



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

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The National Congress of Paraguay will Host the Annual Gathering of the Open Parliament Network of ParlAmericas

Thursday May 26, at 9am, will take place the opening session of the Annual Gathering of the Open Parliamentary Network (OPN) of ParlAmericas in the Plenary Room of the National Congress of Paraguay. It will be attended by legislators from more than 15 countries of the hemisphere.

The gathering will start with opening remarks from the host, Senator Blanca Ovelar (Paraguay), who will be joined by Senator Marcela Guerra (Mexico), President of ParlAmericas, and Senator Hernán Larraín (Chile), President of the OPN. Delegates will also receive an address by the President of the Senate, Senator Mario Abdo Benítez, and the President of the Chamber of Deputies, Hugo Velázquez.

The first session will provide an overview of the fundamentals of open parliament as well as share regional experiences and examples of national action plans. This session, as well as all sessions throughout the two-day gathering, will be moderated by legislators and will benefit from interventions from both legislators and civil society experts from across the Americas. The second session will discuss social media and open data as core factors of transparency within legislative action, and the day will be brought to end with a working group session where legislators and civil society experts will develop and discuss commitments for each pillar of the OPN: transparency, accountability, citizen participation and ethics.

The second day of the gathering will start with a session exploring fiscal transparency within parliament. The gathering will end with a review and adoption of the Roadmap for Legislative Openness by all legislators present. This roadmap will not only provide a framework for member parliaments of ParlAmericas to develop their respective national action plan for legislative openness, but it will also act as a series of commitments by member parliaments to implement at home. It will guide the activities of the OPN to support our member parliaments as they move forward with these commitments.

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