

Open Government Partnership

Criteria & Standards Monthly Call

2 May 2024 | 10:00 - 11:00 EDT

Agenda

I. Georgia Response Policy case [decisional]

The objective of the call is to seek approval from the C&S on the 'Stage One Recommendations' and strategize around the messaging and approach for publishing the recommendations in light of the recent developments. This will include:

- a. An overview of the current domestic context and recent developments since the draft recommendations were shared.
- b. Seeking final approval from the subcommittee on the proposed recommendations circulated on April 5, 2024 (see background note below).
- c. Discuss approach to publicly communicating the C&S recommendations.

Background and reference materials:

Draft [C&S Recommendations for "Stage One Actions"](#) regarding the Response Policy case involving the Government of Georgia were circulated with the subcommittee on April 5, 2024 for review and consideration. These recommendations are in direct response to the findings outlined in the [Review Report](#), which was approved by C&S on 16 February 2024.

In parallel, and in accordance with Response Policy guidelines, both the Review Report and the draft recommendations were also shared with the CSOs who triggered the Response Policy case, and with the Government of Georgia, for their feedback. All relevant parties were given three weeks to share any comments or concerns regarding the draft stage one recommendations (by 26 April 2024). The Support Unit has not received a formal response from the Government of Georgia, and there have been no significant concerns or objections raised by any subcommittee member. All suggested edits are marked in the shared document, which is being tabled for final approval by C&S on May 2, 2024.

All relevant materials to this Response Policy case are available [here](#).

Participants:

Attendees

Lucy McTernan, Scottish OGP

Natalia Carfi, ODC

Doug Rutzen, ICNL

Niki Dutta, ICNL

Zuki Kota, PSAM

Government of the United States: Daniel York GSA, Jen Lewis USAID, Kiril Jakimovski and Wendy Silverman Department of State.

Government of Chile: Claudia Montero

Apologies

Government of Germany

Government of Nigeria

Summary of discussion and next steps:

The Support Unit delivered a comprehensive overview of the current status of Georgia's Response Policy, outlining its position and delineating forthcoming actions. Following this presentation, the Independent Reporting Mechanism provided an update on the prevailing circumstances, shedding light on recent developments such as the enactment of the foreign agents law and ongoing assaults on "Western influence". These events have catalyzed widespread demonstrations and protests. Notably, while the enforcement of the law has yet to commence, its potential activation poses a significant threat. If implemented, numerous organizations could face raids, fines, and jeopardization of their operations.

The subcommittee agreed to proceed with the proposed stage 1 actions. Several members highlighted the importance of issuing this soon given the worsening situation on the ground.