



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.

BEARING IN MIND that accountability is a fundamental prong of good democratic governance and a principle of public life, by which the elected civil servants mandated to execute the citizen's will –whether in the Government or in the Parliament-, are obliged to inform, justify and publicly account for their acts, which makes the availability of solid and effective accountability processes an important factor to enhance social trust, which in turn is one of the greatest challenges for today's members of parliament.

STRESSING the importance of ratification or adherence to international conventions and the principles established by the international and regional community to enhance transparency, the access to public information and the involvement of civil society into the decision making processes, in particular as stated in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, The American Human Rights Convention, the Interamerican Convention against Corruption, the UN Convention against Corruption, the Open Government Partnership, the Model Inter-American Law on Access to Information and other instruments referring to good governance.

RECOGNIZING the necessity of doubling the efforts that, on a global level, have deployed the international and regional parliamentary organizations with the aim to promote truly representative, transparent, open and responsible parliamentary, political and legislative action, that contributes to combating any form of corruption, as an important measure for enhancing institutional stability and the ethic values of a democratic society.

DECLARE THEIR ADHERENCE AND COMMITMENT TO THE VALUES CONCERNING PROBITY AND TRANSPARENCY BOTH IN ACCOMPLISHING WITH THEIR PARLIAMENTARY DUTIES AND WITHIN THE POLITICAL PARTY SYSTEM, THEREBY:

1. It is a priority to reinforce the mechanisms that ensure that the democratic institutions are transparent and adherent to the highest principles of ethics applicable to public duties, and to the fundamental rights and liberties as guaranteed by the American Human Rights Convention and by all the Constitutions of the American States.
2. The Congresses, as well as National and Legislative Assemblies of the region are summoned to continue combating corruption in our hemisphere, by adopting the necessary legislative measures for the fostering of the international commitments that have been taken by our States in this field, by means of the Interamerican Convention against Corruption, the UN Convention against Corruption, the Open Government Partnership, and other instruments referring to transparency and access to public information.
3. Congresses, as well as National and Legislative Assemblies are urged to adopt or further amend rules about parliamentary ethics, so that members of parliament

always be aware, when performing their duties, that their investiture brings with it the duty of an exemplary, transparent and honest behavior, oriented towards public satisfaction and favoring the general interest over the personal, taking into consideration the following measures:

- a. Clear rules for conflicts of interests, economic transparency, the combat of nepotism, management of funds, election financing, financial accountability and the public's access to information;
 - b. Rules of behavior, inspired by the values of "altruism, integrity, objectivity, responsibility, openness, honesty and leadership".
 - c. Establishment of Ethic Committees, that have the authority, the capacity and the necessary instruments to investigate, advise and sanction.
 - d. Identification of common systems of ethical values between the legislators that allow defining, subsequently, the acceptable and non acceptable behaviors when it comes to legislative management, and according to national and international legal rules.
 - e. Establishment of rules that allow the active participation of the citizens and the exercise of "citizen's control" as part of the accountability measures in the field of legality and efficient use of public funds in Parliament.
4. Congresses as well as National and Legal Assemblies of the American States are encouraged to exchange knowledge and experience in matters referring to combating corruption and, in particular, where available, best practices concerning the honest fulfillment of the audit functions at their charge.
 5. Congresses as well as National and Legal Assemblies are encouraged to establish a legal framework for accountability that includes, among other things, rules about the assessment of parliamentary management, of access to public information, of internal control, of combating corruption, prevention of conflicts of interest, influence peddling, undue pressure, political and campaign financing and a precise sanction system.
 6. At the same time, it is recommended to promote citizen-friendliness and open up both Congresses and Assemblies and the Political party System, to the public, with the objective of showing the important role they have, and evidencing the combat they lead against corruption and the mechanisms they implement for its prevention, thus, promoting the dialogue with the citizens, their implication into the legislative process, and encouraging citizen's control by the use of new technologies, open data and participation.
 7. It is recommended to the regional parliamentary organizations and networks of our hemisphere to take the necessary actions for reaching the goals of the present Declaration, by means of the establishment of a Regional Parliamentary Network for transparency and probity, and a pluriannual Action Plan that allows measuring progress, by the means that they estimate appropriate, such as:

- a. Request the Open Government Partnership to include a line of work concerning Congresses or National and Legislative Assemblies and Political party system;
 - b. Recognize and adhere to the initiatives that the global and regional parliamentary bodies and networks are leading with respect to the improvement of ethical standards and transparency of their members;
 - c. Establish periodic meetings to gather different bodies in charge of the accomplishment and control of parliamentary conduct, and of the information access within Congresses or National and Legislative Assemblies;
 - d. Recognize and encourage local, regional and national leaders in charge of promoting the principles inherent in the present Declaration.
8. International and Regional organizations especially responsible for promoting development are invited to continue to support future actions aimed at accomplishing the objectives of this Declaration.

In Santiago, January 13, 2012, signed, endorsing this statement, the following attendees:

NAME	POSITION	COUNTRY	SIGNATURE
1. HERNAN LARRAIN F.	SENATOR	CHILE	
2. JOSEPH PERAZZA	SENADOR COSTARRICENSE	COSTA RICA	
3. FERNANDO OLIVERA	CEP	CHILE	
4. JUAN CARLOS DELANO		CHILE	
5. Jorge Benjamín Voreto		"	
6. Alberto Cardeneri		CHILE	
7. DOMINGO GABRIEL BANFI		U.S.	
8. Ricardo GARCÍA CERVANTES	(SENADOR)	MEXICO.	
9. Enmar Reyes	Diputado	E/salvador	
10. Silvia Salgado	Asambleísta	Guatemala	
11. Agueda María Guillén		Paraguay	

12. SENADOR FERRY STRATON - CANADA ~~Straton~~
13. Pablo Salvatierra Verdejo (Sociedad de la Isla) Chile Pablo Salto
14. Glorie Ramphuyngjen Mayslei Goby Soc. O'Hurtado
15. DR: LUIS FLORES ECUADOR ~~Flores~~
16. Diputado El Salvador Douglas Avilez
17. Diputado RAFAEL PAZ EL SALVADOR ~~Paiz~~
18. Sigfrido Reyes Diputado ~~Reyes~~ ~~El Salvador~~
19. Viviana Bonilla ECUADOR ~~Bonilla~~
20. Josuel Oyarquin Uoldinio Chile ~~Oyarquin~~
21. JUAN MANUEL GALAN SENADOR COLOMBIA ~~Juan Manuel Galan~~
22. KEVIN BARRON MP UK ~~Kevin Barron~~
23. MARIO ASTETE BRAZO M. ASTETE
24. ALEXANDRO SAGAS ~~Alex~~ ~~TRANSACCION INTERNACIONAL~~
25. BARBARA CARLOS - SENADOR URUGUAY ~~Barbara Carlos~~
26. Juan Carlos Mendoza Garcia Pdt. Asamb. Legislativa Costarrica
27. Manuel Alcantara Seta - Catedratico ESPAÑA ~~Manuel Alcantara~~
28. BETHEL PAULA DIPUTADA ARGENTINA ~~Bethel Paula~~
29. EDMUNDO ELUCHANS DIPUTADO CHILE ~~Edmundo Eluchans~~
30. EDUARDO BARRONQUEZ CIUDADANO MEXICANO ~~Eduardo Barronquez~~
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