



The Congress of the Republic of Colombia

- The Colombian Congress is a **bicameral national legislature** formed by the Senate and the House of Representatives. The members of both houses are elected by **popular vote** to serve four-year terms.
- The Senate has 102 elected members from a single national constituency and its current President is **Senator Mauricio Lizcano Arango**.
- The **House of Representatives** has 166 elected members from territorial constituencies and its current President is **Representative Miguel Angel Pinto Hernandez**.



What is the first action plan for an open and transparent Congress?

The first action plan is an initiative that continues the efforts of the Declaration of Commitments for an Open and Transparent Congress 2015-2016. It sets ambitious and important commitment targets related to the values of **transparency, accountability and civic participation**. The plan is a **co-creation** of the Senate and civil society that involves the participation of:

- Seven (7) **civil society organizations**,
- Three (3) **national government entities**, and
- three (3) **international organizations**.

During the plan's creation process, the co-creators established the need to:

- Institutionalize initiatives for legislative transparency in Congress;
- Implement an open and updated monitoring system for the action plan;
- Raise awareness through pedagogic strategies to promote the importance of these values;
- Include these commitments in the Third National Action Plan that Colombia must present during the Open Government Partnership Summit in 2017; and
- Involve the House of Representatives in the co-creation process.



The Commitments

1. Electronic Public Recruitment: Congress will modernize the public recruitment process.

2. Open Data: Congress will publish open data for public use and new opportunities for citizens.

3. Digital Citizen Participation: Congress will design and implement a digital tool that will allow citizens to see what happens during plenary sessions and how senators vote. It will also allow citizens to give their opinions during sessions.

4. Transparency in Budget Execution: Congress will establish a Budget Technical Assistance Office.

5. Regulation of Lobbying: Congress will create a public registry that will allow citizens to know which companies, public entities, and NGOs, among other actors, are entering the Senate's Support Rooms during plenary sessions.

6. Attendance and Voting Control: Congress will develop a strategy that will inform citizens on the causes of non-attendance of Congresspeople to plenary sessions.

7. Transparent Election of Senior Public Leaders: Congress will develop a transparency and citizen participation strategy for the election of senior public leaders for the 2016-2017 term.

8. Creation of a Senate Ethics and Good Governance Committee: Congress will create a committee that guarantees the principles, values, and ethical guidelines that should steer the behavior of public workers.

9. Accountability: Congress will update the methodology for ensuring accountability and present appropriate, useful information to citizens.

10. Regional Forums: Congress will promote forums that bring the Senate closer to the public throughout the country. During these forums, senators and experts will discuss topics of interest to each region, and citizens will be allowed to intervene in the creation of public policy documents.

11. Senate Website: Congress will review the current Senate website and its contents, verify what information is being published, and identify ways to improve this medium of communication.