

# Review and Update of the Road Map towards Legislative Openness

#ParlAmericasOPN #RoadMap



**THEME:** Open Parliament, transparency, accountability, citizen participation, integrity, ethics



**DATES:** December 2020 to May 2021



**LOCATION:** Virtual



**PARTICIPANTS:** More than **160** parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and representatives of civil society from **29** countries



**ORGANIZING PARTNER:** Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch and Latin American Network for Legislative Transparency



*This activity aligned with SDGs 16.*

ParlAmericas convened a series of activities soliciting inputs to update and expand its [Road Map towards Legislative Openness](#). Published in 2016, this document was co-created by legislatures and civil society representatives from across the Americas and the Caribbean, and its pillars of transparency, accountability, citizen participation, and ethics have inspired and shaped open parliament commitments and action plans at national levels.

## Online Survey

The review process started with an online survey which was distributed in December 2020 to identify which topics and aspects should be included in the new edition of the Road Map. Representatives of parliaments and civil society from 24 countries contributed to the findings.

## Inter-Parliamentary Meetings

Once the submissions of the survey were organized, virtual meetings were held to discuss the concrete changes and updates that would be included in the new edition, taking into account the experiences and work priorities identified by representatives of parliaments and civil society organizations in the hemisphere, in favour of promoting legislative openness.

The meetings included the following:

- Session in the [Caribbean Clerks Programme](#), organized by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch (CPA-UK) (January 14)
- [2nd Meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament](#), which was attended by 96 representatives of legislative branches from 16 Latin American countries (January 22)
- [Working Meeting of Caribbean Presiding Officers on Open Parliament](#), which brought together 22 representatives from 10 countries (April 19)
- [Co-creation meeting between parliamentarians and representatives of civil society organizations](#) who are members of the Latin American Network for Legislative Transparency, which was attended by 18 representatives from 10 countries (May 17)



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Session in the Caribbean Clerks Programme:

- Ms. **Esmalene Cox-Jn Louis**, Deputy Clerk of Parliament (Saint Lucia)
- Mr. **Eddie Webster**, Clerk of the National Assembly (Belize)

### 2nd Meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament:

- Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President of ParlAmericas
- Mr. **Waldir Bezerra Miranda** (Brazil), Deputy Secretary General of the Governing Board, Federal Senate
- Ms. **María Liz Sosa** (Paraguay), Director General of Legislative Strengthening and External Cooperation of the Chamber of Senators
- Mr. **Juan Carlos Chavarría** (Costa Rica), Director of the Department of Citizen Participation of the Legislative Assembly
- Ms. **Rocío Noriega** (Chile), Adviser to the Bicameral Transparency Group of the National Congress
- Mr. **Mauricio Sarabia** (Ecuador), General Coordinator of Planning of the National Assembly

### Working Meeting of Caribbean Presiding Officers:

- The Honourable **Bridgid Annisette-George** (Trinidad and Tobago), Speaker of the House of Representatives and Vice-President of ParlAmericas
- The Honourable Senator **Ranard Eric Henfield** (The Bahamas), Vice-President for the Caribbean of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

### Co-creation meeting between parliamentarians and representatives of civil society organizations:

- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Javier Macaya** (Chile), President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
- Senator **Berta Caraveo** (Mexico), Vice-President for North America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Ana Lucía Delgado** (Costa Rica), First Vice-President for Central America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
- Member of the National Assembly **Corina Cano** (Panama), Second Vice-President for Central America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

## Next Steps

Following the organization of the contributions received at each of the meetings, a draft of the new Road Map will be posted online for the submission of additional comments. Afterwards, the Executive Committee of the Open Parliament Network will approve the final version before its official launch. The new edition of the Road Map will include the updated definition of open parliament, emphasizing the value and importance of co-creation processes, a re-organization of the key aspects in each pillar, as well as new concepts added to the glossary.

A new edition of the [Legislative Transparency Index](#) will also be launched this year, based on a [new methodology](#) that was presented at one of the meetings in the Road Map review process. This Index was prepared by civil society organizations that are part of the Latin American Network for Legislative Transparency and measures policies for legislative openness in place since 2011 by evaluating regulations, work, budgets and administrative management, as well as citizen participation. The new index will be in line with the pillars of open parliament, in order to cover a greater number of topics.



## MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ROAD MAP TOWARDS LEGISLATIVE OPENNESS

- The incorporation of and emphasis on co-creation as a central aspect of open parliament and its promotion in commitments and action plans
- The incorporation of technological innovation across all pillars of open parliament, taking into account the digital transformation processes in legislative branches related to the transition to virtual sittings
- The consolidation of mechanisms for parliamentary oversight, including the comprehensive monitoring of progress with regard to issues that are national priorities, such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the fight against corruption
- The strengthening of spaces and mechanisms for inclusive citizen participation that take into account vulnerable populations
- The adoption of public integrity systems to ensure compliance with codes of ethics and lobbying laws, and the provision of technical support to parliamentarians and parliamentary staff with regard to these issues

The agendas and presentations of these activities are available on the [Our Work](#) section of the ParlAmericas website, and the updated version of the Road Map will be posted on the [Open Parliament](#) section.

## PARTICIPATING PARLIAMENTS



Antigua and Barbuda



Dominica



Jamaica



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



Argentina



Dominican Republic



Mexico



Suriname



Barbados



Ecuador



Nicaragua



Spain



Belize



El Salvador



Panama



The Bahamas



Brazil



Grenada



Paraguay



Trinidad and Tobago



Chile



Guatemala



Peru



Colombia



Guyana



Saint Kitts and Nevis



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Honduras



Saint Lucia

## ORGANIZING PARTNERS



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ParlAmericas is headquartered in **OTTAWA, CANADA**

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