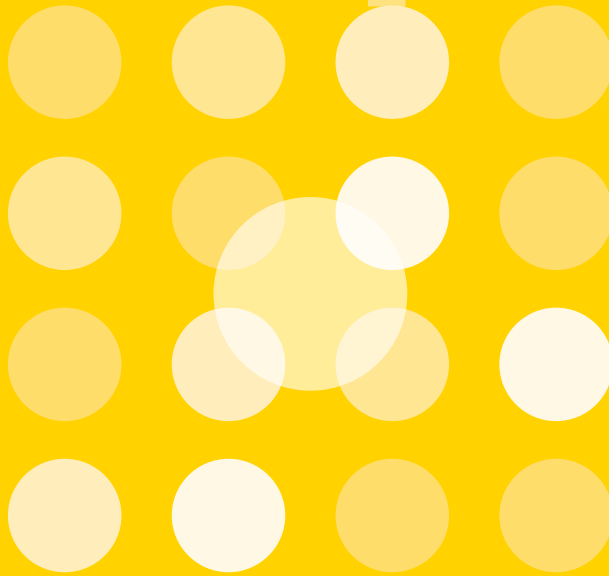
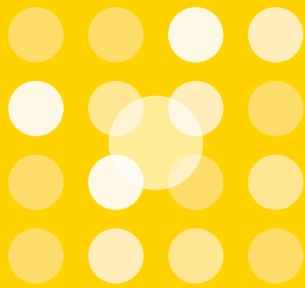




# Regional Index of parliamentary transparency







**National Endowment  
for Democracy**  
*Supporting freedom around the world*

# REGIONAL INDEX OF PARLIAMENTARY TRANSPARENCY

August 2008, Chile



**Poder  
Ciudadano**  
Transparency International Chapter in Argentina

## REGIONAL INDEX OF PARLIAMENTARY TRANSPARENCY

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# 1

## INTRODUCTION

The crises in traditional systems of political representation have been present in the region for several years, and one of the ways in which it manifests itself most clearly is in the results of various studies done on the levels of confidence and credibility that the citizenry feels towards their political parties and the National Congress. In general, these studies show that, year after year, people in the region tend to evaluate legislative work negatively (as well as that of political parties and the judicial branch), and have high indices of distrust in Congress.<sup>1</sup>

In addition, people tend to feel distant and separate from the work carried out by their Congresses, for which reason they do not feel represented nor taken into account in the decisions made by the elected representatives in Congress<sup>2</sup>. At PARTICIPA we believe that a key to improving the connection of political representation is for citizens to have more and better access to public information –and therefore more participation- on legislative work, which contributes to making legislative activities more transparent.

As such, the objective of the Regional Index of Parliamentary Transparency project (hereafter referred to as RIPT) was to design and implement a methodological instrument that would allow us to make a comparative analysis of the levels of transparency and access to information from the Congresses in Chile, Argentina and Guatemala, thus establishing a minimum standard of transparency in the administrative and legislative affairs of these institutions. The RIPT seeks to become a point of reference in terms of transparency for use in managing such issues by the different Congresses in the region.

The reasons for which this pilot experience has been carried out in these three countries are twofold. First of all, there are consolidated civil society organizations in these countries that have been recognized for their work with their respective Congresses for several years now. The project implied systematizing the work of monitoring and outreach that had been going for several years, especially in the cases of Argentina and Guatemala. On the other hand, these countries represent an interesting sample for donor agencies, which was a necessary requirement in order to be able to finance the project. In this way, the project seeks to be a pilot experience that would be improved and implemented during a second stage in other countries in the region.

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<sup>1</sup> See *LATINOBAROMETER REPORT 2007* at [www.latinobarometro.org](http://www.latinobarometro.org)

<sup>2</sup> See *Transparent Congress Report, Corporación Participa, 2005* at [www.participa.cl](http://www.participa.cl)

In Argentina, Chile and Guatemala, corruption scandals and scarce access to information on legislative work detracts from the growth of confidence in and the credibility of these institutions. This deteriorates the connection of political representation, increasing apathy and/or indignation.

Examples of this are the cases of the alleged bribes paid for the passage of the labor reform law in Argentina in the year 2000, or the difficulty in obtaining the sworn declarations of total wealth and assets from elected representatives in Chile.

This, among other things, has attracted the attention of Congresses and produced an important demand to be able to know more about legislative discussions and how representatives vote both in Congress and on Congressional committees. The project seeks to contribute to systematize the level of progress in terms of congressional transparency, produce appropriate incentives for managerial improvement, and help disseminate the existing efforts –both by civil society and by the different Congresses– to provide more and better information.



# 2

## BACKGROUND ON EACH COUNTRY

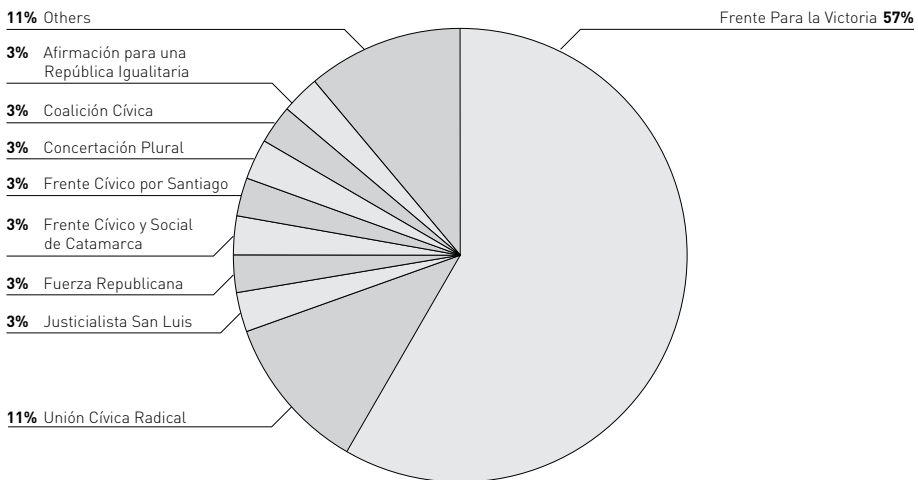
In the following section, some relevant data is presented that is important to keep in mind when approaching the Congresses in Argentina, Chile and Guatemala.

### ARGENTINA

First of all, in the case of Argentina it is important to consider that the Congress is **bicameral**, consisting of a **House of Representatives** with 257<sup>3</sup> seats and a **Senate** made up of 72 seats, three senators for each province and 3 for the city of Buenos Aires. As shown in the graphs 1 and 2, both Chambers are composed in the following way.

GRAPH 1

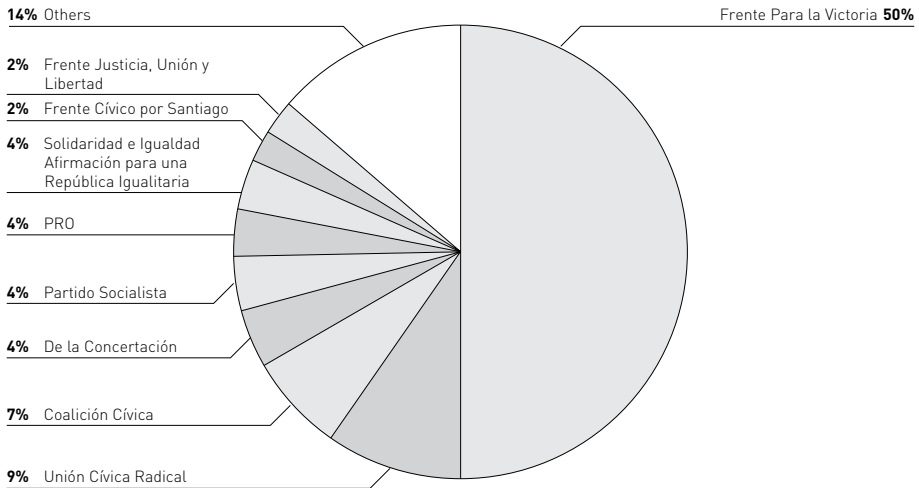
**Composition of the House of Representatives, as a function of the blocks into which it is divided**



<sup>3</sup> Currently the House of Representatives in Argentina has 256 active Representatives, due to the fact that Representative Rivas (Province of Buenos Aires), although he has been elected, has not been able to assume his position for health reasons.

GRAPH 2

**Composition of the Senate, as a function of the blocks into which it is divided**



In addition to the conformation and distribution of the Chambers, it is important to point out that in as much as the official rules, **each chamber has its own internal rules and regulations.**

In Argentina, the right to access public information is consecrated by the National Constitution, through various International Conventions such as the “American Convention on Human Rights”, the “American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man”, the “International Pact of Civil and Political Rights”, and the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights”, all of which have been incorporated into the constitutional hierarchy since the Constitutional Reform of 1994. However, the country still lacks a law that clarifies this right, being governed only in the sphere of the Executive Power of Decree 1172/2003.

Finally, Argentina is marked by a powerful presidentialism, which has been accentuated since the political, economic and social crisis of 2001. This has meant changes in the normative framework –public emergency, so-called superpowers, intervention of the legislative branch with regards to the decrees dictated by the executive branch, etc.-, and in the practices that sustain the power of the executive. This has a negative impact on the activities of legislating, representing and controlling the Legislative Branch.

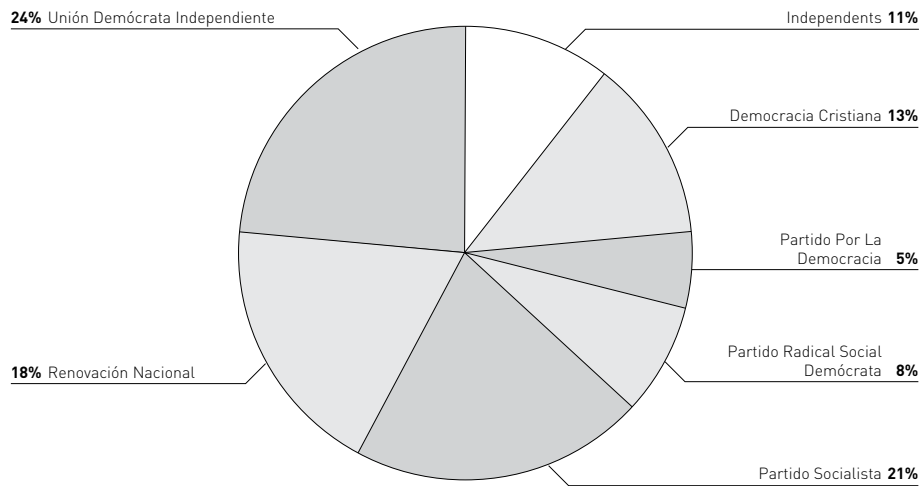
# CHILE

In Chile the Congress is divided into two Chambers, a **House of Representatives** and a **Senate**.

Currently the Senate is made up of 38 senators, corresponding to the 19 senatorial districts, distributed by political party in the following way:

**GRAPH 3**

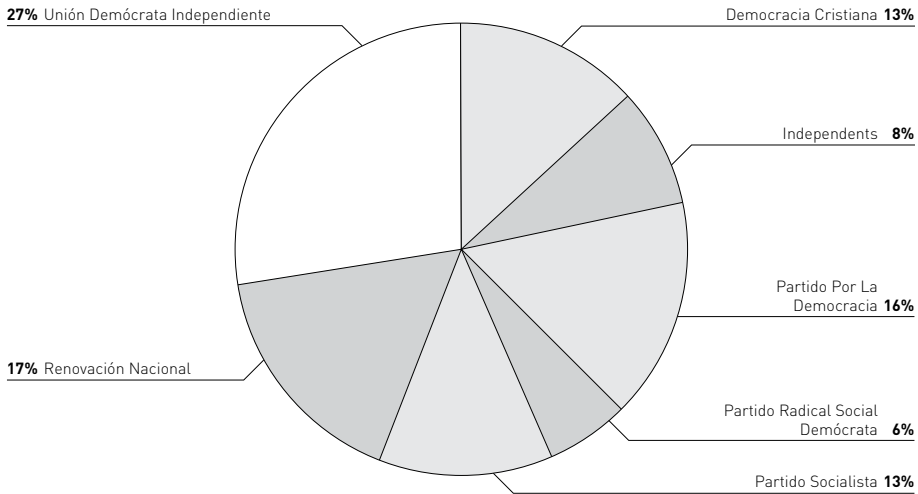
## **Composition of the Senate, as a function of Political Party**



For its part, the House of Representatives consists of 120 representatives from the country's 60 districts, distributed by political party in the following way:

## GRAPH 4

### Composition of the House of Representatives, as a function of Political Party



Just as in Argentina, in Chile there is an **internal set of rules for each of the chambers**, which regulates administrative, procedural and formal aspects of parliamentary work.

10

The Law of Access to Public Information regulates transparency in the public realm, and the right to access information in the organs of State administration was enacted on August 11 of this year, though it will not be applicable to the Legislative branch<sup>4</sup>.

Chile, like Argentina, is characterized by a marked presidentialism, which is strengthened mostly by the President of the Republic's role as co-legislator, and the scarce control that the National Congress has over his/her actions. In addition, the Congress does not possess the legal authority to increase expenditures on the budget bills sent down by the Executive. It has only the opportunity to diminish it, but not to present bills that suppose expenditure, which is the prerogative of the Presidency.

In this way, the Executive in Chile has several powers that allow him/her to, among other aspects, have the exclusive initiative in all matters relating to the State's financial policy, or that imply any form of expenditure. The president also has the power to decree three kinds of emergencies in the matters to be treated in Congress, which gives him/her a higher degree of power in negotiation.

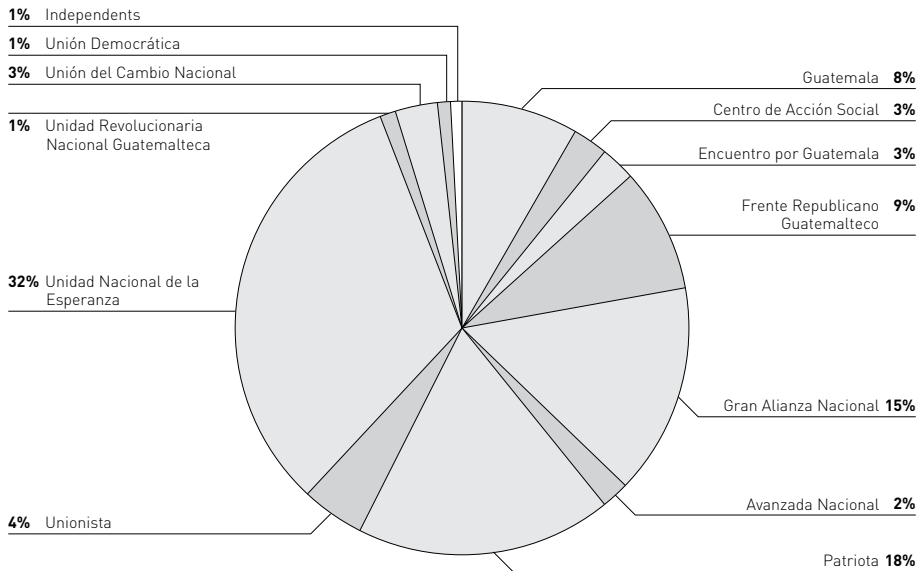
<sup>4</sup> The law 20.285, which regulates the principle of transparency for the public realm and the right to access information from the organs of state administration, will go into effect eight (8) months after its publication in the Official Gazette. In analyzing the requests for information that were made in the context of this study, the period of time established by that law in which it is necessary to respond to requests made by the public was taken into consideration, which is 20 business days.

# GUATEMALA

In Guatemala the Legislative Branch is **single-chamber**, and consists of 158 representatives, 127 of which are district representatives and 31 of which are national representatives. It is important to point out that there is no internal set of rules for the Congress, but there is a set of rules for the administrative area, which is the Regulation to the Law of Civil Service of the Legislative Organism.

**GRAPH 5**

**Composition of the House of Representatives, as a function of the blocks into which it is divided**



The political system in Guatemala is **presidentialist**, and the legal initiative for access to information is currently under negotiation, after having been presented to the Congress on Thursday, July 3, 2008.

# 3

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

### 1. GENERAL OBJECTIVE

---

The general objective of this project is to promote democratic governance by developing a standard for transparency and access to information in the region's Congresses. This will be done through the creation and application of a **Regional Index of Parliamentary Transparency** (RIPT).

### 2. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

---

12

1. Analyze the levels of transparency and access to information in the Congresses of Argentina, Chile and Guatemala, reviewing their current rules and web pages.
2. Design a **Regional Index of Parliamentary Transparency**, which would allow us to establish and measure minimum standards that the region's Congresses should fulfill in terms of transparency and access to information.
3. Develop a pilot exercise in which the Index would be applied to the Congresses in Argentina, Chile and Guatemala.

# 4

## CREATION OF THE INDEX

### 1. METHODOLOGICAL DESIGN

---

#### CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The methodological design of this research revolves around the definition of the base concepts and the independent and dependent variables that will give it shape. Such concepts are: transparency, access to public information and accountability.

**Transparency** is understood as the duty of public offices to publicly expose and disseminate information relating to their management, the use of the resources that society entrusts them with, the criteria that sustains their decisions, and the behavior of authorities and officials<sup>5</sup>.

**Access to information** is the right of all people to seek out, receive and disseminate information of any kind. **Access to public information** corresponds to the right of all people, without distinguishing by sex, age, nationality, religion, social class or any other difference, to request public information that is in the hands of the State or private organizations<sup>6</sup>.

**Accountability** corresponds to the right of all citizens to receive information and the obligation of the State to divulge all the necessary data for the public. This implies the right to receive an explanation and the duty of the State to justify its exercising of power. This concept consists of two basic dimensions. It includes, on one hand, the obligation of politicians and officials to publicly inform on their decisions and to justify them. On the other hand, it includes the capacity of imposing sanctions in the case that any public duties have been violated<sup>7</sup>.

---

5 Treasury, Jose Luis, "Transparencia y tecnologías de gestión: la viabilidad de sistemas con transparencia inmanente en la Administración Pública", Instituto Nacional de la Administración Pública, Dirección de Estudios e Investigaciones (Estado y Sociedad; 33), Buenos Aires, 1999

6 Definition created by Corporación PARTICIPA.

7 Schedler, Andreas "¿Qué es la rendición de cuentas?". Cuadernos de Transparencia 03 IFAI, México. 2006

## RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS

The Hypothesis of this research, based on which both the treatment of the variables and the collection of information was carried out, is the following:

*There is insufficient information available for the public with regards to activities of representation, legislation and control of the region's Congresses, which causes the Congresses to be perceived as non-transparent. This detracts from the relation of political representation between the government and the governed.*

## OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE VARIABLES

Once the hypothesis was defined, the following variables were established:

**Dependent Variable:** Transparency

**Independent Variables:** Access to Information and Accountability



# 5

## CRITERIA FOR THE CREATION OF THE REGIONAL INDEX OF PARLIAMENTARY TRANSPARENCY

### DIMENSIONS

---

For the operationalization of the independent variables **Access to Information and Accountability**, 4 primary dimensions were defined in the study of the region's Congresses:

1. Administrative Management
2. Legislative Management
3. Work of the legislators
4. Congressional Consultants

1. **Administrative Management:** Relates to the management of Congress as an organism and its officials.
2. **Legislative Management:** Relates to the work that the legislators develop within Congress.
3. **Work of the legislators:** Relates to the on-site work (in their districts) done by the legislators.
4. **Congressional Consultants:** Relates to the institutions or professionals that consult for the Congress.

Based on these 4 dimensions, 62 variables were created<sup>8</sup>, which constitute the **Index of Parliamentary Transparency**, and which are detailed in the tables between pages 17 and 36 in this report.

These variables, access to information and accountability, were both measured in terms of existing **regulations** and **practices**.

The following table presents the weights that each of these dimensions received for the process of constructing the **Regional Index of Parliamentary Transparency**.

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<sup>8</sup> Based on these variables, indicators were established that allowed for the construction of the Variable List detailed in Annex 1.

Dimension	Weight
Legislative Management	50 %
Administrative Management of the Congress	30 %
Work of the legislators	15 %
Congressional Consultants	5 %

With regards to the weighing of the dimensions, the weights were assigned in accordance with the percentage of work that each dimension represents among the total amount of parliamentary work. As such, this Index assigned more relevance for its analysis of transparency to legislative management, which is to say, the work in committees and in Congress that is carried out by the legislators. The analysis of access to information and transparency in this dimension has a relative weight of 50% in the total results. This is because we understand that legislative work constitutes the majority of parliamentary work.

The dimension of administrative management was assigned a relative significance of 30%. It is in the administrative area that resources, the hiring of personnel and services, and much of the technical/logistical support that allows the representatives to carry out their legislative work is managed. For this reason, in terms of transparency, it was considered as the second most relevant.

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The dimension of the on-site work of the legislators was assigned 15% relevance, given that it is considered significant for accountability and the strengthening of the connection in political representation, even though it is not carried out within the Congress.

Finally, a percentage of 5% was assigned to the level of transparency and access to information on consulting groups hired by the Congress or by legislators, understanding it as a significant portion of information to enable the public to know the quality and characteristics of the technical proposals that our representatives feed off of. We included it despite the fact that, in comparison, this dimension represents a minor percentage of the total amount of work that takes place in the Congresses.

# 6

## APPLICATION OF THE INDEX

### STAGES OF THE RESEARCH

---

The collection of information was performed during two stages, beginning in July of 2007 and culminating in June of 2008. In the first stage we analyzed the rules that regulate various aspects of work in the Argentinean, Chilean and Guatemalan Congresses. Then, the Web pages of the Senate, the House and of the legislators (within the same Congressional website) were analyzed for the case of Chile and Argentina, while in Guatemala only the Congressional website was analyzed as the legislators did not have any personalized web pages.

In the following we present each of these stages in more detail.

17

### REGULATORY ANALYSIS

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A central element for the creation of this index was the review of the rules that, in one way or another, regulate some aspect of the tasks carried out by the administrative or legislative members in the Congresses. Initially, the following regulatory documents of each country were analyzed.

#### ARGENTINA

1. National Constitution of the Argentinean Republic
2. Internal Regulation of the Senate
3. Internal Regulation of the House of Representatives
4. Law 24.600 "Statute and salary scale of personnel of the Congress"
5. Law 24.156 "Financial Administration and Systems of Control"
6. Law 25.152 "Federal Administration of Public Resources. Rules of Fiscal Convertibility"
7. Law 25.188 "Legal code of ethics in the exercising of public office"
8. Parliamentary Presidency Decree 4/2003
9. Presidency Decree 1034/03 of the National Senate

10. Resolution of 11/15/2006 of the National House of Representatives
11. Joint Presidency Decree 1405/00
12. Joint Presidency Decree 422 and 423/06
13. Joint Presidency Decree 775/06
14. Joint Presidency Decree 938/06
15. Joint Presidency Decree 285/07
16. Joint Presidency Decree 292/07
17. Joint Presidency Decree 805/07
18. Joint Presidency Decree 49/05
19. Joint Presidency Decree 42/06
20. Joint Presidency Decree 1063/06
21. Joint Presidency Decree 14/07
22. Joint Presidency Decree 315.07
23. Presidency Decree 226/06, Annex II, Action 5
24. National House of Representatives, Order of the Day 1755/2004
25. Decree 1172/03 Access to Public Information
26. Presidency Decree 0226/06
27. Presidency Decree (Joint) 1120/06

## CHILE

1. Political Constitution of the Republic of Chile, 1980
2. Law 18.918 Constitutional Fundamental Law of the National Congress, February 5, 1990
3. Senate Regulation
4. House of Representatives Regulation, of March 1, 1999
5. Code of Parliamentary Conduct
6. Law 20.232, of December 1, 2007, Public Sector Budget for the year 2008
7. Law 20.088, of January 5, 2006, which establishes the sworn declaration of wealth and assets as obligatory for authorities who hold public office
8. Regulation for the External Consultants of the House of Representatives

## GUATEMALA

1. Political Constitution of the Republic, 1985.
2. Organic Law of the Legislative Organism, December 21, 1994.
3. Law of Civil Service of the Legislative Organism, August 18, 1986.
4. Law of Integrity and Responsibility of Officials and Public Servants, December 24, 2002.
5. Law of State Hiring. October 5, 1992
6. Regulation of the Law of Civil Service of the Legislative Organism, December 7, 1987

## ANALYSIS OF WEB PAGES

Web pages have become a tool of great reach and utility for the publication of information. It is for this reason that the contents of the Web pages of the three countries' Congresses were reviewed, as well as the personal Web pages (within the Congressional sites) of the legislators. In the cases of Argentina and Chile, each chamber has its own Web page, so both Web pages were analyzed.

In the case of the Congresses' Web pages, the review was made during the months of April and May in 2008. The review of the legislators' Web pages was carried out during the first two weeks of June in Chile and Argentina; this last review was not performed in Guatemala, as the legislators have no personal Web pages there.

## REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION<sup>9</sup>

Complementary to the review of Regulations and Web pages, requests for information were made in writing, in order to compare the levels of response that the different Congresses displayed for similar requests, as well as the difference in the amount of time that each would take to respond.

The requests for information carried out in each country are shown in the following table.

Requests for Information sent in the three countries	Were the requests for information answered?									
	Argentina				Chile				Guatemala	
	Senate		House		Senate		House			
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
1. Budget for the year 2008		×		×	✓		✓			×
2. Budgetary fulfillment for the year 2007		×		×	✓		✓			×
3. Fulfillment of the Expenditure for the different committees for the year 2007		×		×	✓		✓			×
4. Declarations of wealth and assets of the legislators in office during the year 2007		×		×	✓		✓			×

<sup>9</sup> These were presented on February 29 in Argentina, March 11 in Chile and February 5 in Guatemala.

Requests for Information sent in the three countries	Were the requests for information answered?									
	Argentina				Chile				Guatemala	
	Senate		House		Senate		House			
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
5. List of calls for bids on the contraction of goods and services between November and January of 2008 <sup>I</sup>		×		×	✓		✓			×
6. Vote per legislator on bills during the sessions that took place between November of 2007 and January of 2008 <sup>II</sup>	✓		✓		✓		✓			×
7. Copy of the Session Minutes in Congress for the last six months (August 2007 – January 2008) <sup>III</sup>	✓		✓		✓		✓			×
8. Stenographic Records of the sessions in committee		×		×	✓ <sup>IV</sup>		✓ <sup>V</sup>			×

## Notes:

*I In Guatemala, only those contracts awarded in the month of January 2008 were requested.*

*II In Guatemala, only the vote for January 2008 was requested.*

*III In Chile, the minutes from September of 2007 to January of 2008 were requested.*

*IV It is important to point out that in Chile it was responded that there are no stenographic records taken of the sessions in committee.*

*V It is important to point out that the answer was that this record does not exist.*

In addition to these requests, each country made other requests for information, which is detailed in the following:

Requests for Information in Chile	Were the requests for information answered?			
	Senate		House	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
	1. Sworn declaration of interests of the legislators in office in the year 2007	✓		✓
2. Payroll of the non-bidding providers of goods and services between November of 2007 and January of 2008	✓		✓	

Requests for Information in Chile	Were the requests for information answered?			
	Senate		House	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
3. Lists of the last 5 constitutional accusations/reports emitted in political trials		×	✓	
4. Organisms that lend technical consulting to Congress, reason for the consulting and contact information	✓		✓	
5. Last 10 bills presented to Congress as of the date the request was sent	✓		✓	

Requests for Information in Argentina	Were the requests for information answered?			
	Senate		House	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
1. Sworn declaration of interests of the legislators in office in the year 2007		×		×
2. Payroll of the non-bidding providers of goods and services between November of 2007 and January of 2008		×		×
3. Lists of the last 5 constitutional accusations/reports emitted in political trials	✓ <sup>1</sup>		✓	
4. Organisms that lend technical consulting to Congress, reason for the consulting and contact information		×		×
5. Sworn declarations of assets and wealth for administrative officials of the Congress		×		×

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> In the case of Argentine Senate, the information received was just partial.

Requests for Information in Guatemala	Were the requests for information answered?	
	Yes	No
1. Sworn declarations of wealth and assets for the administrative officials of the Congress <sup>1</sup>		×
2. Last 10 bills presented to Congress as of the date the request was sent		×

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> In Guatemala the same regulation prohibits the publication of sworn declarations, unless they are requested by a competent judge.



# 7

## MAIN RESULTS

Below we present a table that summarizes the results achieved by the Congresses of Argentina, Chile and Guatemala for the application of the 62 variables that compose the Regional Index of Parliamentary Transparency, based on the four dimensions of analysis.

Those aspects in which the regulation obligates Congress to publish information and the Congress does not do so are highlighted in red; those aspects in which the countries are obliged by law to publish and fulfill this obligation are highlighted in green, and those aspects in which the Congress publishes information on its Web pages even though they are not obliged to do so are highlighted in yellow.



Variables	Name of Country																			
	Chile							Argentina							Guatemala					
	By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web				By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web				By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web		
				Senate	House	Senate	House				Senate	House	Senate	House						
Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No		
11. Publication of the calls for administrative position applications		X		X		X		X				X			X		X	X		X
12. Publication of the staff (number or quantity) of temporary personnel		X			X		X	X <sup>v</sup>				X		X			X			X
13. Publication of the staff (number or quantity) of permanent personnel		X			X		X	X <sup>vi</sup>				X		X			X			X
14. Publication of the staff (number or quantity) of freelance personnel		X			X		X	X				X		X			X			X
15. Publication of the roles of permanent personnel		X			X		X	X				X		X			X			X
16. Publication of the roles of freelance personnel		X			X		X	X				X		X			X			X
17. Publication of the roles of temporary personnel		X			X		X	X				X		X			X			X
18. Publication of the salary of temporary personnel		X			X		X	X				X		X			X			X
19. Publication of the salary of permanent personnel		X			X		X	X				X		X			X			X
20. Publication of the salary of freelance personnel		X			X		X	X				X		X			X			X
21. Publication of the calls for contests for the acquisition of goods and services		X		X		X		X				X		X			X			X

Variables	Name of Country																			
	Chile						Argentina						Guatemala							
	By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web			By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web			By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web				
				Senate	House	Senate				House	Senate	House								
Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No		
22. Publication of the list of bidders in the selection process for goods and services		X			X		X		X			X		X		X			X	
23. Publication of the list of bidders awarded contracts for goods and services		X		X		X		X			X		X		X			X		
24. Publication of the list of no-bid providers of goods and services		X		X		X		X <sup>VII</sup>			X		X					X		
25. Publication of the number of requests for information made by the public		X			X		X		X			X		X				X		X
26. Publication of the status within the procedure of the public's requests for information		X			X		X		X			X		X				X		X
Administrative Management Total	2	22	2	9	17	11	15	10	14	2	14	10	7	17	4	19	3	3	21	

## Notes:

- I Law only obliges publication of the Senate Regulation.*
- II Law only obliges publication of Senate administrative decisions*
- III Regulations in Argentina and Chile makes them public, but it is not obligatory to publish them*
- IV Regulation in Argentina and Chile make sworn declarations of wealth and assets public, but does not oblige their publication.*
- V Regulation obliges publication only for the House of Representatives*
- VI Regulation obliges publication only for the House of Representatives*
- VII Regulation obliges publication only of those from the Senate*

The following table summarizes some of the relevant information available on the Web pages for each country, due either to a regulatory obligation or to a voluntary initiative, with regard to administrative work.

## CHILE

Publishes on Web page	Senate			House		
	Regulatory Obligation exists		No existing Regulatory Obligation and publish	Regulatory Obligation exists		No existing Regulatory Obligation and publish
	Publishes	Does not publish		Publishes	Does not publish	
1. Senate and/or House Budget	✓			✓		
2. Senate and/or House Expenditure	✓			✓		
3. Senate and/or House Regulations			✓			✓
4. Legislators' sworn declarations of wealth and assets <sup>I</sup>						✓
5. Legislators' declaration of interests <sup>II</sup>						✓
6. TV Channel Programming			✓			✓
7. Salaries of the legislators			✓			✓
8. Calls to contests for administrative positions			✓			✓
9. Calls to contests for the acquisition of goods and services			✓			✓
10. List of bids awarded for goods and services			✓			✓
11. List of the no-bid providers of goods and services			✓			✓
TOTAL	2		7	2		9

### Notas:

*I Only the house members publish their sworn declarations of wealth and assets voluntarily, there is no regulatory obligation for legislators to publish them.*

*II Only the house members publish their declarations of interests voluntarily, there is no regulatory obligation for legislators to publish them.*

## ARGENTINA

Publishes on Web page	Senate			House		
	Regulatory Obligation exists		No existing Regulatory Obligation and publish	Regulatory Obligation exists		No existing Regulatory Obligation and publish
	Publishes	Does not publish		Publishes	Does not publish	
1. Senate <sup>I</sup> and/or House Regulations	✓					✓
2. Senate and/or House Budget	✓				×	

**ARGENTINA**

Publishes on Web page	Senate			House		
	Regulatory Obligation exists		No existing Regulatory Obligation and publish	Regulatory Obligation exists		No existing Regulatory Obligation and publish
	Publishes	Does not publish		Publishes	Does not publish	
3. Senate and/or House Expenditures	✓				×	
4. Administrative decisions of the Senate <sup>I</sup> and the House on their respective Web pages	✓					
5. Calls to contest for administrative positions	✓				×	
6. Staff (number or quantity) of temporary personnel <sup>III</sup>	✓					✓
7. Staff (number or quantity) of permanent personnel <sup>IV</sup>	✓					✓
8. Staff (number or quantity) of freelance personnel <sup>V</sup>			✓			
9. Calls to contests for the acquisition of goods and services	✓			✓		
10. List of bids awarded for goods and services	✓			✓		
11. List of no-bid providers of goods and services <sup>VI</sup>	✓					✓
12. Organizational chart of the Congress <sup>VII</sup>			✓			
13. TV Channel Programming <sup>VIII</sup>			✓			
14. List of bidders in the selection process for goods and services			✓			✓
TOTAL	10		4	2	3	5

Notes:

- I Regulation only establishes obligation for the Senate
- II Regulation only establishes obligation for the Senate
- III Regulation only establishes obligation for the Senate
- IV Regulation only establishes obligation for the Senate
- V Only the Senate publishes information voluntarily, there is no regulatory obligation to publish this information.
- VI Regulation only establishes obligation for the Senate
- VII Only the Senate publishes information voluntarily, there is no regulatory obligation to publish this information.
- VIII Only the Senate publishes information voluntarily, there is no regulatory obligation to publish this information.

## GUATEMALA

Publishes on Web page	Regulatory Obligation exists		No existing Regulatory Obligation and publishes
	Publishes	Does not publish	
1. Publication of the calls to contest for administrative positions		×	
2. Publication of the calls to contest for the acquisition of goods and services	✓		
3. Publication of the list of bidders in the selection process for goods and services	✓		
4. Publication of the list of bids awarded for goods and services	✓		
TOTAL	3	1	

## ANALYSIS OF THE RULES THAT REGULATE ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT

With respect to the **regulatory aspects** of Administrative Management, it is important to point out that the Congress of Chile has the least number of variables in which **regulations oblige** the publication of information (8% of the cases analyzed, 2 of 26). It is also important to note the fact that there is no obligation to publish the calls to contests for administrative positions, the calls to contest for the acquisition of goods and services, or the list of the bids awarded for goods and services; all of which are matters that the Congresses of Argentina and Guatemala are obliged to publish by regulation.

Nevertheless, the Chilean Congress subscribes in both Chambers and by decision of the Internal Regulations, to the System of Public Purchases CHILECOMPRA. This is used to monitor the bids for goods and services, and all the development of the process of evaluation, selection and awarding. In the case of Guatemala, this situation is regulated, in which the Congress is obligated to do its bidding in the system of public purchases GUATECOMPRA.

In the case of Argentina we can point out that, at least in one of the chambers, there is an obligation to publish information (40% of the cases analyzed, 4 of 10 in those which are obligated to publish) on the regulation of the Chamber, administrative decisions, the salary of permanent and temporary personnel, and the list of the no-bid providers of goods and services, unlike Chile and Guatemala<sup>10</sup>. In addition, both chambers are obliged by regulation to publish 19% of the indicators evaluated (5 of the 26), for example the budget of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the expenditures of the Senate and House, the calls to contest for the provision of administrative positions and the calls to contest and awarding of bids for goods and services.

<sup>10</sup> Guatemala has a Law of Contracting that regulates the acquisition of goods and services.

## ANALYSIS OF THE PUBLICATION ON THE WEB OF INFORMATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT

The highest percentage of information published can be found in both Congressional chambers in Argentina (23% of information on administrative management, 6 of 26). This is due mainly to the fact that the salaries of permanent and temporary personnel are published on the Web, while these are not published in either Chile or Guatemala.

In addition, unlike Chile, Argentina publishes 53% of the information released on the Senate Web page (14 of the 26 variables studied), for example, the organizational chart of the Congress, the budget and its implementation, and administrative decisions.

On the other hand, the Guatemalan Congress possesses the least percentage of information published on its Web page (12% of the variables analyzed, 3 of 26 variables). It can be highlighted that, unlike Chile, the salaries of the legislators are not published. Also, unlike Argentina – on its Senate Web page – the staff of permanent, temporary and freelance personnel is not published.

## LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

Variables	Name of Country																		
	Chile						Argentina						Guatemala						
	By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web			By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web			By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web			
				Senate	House	Senate				House	Senate	House				Senate	House		
Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	
1. Publication of the texts of bills		X		X	X			X			X	X		X				X	
2. Publication of the texts of proposed agreements		X		X	X			X			X	No applica <sup>1</sup>		X				X	
3. Publication of the origin, current status and entry date of bills		X		X	X			X <sup>II</sup>			X	X		X				X	
4. Publication of the origin, current status and entry date of proposed agreements		X		X	X			X <sup>III</sup>			X	No applica <sup>IV</sup>					X		
5. Publication of the result of the voting sessions in Congress	X			X	X			X			X	X		X					X



Variables	Name of Country																			
	Chile						Argentina						Guatemala							
	By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web			By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web			By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web				
				Senate	House	Senate				House	Senate	House								
Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No		
6. Publication of the result of roll call votes in Congress	X			X		X			X			X	X			X			X	
7. Publication of the minutes of Congressional sessions	X			X		X		X			X	X		X				X		
8. Publication of the agenda of Congressional sessions	X			X		X		X			X	X		X				X		
9. Publication of the legislators' attendance at Congressional sessions	X			X		X		X			X	X		X				X		
10. Publication of the audio recordings of Congressional sessions		X			X		X	X			X	X		X				X		
11. Publication of stenographic records of Congressional sessions	X			X		X	X	X			X	X		X				X		
12. Publication of audiovisual records of Congressional sessions		X			X	X		X				X <sup>v</sup>	X		X			X		
13. Publication of the reports on constitutional accusations		X			X		X	X			X	X		X				X		
14. Publication of the agendas for meetings of committees	X			X		X		X			X	X		X				X		
15. Publication of the stenographic records of committee sessions <sup>vi</sup>			X						X			X	X		X			X		
16. Publication of the result of votes in committee sessions	X			X		X	X	X				X	X		X			X		

Variables	Name of Country																			
	Chile						Argentina						Guatemala							
	By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web			By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web			By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web				
				Senate	House	Senate				House	Senate	House								
Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No		
17. Publication of the reports of committee sessions		X		X		X		X				X		X					X	
18. Publication of the name and roles of committee members	X			X		X		X			X		X					X		
19. Publication of the legislators' attendance at committee sessions	X			X		X		X				X		X				X		
20. Publication of the day, time and place of meetings outside Congress		X			X		X	X				X <sup>VII</sup>		X <sup>VIII</sup>				X		
21. Publication of the agenda of investigative committee meetings		X			X	X		X				X <sup>IX</sup>	X					X		
22. Publication of the agenda of oversight committee meetings <sup>X</sup>			X					X			X		X				X			
23. Publication of the list of bills pending discussion on committees		X			X		X		X		X		X				X			
24. Publication of the reports, opinions or studies of the permanent, special and mixed committees		X		X		X		X <sup>XI</sup>			X		X				X			
25. Publication of the reports of investigative committees		X			X	X		X				X		X			X			
26. Publication of the annual programmed balance		X		X		X			X			X		X			X			

Variables	Name of Country																			
	Chile						Argentina						Guatemala							
	By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web			By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web			By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web				
				Senate	House	Senate				House	Senate	House								
Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No		
27. Working link for consultations and requests for information by the public on the Web pages of the Senate and House		X		X		X				X		X					X			X
28. Existence of an office of public information in the Senate and/or House		X			X	X		X			X		X			X				X
Legislative Management Total	10	16	2	16	10	20	6	22	6	0	18	10	19	7	5	22	1	9	18	

Notas:

- I By regulation the House of Representative in Argentina does not accept officials proposed by the executive
- II Regulation obliges only the Senate to publish
- III Regulation obliges only the Senate to publish
- IV By regulation the House of Representative in Argentina does not accept officials proposed by the executive
- V Audiovisual recordings are not published, but the Senate sessions are transmitted in real time by over the Internet.
- VI In Chile there are no stenographic records kept of committee sessions
- VII Information was not published because there were no committee meetings held outside the Congress
- VIII Information was not published because there were no committee meetings held outside the Congress
- IX In the Senate it was possible to observe the existence of only one investigative committee, which did not seem to be meeting because the committee's agenda is not published.
- X Oversight committees do not exist in Chile; these powers are granted to some investigative committees
- XI There are investigative committees, like the Intelligence and Internal Security Committee, which have limits on the publicity of their acts, emanating from the laws that created them.

The following table summarizes some of the relevant information available on the Web pages for each country, due either to a regulatory obligation or to a voluntary initiative, with regard to legislative work.

## CHILE

Publishes on Web page	Senate			House		
	Regulatory Obligation exists		No existing Regulatory Obligation and publish	Regulatory Obligation exists		No existing Regulatory Obligation and publish
	Publishes	Does not publish		Publishes	Does not publish	
1. Voting results of Congressional sessions	✓			✓		
2. Result of Congressional roll call voting sessions	✓			✓		
3. Minutes of Congressional sessions	✓			✓		
4. Agenda of Congressional sessions	✓			✓		
5. Legislators' attendance at the Congressional sessions	✓			✓		
6. Stenographic records of the Congressional sessions		×			×	
7. Agenda of committee meetings	✓			✓		
8. Voting results of committee sessions		×			×	
9. Name and role of committee members	✓			✓		
10. Legislators' attendance at committee sessions	✓			✓		
11. Texts of bills			✓			✓
12. Texts of proposed agreements			✓			✓
13. Origin, current status and entry date of bills			✓			✓
14. Origin, current status and entry date of proposed agreements			✓			✓
15. Committee session reports			✓			✓
16. Reports, opinions or studies of the permanent, special and mixed committees			✓			✓
17. Programmed annual balance			✓			✓
18. Working link for consultation and requests for information on the Web pages of the Senate and the House			✓			✓

## CHILE

Publishes on Web page	Senate			House		
	Regulatory Obligation exists		No existing Regulatory Obligation and publish	Regulatory Obligation exists		No existing Regulatory Obligation and publish
	Publishes	Does not publish		Publishes	Does not publish	
19. Audiovisual recordings of Congressional sessions <sup>I</sup>						✓
20. Agenda of investigative committee meetings <sup>II</sup>						✓
21. Investigative committee reports <sup>III</sup>						✓
22. Existence of a public information office in the Senate and/or House <sup>IV</sup>						✓
TOTAL	8	2	8	8	2	12

### Notes:

- I Only the House of Representatives publishes information voluntarily; there is no regulatory obligation to publish this information*
- II Only the House of Representatives publishes information voluntarily; there is no regulatory obligation to publish this information*
- III Only the House of Representatives publishes information voluntarily; there is no regulatory obligation to publish this information*
- IV Only the House of Representatives publishes information voluntarily; there is no regulatory obligation to publish this information*

## ARGENTINA

Publishes on Web page	Senate			House		
	Regulatory Obligation exists		No existing Regulatory Obligation and publish	Regulatory Obligation exists		No existing Regulatory Obligation and publish
	Publishes	Does not publish		Publishes	Does not publish	
1 Texts of bills	✓			✓		
2 Texts of proposed agreements <sup>I</sup>			✓			
3 Origin, current status and entry date of bills <sup>II</sup>	✓					✓
4 Origin, current status and entry date of proposed agreements <sup>III</sup>	✓					
5 Results of Congressional voting sessions	✓			✓		
6 Results of Congressional roll call voting sessions <sup>IV</sup>						✓
7 Minutes of Congressional sessions	✓			✓		

## ARGENTINA

Publishes on Web page	Senate			House		
	Regulatory Obligation exists		No existing Regulatory Obligation and publish	Regulatory Obligation exists		No existing Regulatory Obligation and publish
	Publishes	Does not publish		Publishes	Does not publish	
8 Agenda of Congressional sessions	✓			✓		
9 Legislators' attendance at Congressional sessions	✓			✓		
10 Audio recordings of the Congressional sessions	✓			✓		
11 Stenographic records of the Congressional sessions	✓			✓		
12 Audiovisual recordings of the Congressional sessions		×		✓		
13 Reports on constitutional accusations	✓			✓		
14 Agenda of committee meetings	✓			✓		
15 Voting results of committee sessions		×			×	
16 Committee session reports		×			×	
17 Name and role of committee members	✓			✓		
18 Legislators' attendance to committee sessions		×			×	
19 Day, time and place of meetings held outside the Congress		× <sup>v</sup>			× <sup>vi</sup>	
20 Agenda of investigative committee meetings		×		✓		
21 Agenda of oversight committee meetings	✓			✓		
22 List of bills pending discussion in committees			✓			✓
23 Reports, opinions or studies of the permanent, special and mixed committees	✓			✓		
24 Investigative committee reports		×			×	
25 Working link for consultation and requests for information on the Web pages of the Senate and the House			✓			✓

## ARGENTINA

Publishes on Web page	Senate			House		
	Regulatory Obligation exists		No existing Regulatory Obligation and publish	Regulatory Obligation exists		No existing Regulatory Obligation and publish
	Publishes	Does not publish		Publishes	Does not publish	
26 Existence of a public information office in the Senate and/or House	✓			✓		
TOTAL	15	7	3	15	5	4

### Notas:

- I Only the Senate publishes information voluntarily; there is no regulatory obligation to publish this information
- II Regulation obliges only the Senate to publish
- III Regulation obliges only the Senate to publish
- IV Only the House of Representatives publishes information voluntarily; there is no regulatory obligation to publish this information
- V During the period observed there were no meetings held outside of Congress
- VI During the period observed there were no meetings held outside of Congress

## GUATEMALA

Publishes on Web page	Regulatory Obligation exists		No existing Regulatory Obligation and publishes
	Publishes	Does not publish	
1. Publication of the texts of bills	✓		
2. Publication of the texts of proposed agreements	✓		
3. Publication of the minutes of Congressional sessions	✓		
4. Publication of stenographic records of Congressional sessions en sala	✓		
5. Publication of the reports on constitutional accusations	✓		
6. Publication of the origin, current status and entry date of bills			✓
7. Publication of the agenda of Congressional sessions			✓
8. Publication of the name and role of committee members			✓
9. Publication of the list of bills pending discussion in committees			✓
TOTAL	5		4

## ANALYSIS OF THE REGULATORY EVALUATION OF LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

In terms of Legislative Management, the Argentinean Congress was the best evaluated, in which we found that of the 28 variables observed, there is an obligation to publish information on 79% of them (22 of the 28). This is rooted in aspects such as the **regulatory obligation to publish** audio and audiovisual recordings of the Congressional sessions, publish committee reports, and the existence of an office of public information for both chambers of the Congress, unlike the Chilean and Guatemalan Congresses.

Along these same lines, in Argentina some of these obligations are contained within the regulatory frameworks of at least one of the Chambers (the Senate, in this case). In Chile and Guatemala obligations like those previously mentioned are not contained within any regulatory documents; only the obligation to publish the origin, entry date and current status of bills are present in these countries.

It is important to point out that the Guatemalan Congress had the least percentage of obligations contained in regulations (17%, 5 of 28) with regards to Legislative Management, in which we found that there **is only the obligation to publish** the texts of proposed agreements. We highlight that there is no obligation to publish information relating to the origin, entry date and current status of bills and proposed agreements, the legislators' votes, meeting agendas and reports, or reports of either Congressional or committee sessions, among other variables.

## ANALYSIS OF THE PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT ON THE WEB

The House of Representatives of Chile, in comparison to the House in Argentina, publishes more information on legislative management on the Web, reaching 71% versus 68% in the case of Argentina. This situation is reversed for the Web pages of the Senate, in which the Argentinean Congress surpasses the Chilean in terms of information published on legislative management on the Web page. The Argentinean Senate publishes information for 64% of the variables studied, while on the Chilean Senate publishes only 54% of the variables studied on its Web page.

It is important to point out that the Argentinean Congress, unlike the Chilean, has a higher percentage of information on legislative management published on the Web for both chambers combined, with 64% (18 of 28 variables). This is higher than both the Chilean and Guatemalan Congresses, which publish information for 57% and 32% of the variables observed in this dimension respectively.



## WORK BY THE LEGISLATORS

Variables	Name of Country																		
	Chile						Argentina						Guatemala						
	By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web			By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web			By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web			
				Senate	House	Senate				House									
Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	N/A			
1. Publication of contact information for legislators' offices in their districts		X			X	X		X				X	X		X				X
2. Publication of legislators' work agendas for their districts		X			X	X		X				X	X		X				X
3. Publication of contact information of legislators' working team		X			X	X		X				X	X		X				X
4. Publication of legislators' travel information within the country		X		X		X		X				X	X		X				X
5. Publication of legislators' travel information outside the country		X			X	X		X				X	X		X		X		X
6. Publication accounting for expenditures on legislators' trips		X			X	X		X				X	X		X				X
7. Record of all gifts received by the legislators		X			X	X		X				X	X		X				X
Total Work by Legislators	0	7	0	1	6	1	6	0	7	0	0	7	0	7	0	7	0	1	6

The following table summarizes some of the relevant information available on the Web pages for each country, due either to a regulatory obligation or to a voluntary initiative, with regard to the work done by the legislators<sup>11</sup>.

<sup>11</sup> The tables do not present information for the Argentinean Congress because there is no existing regulatory obligation to publish information on this item, nor is there any information published voluntarily.

## CHILE

Published on Web page	Senate			House		
	Regulatory Obligation exists		No existing Regulatory Obligation and publishes	Regulatory Obligation exists		No existing Regulatory Obligation and publishes
	Publishes	Does not publish		Publishes	Does not publish	
1. Publication of legislators' travel information within the country			✓			✓
TOTAL			1			1

## GUATEMALA

Published on Web page	Existing Regulatory Obligation		No existing Regulatory Observation and publishes
	Publishes	Does not publish	
1. Publication of legislators' travel information outside the country			✓
TOTAL			1

## ANALYSIS OF REGULATORY EVALUATION OF THE WORK DONE BY THE LEGISLATORS

In none of the three countries is it obligatory to publish information on the work done by legislators such as, for example, the contact information of their offices in their respective districts, the work agenda for their districts, contact information of their work team, travel within or outside the country, accounting for travel expenditures or records of gifts received.

## ANALYSIS OF THE PUBLICATION OF WORK DONE BY THE LEGISLATORS ON THE WEB

It is also relevant to point out that, in the case of the Chilean and Guatemalan Congresses, unlike the Argentinean Congress, information on the legislators' trips within and outside the country is published.

## PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE LEGISLATORS ON THE WEB

With regards to the review of the legislators' Web pages within the Web site of the Congress, as an initial point of consideration we must take into account that in the case of Guatemala there are no personal Web pages for the legislators. For this reason, the main results of the review of personal Web pages are presented for Argentina and Chile only.

In the case of **Argentina** it is important to point out that only 10.5% of the House members have a personal Web page (27) and among the Senators this percentage descends to 5.5% (4). Among the variables analyzed, we can see that 27% of the house members and 74% of the senators use the Web provided to them by their respective chamber only to publish their resumes.

In the case of **Chile**, from the review of the Web pages of the legislators we point to the fact that, unlike Argentina, 26% of house members and 23% of senators have a personal Web page. The legislators' resumes is still the most commonly published information, as 100% of the House members and 76% of the Senators publish this information on the Web page of their respective Chambers.

In addition, the House members also publish 100% of the information on their trips outside of the country. The other most published pieces of information on the personal Web sites for senators includes the contact information of their work teams (8%), and for house members includes contact information for their districts (18%) and the contact information of their work teams (12%).

## CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTANTS

Variables	Name of Country																				
	Chile						Argentina						Guatemala								
	By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web			By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web			By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web					
				Senate	House	Senate				House	Senate	House									
Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No			
1. Publication of information on organisms/ professionals that do technical consulting for Congress		X			X	X				X			X	X			X			X	
Congressional Consultants Total	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1

The following chart summarizes some of the relevant information available on the Web pages for each country, due either to a regulatory obligation or to a voluntary initiative, with regard to Congressional Consultants<sup>12</sup>.

## CHILE

Publishes on Web page	Senate			House		
	Regulatory Obligation exists		No existing Regulatory Obligation and publish	Regulatory Obligation exists		No existing Regulatory Obligation and publish
	Publishes	Does not publish		Publishes	Does not publish	
1. Publication of information on organisms/ professionals that do technical consulting for the Congress						✓
TOTAL						1

## ANALYSIS OF THE REGULATORY EVALUATION OF CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTANTS

None of the three countries have any regulatory obligation to publish information regarding the work done by the Legislators and the groups consulting for the Congress.

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## ANALYSIS OF THE PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTANT GROUPS ON THE WEB

With regards to the publication of information on organisms or institutions that provide consulting services to the Congress, only in the Congress of Chile is there information published on the Web about the organisms that do consulting work for the House of Representatives. In both the Argentinean and Guatemalan Congresses, there is no information about companies or professionals that provide consulting work published on their Web pages.

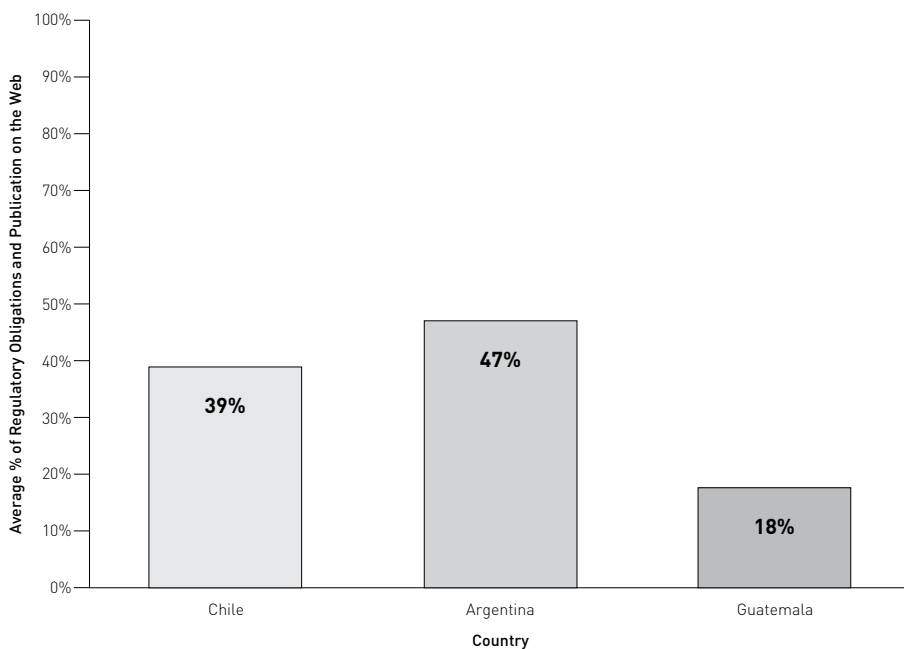
<sup>12</sup> Only summarized information is presented in the case of the Chilean Congress due to the fact that in Argentina and Guatemala, in addition to there being no regulatory obligation to publish information on this item, there is also no information published voluntarily.

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## REGIONAL INDEX OF PARLIAMENTARY TRANSPARENCY

GRAPH N° 1

### Regional Index of Parliamentary Transparency



Graph N° 1 summarizes the information measured in the RIPT by the four proposed dimensions. First of all, it is necessary to remember that this index measures the transparency of only one part of the work done by Congresses, which is to say, how much information is available to the public. In this sense, the results must be understood in terms of the disposition (regulatory and practical) of the Congresses to making their management transparent and providing the public with specific and complete information.

What the results show is that the Argentinean Congress has created the most regulations with regards to the four dimensions involved in this study. It is also the one that publishes the most amount of information on its Web page. It is followed by Chile, and finally, Guatemala. It can also be noted that, as far as the development of regulations in favor of transparency and the publication of information on their Web pages, none of the three Congresses studied reach 50% transparency.

It is also necessary to recognize that, in accordance with the work of the three organizations that have carried out this analysis, there is a notable effort and progress on the quantity and quality of information available on the Web pages of the Congresses in comparison to previous years. The main differences between the Argentinean Congress (with the highest evaluation) and the Guatemalan Congress (with the lowest evaluation) are that Argentina has been able to advance in the development of regulations that oblige the publication of relevant information when monitoring the daily activities of the Congress and its members. In addition they publish more information related with administrative management, legislative management, the work done by the parliamentarians and the consulting work done in the Congress. Chile is located in between the two.

Beyond pointing out some important differences between these countries, it is necessary to note the significant challenge that these institutions have ahead of them. Such a challenge is absolutely fundamental for democracy, in terms of promoting regulations that favor the publication of truthful, complete and timely information on the Congress, and its being made available to the public at accessible locations.

**Most regulated practices.** In general terms and based on this analysis, the Argentinean Congress has the highest number of regulated practices that promote the publication of information in the 4 dimensions studied. It is also the Congress that has the most regulatory obligations to publish information. It is followed by the Congress of Chile and, finally, that of Guatemala.

**Most information published on its Web sites.** Regarding the publication of information on the Web sites, the results indicate that the Argentinean Senate publishes the most information regarding the 4 dimensions under review. As such, within the totality of these 4 dimensions the Senate publishes information on 32 variables, while the Chilean Senate publishes information on 26 variables. The Congress of Guatemala –keeping in mind that it is single-chamber- publishes information on 13 variables within the 4 dimensions studied.

In the case of the House of Representatives for Argentina and Chile, the latter publishes the most information on the Web in the 4 dimensions (over 33 variables), while the Argentinean House publishes information on 26 variables.

**Published information.** Beyond the number of aspects under regulation and the availability of information on Web sites, it is also relevant to point out what kind of information is published more in one Congress or another<sup>28</sup>. In this sense, it is necessary to point to the publication of the sworn declarations of wealth and assets of all house members on the Web site of the Congress of Chile. These documents are key for democratic social monitoring by the citizenry, and it is necessary to highlight

this information as an example to follow for the rest of the Congresses in the region. Secondly, it is interesting to point out the publication by this same Chamber of the payroll of the various house members' assessors, as well as companies, consultants and professionals who provide technical support to the Chamber. This is clearly a very positive advancement in the efforts to make the work done in Chile more transparent.

In Argentina, it is very relevant to point out the publication of all the legislators' votes both in Congressional and committee sessions. This is an indispensable minimum in terms of transparency and accountability for those who are represented by the Congress. In addition to this is the existence of stenographic records of committee sessions, which allows for follow-up and being informed on the most important points of any debate, and the positions defended by those who represent us.

The aspects we have highlighted are key in order to analyze parliamentary transparency, and we understand that the Congresses in the region must progress towards these ends, independently of their varied institutional designs. It is also necessary to express that many of the issues brought up here (such as the publication of the Sworn Declarations of Wealth and Assets or the voting in Congress and on committees) have been and continue to be the focus of the demands of civil society organizations that have been promoting access to information for many years.

With regards to each of the dimensions, it is interesting to note:

**Administrative Management.** As for the amount of practices regulated in the administrative dimension, the Argentinean Congress is in the lead. It is followed by Guatemala and Chile, whose Congresses have existing regulations for 4 and 2 aspects of the administrative work measured in this study respectively.

Regarding the publication of information on administrative work on the Web site, the Argentinean Senate published the most information, followed by the Chilean Senate and the Guatemalan Congress.

The Chilean House of Representatives published the most amount of information on administrative work is published, followed by the Argentinean House of Representatives and the Guatemalan Congress.

**Legislative management.** The legislative work in the Argentinean Congress is the most regulated of the three countries. For the publication of information on the Web sites, the Argentinean Senate publishes only a little more information than the Chilean Senate (2 variables more), while the Guatemalan Congress publishes the least amount of information on legislative management. The Chilean Houses of Representative publishes information on one variable more than the Argentinean. Thus, the level of the publication of information on legislative work for the two Chambers in Argentina and Chile is practically the same.

**Work done by the legislators.** In no country is the publication of information regarding the on-site work done by the legislators regulated. As for the amount of information available on the Web sites, both Chile and Guatemala publish information on 1 of the 7 variables analyzed (in Chile, both the Senate and the House), while in Argentina there is no information of this nature published.

**Congressional Consultants.** Finally, with regards to the consulting groups that work for the Congress, none of the three Congresses have any regulations that govern this issue. The House of Representative in Chile is the only one that publishes information of this kind.

As we have previously mentioned, it is necessary for the Congresses of Argentina, Chile and Guatemala to make progress on the consolidation of a regulatory framework that promotes and guarantees the public's access to complete, truthful and timely information related to the four dimensions studied in this project.

As such, it must be possible to access information related to the implementation of the Congress' budget, travel expenses, bids, and its hiring of personnel. In legislative terms, it is essential to know all the votes and the discussions that take place in the legislative process, the names of the members of the legislators' work teams, the gifts the legislators receive, and their sworn declarations of wealth and assets (upon assuming office, once a year while in office, and upon leaving office).

As progress is made on favorable regulation for transparency and access to public information, it is necessary to guarantee the publication of this information on the Congress' Web sites as a minimum standard. Publication of such information should not be limited, however, to only Congressional websites, as information can also be disseminated through newspapers and local radio. Congresses must also guarantee that the public receives timely and complete answers when they request information. This avoids discrimination and establishes mechanisms for sanctioning those who are responsible for not providing such information.



# ANNEX 1

## VARIABLE LIST INDEX OF PARLIAMENTARY TRANSPARENCY

### Contents of regulatory information and verification of Congressional practices

Variables	By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web			
	Yes	No	N/A	Senate		House	
				Yes	No	Yes	No
1. Publication of the organizational chart of the Congress							
2. Publication of the Senate and/or House regulations							
3. Publication of the Senate and/or House budget							
4. Publication of the expenditures of the Senate and/or House							
5. Publication of the expenditures of the legislators' offices							
6. Publication of TV Channel programming							
7. Publication of the administrative decisions of the Senate and the House on their respective Web pages							
8. Publication of the legislators' sworn declarations of wealth and assets							
9. Publication of the legislators' declaration of interests							
10. Publication of the legislators' total salaries							

Variables	By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web			
	Yes	No	N/A	Senate		House	
	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	No
11. Publication of the calls for administrative position applications							
12. Publication of the staff (number or quantity) of temporary personnel							
13. Publication of the staff (number or quantity) of permanent personnel							
14. Publication of the staff (number or quantity) of freelance personnel							
15. Publication of the roles of permanent personnel							
16. Publication of the roles of freelance personnel							
17. Publication of the roles of temporary personnel							
18. Publication of the salary of temporary personnel							
19. Publication of the salary of permanent personnel							
20. Publication of the salary of freelance personnel							
21. Publication of the calls for contests for the acquisition of goods and services							
22. Publication of the list of bidders in the selection process for goods and services							
23. Publication of the list of bidders awarded contracts for goods and services							
24. Publication of the list of no-bid providers of goods and services							
25. Publication of the number of requests for information made by the public							
26. Publication of the status within the procedure of the public's requests for information							
27. Publication of the texts of bills							
28. Publication of the texts of proposed agreements							

Variables	By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web			
	Yes	No	N/A	Senate		House	
				Yes	No	Yes	No
29. Publication of the origin, current status and entry date of bills							
30. Publication of the origin, current status and entry date of proposed agreements							
31. Publication of the result of the voting sessions in Congress							
32. Publication of the result of roll call votes in Congress							
33. Publication of the minutes of Congressional sessions							
34. Publication of the agenda of Congressional sessions							
35. Publication of the legislators' attendance at Congressional sessions							
36. Publication of the audio recordings of Congressional sessions							
37. Publication of stenographic records of Congressional sessions							
38. Publication of audiovisual records of Congressional sessions							
39. Publication of the reports on constitutional accusations							
40. Publication of the agendas for meetings of committees							
41. Publication of the stenographic records of committee sessions							
42. Publication of the result of votes in committee sessions							
43. Publication of the reports of committee sessions							
44. Publication of the name and roles of committee members							
45. Publication of the legislators' attendance at committee sessions							

Variables	By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web			
	Yes	No	N/A	Senate		House	
				Yes	No	Yes	No
46. Publication of the day, time and place of meetings outside Congress							
47. Publication of the agenda of investigative committee meetings							
48. Publication of the agenda of oversight committee meetings							
49. Publication of the list of bills pending discussion on committees							
50. Publication of the reports, opinions or studies of the permanent, special and mixed committees							
51. Publication of the reports of investigative committees							
52. Publication of the annual programmed balance							
53. Working link for consultations and requests for information by the public on the Web pages of the Senate and House							
54. Existence of an office of public information in the Senate and/or House							
55. Publication of contact information for legislators' offices in their districts							
56. Publication of legislators' work agendas for their districts							
57. Publication of contact information of legislators' working team							
58. Publication of legislators' travel information within the country							
59. Publication of legislators' travel information outside the country							
60. Publication accounting for expenditures on legislators' trips							
61. Record of all gifts received by the legislators							

Variables	By law there is an obligation for the:			Published on the Web			
	Yes	No	N/A	Senate		House	
				Yes	No	Yes	No
62. Publication of information on organisms/ professionals that do technical consulting for Congress							
Total							

