



VIII Summit
of the Americas
LIMA - PERU - 2018



SUMMIT TALKS

Democratization of Information: Open Data in Preventing and Fighting Corruption

- Date:** Wednesday, May 6, 2020 – 11:00 a.m. (EDT – Washington, D.C.) – Length: 2 hours
Organizer: Summits of the Americas Secretariat, in cooperation with the Department for Effective Public Management of the OAS
Audience: Public officials and civil society from the region
Platform: Kudo (registered participants will be provided with the link)

This webinar falls under the cooperation initiatives being pursued by the Summits of the Americas Secretariat, in the framework of implementation of the Mechanism for Follow-up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment, with the participating states, Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) entities, and civil society and social actors. In such context, this seminar seeks to intensify the sharing of experiences and knowledge from the perspective of governments and civil society regarding the use of open data to prevent and fight corruption, as both a cause and effect of the democratization of information, particularly in terms of the need to incorporate open data into actions to respond to emergencies, such as the current global health crisis brought about by COVID-19.

Introduction:

Democratization of information is an expression of the desire to allow free access to data and information to everyone. Democratization of information brings with it benefits that enhance governance, including raising levels of transparency.

When information is obscured, democratic governance fragments, and this, in turn, undermines the transparency of the work of the government. In light of the paradigm shift in public management ushered in during second decade of the 21st century with both open government and e-government, the use of open data endeavors to respond to the dynamic in the region put in place by the access to public information framework. Can free access to data and information strengthen democratic governance?

For its part, the Lima Commitment, which came out of the Eighth Summit of the Americas held in 2018, encourages the use of open data to prevent and fight corruption. In paragraph 20 of the Lima Commitment, the Heads of State and Government of the Hemisphere commit to promoting the establishment of an Inter-American Open Data Program within the OAS in order to strengthen open information policies and increase the capacity of governments and citizens to prevent and fight corruption. The effects of reducing corruption strengthens democracy and improves citizen confidence, allowing the state to have the resources to meet the needs of the population that would otherwise be diverted.

Currently, this is the reality facing the region in the face of the impact of the current global health crisis caused by COVID-19 on democratic governance, where the pandemic has shown to accelerate the existing risks, making the democratization of information still more relevant.

The experience of attending to the emergency through declarations of States of Exception has shown challenges for access to information, and the opening and use of data to control and monitor the measures implemented and the resources allocated; among others.

Program

- I. *Introduction to the session and instructions*
- II. *Opening remarks:* Ambassador Luis E. Chávez, Chair of the Summits of the Americas Process, Director-General for Multilateral and Global Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru
- III. *Presentations*
 1. ECLAC: E-government and open government in the democratization of information | Alejandra Naser, Chief of the Public Management and Open Government Area
 2. Government of Colombia: Inter-American Open Data Program to Combat Corruption (PIDA) data in the National Data Portal | Luisa Medina, Open Data Leader, Ministry of Information and Communications Technologies (MinTIC)
 3. Civil society of Peru: Kickbacks and data journalism | Nelly Luna, Founder and Editor – *Ojo Público*
 4. CAF: Resources, investment, and transparency: The data agenda in international financial institutions | Camilo Cetina, Executive Principal for the digital transformation of the state Directorate at CAF
 5. Government of Mexico: Data to fight corruption in the context of COVID-19 | Ricardo A. Valencia Lara, Director of Transparency, National Institute for Transparency, Access to Information, and Personal Data Protection (INAI)
- IV. *Q & A session*
- V. *Final thoughts:* María Celina Conte, Acting Director, Summits of the Americas Secretariat, OAS

Moderated by: Mike Mora, OAS Specialist

Other considerations:

1. Simultaneous interpretation (English and Spanish) will be provided.
2. The session will be recorded and published so that it may be reproduced.
3. All presentations will be shared.
4. A record of the meeting, with action items or recommendations made, will be shared.

Regarding the Summit of the Americas and the Department for Effective Public Management

The Eighth Summit of the Americas (Lima, Peru, 2018) concluded with the adoption, by the Heads of State and Government, of 57 mandates or concrete measures to prevent and fight corruption set forth in the “Lima Commitment: Democratic Governance against Corruption.” These 57 measures include specific mandates in the areas of e-government, open data, open government, and public procurement to prevent and fight corruption. The Summits Secretariat of the OAS General Secretariat, as Technical Secretariat for the Summits of the Americas Process, has a mandate to support the member states in implementing Summit mandates and initiatives, and to follow up on implementation of the mandates from both the Eighth Summit of the Americas and the Summits that preceded it. For its part, the OAS Department for Effective Public Management is responsible for helping to ensure that public management is more effective, transparent, and participatory for the “effective exercise of democracy,” pursuant to Articles 2, 4, and 6 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter. Its work areas include, among others, those already noted above with regard to e-government and open data.

Queries about this webinar may be addressed to Mr. Mike Mora – mmora@oas.org, Specialist, OAS Department for Effective Public Management.