



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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The Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica will host the 2nd Gathering of the Open Parliament Network of ParlAmericas

ParlAmericas, in collaboration with the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica, will hold the 2nd Gathering of its Open Parliament Network, *Strengthening the ties between citizens and legislators*, on Thursday, March 16, and Friday, March 17, with the participation of parliamentary delegations from more than 20 countries in the Americas and the Caribbean.

One of the principal objectives of the meeting is to continue promoting the implementation of ParlAmericas' Road Map towards Legislative Openness. This will be achieved through reflection on citizen participation and involvement in legislative functions. Delegates will identify mechanisms and analyze cases and experiences that can be replicated in their respective national assemblies to ensure space for collaboration and co-creation processes in parliamentary work.

Invited experts will present the standards of the Open Government Partnership in relation to their new legislative policy and processes for co-creation and citizen participation. They will also discuss key aspects of laws on public access to information and enforcement bodies so that delegates can identify relevant priority areas for action in their respective countries.

The gathering will be preceded on Wednesday, March 15, by a training session on social networks that will present useful tools and strategies for promoting citizen participation. On Thursday, March 16, the official inauguration of the gathering will take place in the Former Presidents of the Republic Room of the Legislative Assembly. A Memorandum of Understanding between ParlAmericas and the Latin American Network for Legislative Transparency, a network of 19 Latin American civil society organizations, will also be signed during the inauguration.

For updates on the gathering, see the <u>agenda</u> and follow the event hashtag <u>#OPN2017</u>.

ParlAmericas is the network of the national legislatures of member states of the Organization of American States (OAS). It serves as an independent forum for parliamentarians of the Americas and the Caribbean committed to cooperative political dialogue and participation in the inter-American system. For more information, visit www.parlamericas.org.