OpenGov Digital Youth Summit
October 2020

Introduction

As our world responds to the Covid-19 pandemic, the open government community is looking for ways to help and to apply the principles of transparency, accountability, and participation to the response. It is in moments of disaster response and relief that the values of open government can come under intense pressure, but can also meaningfully contribute to better outcomes.

The roles of young people are as critical as ever when it comes to ensuring the accountability of our governments. But traditional action and mobilisation during this pandemic needs a rethink and young people are at the forefront of exploring different ways to stay connected and coordinated in their response.

Proposal

This OpenGov Youth Digital Summit will provide an opportunity to connect and engage young people around the world. It will offer a global, virtual platform to explore the values and approaches youth can use for open governance in the era of this pandemic and catalyse action beyond October. Crucially this will be a space for young people to share, discuss and strategize on how to support local communities and national governments to deliver a response - and ensure a programme of recovery - that is accountable and inclusive.

The Summit will bring together young activists, students, professionals, and more for an international dialogue, brainstorm, and skill-building conference, so they can engage with their governments and break into the sector conversations, thus becoming equal stakeholders in their national open government movements.

The OpenGov Digital Youth Summit will be convened by the OpenGov Youth Collective, which was launched during the OGP Global Summit in Ottawa, Canada in 2019. The Summit will take place on October 27th and 28th 2020.

Theme and Subthemes

Theme: Ensuring an accountable and inclusive response and recovery to the Covid19 pandemic with young people.

Subthemes:

- *Public participation and civic space, including:*
    - *Youth leadership:* opportunities and challenges for youth leadership and engagement across the OGP (and in National Action Plans) in the response and recovery phases of Covid19.
    - *Shrinking civic space:* challenging and mitigating online and offline restrictions on civic space and youth civil society.
    - *Inclusive accountability:* ensuring no one is left behind- specifically, unpacking critical response and recovery actions from a gender perspective (connecting in with the OGP led 'Break the Roles' campaign).

- *Anti-corruption, including:*
  - *Open contracting:* understanding how young people can make sure that the billions of dollars for the COVID-19 response are being spent in open and transparent ways.
  - *Trust and transparency:* how to create environments of trust and transparency in times of crises - drawing on lessons learned by young people;
  - *Building back better:* creating more sustainable, accountable and transparent societies in the recovery phase with young people at the forefront.

- *Digital innovation, including:*
  - *Digital governance*: what are the opportunities and challenges to digital governance, and what are the skills needed to deliver effective digital governance processes?
  - *Overcoming the digital divide:* how can young people find ways to bring together online and offline open government efforts to improve the pandemic response?
  - *Virtual inclusion*: how can we ensure that virtual spaces are accessible and open to the voices that can ensure accountability and better governance?

Objectives

1. Strengthen and support youth leadership in government, OGP and community-led accountability approaches towards the response and recovery phases of the Covid19 pandemic.

2. Young people enhance their digital skills and sector knowledge to lead online activism and accountability initiatives that can ensure more open and inclusive governance during the Covid19 pandemic.

3. Extend and strengthen the active membership of young people in the OpenGov Youth Collective, a mechanism for organising and supporting the long term participation of youth in OGP globally and through national and local Action Plans.

Outcomes

1. Young people influence the response and recovery programmes led by governments and agencies to ensure open and transparent decision making that addresses the needs of different youth communities.

2. Mobilisation of an active and extended global network of young people advocating for more accountable and inclusive governance, as part of the OpenGov Youth Collective.

3.   Greater ownership of the open government and youth agendas by OGP member governments during the COVID-19 crisis.

4.   Stronger youth engagement in XX OGP member national and local open gov fora.

Coordination

Members of the OpenGov Youth Collective will establish a Digital Summit Task Team to oversee all planning and activities. This Task Team will be compensated for their time, pending adequate funding. The Task Team will aim to work with a selection of Steering Committee member governments and civil society leaders to ensure their engagement with and co-creation of the summit from the outset. This could include Canada, South Korea, and Nigeria.

Process and Format

- Youth-led: The planning of the Summit will be youth-led and facilitated, with support and coordination from Accountability Lab and Restless Development.

- Crowdsourced session proposals: An open call will be launched in August for session ideas and proposals, directed across global youth networks, which will shape the final subthemes and agenda. Applicants can also put themselves forward to lead different sessions during the Summit or participate as keynote speakers. Applications will be encouraged from countries where youth networks have been actively engaged in the OGP process, so that those lessons can be shared with the global youth open gov community.

- Ensuring momentum and engagement: In the lead up to the Summit, the OpenGov Youth Collective will aim to build interest and momentum across youth networks through social media platforms, for example hosting Twitter chats on different themes of open governance or coordinating a Facebook Live event with members of the Collective to talk more about the Summit. During the Summit, key recommendations and insights will be captured and then shared with the Open Government Partnership members with a proposed series of actions or measures. OGP Steering Committee members will be invited to join sessions, and will be encouraged to promote the summit with their OGP fora and organisations.

- Skills building: This Summit will be highly interactive, focusing on supporting technical skill building amongst participants based on the priority needs identified through the crowdsourced data collected.

- Inclusive: A number of breakout sessions will be led in different languages (English, Spanish, French, and Arabic) to ensure non-English speakers have the opportunity to engage in the discussion. Subtitles will also be coordinated across sessions, to ensure hearing impaired communities can actively participate.

- Hosted via Online Zoom Platform: Allows for multiple break-out sessions and discussions, polling, networking spaces, etc.

- Setting a challenge or project: The Summit will set a 'big challenge' for participants to engage in and work together on in the margins of main sessions and events. This could be in the form of a Summit 'youth-hack'.

- Facebook Live and Instagram: Some discussions and sessions can be set up through Facebook Live and Instagram, to reach broader youth networks who might not be joining the full Summit programme.

- <u>Audience Engagement</u>: To allow for greater interaction, we will prioritize creative sessions that engage the audience and use platforms to allow participants to share perspectives and understand the issues. The Summit will have a world map of participants who choose to share their contact information, organisations, and/or personal stories in order to create a visual network of youth activists. Participants will also have the opportunity to interact with one another through a participant matching program, through which participants will be able to post specific requests and offers to help.

- <u>Outcomes and follow up:</u> Youth participants who join the Summit will be invited to engage in the activities of the OpenGov Youth Collective moving forwards. A formal communique (both written and visual) will be published, to share key highlights and recommendations from the Summit. The world map of participants will be publicly available for organizations and individuals to find and reach out to Summit participants. After the Summit, the Collective will work to match any remaining requests from the participant matching program with other organizations and individuals.

- <u>Government participation</u>: Partner governments will have the opportunity to lead sessions, receive feedback on youth commitments and ideas and curate interest in support for their broader youth-focused OGP efforts. For example, during the Summit, government representatives will have the opportunity to request closed focus group sessions of young people from their country. After the Summit, the Open Gov Youth Collective will offer support to governments to facilitate additional introductions to youth working in the open government movement within their countries.

Contact

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