Global Beneficial Ownership Register: briefing

What is it?

The **Global Beneficial Ownership Register** will:

1. **Aggregate information** from multiple public registers, and make available for free to all in an easy-to-use interface, allowing powerful global searches.
2. **Provide a platform for collection** of beneficial ownership data, both for companies to self-report their beneficial ownership, and to provide a technical backend for those countries/government agencies/organisations collecting beneficial ownership data.

Why do we need it?

1. **It de-silos the data**. Beneficial Ownership information is, by its nature, data about networks (of companies and control), and these networks often span multiple countries and multiple industries. By combining the data in one place the data is more useful and more accurate.
2. **It removes the technical barriers for collecting beneficial ownership information**. By providing a common platform it will drastically reduce the costs and difficulty of collection, for both governments and companies.
3. **It means that the information is natively available as open data**, in a standardised form, making the information more useful, more comparable, and more.
4. **It improves the utility for end users**, providing a user-friendly interface on complex data.

Who is behind the Global Beneficial Ownership Register

The project is being led by OpenCorporates, Transparency International, Global Witness, Open Contracting Partnership, ONE Campaign, Web Foundation, B-Team, but other potential partners are invited to join too. We are currently in detailed discussions with a number of governments and international organisations, and expect to be announcing pilots soon.

How can you take part?

Contact gbor@opencorporates.com