

# Resolution of the OGP Steering Committee on the Georgia Response Policy Case

October 14, 2024

The Steering Committee<sup>1</sup> acknowledges the Government of Georgia's continued engagement in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) since 2011, including leading the Partnership as co-chair in 2017-2018.

The Steering Committee further recognizes the Government of Georgia's expressed commitment, as stated in its [July 5, 2024 letter](#), to implement international recommendations focused on the country's advancement of human rights protections, as well as to actively participate in the Response Policy procedures outlined in '[Recommendations for Stage One Actions by the OGP C&S Subcommittee](#)'. The Committee also welcomes the Government of Georgia's readiness to discuss with the Support Unit how it plans to address the concerns raised in the Response Policy case, and address the recommendations from the C&S Subcommittee following the Parliamentary Elections scheduled for October 26, 2024.

However, given the developments in Georgia since Stage One Recommendations were issued on May 6, 2024—including the adoption of the Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence on June 3, 2024, and the introduction of other legislative measures with the potential of restricting fundamental freedoms and civic space—meeting all the stipulated recommendations by the initial deadline of November 6, 2024, is no longer viable. Moreover, these legislative actions, as assessed by respected international bodies, reflect intentions fundamentally misaligned with the principles of safeguarding civic space and fundamental freedoms, as outlined in the [Assessment of Stage One Actions Report](#).

In line with the Response Policy guidelines, **the OGP Steering Committee resolves to proceed with Stage Two Actions. This includes the temporary suspension of Georgia from OGP until the concerns are adequately addressed, and inviting the Government of Georgia, in collaboration with the C&S Subcommittee and the Support Unit, to develop a work plan addressing the outstanding C&S recommendations, taking into account the developments outlined above:**

1. The withdrawal of current or proposed legislation that discriminates, stigmatizes, or hinders the freedom of expression and association of civil society organizations, media representatives and vulnerable groups.
2. Safeguard freedoms of expression and assembly, the space for civil society and their ability to operate without physical and verbal attacks, including in election periods.

This work plan must be submitted by March 31, 2025, with milestones for implementation by December 31, 2025, aligning with Georgia's current OGP Action Plan cycle. By March 31, 2026, the C&S Subcommittee will assess the actions taken by the Government of Georgia to address the issues highlighted in the Response Policy concern:

- If C&S determines that the issues have been adequately addressed, it will recommend to the full Steering Committee that Georgia be placed back in active status, and the Response Policy case be closed.
- If Georgia fails to adequately respond to the Stage Two Actions by December 31, 2025, suspension from OGP will become permanent, and Georgia will no longer be an OGP member.

If at any point during the suspension period the C&S Subcommittee determines that the Government of Georgia has adequately addressed the original concerns, the C&S Subcommittee shall recommend to the full Steering Committee that Georgia be placed back in active status, and the Response Policy case be closed.

The Steering Committee remains committed to supporting Georgia's continued engagement in the OGP.

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<sup>1</sup> This resolution was tabled for approval prior to the October 1, 2024 rotation of the Steering Committee. For more information consult the OGP website.

