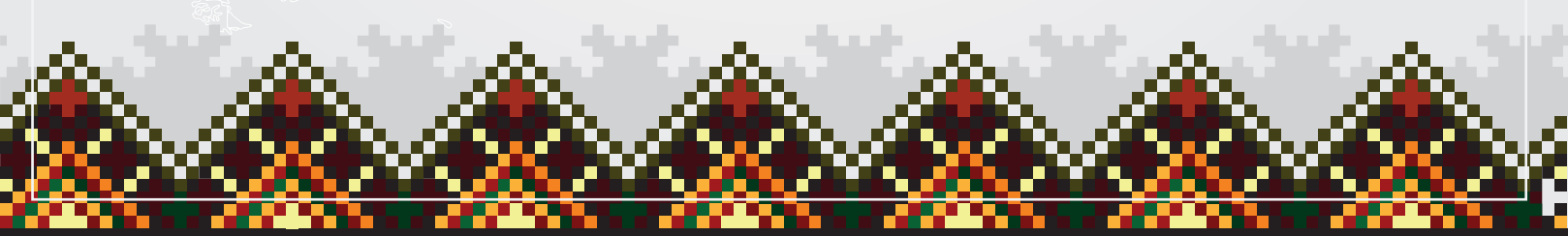


Open
Government
Partnership



Georgia and Mukelani Dimba Co-chair Vision for the Open Government Partnership

OCTOBER 2017 – OCTOBER 2018





Vision to get things done with the people, for the people

In these modern times, when innovation and technology have become leading pathways to success in the global economy, the definition of open governance has expanded. We aim to dedicate our co-chair term to strengthen the basics of open government – to ensure peoples’ opportunity to influence governmental decisions that affect their daily lives.

Since its inception, the Open Government Partnership (OGP) participating countries have translated many challenges into success stories: more open data is now available for the public, access to information and traditionally closed archives are now more accessible, beneficial ownership falls under the transparency regime, countries join efforts to implement collective actions enshrined in the [Paris Declaration](#) and the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), and so on. Along with promoting a movement forward in various directions, as Co-chairs, we aim to remind OGP governments that they are pursuing a simple but powerful goal: to better serve and empower their citizens. Hence, closing the feedback loop in designing and implementing OGP reforms will be high in our Co-chairs’ agenda.

We have carefully chosen several key thematic areas for our term as Co-chairs to ensure that OGP reforms generate more tangible results and have meaningful impact on citizens’ lives.

Strategic Goals

We have identified four strategic goals, fully aligned with strategic directions of the Strategic Refresh of the OGP undertaken by the OGP Steering Committee, each involving activities that touch citizens' lives every day.

- Goal 1: Strengthen co-creation and citizen engagement
- Goal 2: Advance transparency and the fight against corruption
- Goal 3: Generate innovation in public service delivery
- Goal 4: Build a better partnership

STRENGTHEN CO-CREATION AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

The well-being of every citizen is the core value that led to launching the OGP more than five years ago. Civic engagement, in most cases, is key to successful identification and implementation of reforms that address the needs of the public. We will encourage the deepening of citizen-centered governance with the ultimate goal of securing life and dignity, through effective realization of socio-economics rights.

We will use our Co-chairs' term to:

- Support countries to comply with the OGP Participation and Co-creation Standards by creating a learning tool for co-creation, based on Georgia's permanent dialogue mechanism – the Open Government Georgia's Forum – a distinctive instrument that our government established to co-create open government reforms with civil society;

- Share our experience beyond co-creation and assist our partners to launch a monitoring and assessment system of OGP reforms, guaranteeing civil society participation in monitoring and evaluation;
- Share with OGP governments different tools to ensure better citizen engagement in the law-making process;
- Emphasize the importance of citizen engagement and citizen-centric governance in both the OGP process and OGP commitments.

TRANSPARENCY AND ANTI-CORRUPTION

We aim to propose concrete ways to advance reforms at the global, national and sub-national levels in transparency and Anti-Corruption. Georgia has a solid track record of combating corruption and creating institutionalized mechanisms for Anti-Corruption policy coordination and monitoring.

We aim to:

- Share our experience in designing mechanisms to prevent and fight against corruption at different levels;
- Promote a dialogue on inter-linking anticorruption reforms to open government agenda;
- Encourage and support other countries to seek coherence between and mutually reinforce their OGP reforms and Anti-Corruption strategies through enhancing cooperation and synergies with the Anti-Corruption global and regional mechanisms;

- Encourage the elevation of whistleblower protection as one of the key Anti-Corruption mechanisms;
- With help of our partners from United Kingdom, Brazil, the Open Society Foundation and Transparency International, fully dedicate ourselves to making the OGP Anti-Corruption Working Group deliver, elaborating and further enhancing its strategy and action plan.

INNOVATION IN PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY

Georgia has gone through rapid transformation, with notable success. Our reform priorities include ensuring unimpeded and efficient access to public services even for those living in remote villages. These efforts bring public administration closer to citizens through the production of services more tailored to the needs of users. However, experience shows that improving the design and quality of public services, coupled with the efforts to foster public participation through closing the feedback loop, is a process that enables government to build a real bridge connecting each and every citizen.

We will use the co-chair term to:

- Introduce innovative approaches and methodologies to OGP countries to take the public service delivery to a new level and ensure its efficiency;
- Share our unique practice of joining government and private sector efforts in delivering various services;
- Introduce innovative solutions to closing the feedback loop and hearing each citizen's voice to improve public service delivery;

- Encourage OGP participating countries to link the OGP to the SDG Agenda by encouraging the development of national action plan commitments that relate to realization of better outcomes in governance, access to justice and socio-economic rights.

TO BUILD A BETTER PARTNERSHIP

Apart from taking a leading role in implementing the renewed OGP Strategy and the collective actions under the Paris Declaration, we aim to strengthen the Partnership through the following:

Raise the OGP's profile globally

Today, OGP stands at a turning point when enhancing its geo-political positioning is of utmost importance.

We will work with the OGP leadership, participating countries and civil society to implement the OGP strategy in this regard and additionally, to arrange specific activities to position OGP as a powerful global movement for achieving openness and deeper democracy and as a countervailing force against the closing of civic space and distrust in government. We will work with partner countries and civil society to communicate and promote the OGP's message across the globe.

We aim to help the OGP Support Unit (SU) to create a database of results stories and evidence that open government leaders – including SC members, envoys and ambassadors, can rely upon when raising the OGP profile globally.

Inclusiveness of government efforts

Georgia prides itself to be among a few countries where all branches of the government are involved in the OGP process. Under the OGP umbrella, the Supreme Court of Georgia proactively publishes surveillance data, the Parliament of Georgia is elaborating the second Open Parliament Action Plan, Tbilisi – the capital city of Georgia is implementing its first Open Government Action Plan.

We strongly believe that a comprehensive approach at the national level has defined Georgia's overall country performance in various directions. Hence, with the aim to foster the broadening of collective ownership of OGP domestically, we aim to encourage OGP participating countries to raise the bar of openness at the judicial, parliamentary and sub-national levels through creating a knowledge sharing platform specifically dedicated to shape thinking at the global level. This will involve producing stories, guidelines and various learning tools on how to involve judiciary, parliament and cities in the pursuit of openness.

Additionally:

- The OGP co-chairs will work closely with the Parliament of Georgia, other members of the OGP Steering Committee, the SU, and the OGP's Parliamentary Openness Working Group to identify several countries seeking mentorship to make parliaments more open and responsive to OGP principles. The OGP co-chairs will support partner countries to join a legislative openness journey and the OGP work globally through highlighting the role of parliaments in promoting open governance and positioning the OGP to recognize innovations that make parliaments more open and responsive;
- Tbilisi City Hall will support the OGP to take the Subnational Government Pilot Project to another level by sharing its knowledge with partner cities that are not currently participating in the Project, but have the potential to become new champions of a second cohort.




Expanding the community

Georgia is at the crossroads of Europe and Asia that encourages us to play a leading role in different regions of OGP. We will reach out to attract a few States to join the OGP community. We aim to establish a robust regional presence and invite other countries to champion openness and meaningful engagement with civil society.

We will equally prioritize inviting new civil society organizations and multilateral partners to our community to ensure that OGP becomes an indivisible part of the global CSO agenda. Our priorities include to establish a deeper partnership with the European Union, as well as agencies of the African Union. We aim to join our efforts to assist governments and civil society, especially from the countries that might not have sufficient resources to take and then implement ambitious commitments.

We will follow the lead of our predecessors, France and the World Resources Institute, to create more structured opportunities for engaging the private sector at national and global levels.



”Georgia is a small country with a not-so-long history of independence. But it has a solid record of accomplishment with reforms that have changed the way citizens interact with government. OGP success stories have unlocked new opportunities, not only at the national but also international levels.

It is our government’s honor to be trusted to serve as the next chair of OGP and contribute to a future for a powerful global movement for openness and deeper democracies. Now is a remarkable time for the Partnership and we will work with our partner countries and civil society to ensure people’s opportunity to influence government decisions that affect their daily lives. In modern times, when innovation and technology have taken the lead in the global economy, the definition of open governance has expanded. While advocating for enlarging the scenario, we aim to dedicate our co-chair term to strengthen the basics of open government – to ensure people’s opportunity to influence government decisions that affect their daily lives. Strategic goals the Georgian government will be dedicated to pursue include enhancing citizen engagement and citizen-centred governance, advancing transparency and fighting against corruption and generating innovation in public service delivery.

We hope to share many more success stories of getting things done for the people, with the people“.

Giorgi Kvirikashvili
Prime Minister of Georgia

