Parliaments, money and participation

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Overview

1) Introductions
2) The budget cycle
3) Breakout sessions
4) Panel discussion
Open Parliament Portal

• New initiative of ParlAmericas
• Tool for education, participation, networking
• Contribute your practices, connect with colleagues, access resources

http://parltools.org/
Parliaments and money

The power of the purse resides with Parliament.
Fiscal scrutiny

There are three parts to fiscal scrutiny:

1) **Contextual analysis**: accounting of a country’s broad economic environment.

2) **Planning**: assessment of the executive’s content and tools in their plans that extend from budget to estimates to the tabling of the public accounts.

3) **Performance evaluation**: assessment of whether the government’s contextual assumptions and plans hold up in reality.

Asymmetry in information can be a challenge
Most focus is on the budget...but that doesn’t cover the full cycle.
Parliaments and participation

• Parliamentarians have two types of financial accountability:
  – *Ex-ante* (before money is appropriated, i.e. appropriations and plans)
  – *Ex-post* (after the books have closed, i.e. public accounts and results reporting)

• How can public participation in the financial cycle support their roles?
Parliaments and participation

• Guidelines to consider: GIFT’s 10 Principles of Public Participation in Fiscal Policy
  – Accessibility, openness, inclusiveness, respect for self-expression, timeliness, depth, proportionality, sustainability, complementarity, reciprocity

• IBP’s Open Budget Survey covers the full financial cycle, from pre-budget to audit, including executive and legislative activities in citizen engagement in budget formulation (consultative and reporting).
Citizen Budget

- Empowering citizens and the legislators who represent them
- Multilingual, easy-to-use, customizable tool for citizens to have their say
- Interactive tool
- Powerful analytics
Citizen Budget
Group discussions: Current practices

• How do your parliaments engage with citizens? (Consider GIFT principles)

• Are there new opportunities or approaches you would consider?

• Do you have practices to share, e.g. gender budgeting?
Panel discussion: Parliament as a Facilitator for Citizen Participation in the Budget Process

- The Hon. Wayne Easter, Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance, House of Commons of Canada
- Kate Ryan-Lloyd, Deputy Clerk and Clerk of Committees, Legislative Assembly of British Columbia
- The Hon. George Norton, Minister of Social Cohesion of Guyana
Conclusion

- Comments on the handout
- Evaluation
- Key takeaways