







#ParlAmericasOPN #OpenParliament

 **THEMES:** Open parliament

 **DATES:** January 28, 2022

 **LOCATION:** Virtual

 **PARTICIPANTS:** Parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, and representatives of civil society organizations from 14 Latin American countries

 **HOST:** The National Assembly of Ecuador



This activity aligned with SDG 16.



4th Meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament

The fourth meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament (PSNOP) brought together parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, and representatives of civil society organizations from Latin America to reflect on regional progress on legislative openness through the exchange of experiences and lessons learned, as well as to discuss the impact and results of this agenda from the public's perspective.



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Opening remarks:

- Member of the National Assembly **Wilma Andrade** (Ecuador), Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas OPN

Dialogue moderators:

- **Bernardo Gutiérrez**, Advisor, Thematic Parliamentary Group on Open Parliament, National Assembly of Ecuador, and Regional Coordinator for South America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament
- **Nelly González**, Legal Advisor to the President, National Assembly of Panama, and Regional Coordinator for Central America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament
- **Juan Carlos Chavarría**, Director of the Citizen Participation Department, Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica, and Regional Coordinator for Central America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament
- **Fredy Erazo**, General Coordinator of the Transparency Unit, Senate of Mexico, and Regional Coordinator for North America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament

Presenters:

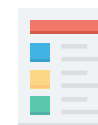
- **María Liz Sosa**, Director General, General Directorate of Institutional Development and External Cooperation, Chamber of Senators of Paraguay
- **Mónica Vanegas**, Head of the Citizen Services Office, Congress of the Republic of Colombia
- **Álvaro Céspedes**, Advisor to the President, National Assembly of Panama
- **Juan Manuel Cheppi**, Secretary General, Chamber of Deputies of Argentina
- **Claudia Muñeton**, Advisor to the President on the Action Plan, Chamber of Representatives of Colombia
- **Caterina Di Salvatore**, General Directorate, Chamber of Senators of Uruguay
- **Rocío Noriega**, Advisor to the Bicameral Transparency Group, National Congress of Chile
- **Luisa Pazmiño**, Citizen Participation Specialist, National Assembly of Ecuador
- **Andrea González**, Advisor to the General Secretariat, Chamber of Deputies of Mexico

Panellists:

- **Marta Ferrara**, Executive Director, *Semillas para la Democracia*
- **Jorge Marín**, participant in the Youth Legislative Impact program
- **Fabio Almeida Lopes**, Legislative Analyst, Chamber of Deputies of Brazil, and Director of Public Policy, Bússola Tech

Closing remarks:

- **Luis Rojas**, Deputy Secretary, Chamber of Deputies of Chile, and General Coordinator of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament



[FULL AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



[PRESENTATIONS](#)



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Working groups

Open parliament advances: From co-creation to implementation

The working groups provided participants with an opportunity to exchange good legislative practices related to open parliament that have been successfully implemented in several of the region's parliaments.

The dialogues also addressed some of the challenges and opportunities arising from co-creation processes, highlighting, among other issues, the difficulties created by the pandemic and the adjustments to parliamentary work resulting from the health restrictions, the need to institutionalize open parliament initiatives in legislatures, and the importance of maintaining open communication with civil society organizations engaged in co-creation processes.



Panel on the impacts of legislative openness from the public's perspective

Considering the resolute progress made in the implementation of open parliament models and initiatives in the different legislatures of the hemisphere, it is relevant to assess their results for society.

The panellists thus shared their thoughts on the main impacts of the implementation of open parliament initiatives, providing insight on central issues such as the progress made in building trust between parliaments and civil society organizations, the importance of establishing broad and democratic co-creation processes, and achievements in terms of expanding mechanisms and spaces for citizen participation in parliamentary work.



KEY FINDINGS

Main conclusions of the working groups:

- The participation of parliamentary staff has been essential to ensuring the ownership and sustainability of legislative openness processes, especially considering the changes in executive groups, committees, etc. The active engagement of actors such as general secretariats, planning departments, and information and communication technology departments is therefore vitally important to ensure that these efforts do not become isolated and are instead part of the institutional policy of the parliament.
- In complement to the point above, staff members have highlighted the need to establish training programs on legislative openness for parliamentary staff that involve a broad spectrum of individuals and departments.
- Co-creation processes with civil society organizations are seen as stronger when they create inclusive spaces for and mainstream the participation of historically marginalized social groups. Some good practices demonstrate the importance of gender mainstreaming in co-creation plans and engaging women's organizations (Chamber of Deputies of Argentina). Similarly, the experience of engaging Afro-descendant populations in collective construction exercises has been valuable (Chamber of Representatives of Colombia).
- Although the restrictions resulting from the health measures implemented to contain the effects of the pandemic initially posed a challenge to parliamentary work, they eventually served as catalysts for many of the ongoing digitization processes in parliaments (virtual sessions, digitized signatures, strengthening of cybersecurity, among others), which, ultimately, have contributed to legislative openness co-creation and implementation processes.

Resources

- [Road Map towards Legislative Openness](#). ParlAmericas, 2016.
- [Guide to Develop Open Parliament Action Plans, Executive Summary](#). ParlAmericas, 2019.

Presentations

- [Reflections on the Progress made towards Legislative Openness by the Senate of the Republic of Colombia](#), presented by Mónica Vanegas, Head of the Citizen Services Office, Congress of the Republic of Colombia (in Spanish)
- [New Website of the Chamber of Deputies of Mexico](#), presented by Andrea González, Advisor to the General Secretariat, Chamber of Deputies of Mexico (in Spanish)
- [New Internal Regulations of the Chamber of Deputies of Brazil](#), presented by Fabio Almeida Lopes, Legislative Analyst, Chamber of Deputies of Brazil, and Director of Public Policy, Bússola Tech (in Spanish)

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED



Argentina



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ParlAmericas is headquartered in **OTTAWA, CANADA**

International Secretariat of ParlAmericas

703-155 Queen Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 6L1 Canada

Telephone: +1 (613) 947-8999

Email: info@parlamericas.org

