



WG1. Weak Rule of Law, a threat to Citizen Security
30 August - 1 September, 2012. Panama City, Panama
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REPORT

The Working Group, “**Weak Rule of Law: a threat to citizen security**” met at the 9th Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas, in Panama City, Panama, the 30th and 31st August, 2012, with the participation of delegates from *Argentina, Canada, Chile, Panamá, Paraguay, Suriname, and Venezuela*.

Germán Blanco (Colombia) chaired the sessions of the Group, which had as its objectives to:

- Analyze how administrative justice and security are related
- Study current programs (public benefits, individual licensing and permitting, regulatory programs with individual impact)
- Study the application of the rule of law to administrative justice
- Analyze the adaptation of local microstructures in the democratic rule of law
- Study social microstructures and new leadership systems
- Study social microstructures that weaken the rule of law

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Identify and recognize local social microstructures even if they have not achieved institutional recognition; i.e. leaders who have earned respect in their local social structures through their informal activities, and therefore are able to meet social needs through legitimate structures.
2. Strengthen citizen security through participatory budgeting, in the understanding that the community itself can identify its main needs for social investment.
3. Develop the capacity for citizens to engage in social auditing (social monitors, public watchdogs, etc.) as a process of continuing improvement in which all community sectors are involved, and which results in recommendations for corrective or remedial actions.
4. Establish clear and understandable regulations and descriptions of responsibilities in the public sphere, in order for citizens to readily understand and assess the adequacy and quality of public services, and compel the local authority to consider and respond to citizens' claims.
5. Strengthen law enforcement by establishing adequate systems of audit, control, and limits, towards efficient functioning and benefit to the community.

Germán Blanco (Colombia), Chair