

Agenda

2nd Co-creation Meeting: Citizen Participation Toolkit
September 7, 2017 | Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago



In order to reduce our ecological foot print, the meeting documents, resources and publications are available at www.parlamericas.org. For easy access through your mobile phone, we invite you to download a QR code reader application.

This 2nd co-creation meeting will follow the 2nd Gathering of the Open Parliament Network which focused on strengthening the ties between citizens and legislative powers, as well as the first co-creation meeting held in Latin America to develop a *Citizen Participation Toolkit*. This toolkit will aim to share strategies and best practices to reach the objectives adopted as part of the citizen participation pillar in the [Road Map towards Legislative Openness](#) of ParlAmericas. During this working session, parliamentarians and civil society representatives will work together to review the draft toolkit. The draft document will be shared with participants one week prior to the meeting.

- 09:00 – 09:10 **Welcome remarks**
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Address: 1 Wrightson Road, Port of Spain, Trinidad
- Member of Parliament Bridgid Annisette-George (Trinidad and Tobago),
Speaker of the House of Representatives
- 09:10 – 09:30 **Introduction**
Facilitator: Alisha Todd, Director General, ParlAmericas
- 09:30 – 10:30 **Educating Citizens and Promoting Participation**
Parliaments are undertaking various initiatives to promote citizen engagement in the legislative process and educate citizens on the role of parliament and the mechanisms available to participate in decision-making. Strategies applied range from educational programs and advocacy campaigns to public hearings. The session will start with a lightning round of presentations by parliamentary delegations and civil society representatives on initiatives they have implemented, and conclude with breakout groups to discuss strategies for the promotion of citizen participation and comment on the draft working document.
- Presentations:
- Senator Ranard E. Henfield (Bahamas)
 - Caro Loutfi, Executive Director, Apathy is Boring
 - Prof. Rosalea Hamilton, Board Member, National Integrity Action
- 10:30 – 10:40 **Break**

- 10:40 – 12:00 **Citizen Participation Opportunities**
Parliaments and parliamentarians are adopting initiatives at institutional and individual levels to provide opportunities to citizens to participate in legislative decision-making and oversight of government policy. The session will start with a lightning round of presentations by parliamentary delegations and civil society representatives on initiatives they have implemented, and conclude with breakout groups to discuss strategies to enable citizen participation while mapping out the legislative process to identify the most effective opportunities for engagement, and comment on the draft working document.
- Presentations:
- Senator Londel T. Benjamin (Antigua and Barbuda)
 - Lemarque Campbell, Chairman, Citizens for a Better Bahamas
 - Senator Andre Worrell (Barbados)
 - Sharda Ganga, Director, Projekta
- 12:00 – 13:30 **Lunch**
- 13:30 – 14:30 **Overcoming Challenges to Citizen Participation**
The integration of additional opportunities and new digital mechanisms for citizen participation within the legislative process is not without risks and challenges. There are important factors to consider as an engagement strategy is developed, and actions to mitigate risks can be adopted. This session will consist of group discussions around potential mitigation strategies for common challenges faced in parliamentary practices to engage citizens.
- 14:30 – 15:30 **Reflection**
This session will provide an opportunity for additional discussions and feedback on the draft toolkit
- 15:30 – 16:00 **Next Steps, Closing Remarks and Evaluations**