



## WHAT IS OPEN PARLIAMENT?

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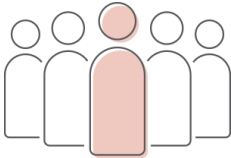
A new form of interaction between citizens and legislative powers that promotes parliamentary openness to ensure transparency and access to public information, accountability, citizen participation, and ethics and probity in parliamentary work.



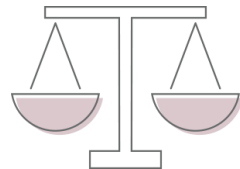
TRANSPARENCY



ACCOUNTABILITY



CITIZEN PARTICIPATION



ETHICS AND PROBITY

# WHAT IS THE OPEN PARLIAMENT NETWORK?

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The ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network (OPN) promotes legislative openness through efforts to increase transparency and access to public information, strengthen the accountability of democratic institutions, promote the participation of citizens in legislative decision-making, and ensure a culture of ethical behaviour and probity in the national legislatures of the Americas and the Caribbean.

Since its integration in ParlAmericas in 2015, the Network (formerly known as Inter-American Parliamentary Network on Transparency, Access to Public Information, and Probity), provides workshops, facilitates peer to peer exchanges and produces tools for legislators with the ultimate objective of combating corruption, enhancing public trust and strengthening our democratic institutions, to build peaceful and inclusive societies that provide access to justice for all and boast of effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, in support of Sustainable Development Goal 16. The outcomes of these activities also inform the development of specialized resources and online communities for parliamentarians.

The Network is governed by an elected Executive Committee, composed of the President (who also serves as 2nd Vice-President on ParlAmericas' Board of Directors) and four sub-regional Vice-Presidents representing North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean.

# ROAD MAP TOWARDS LEGISLATIVE OPENNESS

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The Road Map towards Legislative Openness provides a framework to help guide parliamentarians in producing their own national legislative openness action plans and/or initiatives. This document was co-created by parliamentarians and civil society organizations representing 20 countries of the Americas and the

Caribbean and adopted at the 1st Gathering of the OPN in Asuncion, Paraguay in 2016. Commitments are organized under four pillars:

**Transparency**— *Individuals' fundamental human right to information that is of public interest through mechanisms for the disclosure of reliable information and compliance with requests for such information.*

**Accountability** — *Public servants' obligation to explain, provide justification for, and communicate their decisions and actions with respect to public resources.*

**Citizen participation** — *Active involvement of citizens in public decision-making processes that may impact their lives.*

**Ethics and probity** — *Norms of highest integrity that individuals should adhere to while serving as public servants.*



ParlAmericas is the institution that promotes **PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY** in the **INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM**



ParlAmericas is composed of the **NATIONAL LEGISLATURES** of the member States of the OAS from North, Central and South America and the Caribbean



ParlAmericas facilitates the exchange of parliamentary **BEST PRACTICES** and promotes **COOPERATIVE POLITICAL DIALOGUE**



ParlAmericas mainstreams **GENDER EQUALITY** by advocating for women's political empowerment and the application of a gender lens in legislative work



ParlAmericas fosters **OPEN PARLIAMENTS** by advancing the principles of transparency, accountability, citizen participation, ethics and probity



ParlAmericas promotes policies and legislative measures to mitigate and adapt to the effects of **CLIMATE CHANGE**



ParlAmericas works towards strengthening democracy and governance by accompanying **ELECTORAL PROCESSES**



ParlAmericas is headquartered in **OTTAWA, CANADA**