Partnerships around openness: OpeningParliament.org and the Open Government Partnership

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A call on the world’s parliaments to make concrete commitments to enhancing openness, transparency and citizen engagement
DESTATEMENT ON PARLIAMENTARY OPENNESS

Provision Commentary

Promoting a Culture of Openness

1. Recognizing Public Ownership of Parliamentary Information

Parliamentary information belongs to the public; citizens should be allowed to reuse and republish parliamentary information, in whole or in part. Any exceptions or restrictions to this principle shall be narrowly defined by law.

The notion that parliamentarians serve at the behest of the public is fundamental to democratic governance. It follows that information produced by or for parliament belongs to the citizens. While this principle enjoys broad support of a variety of international bodies, some parliaments limit citizen access to information, which can limit public engagement in policy discussions. In other instances, parliament may provide certain information only upon request, rather than as a matter of course. Parliament may also provide information in formats that restrict the tools available to citizens to access, reuse and analyze legislative information. The availability of parliamentary information, with limited and clearly defined restrictions for particularly sensitive material, ensures maximum accountability of the legislative body to the public and amplifies the role of citizens in the legislative process.

This principle has been enshrined in the African Union’s Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression in Africa, that “Public bodies hold information not for themselves
Contents of the Declaration

1. Promoting a **culture** of openness
2. Making parliamentary **information** transparent
3. Easing **access** to parliamentary **information**
4. Enabling **electronic** communication of parliamentary **information**
ру́сский язык

English

Português

українська мова

Deutsch

Lietuviškai

한국어

Español

議会開放宣言
Welcome to OpeningParliament.org, a forum intended to help connect the world's civic organizations engaged in monitoring, supporting and opening up their countries' parliaments and legislative institutions.
SOCIAL MEDIA

OpeningParliament
@OpenParl
A community of organizations dedicated to parliamentary openness. #openparl #opengov #opendata
Worldwide • OpeningParliament.org

Tweets

- ePF @ePForgpl @DanSzwiel @OpenParl @KohoVoitIEU We are happy for the brainstorming session tool.
- BhanuPriya Rao @bhanupriyrao Why Parliament proceedings secret when its an extension of part in India? Should be televised.

OpeningParliament.org is a forum intended to help connect the world’s civic organizations engaged in monitoring, supporting and opening up their countries’ parliaments and legislative institutions.

Recent Posts by Others on Opening Parliament

- UDEN.org – Democracy made easy
  Do you agree with JRF’s statement? Thanks for any c...
  October 24 at 9:36am
- Bouteflija Jamal
  MBr: 18/03/2013. Association of Representatives of...
  May 31 at 6:02am
- Andrew G. Mandelbaum
  Declaration on Parliamentary Openness now available ...
  January 18 at 7:30am
Time for parliaments to commit to openness

by Ranko Krivokapic 30.07.2013 - 11:11

In the premises of the only city that has been the capital of two great empires, parliamentarians from across Europe, Asia and North America gathered this month to continue the ongoing debate on human rights and security.
Congresistas Peruan@s suscriben Declaración de Transparencia Parlamentaria @ACTTransparencia @congresoperu
Segunda Reunión Ordinaria. Comité de Garantía de Acceso y Transparencia de la Información

Presentación de la Declaración sobre la Transparencia Parlamentaria

17 de abril

DECLARATION ON PARLIAMENTARY OPENNESS
WHAT IS OGP?

OGP Legislative Openness Working Group
WHAT IS OGP?

ELIGIBILITY

- Fiscal transparency
- Access to information
- Public disclosure
- Citizen engagement
WHAT IS OGP?

REQUIREMENTS:

• Work with CSOs to develop an Action Plan
• Implement OGP commitments
• Prepare annual self-assessment report
• Participate in Independent Reporting Mechanism
• Contribute to peer learning
2013 OGP ANNUAL SUMMIT

OGP Legislative Openness Working Group
WHERE ARE PARLIAMENTS?
WORKING GROUPS

• Fiscal Transparency (GIFT and Brazil/Philippines)

• Open Data (GODI and Canada)

• Access to Information (Carter Center and Mexico)

• Extractives (Revenue Watch and Ghana)

• and…
LEGISLATIVE OPENNESS

- Bicameral Commission on Transparency of the Chilean Congress
- Ministry Secretary-General of the Presidency of Chile
- National Democratic Institute
OBJECTIVES OF THE LOWG

• Help countries create more ambitious Action Plan commitments.
• Facilitate peer-to-peer learning, sharing and support.
• Develop shared tools and resources.
• Explore technical assistance and partnership opportunities between governments, parliaments and civil society.
• Broaden the focus of OGP to include the legislative process.
COMPOSITION

- Executive branch representatives
- Parliamentary/legislative leadership (members or nonpartisan staff)
- Representatives from civil society
- International institutions/organizations
WORKING MEETING
LAUNCH EVENT

“Expectations are rising. People are used to commenting instantly on events and having their voices heard, and they rightly want to have that immediacy and voice heard in the legislative process.”

Rt. Hon. Andrew Lansley
Leader of the House of Commons
POTENTIAL LOWG TOPICS

• Common standards on legislative openness
• Assessment and monitoring of OGP commitments
• Enhancing citizen engagement on legislation through online and offline platforms
• Engaging citizens through legislative data
• Sharing information on asset declarations and other methods to ensure parliamentary integrity
WATCH THE LAUNCH

http://bit.ly/17as7Ov

OGP Legislative Openness Working Group
Welcome to the Open Gov Guide

People all around the world are demanding more openness in government. They are seeking ways for citizens to be able to participate in the decisions that affect them, and for governments to be more transparent, responsive, accountable, and effective. What are the steps that governments can take?
OGP Legislative Openness Working Group
2014 WORKPLAN

The Legislative Openness Working Group (LOWG) will plan to hold at least one international meeting, while playing a role in regional OGP meetings over the course of the following year. Topics for these meetings will focus on the issues identified at the business meeting of the group in London at the 2013 Annual Summit, as well as additional feedback received from working group members.

FEBRUARY

Advocacy regarding Cohort 2/4 Action Plan Development
More than 40 countries that joined OGP as part of Cohorts 2 and 4 are due to present Action Plans during the next several months. OGP has asked the thematic working groups to provide support to countries in building commitments related to each group’s topic area. The co-anchors drafted and sent a letter to the legislatures of Cohort 2 and 4 countries encouraging participation in the development of legislative openness commitments. The co-anchors are available to facilitate sharing of peer-to-peer experience regarding legislative openness commitments, as requested.

Deliverable: Letter from co-anchors to speakers of parliament

Distribution of LOWG Email List
Using OGP’s platform, LOWG will curate an email list of group members. The email list is open to the public, allowing anyone to participate in discussions about working group activities. Individuals interested in joining should email LOWG co-anchors. Co-anchors will also distribute a regular newsletter containing information on the group activities through this list. Individuals can email the list at LOWG@opengovpartnership.org.

MARCH

Workplan and Statement of Principles Finalized
“Quinta Sesión Ordinaria. Comité de Garantía de Acceso y Transparencia de la Información”

26 de marzo de 2014

OGP Legislative Openness Working Group
ADDITIONAL EVENTS

- **May 6-7:** OGP Asia Pacific regional
- **May 8-9:** OGP Europe regional
- **September 15-16:** Parliament of Montenegro
- **October 6-7:** Congress of Chile
- **December:** Global legislative hackathon
ANNOUNCING: GLOBAL SURVEY

Welcome to the Global Parliamentary Openness Survey!

This survey was created by the Open Government Partnership's Legislative Openness Working Group to gather information on parliamentary transparency around the world. Specifically, the survey seeks to identify policies and practices with regards to sharing information on the parliament and its activities. By identifying what information parliaments disclose and how they make that information public, this survey will provide parliaments, governments, transparency advocates, and parliamentary development specialists with a global comparative database on parliamentary openness.

A global comparative database on parliamentary openness can help government officials looking to identify areas of success and weakness, assist advocates that are pushing for increased openness in their parliament, and provide a global platform to share best practices across countries and regions.

This survey is the first of two questionnaires designed to gather information on parliamentary openness around the world: this survey gathers data on what information parliaments make public and how they publish that information while the second survey will consider how citizens engage with parliaments. Both surveys are designed to monitor a parliament’s adherence to the principles laid out in the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness.

To ensure accuracy and to recognize diverse perspectives, government officials, parliamentary staff, civil society organizations, and other experts are all encouraged to participate. In cases where there are discrepancies or disagreements, efforts will be made to resolve them in a way that is accurate and fair.

Throughout the survey, participants will be prompted to provide links to certain information that is available online. This will assist the researchers in ensuring that the collected information is objective and complete. Additionally, participants will occasionally be asked to answer open-ended...
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