# Overview of Citizen Participation in the Legislative Process

There are opportunities to engage citizens at various stages of the legislative process and these can be coordinated by various actors who are responsible for the process at any given stage. Considering the type of input sought at each stage and the responsibilities of corresponding actors can help determine an appropriate methodology and combination of mechanisms to effectively obtain citizens' input.

Oversight

Vote on

a bill

## Oversight

Explore the impact of existing laws and oversee the actions of the Executive.

Responsible actors:

- Legislators in plenary during question period, questioning and scrutinizing executive appointees
- Committees monitoring the implementation of legislation and government policy, and investigating certain issues, particularly public accounts

Possible citizen engagement at this stage: open-ended dialogue on the implementation of government policy and/or input on the implementation of specific government policy or as part of an investigation of a specific case.

### Vote on a bill

Vote to adopt or reject a bill.

Responsible actors:

· Legislators voting in plenary on the principle of bill and on the adoption of the bill

Possible citizen engagement at this stage: poll of citizens' views on a specific bill.

Agenda

Review of

a bill

Agenda setting

Establishment of specific issues as public policy priorities.

Responsible actors:

- Political parties developing policy platforms
- Legislators representing constituents
- Committees defining their agenda
- Presidency or board of directors of parliament defining plenary agenda
- Parliamentary caucuses
- Cabinet and public institutions determining government legislative priorities

Possible citizen engagement at this stage: open-ended dialogue allowing the identification of issues and suggestion of legislative solutions.

# Content development of a bill

of a bill

## Content development of a bill

Determination of the main components of specific legislation.

Responsible actors:

- · Cabinet and public institutions proposing bills
- Legislators proposing bills in parliamentary systems
- Committees tasked with creating a report as the basis on which a bill will be drafted

Possible citizen engagement at this stage: input on a specific issue and suggestion of legislative solutions.

# Review of a bill

Study of the bill in committee and debate in plenary.

Responsible actors:

- · Committees considering bills
- . Legislators in plenary debate considering the principles, content, and proposed amendments of bills

Possible citizen engagement at this stage: input based on the draft of a specific bill.

# Drafting of a bill

Legal drafting of the text of a bill.

Responsible actors:

- Cabinet, public institutions, and the relevant legal departments drafting bills
- Legislators and legislative counsel of the chamber drafting private members' bills in parliamentary systems
- · Committees and legislative counsel of the chamber drafting bills in committee

Possible citizen engagement at this stage: input on the text to be included within a

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Parliamentary Courses or Groups: A group made up of all parliamentarians from the same political party or a group of legislators from different parties contribed to advancing an issue (i.e. Gender Caucuses) or enhancing regional representation