



CITIZEN PARTICIPATION CO-CREATION MEETING

[#ParlAmericasOPN](#) [#CongresoAbierto](#)

THEME

Citizen Participation

DATE

April 19, 2017

LOCATION

Bogota, Colombia

PARTICIPANTS

15 parliamentarians and civil society representatives from Latin America

This co-creation meeting, organized by ParlAmericas with support from the Senate of Colombia, drew from the exchanges that took place during the 2nd Gathering of the Open Parliament Network (OPN). The main objective was to develop a toolkit on citizen participation that would identify mechanisms and best practices for fulfilling the commitments adopted in the corresponding pillar of ParlAmericas' [Road Map Towards Legislative Transparency](#).

The meeting began with words of welcome from **Andrés García Zuccardi** (Colombia), President of the Modernization Committee. It was moderated by Member of the Legislative Assembly **Karla Prendas** (Costa Rica), Vice-President of the Open Parliament Network for Central America.

Legislators and representatives from the [Latin American Legislative Transparency Network](#) (LALT Network; link available in Spanish) from 10 countries met to discuss and share their experiences of how to facilitate opportunities for direct participation and garner citizens' interest in parliamentary work.

The **OPEN PARLIAMENT NETWORK (OPN)** is a permanent working group of ParlAmericas formed in August 2015. It is the successor of the Inter-American Parliamentary Network on Transparency, Access to Public Information, and Probity. The latter entity was spearheaded by the Bicameral Group for Transparency of the National Congress of Chile to support the implementation of the [Santiago Declaration on Parliamentary Transparency and Integrity in Parliaments and Political Parties \(2012\)](#). The OPN continues in the tradition of the Santiago Declaration, while expanding the network of national legislatures working in support of open parliament to encompass North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. The OPN is led by Senator Hernán Larraín (Chile).

MECHANISMS AVAILABLE

- ⇒ Online media: web portals, mobile applications, social networks, web streaming
- ⇒ Mass media: radio, television
- ⇒ Educational programs
- ⇒ Citizen initiated legislation
- ⇒ Regulatory frameworks to formalize citizen participation
- ⇒ Citizen participation offices and parliamentary offices in different regions of the country
- ⇒ Open data portal
- ⇒ Graphics and infographics
- ⇒ Interactive sessions with citizens and regional forums
- ⇒ Inclusion of citizen participation in political parties' programs

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ⇒ Use plain language
- ⇒ Include all citizens (face-to-face and online participation)
- ⇒ Incorporate **gamification** (techniques, elements, and dynamics of game playing) to encourage citizen participation
- ⇒ Provide data, information, and results from the parliament that could be of use or interest to citizens
- ⇒ Explain the roles of legislators and citizens in relation to the parliament
- ⇒ Identify the target public and specific strategies for each segment based on their characteristics
- ⇒ Acknowledge citizens' participation and contributions
- ⇒ Measure and evaluate the instruments and mechanisms used
- ⇒ Develop parliamentary agendas with citizens



Senator
**ANDRÉS
GARCÍA
ZUCCARDI**
(Colombia)

“With all of the proposed citizen participation mechanisms, I think it is important to clarify the role of the congress person and of the citizen and how far each goes... finding a way to keep them motivated and participating.”

“Political parties must adopt this slogan (promoting citizen participation) and turn it into a campaign promise and a commitment from representatives so that this becomes a reality.”



Member of the Legislative Assembly **KARLA PRENDAS** (Costa Rica), Vice-President of the Open Parliament Network for Central America



ÁNGEL RAMÍREZ,
Executive Director of Congreso Transparente (Transparent Congress) (Guatemala)

“One extremely important component for generating this empowerment and consciousness among citizens is for information to be available, pertinent, immediate, and objective [...]. It is also important to let them know how their information will be used and why their participation is being solicited.”

NEXT STEPS

- ⇒ Development of the first draft of the toolkit
- ⇒ 2nd Co-creation meeting: revision of the first draft
- ⇒ Online consultation and validation process
- ⇒ Completion of the toolkit
- ⇒ Review of the final draft by the OPN Executive Committee

PARLIAMENTS IN ATTENDANCE



CHILE



COLOMBIA



COSTA RICA



ECUADOR



HONDURAS



PANAMA



PERU

ORGANIZATIONS IN ATTENDANCE



CIUDADANO
INTELIGENTE.ORG



Congreso
Transparente
.org

Congreso Visible .org



fundar

Centro de Análisis e Investigación



DIRECTORIO
LEGISLATIVO

GIFT

GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR
FISCAL TRANSPARENCY



NDI

NATIONAL
DEMOCRATIC
INSTITUTE

This meeting was made possible by the generous support of the Congress of Colombia, and the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada (GAC).



Canada

PARLAMERICAS



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



ParlAmericas is headquartered in **OTTAWA, CANADA**

International Secretariat of ParlAmericas
710—150 Wellington St., Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5A4 Canada
Telephone: +1 (613) 594-5222 | Fax: +1 (613) 594-4766
www.parlamericas.org | info@parlamericas.org

