

Open Contracting Partnership (OCP) Advisory Board Meeting
Public Minutes
New York City, US
April 8, 2016

Advisory Board Members attending: Robert Hunja (Chair), Rakesh Rajani (Vice Chair), Mohamed Amin Adam, Chris Anderson, Alan Detheridge, Angge Gregorio Medel, Beth Noveck, Stephen Peel, Jeni Tenison & Paca Zuleta.

Present for parts of updates session: Jeff Gutman, Claire Schouten (remotely), Laura Bacon (remotely)

Other participants: Gavin Hayman (Executive Director Open Contracting Partnership), Kathrin Frauscher (Deputy and Program Director), Lindsey Marchessault (Senior Data and Engagement Manager), Dave Algosio (Consultant on Learning, for parts of the meeting)

Key Motions for Approval

- Engagement criteria approved with minor revisions.
- Process to add and induct new board members approved.
- Virtual board meeting agreed for Monday, November 14 2016 from 9 to 11 EST. The FY2017 budget will be agreed in this meeting. Next in-person meeting is planned for on June 22 and 23, 2017.

Key Action Points for the OCP

- Experiment with sharing rapid reflections more frequently.
- Present updated budget for FY2016 to Board by the end of May.
- Key agenda items for next board meeting: scaling ambitions, strategy to deliver on ambitions, state owned enterprises.
- Revise engagement criteria per board discussion.
- Update TOR for board members to reflect term limits.
- Prepare table with term start and end dates for each member.

Discussions and Summary Views of Board

Sub-Committee Meeting (Summary View of Board)

The Program & Learning Committee (Rakesh Rajani, Jeff Gutman, Angge Gregorio Medel and Claire Schouten, supported by Kathrin Frauscher and Dave Algoso) and the Private Sector Committee (Stephen Peel, Chris Anderson, Alan Detheridge, Jeni Tenison, supported by Gavin Hayman and Lindsey Marchessault) met before the formal Advisory Board (AB) meeting.

The Program and Learning Committee discussed the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) plan that the team recently developed. Committee members liked the plan. They especially appreciated the focus on learning and how MEL practices were designed to be easily integrated into the day-to-day work of the team. The committee discussed the team's approach to rapid reflections and found that they have become a very helpful management tool for the OCP. It was recommended that the team publishes its rapid reflections more frequently as currently they are only shared publicly in the annual report. The Committee also reviewed the terms of reference for the Learning Director and requested that they be tightened on monitoring and evaluation.

The Private Sector Committee discussed the plan for the OCP's research project on commercial confidentiality and approved the approach of shifting from legal analysis and the exact letter of the law to focussing on business and legal engagement to capture and share best practices.

OCP Progress Update (Summary View of Board)

Gavin Hayman gave an update on progress and challenges since the last Advisory Board meeting in November 2015 in London. The team is ahead of its annual targets under its strategy.

Highlights from the update included:

- We are seeing growing global engagement. In estimated order of estimated intensity, these are: UK, Mexico (with regard to Mexico City S&L, Mexico Airport, and Telecom PPP), Ukraine, Nepal*, EU (TED), Zambia, Canada, Taiwan, Paraguay, Vietnam*, Indonesia, Mauritania*, Nigeria, USA, France, Moldova, Colombia, Mozambique, Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia and Albania. Engagements initiated this quarter are marked *.
- The 'plug and play' approach of linking up and leveraging existing transparency and accountability initiatives such as the Open Government Partnership, the Construction Sector Transparency Initiative seems to be working well.
- We are seeing new international partners such as Hivos or GIZ build up their open contracting programming. Other organizations, such as Natural Resource Governance Institute or Bloomberg Associates, are becoming enthusiastic partners in implementing open contracting.

- Our advocacy influence and impact is growing, albeit particularly focussed around anti-corruption at the moment. After extensive outreach, open contracting is emerging as a key topic for the UK Anti-Corruption Summit.
- We have seen a very substantial uptick in engagement and enthusiasm for open contracting across influencers and social media. We have made substantial gains in followers, but more importantly, have more than doubled engagement rates with our content. We launched our new website end of February and feedback so far has been positive.
- We have developed our [monitoring, evaluation and learning framework](#) and institutionalized our own internal learning culture.
- Finally, but importantly, OCP is on track to meet Omidyar Network's funding match challenge by raising \$2m in external money (to achieve a \$1m match).

Key decisions from this session were that the OCP team will work with the treasurer Alan Detheridge on an updated budget for the rest of the FY2015-2016 by the end of May 2016 and send that to the Executive Committee for approval.

It was agreed that the next Board meeting should focus on how the OCP can scale up its ambitions and deliver on them. Other agenda items for the next meeting included how the Board can support fundraising and exploring the impact that open contracting could have in cleaning up State-Owned Enterprises (especially in the light of the Petrobras contracting corruption scandal in Brazil).

Engagement Criteria (Decision)

The Board approved the proposed engagement criteria with small changes to reflect that we work in developed and developing countries and across contracting phases. The Vice-Chair emphasized that these criteria serve more as guidelines than strict rules and that major deviation from the criteria should involve consultation with the Board. Members suggested that going forward the team should share how they use the criteria to weigh choices and make decisions. They emphasized that the criteria should help the team to say 'no' to some opportunities.

Priority Setting (Summary View of Board)

The OCP team presented its 2016 priorities and how they were selected based on the engagement criteria. In terms of implementation, priorities are to support ongoing and new showcase and learning projects and to assist champions from the public, private and civil society sectors with the implementation and use of the open contracting data standard. The

Board suggested that the team focuses more on working with companies and local researchers. Another recommendation was to convene a meeting with leading thinkers and the community about what we have learnt about the OCDS.

In terms of advocacy priorities, we agreed to refresh the global principles as they are currently rather technical and only really speak to the government, not to CSOs or to businesses. The Board emphasised keeping engagement diverse and would like to see one major non-Anglophone country, such as France or Germany, implementing the OCDS as well. The recommendation was made to link to economic justice groups in the US.

It was agreed that the next meeting will focus how we reach a norm shift from closed to open contracting and how the team can further scale their ambitions, including through productizing their services and support.

Process to Identify New Board Members (Decision)

The Board agreed a new process that the OCP team, in consultation with the Board, can use to identify potential new Board candidates. The ED will be in charge of making proposals to Executive Committee on candidates. The Chair of the Board will share short list for nominations with full Board for information. Executive Committee will interview new candidates and make a decision on recruitment.

It was agreed to update the Advisory Board TOR to reflect term limits and to make sure that not everyone leaves at same time. The team will prepare an overview table with names of Board members and when they got appointed and suggest a process to stagger replacements.

It was agreed that the Board should not become too big but if a stellar additional candidates can be then the Board should consider them, especially if they have strengths in key areas of global advocacy, implementation, procurement or fundraising. The idea of OCP ambassadors was discussed but it was pointed out that 'managing' them can be work-intense.

Feedback Survey (For Information)

Members completed a quick survey to give the OCP team feedback on the meeting. 9 out of the 10 attending board members took the survey. 8 people felt that the meeting was a good use of their time (1 skipped the question). 7 people felt that they were able to voice and discuss issues that matter most for the success of the OCP in depth. Suggestions were made to have the Board discuss harder issues and less procedural matters. All members felt that the meeting was well organized and run. Everyone felt that they now have greater clarity about the OCP

2016 priorities. Feedback to what we could improve next time included to have more brainstorming sessions; to challenge the board more to provide input into more difficult issues. One member suggested to make the background documents more formal and to have the chair and vice-chair moderate the meeting more.

Next Board Meetings (Decision)

The Board approved that from now on the Board should meet twice a year, once in person, once per phone.

The next meeting will be a virtual one on Monday, November 14 2016 from 9 to 11 EST. The FY2017 budget will be considered in this meeting. The next in person meeting will be on June 22 and 23 2017, potentially in a country where open contracting is being implemented.