







#ParlAmericasOPN


 **TITLE:** Legislative Transparency Measurements and Tools: Opportunities for Parliamentary Openness

 **THEMES:** Open parliament, transparency, ethics and probity, citizen participation, inclusion and gender equality, women's political participation and representation, collaboration with civil society

 **DATES:** November 29 and 30, 2023

 **LOCATION:** Bogota, Colombia

 **PARTICIPANTS:** More than 35 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, and representatives of civil society organizations from 13 countries of the Americas

 **HOST:** Congress of the Republic of Colombia



This activity is aligned with SDGs 5, 10, 16, and 17.



ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network Working Meeting

The working meeting of the Open Parliament Network, held jointly with the Congress of the Republic of Colombia and the Latin American Network for Legislative Transparency (RLTL, by its Spanish acronym), considered various perspectives on the relevance of legislative transparency measurements and tools, such as the [Latin American Legislative Transparency Index](#), in creating political windows of opportunity that favour the promotion of the open parliament agenda in the region. Parliamentarians, together with parliamentary staff and representatives of civil society organizations, participated in panels and working groups to reflect on the implementation of actions and commitments—related to different pillars of open parliament—to strengthen legislatures, through more inclusive and effective mechanisms for openness and transparency.



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Opening round table:

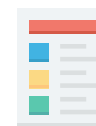
- Hon. Senator **Iván Name** (Colombia), President of the Senate
- Hon. Representative **Andrés Calle** (Colombia), President of the Chamber of Representatives
- Hon. Representative **Catherine Juvinao Clavijo** (Colombia), Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
- Hon. Senator **Germán Blanco** (Colombia), ParlAmericas Board Member

Dialogue moderators:

- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Blanca Alcalá** (Mexico), Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies
- **Rocío Noriega** (Chile), Advisor to the Bicameral Group on Transparency, National Congress
- Honourable Alternate Member of the National Assembly **Walkiria Chandler** (Panama)
- **Francisco Samaniego**, Executive Project Coordinator, Center for Information and Resources for Development (CIRD by its Spanish acronym), Paraguay
- Hon. Representative **Cristian Avendaño** (Colombia)

Working group moderators:

- Senator **Bertha Caraveo** (Mexico), First Vice-President for North America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Luz Mary Alpízar** (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
- Member of Congress **Mario Argeñal** (Honduras), Chair of the Congressional Committee on Ethics and Transparency



[AGENDA \(In Spanish\)](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



[VIDEO - November
29](#)

[VIDEO - November
30](#)



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AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Panellists:

- Representative **Nancy Núñez Soler** (Uruguay)
- **Luis Rojas** (Chile), Deputy Secretary of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile and General Coordinator of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament
- **María Baron**, Coordinator of the Latin American Network for Legislative Transparency and Global Executive Director, Directorio Legislativo, Argentina
- **Roger Celi**, Coordinator of the Legislative Area, Citizenship and Development Foundation (FCD by its Spanish Acronym), Ecuador
- **Vanessa Cala** (Colombia), President of the Plain Language Network of Colombia and staff member of the General Secretariat of the Chamber of Representatives
- **María Liz Sosa** (Paraguay), Director General, General Directorate of Institutional Development and External Cooperation of the Honourable Chamber of Senators
- **Leah de Boersner**, Vice-President of the Board of Directors, Civic Space Foundation (Fundación Espacio Cívico), Panama
- **Juliana Hernández**, Director, Artemisas Foundation (Fundación Artemisas), Colombia
- Hon. Representative **Ana Rogelia Monsalve** (Colombia), Representative of the Chamber of Representatives for the Special Afro-descendant National Constituency
- **María Cristina Padilla** (Honduras), Director of Transparency, National Congress
- Senator **Iván Flores** (Chile), Member of the Senate Committee on Ethics and Transparency
- **Doris Muñoz Varela** (Uruguay), Director of the Communications Area, Chamber of Representatives
- **Diana Chávez**, Project Manager, Transparency Civil Association (Asociación Civil Transparencia), Peru





MAIN CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING

- Building awareness about the open parliament agenda amongst political and civil society actors can help foster political windows of opportunity to advance work in this area. Measurement tools like the Latin American Legislative Transparency Index can assist in identifying the strengths and potential of parliaments, in order to establish courses of action to promote advances under different pillars of open parliament. These windows of opportunity facilitate the diagnosing, proposing and implementing of improvements to legislative openness and the institutional capacity of parliaments in the region.
- Strategic alliances are fundamental to implementing open parliament actions and transparency measures. Collaboration between parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, and civil society organizations, including women's organizations, can generate synergies and political momentum to advance legislative openness action plans and commitments. It is important that these dialogue spaces integrate opportunities for citizen participation that are accessible and facilitate the involvement of populations that have been historically excluded from the legislative sphere.
- Effective communication and active transparency are essential to deepening public confidence in parliamentary openness processes. In this regard, there are several challenges associated with the communication of legislative information which need to be addressed by parliaments, in collaboration with civil society organizations, to bring them closer to citizens and strengthen public confidence in parliamentary activities.
- Transparency measurement and tools can provide pathways for action that allow parliaments to prioritize and implement strategies to strengthen the open parliament agenda in political and administrative spheres. The information that these resources generate for parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, and civil society organizations can facilitate the development of inclusive spaces for consultation and dialogue among these actors, based on evidence and oriented toward measurable results in the short, medium, and long term.
- Parliamentary integrity systems have proven to create incentives that promote an institutional culture of openness and legislative strengthening. As part of the pillars of open parliament, ethics and probity require internal rules and regulations that, when endorsed across multiple political and administrative units, can advance corruption prevention strategies promoted by parliaments in the region.
- Exchanging good practices and lessons learned in regional forums for dialogue can promote strategic alliances that advance the open parliament agenda. Transparency measurements and tools are monitoring mechanisms that parliaments continue to use as a hemispheric reference to promote legislative openness within their respective political and administrative work.
- The open parliament agenda can be further strengthened to promote human rights, gender equality, and intersectionality. Promoting innovation in legislative openness mechanisms to favour the inclusion of women's organizations is an effort that can be advanced regionally, by incorporating related metrics into existing transparency tools and measurements.



Hon. Representative **Catherine Juvinao** (Colombia), Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network:

"At this meeting we will be able to take advantage of two days of in-depth interactions and socialization so that we can generate the necessary work among parliaments of the region in order to develop joint agendas and move forward on this agenda of openness, promoting the key approach of intersectionality."



Hon. Senator **Germán Blanco** (Colombia), ParlAmericas Board Member:

"As members of ParlAmericas, these meetings must deliver results that become courses of action across the various parliaments to bring parliamentary action closer to the public and civil society and better communicate its aims."



Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Blanca Alcalá** (Mexico), Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies:

"We need new spaces, not only to make known what we do as parliamentarians, but also what guides us in making certain decisions, to vote one way or another."



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

"Legislative offices often use the results of the index as a guide to identify and address weaknesses. The index can be used as an institutional diagnostic tool and gradually promote improvements in openness and transparency processes."



Leah de Boersner, Vice-President of the Board of Directors, Civic Space Foundation, Panama:

"Creating spaces for permanent dialogue between parliaments and civil society organizations, in order to generate continuous feedback, allows us to better understand the potential and importance for the public in promoting transparency, access to information, anti-corruption, and citizen participation within any political agenda."

PARLIAMENTS REPRESENTED



Argentina



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Colombia



Costa Rica



Dominican Republic



Ecuador



Guatemala



Honduras



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Panama



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Peru



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ParlAmericas mainstreams **GENDER EQUALITY** by advocating for women's political empowerment and the application of a gender lens in legislative work



ParlAmericas works towards strengthening democracy and governance by accompanying **ELECTORAL PROCESSES**



ParlAmericas is composed of the **35 NATIONAL LEGISLATURES** of the countries of North, Central and South America and the Caribbean



ParlAmericas fosters **OPEN PARLIAMENTS** by advancing the principles of transparency, accountability, citizen participation, ethics and probity



ParlAmericas organizes consultations and builds **MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS** with young leaders and civil society organizations



ParlAmericas facilitates the exchange of parliamentary **GOOD PRACTICES** and promotes **COOPERATIVE POLITICAL DIALOGUE** in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals



ParlAmericas promotes policies and legislative measures to mitigate and adapt to the effects of **CLIMATE CHANGE**



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