

Parliamentary Engagement in OGP

América Abierta, September 2022

OVERVIEW

Since OGP launched, parliamentary engagement has been an integral part of the open government philosophy and a key element to achieve ambitious open government reforms. Parliamentary engagement in OGP ranges from parliaments actively participating in national multistakeholder fora and leading commitments in the national action plan to convening their own co-creation processes. Parliaments can implement open government reforms through their national or local OGP process, by submitting standalone Open Parliament Plans, or by promoting openness beyond the OGP platform.

Recommendations

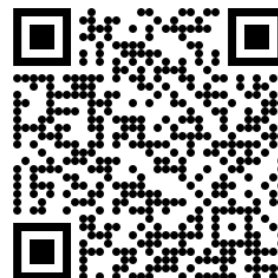
In the open government context, parliaments specifically have a role to play in:

- **Taking legislative action:** Championing open government values by introducing, reviewing and ratifying legislation relevant to open government or approving budgets for open government reform.
- **Ensuring parliamentary oversight:** Holding governments accountable for open government reforms and opening up their own oversight processes to public scrutiny.
- **Opening up parliamentary processes:** Adopting open government principles – transparency, accountability, participation and inclusion – in the parliamentary institution and processes.
- **Creating space for dialogue:** Fostering cross-party dialogue and support needed to advance and institutionalize open government reforms.

RESOURCES

In-depth information on parliamentary engagement in OGP can be found on the [Parliaments in OGP webpage](#), including:

- Guidance for OGP Parliamentary Action Plans (EN, ES)
- Parliamentary Engagement in National OGP Processes: Menu of Options (EN, ES)
- Parliamentary Engagement in Local OGP Processes: Menu of Options (EN, ES)
- Parliaments in OGP – Recommendations (EN)
- Parliamentary Engagement in OGP: Learning from the Evidence (EN)



COMMITMENTS IN THE AMERICAS

Open Parliaments

Nearly half of OGP countries in the Americas (45%) with an active action plan are currently implementing an open parliament commitment, the highest rate since 2011. Nine countries in the Americas have made a total of 24 commitments related to open parliaments.¹

Legislation

Since 2011, 14 countries in the Americas have made a total of 46 commitments that involve drafting or passing legislation. Parliaments have led implementation on few of these commitments, however.

OGP's **Open Parliaments fact sheet** contains information on open parliament commitments globally – including popular topics, commitment examples, and performance measures from the Independent Reporting Mechanism.



LESSONS FROM REFORMERS



Argentina

As part of their third and fourth action plans, Argentina's National Congress worked with civil society to strengthen transparency. The Chamber of Deputies and the Senate specifically focused on making data on administrative and parliamentary activities accessible, reusable, and useful to the public. Also, the Chamber of Deputies enhanced citizen participation in lawmaking by developing a public consultation platform.



Buenos Aires, Argentina

Following repeated requests from civil society, the Buenos Aires legislature established an open data portal in 2019 featuring over 20 datasets, including information on budget and payroll, laws, and sessions and voting. Additionally, the legislature created an internal citizen attention office to accept complaints and suggestions from the public.



Chile

Chile's National Congress is currently leading implementation on two commitments in the 2020-2022 national action plan. Objectives of these commitments include increasing the public traceability of legislation through a new online platform and drafting regulations on the active publication of information.



Paraguay

Paraguay has advanced many open government reforms through their legislature, such as when they became the 100th country in the world to pass a right to information law in 2014. More recently, the Paraguayan legislature has led implementation of several open parliament commitments in Paraguay's 2018-2020 national action plan, including an SDG monitoring platform.

¹ Countries with an open parliament commitment include Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

