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.

**Overview of Citizen Participation in the Legislative Process**

**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**
- 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.

**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 specific bill.

---

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