The role of CSOs in an Open Parliament

DIRECTORIO LEGISLATIVO

Red Latinoamericana por la
Transparencia **Legislativa**

OPEN PARLIAMENT

"A new form of interaction between citizens and legislative powers that promotes parliamentary openness and transparency, to ensure access to public information, accountability, citizen involvement, and high probity and ethical standards in parliamentary work."

THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSO) IN AN OPEN PARLIAMENT

There cannot be an open or accountable Congress or Assembly without the participation of civil society. CSOs plays a key role in the design and implementation of transparency and parliamentary openness policies.
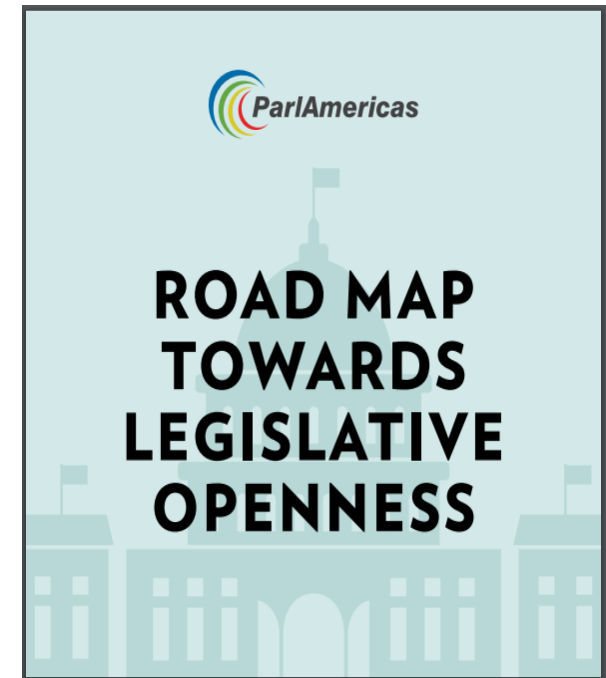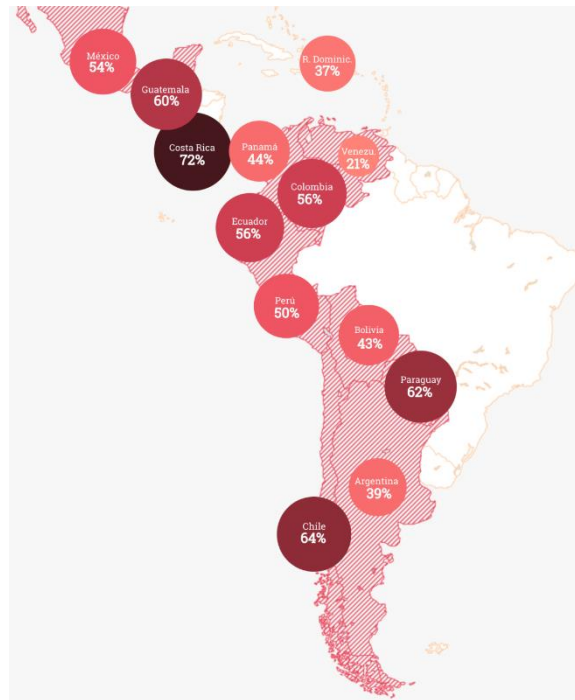
CSOs must:

- **Collaborate** with parliaments

- **Demand** information and openness

- **Monitor** policies and administrations

DON'T REINVENT THE WHEEL

Many regional and internactional documents exist that establish standards and priorities to work towards an open parliament.

OPEN PARLIAMENT ACTION PLANS IN LATIN AMERICA

	CHILE	2014 - 2016	19 COMMITMENTS
	COSTA RICA	2015 - 2016	12 COMMITMENTS
	PARAGUAY	2016 - 2018	5 COMMITMENTS
	COLOMBIA	2016 - 2017	11 COMMITMENTS
	GUATEMALA	2016 - 2017	5 COMMITMENTS

HIGHLIGHTED COMMITMENTS

Modify, together with CSOs, the regulations of both legislative chambers for **lobbying and management of interests** within the National Congress (2014).

Creation of a **citizen's office** that receives requests for access to public information (one-stop shop). Establishment of a protocol to receive and transmit requests for API internally (2015).

Installation of the **Ethics and Transparency Commission** in the Senate of Paraguay. Creation of a Code of Ethics and regulations for the commission (2016).

Adoption of a system of **electronic contracting** to make purchasing and procurement mechanisms of the Senate more transparent.

Development of a **mobile app** to make parliamentary information more transparent and enable the exchange of information between citizens and legislators.

Update and publish the resumes of advisors to legislators, caucuses, and commissions (2016).

Co-creation of a policy on **open data** within the Congress (2016).

¿HOW DO YOU CREATE AN OPEN PARLIAMENT ACTION PLAN?

✓ Establishment of a **specific timetable** with clear dates that enable broad participation in the process.

✓ **Wide invitation** to diverse interested sectors (civil society, academia, unions, businesses and the private sector, universities, etc.)

✓ **"Thematic" or "sectoral" discussions** in order to stimulate deep and concrete debate on the subject in question (for example, "information on commissions," "voting," "budget").

✓ Participation of **decision-makers** in the discussions, in order to streamline the process and make decisions on the spot.

✓ Creation of a **draft of the Plan**, and its publication online for at least 15 days to receive comments, questions, and suggestions from citizens and CSOs.

✓ **Analysis of comments,** incorporation of relevant ones, and final drafting of the Plan.

✓ **Formal presentation before the OGP.**

Thank you!

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