



Open Government Initiative Bill

Objective

To guarantee a closer connection between government and the citizenry.

Definitions

- **Accountability:** There are rules, regulations and mechanisms in place that call upon government actors to justify their actions, act upon criticism or requirements made of them, and accept responsibility for failure to perform with respect to laws or commitments.
- **Transparency:** Information on government activities and decisions is open, comprehensive, timely, freely available to the public and meets basic open data standards (e.g., raw data, machine readability)
- **Participation:** Opportunities for participation and collaborative problem-solving between civil society and the government should be given as much as possible
- **Accessibility:** A government, serving its people needs policies that provide maximum information accessibility and maximum inclusion in participatory processes.
- **Public Integrity:** Good government requires high ethical standards and codes of conduct for public officials.

Preambular Statement

One of the key conditions for adequate functioning of a government is to allow that the citizens can have a say in the most important decisions being taken in their name, or on their behalf. Without citizens' participation there is no way of assuring that the political system is indeed a government *of* the people and *by* the people.

But this is only one part of the issue. There is also the need that citizens can keep public officials in check. This is what ordinarily goes under the name of accountability, the capacity on part of the citizens for calling public officials to account for their actions. Thus, without the institution of an adequate system of checks and balances, there is no way that a government can satisfy its ideal of being also *for the welfare of* the people. The difficulty arises when these principles are to be translated into adequate practices and procedures.

Much of today's politics combines the respect for these principles with the need to satisfy other requirements of political life such as the demands of expert knowledge, which, because of its complexity, sometimes evades the development of citizens' participation. Besides, the embedding of some decisions in particular interests are difficult to detect and require that they be compensated by an adequate understanding of the general public interest such as it emerges from participation procedures. Furthermore, nowadays, under the conditions of a globalized world, we find ourselves subject to continuous interference of other social, economic and political forces that impose themselves upon the will of our national subjects and are capable of skipping these controls.



These and other considerations make it necessary that all of our national institutions uphold the principles of open and transparent government by endorsing the Open Government Initiative. By endorsing these principles we commit ourselves to foster a culture of open government that empowers and delivers for citizens, and advances the ideals of open and participatory 21st century government, based on greater civic participation in public affairs, and seeking ways to make their governments more transparent, responsive, accountable and effective.

Be it resolved by the Global Energy Parliament that:

1. The principles of Open Government are to be introduced in all levels of governmental activity and affect all of the public administration practices and procedures.
2. These principles are reflected in the following values:
 - a. Accountability
 - b. Transparency
 - c. Participation
 - d. Accessibility
 - e. Public Integrity
3. The precise content of these values will be specified in more specialized legislation.
4. In order to facilitate the realization of these principles, governments embrace the importance of providing citizens with open access to technology, the role of new technologies in driving innovation, and the importance of increasing the capacity of citizens to use technology.
5. A Steering Committee will be appointed in order to secure the safeguard and promotion of these values in all governmental institutions and their practices and decisions. This Steering Committee will be integrated by a selection of Government Representatives as well as by Civil Society Representatives that allows for the engagement to this project by groups of citizens and civil society organizations.
6. This Steering Committee will present to parliament an Annual Report on the effective realization of these principles and will make proposals as to how to enhance and better develop the workings of the Open Government Initiative.

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Passed by the Members of the Global Energy Parliament on June 12, 2015 in Madrid