

Open Parliament Day

May 29, 2019

Sir John A. Macdonald Building
144 Wellington St, Ottawa, ON K1P 5T3



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.

An open parliament undertakes efforts to transform the relationship with the public by promoting transparency, accountability, participation and high ethical standards. It aims to continuously improve how it represents constituents and oversees government actions to lead to better legislative and policy decisions for the country. These efforts are sustained through an institutional and multi-partisan commitment to undergo a continuous parliamentary strengthening exercise, in collaboration with civil society actors and other stakeholders. Open Parliament Action Plans, co-created by parliament and civil society, are an important mechanism that many parliaments have used towards this end.

These parliamentary strengthening initiatives contribute to a larger objective to create more open States and transform government culture to promote innovation and continuously improve policies and service delivery to meet public needs. Parliament is a key actor in this transformation, as many relevant reforms require new legislation or legislative amendments. Through their role of representation and oversight, parliamentarians have a responsibility to promote and engage in public policy issues that affect their constituents.

This meeting will provide an opportunity for parliamentary delegations to exchange with peers, civil society actors and other stakeholders on participative and inclusive practices to identify sustainable solutions to problems that impact citizens' daily lives.

Tuesday May 28, 2019 – Side-Event for Parliamentary Delegations

Throughout the day

Arrival of participants

08:30 – 17:30

International Grand Committee hosted by the Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics of the House of Commons of Canada

Location: Room 225-A, West Block

The second meeting of the International Grand Committee will focus on holding digital platforms to account and will also examine foreign influence in our democracies and data as a human right: protecting our citizens – data security and privacy. This meeting is open to the public.

Wednesday May 29, 2019 – Official Program

- 07:45 – 08:15 **Registration for delegates staying at the Delta Hotel, Lord Elgin Hotel, Arc the Hotel and Alt Hotel**
Location: Hotel lobby
- 08:15 **Transfer of participants from from Delta Hotel, Lord Elgin Hotel, Arc the Hotel and Alt Hotel to Sir John A. Macdonald Building**
- 08:30 – 09:00 **Registration for delegates not staying in official hotels**
Location: Entrance, Sir John A. MacDonald Building
- 09:00 – 09:30 **Welcome Remarks**
Location: Room 100
- Randy Boissonnault (Canada), Member of Parliament and Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network for North America
 - Blanca Ovelar (Paraguay), Senator and President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
 - Greg Fergus (Canada), Parliamentary Secretary to the President of Treasury Board and Minister of Digital Democracy
- 09:30 – 09:45 **Official Photo**
- 09:45 – 10:00 **Guide to Develop Open Parliament Action Plans**
- Elizabeth Cabezas (Ecuador), Member of the National Assembly and ParlAmericas Board Member
- 10:00 – 10:15 **Special Presentation: Open Parliament e-Network (OPeN)**
- Devin O’Shaughnessy, Director of Programmes at Westminster Foundation for Democracy, an OPeN Partner
 - María Baron, Global Executive Director, Directorio Legislativo, an OPeN Partner
- 10:15 – 12:00 **Round Table Working Session: Leveraging opportunities for collaboration with civil society to develop better legislation and improve oversight of government policies**
- Moderator: Ranard Henfield (The Bahamas), Senator and Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network for the Caribbean

Rethinking the interaction between public institutions and people to build trust and be more responsive to their needs, is at the heart of the openness agenda. By opening their doors and increasing meaningful collaboration with civil society, parliaments have achieved important steps towards improving the legislative process and strengthening its oversight function. This session will provide an opportunity for delegates to discuss with their parliamentary colleagues who are involved in Open Parliament Action Plan cycles and civil society representatives who work closely with their parliament, as well as share their thoughts on challenges, mitigation strategies and new opportunities to collaborate towards a joint objective of opening parliament.

- 12:00 – 13:45 **Lunch offered by the Canadian Section of ParlAmericas**
Location: Ballroom, Fairmont Chateau Laurier
- 13:45 – 13:50 **Briefing for the Parliamentary Track of the OGP Global Summit on May 30**
Location: Room 200
- Randy Boissonnault (Canada), Member of Parliament and Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network for North America

Parliamentary delegates interested in joining a small group of colleagues for guided participation in Open Government Partnership Global Summit sessions on May 30 are invited to advise ParlAmericas by completing the sign-up sheet. Interested participants will be divided by language and each group will be accompanied by one or more staff members of organizations within the Open Parliament e-Network (OPeN).

- 13:50 – 14:00 **Special Presentation: Open Government Partnership**
- Paul Maassen, Chief of Country Support of the Open Government Partnership

- 14:00 – 15:40 **Panel and Group Discussion: Emerging trends, opportunities and challenges in open parliament efforts**
- Moderator: Samson Chararkey (Kenya), Senator
 - Bob Zimmer (Canada), Member of Parliament and Chair of the Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics
 - Carla Piccolomini (Argentina), Member of the Chamber of Deputies
 - Mukelani Dimba, Head of Development at the International School for Transparency

Openness across all branches of the State can lead to better legislation and public policy that serve citizens' needs and interests. This requires efforts beyond strengthening processes to building an institutional culture in which transparency is key. Parliamentarians need reliable, up to date and accurate information concerning public policy issues at hand to develop evidence-based bills and provide effective oversight of executive actions. Civil society also benefits from openness to strengthen their participation in legislative and public policy issues. This session proposes to explore opportunities through which parliament can leverage the openness agenda to contribute to more informed debates and transformative public policy outcomes. It will also explore emerging challenges, like fake news and disinformation, and consider possible solutions.

- 15:40 – 15:50 **Evaluation**

- 15:50 – 16:00 **Closing Remarks**



Please note that meeting sessions will be audio-recorded to become podcast episodes. Find ParlAmericas on iTunes and Google Play to listen to sessions and presentations from our past gatherings held across the hemisphere

Consult the following link for information on the [Parliamentary Track of the Open Government Partnership Global Summit](#) taking place on May 29-30, 2019.