



PRESS RELEASE
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Preparing for the annual ParlAmericas gathering on open parliament

The details are being finalized for the annual ParlAmericas gathering on open parliament, which will take place next Thursday, May 26, and Friday, May 27, in the Senate of Paraguay.

The gathering will have the objective of advancing toward greater legislative openness: transparency, accountability, citizen participation, and ethics. Representatives from the legislative branches of more than fifteen countries in the hemisphere will participate in the event.

The gathering's inauguration will take place on Thursday, May 26, in the *Sala Bicameral* of the National Congress of Paraguay, with opening remarks given by Senator Blanca Ovelar, the host of the meeting. The first session will follow, featuring a discussion of fundamentals, regional experiences, and examples of national action plans with the participation of Senator Carlos Filizzola (Paraguay), a representative of the Latin American Network for Legislative Transparency.

On the afternoon of May 26, the second session, in which delegates will explore "social communication and open data as core factors of transparency within legislative action," and the third session, focusing on "strategic guidelines for Open Parliament," will both take place. During the third session, delegates will form groups based on their areas of interest in relation to the four pillars of the Open Parliament Network: transparency and access to public information, accountability, citizen participation, and parliamentary ethics. The goal of this exercise is to identify minimum commitments and strategies for addressing each pillar.

The fourth session is scheduled for Friday, May 27, in which "open budgeting (fiscal transparency) in parliament" will be discussed. This session will explore what an open budget looks like, with the objective of fostering dialogue and reflection on the importance of this issue in the legislative work of parliament. Case studies, tools, and best practices to facilitate the replication of open budgeting in the national assemblies of participating delegates will also be identified.

The fifth and final session allows for "drafting the roadmap," which gave the meeting its name. In this session, the ParlAmericas framework roadmap on Open Parliament will be created, which will subsequently serve as a reference and encouragement to delegates in the development of action plans for their respective national assemblies.

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.