2022 OGP Africa and Middle East Regional Meeting
Call for Proposals Guide

Together with the Open Government Partnership (OGP), the Government of Morocco is hosting the Africa and Middle East Regional Meeting in Marrakech, Morocco, from November 1-3, 2022. The event will bring together open government champions and stakeholders from the region together with key international partners to raise collective ambition, energize the community, and generate new political support to make governments more transparent, accountable and responsive to citizens. The meeting will be an opportunity to share various experiences and explore a path towards open government under the umbrella of public service delivery with a focus on anti-corruption, digital innovation, access to justice, and civic participation.

Call for Proposals

In the spirit of co-creation, the agenda for the Regional Meeting will be based on an open call for session proposals for breakout sessions. Members of the OGP community are invited to submit their ideas for sessions [here](#). **Please review this guide carefully before beginning your session proposal application. The last day to submit proposals is July 29, 2022.**

Priority Themes

We invite proposals for breakout sessions under the following priority themes and topics.

Anti-Corruption
Corruption is the use of public office for private gain; it diverts resources allocated to provide public services for citizens, erodes citizens' trust in their government, and hampers the government's ability to serve citizens' needs first and foremost. Through anti-corruption reforms, open government seeks to root out undue influence across government affairs so that governments act in the interests of citizens.
- Debt transparency and accountability
- Extractives transparency
- Procurement and spending
- Tax justice and illicit financial flows

Civic Participation
When citizens are able to actively engage in the public sphere and decision-making processes governments are more responsive, innovative, representative and effective in delivering for citizens. Open government actions support new or improved processes and mechanisms for the public to influence decisions, participatory mechanisms for underrepresented groups such as women and youth, and a legal environment that guarantees civil and political rights.
- Democratic freedoms and civic space (online and offline)

- Participatory decision-making and budgeting
- Social accountability and citizen monitoring
- Whistleblowing protection

Access to Justice

Access to justice is the ability of people to resolve and prevent their justice problems, and to use justice as a platform to participate in their economies and societies. It encompasses both formal and informal justice mechanisms. Access to justice reforms can make justice systems more accessible for everyone, particularly underrepresented communities and vulnerable populations such as women and children to better address their specific concerns.

- Access to justice
- Alternative justice systems (including community-led justice systems)
- Digitizing justice
- Gender and justice reforms

Digital Innovation

Evolving technology provides opportunities for governments to improve the provision of public services, accountability mechanisms and the exercise of civic rights. Digital technologies can also be used to advance open government reforms – from open data and fiscal openness to connecting citizens with life-saving information. At the same time, digital technologies pose risks and threats, including disinformation, discrimination, and privacy concerns. Open government is essential to catalyze a trustworthy digital transformation agenda and ensure equitable access to public goods by citizens.

- Inclusive digital innovation and citizen-centric government ecosystems
- Digital inclusion and access
- Open data and proactive transparency
- Digital governance and rights

Application and Selection Process

To ensure that your session proposal has the best chance of being selected, please consult the process and criteria described below closely before beginning your application.

July 2022 - Session proposals will be accepted until July 29, 2022.

August 2022 - Session proposals will be reviewed by the OGP Support Unit and event host, the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, using the criteria outlined below.

September 2022 - Selected session organizers will be notified by email in early September with instructions for how to proceed. We expect the selection process to be very competitive. We will only contact organizers whose sessions have been selected.

September-October 2022 - Session organizers will be responsible for liaising with and confirming speakers, preparing for and refining their session content, and communicating with the event organizers regarding logistics and other details. Session organizers will also assist with documenting their sessions and reporting on highlights and next steps after the event.

Tips for Successful Session Proposals

The OGP Africa and Middle East Regional Meeting should be action-oriented. We are looking for breakout sessions that explore concrete experiences or ideas to raise collective ambition, energize the community, and generate new political support for open government in the region. We are keen to see sessions that include session organizers, moderators, and speakers from different fields and sectors specifically in the Africa and Middle East region, as well as formats that encourage dialogue and participant engagement.

As you develop your session proposal, please consider the following:

- **Collaborate and partnership**: If you know other organizations or actors working on similar issues, you should consider collaborating and proposing a joint session. We strongly request that global organizations or those based outside of the region partner with organizations or actors in Africa and the Middle East to jointly propose sessions. We also request that individual organizations submit no more than 1 proposal.

- **Focus on outcomes.** Please consider the contributions or deliverables that your proposal could make to the open government community, such as those listed below. Please also think about what kind of post-meeting follow-up is possible.
  - brainstorming ways to tackle challenges related to open government, for example those related to implementation of OGP commitments;
  - facilitating peer-learning on specific topics or learning new skills;
  - exploring new approaches to deepen open government reforms and dialogue between government, civil society, and other actors; and
  - showcasing stories of inspiration or of failure related to open government reforms.

- **Prioritize creative, interactive session formats**. We're looking for sessions that go beyond traditional panel formats to facilitate dynamic discussion and knowledge exchange among participants. Keep in mind that most sessions will be 60-90 minutes in length. Suggested formats include:
  - **Community Dialogue** - Moderator(s) facilitates a conversation with key respondents and community members to provide space for a meaningful exchange of ideas on a particular topic.
  - **Lightning Talks** - The session organizer curates a series of speakers to use storytelling to present their ideas and share examples of inspiration or failure

around a theme or issue. Presentations could be followed by a Q&A segment or breakout discussions with participants.
- **Networking** - These sessions should facilitate discussion and relationship-building around a particular theme or issue with organizers providing discussion prompts. The structure could include small group discussions or a series of 1:1 'speed dating' interactions followed by a block of time for open networking and follow up.
- **Workshop** - Hands-on sessions facilitated by experts, allowing the exchange of experience around interactive activities: project presentations, discussion around case studies, or trainings on specific tools, techniques, or skills.

- **Ensure expertise and diversity.** We are looking for speakers and other participants in your session proposals that reflect the expertise and diversity of the open government movement, specifically in the Africa and Middle East region. Please consider:
  - **Expertise in the theme -** To enhance outcomes and knowledge exchange, we are looking for participants who have worked on strengthening, documenting, encouraging, promoting, and/or advancing the principles of open government.
  - **Stakeholder balance** - Proposals should include speakers from government, civil society and other sectors such as academics, citizens, funders, media, and/or private sector, as well as local government officials and members of parliament.
  - **Diversity of speakers and other participants -** Diversity is a strength and we welcome speakers with diverse backgrounds and points of view. Proposals for sessions that include all male speakers, moderators, and facilitators will not be selected for the agenda.

Selection Criteria for Session Proposals

The selection of session proposals will be based on the criteria below.

Approach
- The design of the session is clear. The proposal specifies the desired audience, objective, mode of facilitation, and who will participate as speakers, moderators, or facilitators.
- The session objectives are clear. The proposal describes how the session provides added value and its relevance to both the region on the selected theme and in terms of open government.

Creativity & Interactiveness
- The session format and facilitation technique is dynamic and innovative. It describes the activities and tactics that will be employed to encourage inclusive discussions and knowledge exchange among participants.

Impact & Relevance

- The session objectives have value and are relevant for the exchange of experiences, learning, and moving the dialogue forward on the selected theme.
- The proposed speakers, moderators, or facilitators have experience advancing or working on open government, particularly within or relevant to Africa and the Middle East.
- The session offers mechanisms for follow-up, continued discussion of the topic, and/or the establishment of action points following the regional meeting.

Representativeness / Diversity
- The session considers sectoral and gender balance for the proposed speakers, moderators, or facilitators with the goal of encouraging discussion and presenting different perspectives.
- The proposal is submitted by or in collaboration with an organization, government, or individual who is based in the Africa and Middle East region.

If session proposals with common elements are identified, the committee may suggest combining sessions or including different speakers, moderators, or facilitators. Submitting a proposal does not guarantee that it will be selected for the final agenda of the 2022 OGP Africa and Middle East Regional Meeting.

Proposals will be accepted until July 29, 2022. Proposals can be submitted [here](). The principal contacts for selected proposals will be notified in early September via e-mail and will receive additional details on next steps on content and logistics. The selected proposals will be announced publicly on our event website by early October.

Information and Materials Needed to Submit a Proposal

Please gather and prepare the following information before starting your application. Applications cannot be saved as drafts or edited after submission.

- Your information: name, email address, country of residence, affiliation, whether you will require travel support to attend the event
- Information about your Session Proposal:
  - Theme and Topic
  - Session Format
  - Title (suggested maximum 10 words)
  - Briefly describe the objective, format, and desired outcome of the session, as well as how you will engage participants (maximum of 200 words)
  - How this session contribute to the open government community
  - Information about any co-organizer(s) of the session

- What language you will facilitate the session in. Interpretation services will be available in some, but not all session rooms. We may not be able to accommodate all requests for live interpretation.
- Information about any proposed moderators, facilitators, and speakers (including their name, sector, organization/affiliation, country of residence, gender, and area of expertise)

Contact

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact: morocco2022@opengovpartnership.org.