

OGP: UK AND LAURA NEUMAN CO-CHAIR AGENDA STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Open Government that Delivers: Trust, Prosperity and Democratic Resilience

The United Kingdom was one of the Open Government Partnership's (OGP) eight founding members in 2011. Fifteen years later, open government matters more than ever. We are in a time of declining trust, shrinking civic space, contested information ecosystems, and persistent corruption. The public is demanding more from their governments: increased transparency in how decisions are taken and resources are spent, stronger accountability for the institutions that shape their lives, greater voice in public decisions, and tangible outcomes that improve their societies. Open government is the foundation of resilient and prosperous democracies. It's how governments work with and for people, and how partnerships between governments, civil society and citizens deliver outcomes no single actor can provide alone. This co-chair agenda will harness open government to build democratic resilience, deliver shared prosperity, and make government work better for people. Working across local, devolved, national and international levels, we will drive progress on action to protect civic space, strengthen genuine participation and information integrity, tackle corruption and illicit finance, and renew OGP as a stronger, more member-led Partnership - using its unique multistakeholder model, action plans and peer networks to turn commitments into practical and profound reforms. As co-chairs of the Partnership, together with our peers on the Steering Committee and in close cooperation with the Support Unit, we will use our chair year to shift the dial: from declarations to actions, from commitments to tangible outcomes, and from political headlines to lasting impact at scale. It is our hope that these actions - working in concert - will serve to rebuild trust in government and make democracy more meaningful for all.

We will look to deliver this co-chair vision through the following priorities and actions:

Strengthen Civil Society and Civic Space: to create an enabling environment in which civil society organisations, people, and communities can organise, speak out and contribute to public life. We will work with OGP partners to:

1. Promote and protect an enabling environment in which civil society and human rights defenders have **safe legal space** to exercise rights to expression, assembly, and association.
2. Drive collective ambition and implementation through the new OGP Civic Space Lab and its [Civic Space Leaders Group](#) and [Reformers Programme](#).
3. Ensure civil society can **organise and operate effectively across borders** on open government, including leveraging learning from the UK Tri-Sector Working Group on NGOs in high-risk jurisdictions.
4. Showcase and share UK learning from implementing the [Civil Society Covenant](#).

Deepen Inclusive and Pluralistic Public Participation: to rebuild trust and enable citizens, communities and civic actors to shape the decisions and services that affect them. We will work with OGP partners to:

1. Drive action to strengthen and scale public participation through the **OGP Participation Action Group**, including by building the evidence base, guidance and sharing good practice amongst members.
2. Drive collective progress on inclusive, locally led and place-based engagement and decision-making by implementing **OECD-DAC principles on Locally Led Development** and encouraging approaches that shift power and decision-making closer to communities.
3. Share and scale learning and good practice from central, regional and local government through the **UK Participatory Methods Forum**, including methods and approaches for involving communities and citizens in policymaking.

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4. Advocate for strong member action to **tackle technology facilitated gender-based violence**, and implement protective measures to maintain women's participation in public and political life.

Advance Information Integrity: to enable healthy information ecosystems where civic space can thrive, people have timely access to reliable information, freedom and safety to express their views, and inclusive digital spaces where they can participate meaningfully in democratic processes and hold power to account. We will work with OGP partners to:

1. Turn political commitments on digital governance and innovations into practical reforms that harness **technology and AI for openness, accountability, and participation**, including for women, youth and marginalised populations.
2. Promote improved **access to information** at both the national and local level, including for women, youth and marginalised populations, by:
 - a. Supporting the uptake of proactive disclosure good practice principles agreed through the **OGP-OECD Proactive Disclosure Coalition** as an effective means of reaching people with essential information, building trust, and combatting mis and disinformation.
 - b. Sharing good practice with national and local governments on effective and innovative ways to reach people with information that enables them to exercise their rights, access public services, and have a voice in government decision making.

Tackle Corruption and Illicit Finance: to enable growth and protect the integrity of our democracies. We will work with OGP partners to:

1. Operationalise the **UK Illicit Finance Summit** outcomes and commitments through the OGP platform, including the implementation of commitments around beneficial ownership transparency, information sharing and professional oversight.
2. **Promote civil society inclusion and engagement** in international activity to tackle anti-corruption, delivering on UK Anti-Corruption Strategy commitments, including the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and other relevant multilateral processes.
3. Promote dialogue and learning on the **effective implementation of measures to combat illicit finance and corruption**, including action to mitigate the unintended consequences for legitimate civil society activity and address the misuse of counter illicit finance measures to justify restrictions on civic space.

Renew the Partnership: as OGP marks its 15th anniversary, we will lead the partnership through this period of transformation and renewal to meet the challenges of 2026 and beyond by:

1. Moving to a more member-driven OGP through greater Steering Committee leadership; regional champions and coalitions; and thematic action groups led by members.
2. Driving implementation of the flexible Action Framework for effective delivery of commitments on open government.
3. Supporting greater involvement of Foreign Ministries, to build stronger connections between domestic open government reforms and international commitments.
4. Driving OGP membership to grow and strengthen the Partnership.