute to the development of these resources and will assist in sharing best practices and tools on particular topics, with input from the broader legislative openness community.