



DECLARATION ON PARLIAMENTARY TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY IN PARLIAMENTS AND POLITICAL PARTIES

Those attending the Conference on Probidity and Transparency in Congress and in the Political Party System, gathered in Santiago, January 13 and 14, 2012, unanimously by the signatories, agree the following Declaration:

AWARE of the fact that the decrease in public trust in the parliamentary institutions and in the political party system requires, at one hand, the challenge of improving the standards referring to transparency, probity and public access available in our States, and, at the other hand, the implementation of measures that strength efficiency and accountability of the members of parliament's responsibility.

CONSIDERING that the legislative branch and the legislators are a fundamental pillar of democracy when it comes to its legislative, audit and representative duties, with significant influence on the defense of democracy itself and the promotion of public credibility at all levels of democratic systems and instances.

POINTING OUT the fundamental importance of parliamentary transparency, integrity and accessibility, both for combating corruption and for the improvement of democratic governance in our States.

ACCEPTING our commitments aimed at increasing transparency, combating corruption, involving the citizens and taking advantage of new technologies in order to make the exercise of the parliamentary functions more efficient and responsible.

BEARING IN MIND that the development of the legislative functions, enhancing probity, transparency and citizen's participation, is fundamental for the establishment of an adequate legislative framework aimed at efficiently preventing, detecting and punishing corrupt practices.

HIGHLIGHTING that the audit functions exercised by the Congresses, as well as the National and Legislative Assemblies, imply the duty of their members to adopt an impeccable ethical behavior, which serves as a reference to those who are in charge of the public functions in each of our States.

CONSIDERING that the citizens of our States deserve that those who, as members of the legislative branch, represent the public will, do so with dignity, be willing to account for their mandate to society, and dispose of the instruments that permit an adequate participation of the represented citizens in the parliamentary labor and process.