10 PRINCIPLES OF
#OpenParliament

ParlAmericas

Organization of American States

The wheel of 10 principles

1. Maximum disclosure and full access to parliamentary and legislative information

2. Publication of information using simple forms and friendly search mechanisms

3. Publication of the analysis, deliberation and voting of parliamentary committees and plenary sessions

4. Guaranteed access and transmission of the complete plenary sessions

5. Publication of detailed information on budget, management, administration and spending

6. Publication of detailed information about legislators and people's representatives

Asset declaration and declaration of interests

7. Availability of mechanisms and tools for effective citizen monitoring and control

8. Guaranteed inclusive citizen engagement in legislative projects

9. Give preference to the use of open data formats and open source software

10. Promote legislation to foster open government policies

A new relationship between **citizens** and their **representatives.**

WHAT IS
OPEN PARLIAMENT?

Since the Open Government Partnership was established in 2011, major initiatives have been undertaken to promote openness and accountability, encourage citizen participation and facilitate cooperation at all government levels -- including parliaments -- through information and communications technologies (ICTs) and the internet. As part of these efforts, the Open Government Partnership approved the creation of the Legislative Openness Working Group with the aim of deepening the exchange of knowledge and experiences across various government entities, civil society and international institutions, with regards to the the opportunities and challenges associated with legislative openness processes throughout the world.

ParlAmericas and the Organization of American States have carried out activities in the region of the Americas and Caribbean, in which parliamentarians have debated and promoted the principles of open government. Following these types of synergies, the **Open Parliament** paradigm has been defined as a **new form of interaction between citizens and parliaments**, the central principles of which are openness and access to information on national legislatures presented in accessible, open formats. Moreover, with the use of ICTs and the internet, Open Parliament allows citizens to participate in the development of legislation.

A collaboration of:

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WHAT IS PARLAMERICAS' OPEN PARLIAMENT NETWORK?

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The Open Parliament Network is a permanent working group within ParlAmericas, the origins of which can be found in the Santiago Declaration on Parliamentary Transparency and Integrity in Parliaments and Political Parties (an agreement endorsed by Latin American parliamentarians in 2012), which places emphasis on combating corruption and improving democratic governance through transparency, public access, accountability, citizen participation, probity and ethical behaviour within parliaments. This working group, formerly known as the Inter-American Parliamentary Network for Transparency, Access to Public Information and Probity, will continue to work towards specific actions in line with the above-mentioned principles. The Network was formally incorporated into ParlAmericas at the 12th Plenary Assembly held in Panama City from September 4 to 5, 2015.

National parliaments and their members are invited to participate in the Network.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE OPEN PARLIAMENT NETWORK ARE:

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1   To reinforce mechanisms that ensure democratic institutions are **transparent** and adherent to the highest principles of ethics applicable to public duties;

2   To urge parliaments in the Americas and the Caribbean to fulfill their commitments to **combat corruption** through measures adopted in international agreements concerning transparency and access to public information;

3   To strengthen the standards of **parliamentary ethics** by establishing clear rules for conflicts of interests, parliamentarian conduct, ethics committees, as well as the active participation of citizens;

4   To promote the **exchange of knowledge and experience** in matters related to combating corruption and sharing best practices implemented in the region;

5   To establish a legal framework for **accountability** that includes assessment of parliamentary management, access to public information, combatting corruption, preventing conflicts of interest and influence peddling, mechanisms for internal control, undue influence, political financing, as well as clear procedures for sanctioning;

6   To promote **citizen engagement** through openness initiatives that foster dialogue on the role of parliaments, participatory methods of establishing regulations, use of new technologies and open data, and civil society's monitoring of parliamentary work.