

COCHAIR AGENDA OF THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERTSHIP STEERING COMMITTEE 2024-2025

SPAIN AND CIELO MAGNO: OPEN GOVERNMENT CHAMPIONS

Spain

Spain has been a member of the Open Government Partnership since its foundation year in 2011, and since then our country has conducted and implemented four National Action Plans on Open Government, which have enabled very significant advances in developing and consolidating the Open Government values.

It is also one of the countries with the highest level of participation of regional and local members: Basque Country (2018), Catalonia (2020), Aragon (2020), Valencian Community (2022), Asturias (2022), Navarra (2024) and Madrid City Council (2016) have joined the Partnership in the last years.

Spain's commitment to the values of Open Government is not exclusively limited to those Administrations. In fact, one of the greatest milestones of Open Government in this country is the involvement of all regional and local Administrations in public policies of transparency, citizen participation, accountability, collaboration and integrity. All the Autonomous Communities as well as the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (in Spanish, FEMP) representing local entities acquired commitments, initiatives and activities for the 4th Action Plan 2020-2024.

The Spanish General State Administration is currently developing, through a co-creating process with civil society, the V Open Government Action Plan. This new action plan will address commitments closely linked to the OGP Challenge initiative, and which aim to strengthen our democracy and enhance Community Open Government initiative.

Consistent with these efforts, Spain is working with great enthusiasm on a project called Consensus for an Open Administration aiming to undertake a transformation in the Public Administrations of the European Union Member States. These changes will allow Administrations to face the challenges of the green and digital transitions and thus make good use of the transformative impact of the funds of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan

Dr. Cielo Magno

Dr. Cielo Magno was an Undersecretary at the Department of Finance (DOF). She oversaw the Fiscal Policy and Monitoring Group which is responsible for recommending fiscal policies, formulating tax reform proposals, as well as forecasting and programming national government revenues. She was also the focal point person for the Philippine Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (PH-EITI), and the Chairperson of the Fiscal Incentives Review Board Technical Committee and the Inter-agency Investment Promotion Coordination Technical Committee.

Prior to being appointed as Undersecretary, Dr. Magno was an Associate Professor in the University of the Philippines' School of Economics. She has more than twenty years of experience in research and policy work with the public and private sectors at local and international levels. Her research and publications focus on public finance, institutional economics, environmental economics, health economics, and industry regulations.

Dr. Magno has broad experience working with governments, the private sector, and civil society. She was a member of the international board of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) representing civil

society, and an advisory committee member of the CONNEX Global Initiative. She also sat on the board of various civil society organizations.

She completed her master's degree in economics from the University of the Philippines' School of Economics and a PhD in Law and Public Policy from Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts as a Fulbright scholar.

INTRODUCTION

Spain's co-presidency with Cielo Magno, representing civil society, of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) focuses on the core objective of strengthening trust between governments and the people they serve.

In recent years, the erosion of trust in public institutions and electoral processes has posed significant challenges to the very foundations of democratic governance. Public confidence in the ability of governments to respond to multiple crises and transitions is being challenged by increasingly sophisticated anti-democratic forces and disinformation campaigns. Countering these tendencies requires concerted efforts at all levels of government and civil society.

Open Government principles -transparency, accountability and inclusive participation- are paramount to shaping these efforts. Alongside effective and accountable public administrations, these principles are grounded in genuine political leadership, dialogue and collaboration between relevant stakeholders. They present a unique opportunity for consensus-building as they help ensure that the actions of government are visible and understandable to citizen.

PRIORITIES

By assuming the leadership of the OGP Steering Committee, the co-chair of Spain and Cielo Magno will have at its core the main objective of strengthening trust between governments and citizens. The Government of Spain will continue to contribute to the efforts made to date by all OGP members to promote lasting policy changes aligned with Open Government principles.

Spain and Cielo Magno summarise their leadership in several priorities, grouped under three main pillars:

PEOPLE

Citizens must be placed at the centre of decision-making so that reforming States can continue to lead by example in the cross-cutting implementation of Open Government policies and reforms. Emphasising the intrinsic value of Open Government, the co-presidency will promote good governance that ensures the effectiveness of open public administration as a fundamental right of all citizens.

This implies creating and maintaining environments and spaces that enable civil society to ensure its active and meaningful participation in Open Government processes, while protecting the fundamental freedoms of its members. Allowing civil society organisations (CSOs) to self-regulate and adhere to the values they stand for can help transform our societies. By recognising and fulfilling these mutual rights and responsibilities, civil society organisations become powerful allies in promoting common ends: empowerment, meaningful participation and responsiveness to citizens, thereby strengthening trust in institutions.

INSTITUTIONS

The co-chair of the Steering Committee will seek to promote integrity and transparency by governments, to inspire consensus strategies to achieve more open administrations.

Spain and Cielo Magno will strengthen political support for Open Government and OGP to forge lasting policy change. This will be achieved through localised efforts and the integration of Open Government practices at all levels and branches of government, so that people can truly participate in the decisions that affect them.

These systemic changes are essential to create a solid framework in which transparency, accountability and inclusive participation are deeply embedded in the institutional culture.

In addition, the expansion of Open Government initiatives at local level will be particularly promoted, as well as the adoption of a multi-level governance approach to address global issues such as climate change and energy transition, promote social and economic inclusion and underpin democratic resilience.

TECHNOLOGY AND OPEN DATA

Harnessing digital innovations is crucial to address the 'twin transitions' of digital transformation and climate sustainability.

The advent of artificial intelligence and green innovation offers opportunities to drive economic growth, the delivery of better services to citizens by public administrations and help build a more equitable, inclusive and participatory future. Climate change and new technologies require urgent solutions that will require a combination of innovation, strong institutions and collaborative approaches across society to ensure they deliver a better world.

As countries manage these transitions, the application of Open Government principles can help maximise the benefits of these innovations while minimising their potential negative impacts.

Spain's international position will help meet another of its main aspirations during its co-presidency: the promotion of the spirit of reform in other countries through active collaboration. Not only within OGP, but also in other international organisations such as the European Union, the OECD, the CLAD and, of course, in the Ibero-American Community with which Spain maintains a close relationship of collaboration in the field of Open Government.

In this sense, both digitalisation and AI make fostering a culture of Open Data in Public Administrations possible. An appropriate data governance is essential for public decision-making in terms of organisation, procedures, quality and citizen service. In addition, data also allow public policies to be evaluated in all their planning, implementation, execution and impact assessment phases.

ACTIONS

The actions we will undertake during our co-chairing period to operationalize these objectives include:

- Promoting the adoption of the Open Government Challenge across the Partnership and leading by example, with a special focus on civic space, public participation, digital governance, and climate and

environmental issues. Our leadership will seek to promote good governance and an efficient Open Administration as a fundamental right of citizens.

- Advancing civic space in key regional and global OGP forums and events throughout our co-chairing year and creating synergies with other organizations to protect civic space.
- Supporting and advocating for increased resources to strengthen governance and civil society in other forums, including the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, which Spain will host in July 2025.
- Advocating for new global standards in AI regulation that incorporate Open Government values and respect fundamental rights, leveraging the EU and Spain's role as pioneers in this field.
- Promoting the responsible use of AI to balance its economic benefits with respect for citizens' fundamental rights.
- Expanding Open Government initiatives at the local level and adopting a multi-level governance approach to address global challenges such as climate change and the energy transition, promote social and economic inclusion, and strengthen democratic resilience.

SPAIN 2025

Spain and Cielo Magno's co-chair of the OGP Steering Committee will culminate in the 9th Open Government Partnership Global Summit in Vitoria-Gasteiz 7-9 October 2025. The Summit will gather government and civil society leaders from around the world and present a renewed global coalition to support Open Government and democracy as a lasting legacy of our co-presidency.

Ahead of the 2025 Summit, the co-presidency have featured key moments such as the events hosted on the occasion of the UN General Assembly in September 2024 which included a ministerial-level roundtable aimed at generating political support to operationalise ambitious commitments in areas related to the Open Government Challenge; as well as regional OGP meetings in Africa, the Americas or the Asia-Pacific to name a few among others.

The objective of these efforts is to raise awareness of the challenges to democracy and to advocate for the creation and consolidation of a vibrant coalition in defence of Open Government values around the world.