



PRESS RELEASE

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Parliamentary delegations concluded their study visit on legislative openness coorganized by ParlAmericas and the National Congress of Chile

ParlAmericas and the National Congress of Chile finalized their study visit on legislative openness held from September 13 to 14 in Valparaiso and Santiago, Chile.

Parliamentarians from Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Paraguay and Peru examined the different tools developed by Chile's National Congress and civil society organizations on topics of transparency and accountability during the second and final day of the study visit in Santiago.

In one session, staff from the National Library of Congress presented the <u>Senador Virtual</u> (Virtual Senator), a web platform that allows citizens to give their opinions on bills of law that are being considered in the Chilean Senate. They also presented the <u>Departamento de evaluación de la ley</u> (Law Evaluation Department), an initiative that aims to examine the impact of enacted laws. They highlighted the tool <u>Visualización del presupuesto nacional</u> (Visualizing the national budget), which currently allows detailed observation of line items and amounts included in the Chilean budget.

Another session focused on citizen participation featured three Chilean civil society organizations that each presented tools. *Incidencia de Espacio Público* presented the <u>Observatorio Anticorrupción</u> (Anticorruption Observatory), which follows progress on agreements made by the Engel Commission on transparency and probity, developed with *Ciudadano Inteligente*. The latter presented <u>Congreso Abierto</u> (Open Congress), a tool that facilitates access to information on parliamentary work and enables a new kind of interaction between citizens and legislators. For their part, *Fundación Contexto Ciudadano* presented <u>Observatorio Fiscal</u> (Fiscal Observatory), a platform demonstrating how municipal and national budgets are applied. The tool also describes how each percentage of taxes paid by citizens is distributed.

Finally, the parliamentary delegations compared their systems for citizen accountability and analysed best practices used in each of their parliaments.

For updates on the study visit, follow the event hashtag: #VisitaOPN.

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