

Open Government Partnership
Governance and Leadership Monthly Call
25 July 2024 | 08:00 - 9:15 EST

[Minutes](#)

Attendees:

- Government of Kenya (Philip Thigo)
- Government of Spain (Lazaro Tunon, Celia Ortega)
- Government of Estonia (Marten Lauri)
- Blair Glencorse, Accountability Lab
- Anabel Cruz, ICD Uruguay
- OGP Support Unit

Apologies:

- Cielo Magno, Batay Kita

Minutes

Update on the situation in Kenya

- Blair Glencorse, Civil Society Co-Chair, opened the call by welcoming all participants and inviting the government of Kenya to provide a brief update on the current domestic situation and its implications for Kenya's OGP process. GL members conveyed their support and hope for the situation to improve soon, as well as acknowledged the concerns that have been raised by civil society organizations in Kenya.

OGP Head of State & Government at UNGA

- The discussion then pivoted to the implications of the situation in Kenya for the coordination of the Head of State & Government level event being co-hosted with Spain on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in September.
- The Kenyan Government reconfirmed the government's commitment to co-hosting the event with Spain and also reconfirmed President Ruto's participation. GL welcomed the recommitment from the government of Kenya and acknowledged that, due to the current situation, the government is understandably unable to assist with the logistics and planning of time-sensitive issues necessary for the success of the event.
- OGP's CEO, Sanjay Pradhan, underscored the importance of this event as the major political and strategic moment for OGP in 2024. The Support Unit and GL members expressed their full support to ensure the success of this event and strongly encouraged the adoption of the following proposal:

Decision: In light of the current circumstances in Kenya and the critical importance of the UNGA event for the partnership, GL unanimously agreed to request that Spain take the role of lead host to ensure the timely coordination of the event, as it has been similarly done in previous OGP UNGA events.

GL members also suggested that in consultation with Spain, SU could reach out to other SC governments to support outreach efforts to secure HoS/G participation, and gauge interest in serving as incoming co-chairs and therefore be more prominently featured in the event.

Lastly, GL discussed expanding the HoS/G invitation list to add a few new members or eligible countries and other strategic targets. The SU also shared names for potential non-government speakers to join the event and it was agreed that GL would review and provide feedback on these suggestions by email.

Africa & Middle East Regional Meeting

- The Support Unit provided a brief update on the planning of the regional meeting scheduled to be held in Nairobi in October 2024 and acknowledged the different challenges that have delayed planning of this event, exacerbated by the most recent developments in Kenya. In light of the current situation, it was agreed that the Government of Kenya and SU would reconnect in the coming weeks to discuss the viability of the event as currently planned.

Readout from discussions on the situation in Gaza and Israel's participation in OGP

- Blair Glencorse provided an update on discussions with civil society members of the OGP Steering Committee and other civil society organizations working in Israel. He highlighted the concerns raised in these discussions, including transparency and accountability in handling the ongoing humanitarian crisis, as well as the erosion of civic space and other principles of open government, particularly in the handling of anti-war protests.
- GL acknowledged the complexity of the situation and the limitations of OGP's response mechanisms to address these types of issues. The Support Unit acknowledged that as part of the OGP 2023-28 strategy, it will review whether OGP's accountability mechanisms and policies remain fit for purpose, and propose any tweaks necessary for consideration of the SC.
- GL requested the SU to continue to be in touch with Israeli stakeholders regarding the domestic OGP process in the country and to keep GL informed.