

OPEN GOVERNMENT
PARTNERSHIP
AMERICAS
REGIONAL MEETING



Argentina 2017



Ministerio de Modernización
Presidencia de la Nación

CIPPEC 

ACIJ

Asociación Civil por
la Igualdad y la Justicia



DIRECTORIO
LEGISLATIVO



DEMOCRACIA
EN RED

ADC

por los Derechos Civiles



Poder
Ciudadano

Capítulo Argentino de Transparency International



FUNDACIÓN
PARA ESTUDIO
E INVESTIGACIÓN
DE LA MUJER



FUNDACIÓN
Conocimiento Abierto

Themes

The following themes were selected to guide the discussion at the Americas Regional Meeting and organize the different interests of speakers and participants:

- ▶ **Citizen participation and protection of civic space**
- ▶ **Anti-corruption and accountability**
- ▶ **Open States**
- ▶ **Civic technology and open data**
- ▶ **Subnational open government**
- ▶ **Open Government Partnership and cocreation**
- ▶ **Sustainable Development Goals**

Citizen participation and protection of civic space

Citizen participation is at the core of open government. It is a means for managing the public arena, based on collaboration between civil society and government. Ensuring the prevalence of rule of law is key for governments to be able to guarantee individual rights, such as freedom of association, expression, and access to public information. Citizen participation in public policy development, integration of civil society organizations into the political arena, and the protection of public space are key to foster open government and to face the challenges that participatory democracies pose. This theme seeks to address these challenges, analyze

how citizens can be engaged, and learn about the latest citizen innovations. How do citizens and civil society organizations integrate into the policy arena? Which groups are being left behind? Can we bring the participation channels to citizens, as opposed to bringing citizens to participation channels? How can we guarantee a public space that enables open government practices? How can we strengthen the role of intermediaries between the government and the citizenry? What are the risks to freedom of information and the exercise of civil and political rights?

Anticorruption and accountability

This theme looks at the different accountability mechanisms that are in place in Latin America for preventing corruption, providing improved public services, and increasing government transparency. Although the fight against corruption is a global challenge, it has some characteristic traits in the

region. The anticorruption commitments set forth in the open government action plans range from preventive to corrective actions, including surveillance mechanisms that engage civil society and private sector. This theme will cover efforts around:

- ▶ **Initiatives to support identification, investigation and prosecution of corrupt practices,**
- ▶ **Protection of whistleblowers, effective collaborators, etc.,**
- ▶ **Creation of mechanisms for access to public information, demands, and accountability, with explicit channels for monitoring and corrective or penal actions,**
- ▶ **Financing of public policies, and the link between money and politics,**
- ▶ **Innovative mechanisms for regulating lobbyists and managing conflicts of interest,**
- ▶ **Public contracting, beneficial ownership, and asset declaration,**
- ▶ **Sectoral issues including health, natural resources, housing and education, among others**

Open state

In Latin America, whenever we talk about “government”, we tend to think about the executive branch. However, the idea of an “open government” highlights the responsibilities that the three branches share, namely ruling and securing justice in line with democratic principles. It is, therefore, key to address open government in a cross-cutting manner, exploring the roles of the legislature and judiciary. Several parliaments in the region have developed Open Parliament Action Plans. Open justice initiatives that promote transparency, accountability

and participation are growing slowly but surely. There are various collaboration mechanisms between the branches of government that can be set in place to promote openness, and these can be tailored to the specific contexts of each country. In this region, there is a range of engagement efforts that has inspired the rest of the world. This theme will focus on sharing open state or government initiatives that engage more than one branch in an effort to achieve open states.

Civic technology and open data

In the past ten years, we have seen a boom of national and subnational open data initiatives, and a growing number of open information technologies. The interaction between the world of open data and civic technology can enhance the potential for transformative change and social value for the well-being of communities. Open data-based civic technologies can transform these data into

information to advance action, both in the public and private arenas. This theme will gather collective and individual projects and initiatives that combine offline and online strategies to demonstrate the value of this blend. We also seek to explore and learn about approaches that can support civic solutions, empower citizens, and make governments more accessible and open to citizen participation.

Subnational open government

The path to subnational openness provides great opportunities to make transformative changes toward achieving transparent, receptive, accountable and effective governments that work for all. In this level of government, the impact on the citizens' lives is most direct. Actions that aim to improve the provision of public services, such as health and education, are of the utmost importance at the subnational level, and they allow for social stakeholders to engage, as their objectives go

beyond traditional institutional matters. The local level has shown to enable citizen innovation, as it is closest to the people. This theme is aimed at discussing recent experiences of collaborative work between civil society and subnational governments, as well as sharing the work of the leaders and pioneers of OGP's Subnational Pilot Program, as well as other local governments that are advancing the agenda.

Open Government Partnership and cocreation

After 5 years of growth, the Open Government Partnership has evolved in various ways across regions. The Americas is one of the most innovative among OGP regions, with 18 partner countries that have created new mechanisms for dialogue between

civil society and government, but also face many challenges regarding the capacity to cocreate. This theme will highlight presentations that address the challenges, barriers or outcomes of participation of all OGP member countries. It will include:

- ▶ **Country panels: the purpose of this panel is to showcase initiatives, progress, and efforts around open government action plans in the region,**
- ▶ **Hands-on workshops about cocreation mechanisms, rules of the game, permanent dialogue mechanisms, action plan monitoring, etc.,**
- ▶ **Ministry events**

Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations committed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to address a set of global challenges, including eradicating poverty, protecting the planet, and ensuring prosperity for all, as part of the new agenda for sustainable development. This agenda gathers a set of commitments that we are

unlikely to fulfill unless we strengthen civil society, and achieve the proper use of public resources and collaboration across sectors. It is therefore, key to ensure the integration of the open government and SDGs agendas. In this theme, we seek to:

- ▶ **Identify best practices for synergy between the open government and SDG agendas**
- ▶ **Discuss sectoral challenges of SDGs: health, education, and gender, among others**
- ▶ **Share experiences and approaches to monitoring the implementation of public policies that, using an open government approach, advance the implementation of the SDGs**
- ▶ **Identify mechanisms for citizen participation in the implementation and monitoring of SDGs**