

# UK Multi-Stakeholder Forum for Open Government

Wednesday 3rd December 2025



## Cabinet Office

**Matthew Clarke**

Director

Civil Service Strategy Unit



**UK OPEN  
GOVERNMENT**  
CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK

**Kevin Keith**

Chair

UK Open Government Network



Cabinet Office

Sign up to find  
out about  
St. London's  
programme  
events

Kevin Keith  
Matthew Clarke

# Welcome



# Inclusivity

Joint agenda

Encourage everyone to participate

Avoid interruptions

Ensure people can follow the conversation

Provide time for people to consider topics before agreeing next steps



# Chatham House

## Chatham House Rule

*“...participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any participant, may be revealed.”*

Safe space for conversation

Gemini transcription will be used for this meeting to assist with production of the meeting readout, and will then be deleted

***Transcription ON***



# Purpose of this meeting

**Part 1:** NAP6 commitment monitoring and building capability

**Part 2:** CO Minister Chris Ward MP

**Comfort break**

**Part 3:** Updates across all levels of government and civil society

**Part 4:** Breakout discussion on aspirations for UK OGP Co-chair year



# Part 1:

# NAP6 commitment monitoring and building capability

Government and civil society updates



# **Commitment 1: Open Contracting**

## **Summary:**

To deliver the Procurement Act 2023 and secondary legislation, and strengthen implementation through a government Learning and Development Programme, enhanced digital platform, and support the development of the civil society procurement community.



# **Commitment 2: International Aid Transparency**

## **Summary:**

Strengthening of transparency and accountability of UK  
Official Development Assistance (ODA)





# **Commitment 3: Engagement on anti-corruption**

## **Summary:**

Civil society engagement on anti-corruption and participation  
in multilateral institutions



# **Commitment 4: UN Convention Against Corruption**

## **Summary:**

Improving transparency and inclusiveness of the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) country review mechanism.



# NAP6 “building capability”

Digital Governance

Freedom of Information

Beneficial Ownership

Open Justice

Government Transparency Returns

Open government collaboration



Cabinet Office

Matthew Clarke  
Kevin Keith

# Part 2:

## Chris Ward MP

Parliamentary Secretary  
Cabinet Office



Cabinet Office

Matthew Clarke

# 10 minute Comfort Break



# Part 3:

## Updates across all levels of government and civil society

# UK Open Government Network



**UK OPEN  
GOVERNMENT**  
CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK

## Who we are

## Priorities

- **Connect to reform: Broaden and deepen inclusion**
  - Build a 'network of networks' across civil society, business and academia linked to OGP themes, geographies, and diversity indicators.
- **Promote, scrutinise, and advocate for reform**
  - Independent, non-partisan oversight of open-government policy and practice, championing best practice in the UK and abroad.
- **Sustain reform | oversight and funding**
  - Drive civil society MSF participation and representation.
  - Develop a sustainable funding model.

## Delivery

- Support through the **Helen Darbishire Fund**. Coordinator appointed to support specific aspects of above.





# Cabinet Office

- Open government team have moved from CDDO to CSSU
- NAP implementation has continued but MSFs have been on-hold since July 2024
- Publication of NAP5/6 self assessments imminent
- Action Framework Task Force - improve flexibility of rules for NAPs whilst retaining accountability
- Initial proposals for the NAP7 plan due January 2026
- UK delegation at OGP Global Summit 2025
- Joint government-civil society coordination meeting





# FCDO

- International engagement on open government agenda, including through network of overseas missions.
- ODA support on Digital Governance FY 25-26 (30-month £3.5m grant until March 2026)
- Support UK NAP through links to international thematic priorities.
- UK elected government co-chair beginning October 1st 2026.
- Engagement with outgoing and lead chairs to align co-chair agenda priorities over coming year.
- First Leadership Subcommittee tomorrow.



## **Devolved Governments and local government**

- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Wales
  
- Glasgow City Council
- Greater Manchester Combined Authority



## Part 4:

A aspirations for UK OGP  
co-chair year, including group  
breakout discussion



# Co-chairing OGP

- Government and civil society co-chairs
- Operate as a troika - incoming, lead, outgoing
- Forms the OGP Leadership Subcommittee of the OGP Steering Committee
- UK will be lead co-chair Oct. 2026-Sept. 2027
- Current troika:

	Incoming	Lead	Outgoing
<b>Civil Society</b>	Laura Neuman, The Carter Centre	Steph Muchai	Cielo Magno, Bantay Kita
<b>Government</b>	Gov. of UK	Gov. of Brazil	Gov. of Spain



Laura Neuman



# UK co-chair bid (1)

Key points:

- Strengthen partnerships
- Improve mutual exchange
- Forge new alliances
- Commitment to open government
- Develop co-chair agenda in this spirit
- Domestic and international aspects are both important, and mutually beneficial



## UK co-chair bid (2)

In our co-chair bid we identified the following provisional priority themes for our co-chairship where we think the partnerships of OGP are well placed to deliver progress and where the UK has already been actively engaged:

- Tackling illicit finance, using OGP to amplify the UK 2026 Illicit Finance Summit.

OGP is vital network of allies to push back against corruption and protecting the integrity of our institutions.

- Digital governance and AI.

Want to ensure we maximise the benefits of the digital revolution for efficiency, growth and public participation, while minimising the threats from disinformation and attacks on our democracies. UK grants have supported member country reforms

- Tackling democratic backsliding and shrinking civic space.

OGP has a key role to play in ensuring that citizens voices are heard and that civil society retains its rightful seat at the table in driving open government and democratic change more broadly.



## Context: FCDO priorities

FCDO Ministers have agreed five priorities for FCDO across human rights and governance:

1. defending civic space;
2. upholding the rule of law;
3. championing equal rights for all;
4. supporting accountable, effective, inclusive institutions;
5. responding to global challenges, including media freedom, climate, conflict and technology by prioritising human rights and governance principles.



# Co-chair agenda

Our co-chair agenda will need to:

- Build on OGP Strategy 2023-2028
- Follow-on from co-chair year of Government of Brazil and Steph Muchai
- Be agreed with Laura Neuman, our OGP civil society co-chair
- Be informed by domestic priorities and partners
- Be informed by international priorities and partners





# Co-chair year discussion

Initial discussion of our aspirations for co-chairing:

- Thematic focus - where could we focus energy?
- Alignment of domestic and international aspects
- Potential for key moments
- How we can work together in the run-up to, during and beyond?

This is the start of a discussion, not the end.  
It will help to shape the approach.



# Breakout room discussion

20 minute small group breakout discussions:

- There will be facilitators in each group
- Agree 1-person to feedback from your group
- Feedback to mainroom in 20 minutes

***Transcription OFF***



# Breakout room feedback

## *Transcription ON*

Feedback from breakout rooms:

- 1 minute feedback from each group
- Reflections from Stefan Kossoff



# Review of MSF Terms of Reference

*“Unlike previous terms of reference for the UK MSF, these are not specific to a particular iteration of the National Action Plans for Open Government. These terms of reference should be annually reviewed to ensure they remain relevant.”*

We invite comments by 17th December [post meeting note: the deadline has been extended to 12th January 2025] for further review in January ahead of the next MSF.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/uk-multi-stakeholder-forum-for-open-government>



# MSF 12-month horizon

**Next provisional date:**  
**Wednesday 4th February 2026**

Future provisional dates:  
Wednesday 13th May 2026 (post elections)  
Wednesday 8th July 2026  
Wednesday 7th October 2026

*Please advise us of any issues*



# **Cabinet Office open government team**

Dr. Matt Donnelly, Dr. Ben Gittins

[open-government@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:open-government@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)



# Closing remarks