BIOGRAPHIES

Annual Gathering organized by the Open Parliament Network of ParlAmericas:
Roadmap towards legislative openness:
transparency, accountability, citizen participation and ethics

Asuncion, Paraguay | May 26-27, 2016

Session 1. Open Parliament: Fundamentals, regional experiences and examples of action plans

Moderator: Senator Hernán Larraín, Chile, President of the Open Parliament Network of ParlAmericas

Senator Larraín is a lawyer, university professor, and a member of the Independent Democratic Union. He was President of the Senate from 2004 to 2005. He currently presides over the Ethics and Transparency Commission of the Senate, and the Bicameral Commission on Transparency. In the international sphere, Senator Larraín is the President of the Open Parliament Network of ParlAmericas and co-coordinator of the Open Parliament Working Group of the Open Government Partnership.

Panellists

1. Ms. María Barón, Executive Director, Latin American Network for Legislative Transparency

Ms. Barón is a journalist with a Masters in International Relations and a PhD in Political Science. She is the recipient of a National Democratic Institute "Civic Innovator" Democracy Award. Ms. Barón has worked for numerous organizations that promote civil society in Argentina, and abroad in organizations that work to reduce corruption and ensure the ethical behaviour of public officials.

2. Senator Debra Tobierre, Saint Lucia

Senator Tobierre has been a member of the government since the 2011 legislative elections. Currently, the government is undertaking a project on open data with the support of the World Bank. She is known for her work as a businesswoman and entrepreneur.

3. Senator Rocío Pineda Gochi, Mexico

Senator Pineda Gochi holds a degree in public accounting. In 2010, she received the award for the best civil servant at the municipal level from the organization Humans without Violence A.C. In 2011, the National Association of Municipalities of México A.C. awarded her the national prize for good governance in the area of strategic planning for her performance in municipal administration.

4. Member of the Legislative Assembly Rafael Ortíz Fábrega, Costa Rica

Member of the Legislative Assembly Ortíz served as President of the Legislative Assembly for the 2015-2016 period. He is known for his work as a lawyer in the private sector and as a sports leader.

5. Senator Carlos Filizzola Pallarés, Paraguay

Senator Filizzola studied medicine. He was the Deputy Secretary General of the Confederation of Workers from 1989 to 1991, the country's main labour organization. His work in the areas of citizen participation and transparency has been commended in various international forums and publications. He is the founder and president of the political party "País Solidario."

Session 2. Social communication and open data as core factors of transparency within legislative action

Moderator: Senator Blanca Ovelar, Paraguay

Senator Ovelar is an educational counsellor, psychologist, and holds a Master's degree in Education. She served as the Minster of Education from April 2002 to July 2007. She was awarded the Gabriela Mistral Prize in 2004 by the Government of Chile, the Academic Palms in 2005 by the Embassy of France, and the Order of the Legion of Honour in 2007.

Panellists

1. Ms. Norma Morandini, Argentina, Former Parliamentarian and Director of the Human Rights Observatory of the Senate

Ms. Morandini is a journalist and writer. She entered politics as an independent candidate and served as a Member of the Chamber of Deputies from 2005 to 2009, and as a Senator from 2009 to 2015. She was the Socialist Party's national vice-presidential candidate during the 2011 presidential elections.

2. Minister David Ocampos, National Secretary of Information and Communication Technology, Paraguay

Minister Ocampos is an electrical engineer. During his mandate as a legislator, he was the President of the Science and Technology Commission of the National Congress, where he lead projects to implement new information and communication technology (ICT), supported the team that managed, legalized, and implemented the ICT Master Plan, and drove the enactment of the Law that created the Application Framework for Information and Communication Technology in the public sector and SENATICS.

3. Mr. Yacine Khelladi, Representative, Caribbean Open Institute

Mr. Khelladi is an economist. His work focuses on the use of ICTs in empowering marginalized social groups, developing cultural identity, community development, education, the environment, NGO capacity, grassroots advocacy, and sustainable businesses. In 2003, he created the *Fundación Taigüey*, an NGO dedicated to grassroots development, empowerment through the strategic use of ICTs, and knowledge networking.

4. Mr. Jean-Noé Landry, Executive Director, Open North

Mr. Landry co-founded Open Montreal and Open Quebec in 2010. His current role is based on years of local and international experience supporting governments, legislators, and civil society on issues of open data and strengthening democratic processes and institutions.

5. Ms. Marta Ferrara, Executive Director, *Semillas para la Democracia*

Ms. Ferrara studied sociology and anthropology and has extensive experience working as the director of programs, areas, and projects in civil society organizations. She has also served as an account executive in advertising, and worked for ten years as a journalist in print and radio media.

Session 3. Strategic guidelines for Open Parliament

Moderator: Member of the Chamber of Deputies Guadalupe Valdez, Dominican Republic

Member of the Chamber of Deputies Valdez has a cum laude degree in economics and holds Master's degrees in higher education and public administration. Her activism has focused primarily on political formation, the contribution of participatory approaches, local development, decentralization, and democratic governance. She is currently the Regional Coordinator of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger for Latin American and the Caribbean.

Session 4. Open budget (fiscal transparency) in Parliament

Moderator: Senador Hernán Larraín, Chile, President of the Open Parliament Network of ParlAmericas

Panellists

1. Senator Pana Merchant, Canada

Senator Merchant is co-president of the parliamentary Standing Joint Committee for the Scrutiny of Regulations. She was a founding member of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation in 1996 and was the provincial host for the Prime Minister's Task Force on Women Entrepreneurs in 2003. Senator Merchant is currently the Director of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

2. Ms. Tania Sánchez, Representative, Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency (GIFT)

Ms. Sánchez holds a Masters in International Relations. For more than a decade, she has been a practitioner and advocate of transparency, access to information, and accountability. She has served as the Director General of International Affairs at the Federal Institute for Access to Information and Data Protection (IFAI; now known as NACI), and a consultant to the World Bank, the OAS, and the OGP, among others.

3. Mr. Ricardo Godinho Gomes, Representative, UNDP

Mr. Godinho is a political scientist with twelve years of experience in the fields of democratic governance, electoral assistance, parliamentary strengthening and project management. He has worked to develop the capacity of state and non-state actors to ensure more efficient and independent external control of public finances and management systems.

Session 5. Approval of the roadmap towards legislative openness

Moderator: Senator Marcela Guerra, Mexico, President of ParlAmericas

Senator Guerra is the President of the Senate's Commission on External Relations, North America. In addition, she is the President of ParlAmericas and a member of the Interparliamentary Union (IPU). From 1998 to 2000, she served as the President of Wellbeing and Life A.C., an association dedicated to serving vulnerable groups, and as the founder and advisor of the Plural Pact for Women.