

# OGP Legislative Openness Working Group 2014 WORKPLAN

The Legislative Openness Working Group (LOWG) will plan to hold at least one international meeting, while playing a role in regional OGP meetings over the course of the following year. Topics for these meetings will focus on the issues identified at the business meeting of the group in London at the 2013 Annual Summit, as well as additional feedback received from working group members.

## FEBRUARY

### **Advocacy regarding Cohort 2/4 Action Plan Development**

More than 40 countries that joined OGP as part of Cohorts 2 and 4 are due to present Action Plans during the next several months. OGP has asked the thematic working groups to provide support to countries in building commitments related to each group's topic area. The co-anchors drafted and sent a letter to the legislatures of Cohort 2 and 4 countries encouraging participation in the development of legislative openness commitments. The co-anchors are available to facilitate sharing of peer-to-peer experience regarding legislative openness commitments, as requested.

**Deliverable:** Letter from co-anchors to speakers of parliament

### **Distribution of LOWG Email List**

Using OGP's platform, LOWG will curate an email list of group members. The email list is open to the public, allowing anyone to participate in discussions about working group activities. Individuals interested in joining should email LOWG co-anchors. Co-anchors will also distribute a regular newsletter containing information on the group activities through this list. Individuals can email the list at [LOWG@opengovpartnership.org](mailto:LOWG@opengovpartnership.org).

## MARCH

### **Workplan and Statement of Principles Finalized**

#### **Launch of LOWG Website**

OGP will create a homepage for the working group, intended to house information on any events and news among working group members, as well as serve as the library for resources created by the working group.

**Deliverable:** Functional portal to share knowledge products

#### **Working Group Member Exchange**

Throughout the year and as resources permit, the LOWG will assist in the organization of exchanges or consultations, allowing government officials, MPs, parliamentary staff or CSOs to visit other countries and directly exchange knowledge with colleagues about legislative openness. The first scheduled exchange will bring Honduran MPs and legislative staff to Mexico for a visit with Mexican Senate colleagues, organized in partnership with AECID and the World Bank.

**Deliverable:** In-person workshop with group members

## APRIL

### **Legislative Openness Survey: Part One**

With the assistance of the LOWG coordinating committee, the co-anchors will coordinate a three-part survey of the legislative openness of OGP countries, focusing first on members of the working group and expanding as resources permit. The goal of this survey will be to provide information useful in incorporating legislative openness into the OGP process, as well as to encourage targeted OGP commitments in response to identified weaknesses. Preliminary results will be presented in May in Bali.

**Deliverable:** First-round of survey questionnaire

### **LOWG Webinar Series: Part One**

The LOWG will identify group members to present on key topics of interest regarding legislative openness, potentially including issues like standards for parliamentary openness, model transparency laws, online and offline citizen engagement practices, anti-corruption in legislatures and other topics. For those unable to attend the online event, LOWG coordinators will distribute a summary document following the webinar.

**Deliverable:** Online webinar; summary document/blog post

### **Finalization of LOWG Coordinating Committee**

Based on feedback from the business meeting at the London Summit, a coordinating committee will be formed consisting of LOWG members who have committed to support specific elements of this workplan. The coordinating committee will include representatives from the legislative and executive branches, civil society organizations, and multilateral institutions, as well as additional experts. Membership in the coordinating committee would be based on the willingness of coordinating committee members to contribute, in terms of resources or in-kind, to the working group.

**APRIL 30**

### **Deadline for Proposals for Session Topics for Annual LOWG Meeting**

The LOWG will hold an annual, international meeting for members in Chile at the end of June 2014 (details below). For members interested in participating either in person or remotely via the web, the co-anchors will begin accepting proposals for potential sessions or topics to be addressed by participating working group members as well as international experts.

**MAY 6-7**

### **EVENT: OGP Steering Cmte./Asia Regional Meeting, Bali, Indonesia**

The LOWG is working with OGP and conference organizers in Indonesia to build a session focused on citizen engagement by the legislative branch, providing examples from the Asia Pacific region.

**Deliverable:** First case study; event report

**MAY 8-10**

### **EVENT: World e-Parliament Conference 2014, Seoul, South Korea**

The LOWG is communicating with the organizers of this conference in order to facilitate a panel discussion on the work of the LOWG. This conference is being hosted by the Parliament of South Korea and the Inter-Parliamentary Union and traditionally brings together members and staff from more than 100 parliaments. The topic of this year's conference is the progress made by the parliamentary community in responding to citizens' calls for greater openness.

**Deliverable:** Increased awareness of OGP; event report

**MAY 8-9**

### **EVENT: OGP Europe Regional Meeting, Dublin, Ireland**

While it is uncertain whether the LOWG will be organizing formal participation in this event, the meeting might serve as an opportunity to informally engage partners from multiple countries in the region.

**JUNE**

### **LOWG Webinar Series: Part Two**

The LOWG will identify group members to present on key topics of interest regarding legislative openness, potentially including issues like standards for parliamentary openness, model transparency laws, online and offline citizen engagement practices, anti-corruption in legislatures and other topics. For those unable to attend the online event, LOWG coordinators will distribute a summary document following the webinar.

**Deliverable:** Online webinar; summary document/blog post

## JULY

### **Legislative Openness Survey: Part Two**

The working group will release results from Part One of the survey and will release a second questionnaire to LOWG members (addressing additional issues of legislative openness), informed by the results and comments received on the first iteration.

**Deliverable:** Part One report and data; second questionnaire distributed

### **EVENT: OGP Latin America Regional Meeting, San José, Costa Rica**

While it is uncertain that the LOWG will be organizing formal participation in this event, the meeting might serve as an opportunity to informally engage partners from multiple countries in the region.

## SEPTEMBER

### **EVENT: Regional LOWG Meeting, Central/Eastern Europe, TBD**

LOWG coordinators are engaged in ongoing discussions with partners in Central/Eastern Europe about a potential regional meeting of LOWG members.

**Deliverable:** Second case study; event report

## OCTOBER

### **EVENT: International LOWG Meeting, Santiago, Chile**

This will be the primary gathering of the working group during the first year. The coordinating committee will organize a two-day event, bringing together LOWG members to address topics proposed in previous months. Sessions will inform the development of commitments in action plans; create opportunities for peer engagement among governments, legislatures and civil society; and offer the chance to further develop resources for use by the broader working group on thematic topics of interest.

**Deliverable:** Third case study; event report

### **Working Group Member Exchange**

Throughout the year and as resources permit, the LOWG will assist in the organization of exchanges or consultations, allowing government officials, MPs, parliamentary staff or CSOs to visit other countries and directly exchange knowledge with colleagues about legislative openness. The second scheduled visit will bring MPs to Washington and Silicon Valley to share experiences among themselves and with colleagues from the US, organized in partnership with the Institute for Representative Government.

**Deliverable:** In-person workshop with group members; event report

## NOVEMBER

### **Legislative Openness Survey: Part Three**

The working group would issue the third installment of the survey of comparative information on legislative openness. The data would be complemented with a data explorer that allows users to analyze the results of the survey by region, or to compare a particular parliament against global norms.

**Deliverable:** Part Two report and data; third questionnaire distributed

### **LOWG Webinar Series: Part Three**

The LOWG will identify group members to present on key topics of interest regarding legislative openness, potentially including issues like standards for parliamentary openness, model transparency laws, online and offline citizen engagement practices, anti-corruption in legislatures and other topics. For those unable to attend the online event, LOWG coordinators will distribute a summary document following the webinar.

**Deliverable:** Online webinar; summary document/blog post

## DECEMBER

### **EVENT: Worldwide Legislative Hackathon, Global**

The Speaker of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies has indicated interest in leading a global event from Brasilia in tandem with a meeting of speakers of parliament from the G20 countries in Brazil. The coordinating committee will mobilize LOWG members and partner parliaments to organize collaborative events between civil society and legislatures in countries around the world, including possible “hackathons.”

**Deliverable:** Ideas for tools to utilize legislative data; event report

## **ADDITIONAL DELIVERABLES**

In addition to the activities in the above timeline -- including the extensive research materials developed through the survey—the LOWG will support the following types of ongoing peer-to-peer support and sharing of experience, in response to specific requests from partners or as opportunities arise.

### **Partnerships, Consultations and Peer Exchanges**

Responding to the interest and needs of participating governments, parliaments and civil society, the LOWG will organize a limited number of direct consultations, both in-person and virtually, in order to address challenges faced by members. These consultations will aim to be a sustained effort to improve the offering of commitments on legislative openness in OGP Action Plans as well as the ability of organizations to effectively monitor implementation. Pending funding, these consultations may also be coordinated in partnership with organizations like UNDP and the World Bank. Some examples of these exchanges are listed in the timeline, but the group anticipates that opportunities for additional exchanges may arise throughout the year.

### **Webinars and Other Virtual Engagement**

In addition to several in-person events, the LOWG coordinating committee will work together to curate a series of at least two webinars over the course of 2014, in addition to other online consultations with members on specific topics of interest to legislative openness. Co-anchors will release summaries of issues and resources to the full working group after each of these sessions, which focus specifically on operationalizing discussed topic areas into concrete commitments for OGP Action Plans.

### **Legislative Openness Resources and Case Studies**

Conditional on funding, but drawing on events held over the course of the year as well as the survey research, the LOWG will develop resources and case studies relating to legislative openness. This will include the further development of model commitments on legislative openness, building on the OpenGov Guide chapter on Open Parliament that NDI has already developed. Members of the coordinating committee will help to contribute to the development of these resources and will assist in sharing best practices and tools on particular topics, with input from the broader legislative openness community.

### **Peer Analysis of Legislative Openness Commitments**

The LOWG is a unique working group because it addresses an issue within OGP where very few formal commitments have so far been made. As such, in addition to encouraging the development of model commitments around legislative issues, the working group will aim to monitor and analyze the development of legislative commitments by both legislatures and governments over the course of the year.