

Civil Society Steering Committee

Monthly Call | 9 October 2024

9:00-10:00 EST / 15:00-16:00 CET

Attendees:

Steering Committee Members: Anabel Cruz, Barbara Schreiner, Blair Glencorse, Cielo Magno, Doug Rutzen, Katerina Hadzi-Micena Evans, Laura Neuman, Zukiswa Kota

OGP Support Unit: Jaime Mercado and Rowan Sockwell

Apologies: Eka Gigauri, Natalia Carfi, and Steph Muchai

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome from the Chair- 10 minutes Cielo Magno began her term as Lead Civil Society Co-Chair on October 1. Cielo opened the call by welcoming new members and moderating a round of introductions.
 - a. Cielo updated the group on the forthcoming co-chair agenda being developed with the Lead Government Co-Chair, Spain
 - i. The agenda emphasizes 3 main components - people, institutions, and technology to address issues at international level (climate, civic space, etc.)
 - ii. Next steps: Spain is finalizing the draft agenda, which will then come back to Cielo and the cohort to consider any additions
2. Cohort Retreat Planning - 30 minutes
 - a. The CS SC will convene in-person on the sidelines of the America regional meeting on Dec. 2-3. The meeting will focus on the implementation of OGP's 2023-2028 [Strategy](#), the decline of civic space across OGP members, and the role of the CS SC in OGP's governance. CS SC members offered the following input to be considered when finalizing the agenda:
 - i. Emphasis on esprit de corps- there is a need to connect outside of formal sessions.
 - ii. Planning for the civic space discussion ahead of the retreat will be necessary, and we may want to consider including other civic space experts/organizations in the discussion (eg. CIVICUS).
 - iii. There has been extensive previous analysis of drivers of civic space by OGP and others; there is a greater need to focus on how to increase political will to tackle this issue. The limited submissions of civic space challenge commitments exemplifies the need to bolster political will.

- iv. The retreat is an opportunity to explore how to increase collaboration amongst the SC cohort and government counterparts, as well as other OGP stakeholders.
 - v. It is important to consider how we can better channel the needs of civil society more broadly into the mode of operating of the CS SC.
- 3. Readout of OGP Leaders Roundtable at UN General Assembly (Sept. 26)
 - a. CS SC members who participated in the ministerial-level roundtable shared key takeaways from the event which included:
 - i. The roundtable effectively balanced a mix of both civil society and government voices.
 - ii. Diverse stakeholders from across sectors need to collaborate more holistically on open government reforms.
 - iii. Convenings like this one can and should serve as motivation for governments to submit challenge commitments.
- 4. AOB - 5 minutes
 - a. CEO Recruitment Update
 - i. As a member of the Selection Committee, Anabel provided an update on the CEO recruitment process, which will include interviews in October and November, before the Selection Committee tables a finalist for SC endorsement by the beginning of December. See details [here](#)
 - b. Georgia Response Policy Case
 - i. SU provided an update, noting the [Resolution on Stage Two Actions](#) in circulation with an Oct. 14 deadline. CS SC members proposed utilizing the upcoming retreat to explore approaches for engaging with SC government counterparts on varying perspectives related to the application of OGP accountability mechanisms.