



VIII Summit  
of the Americas  
LIMA - PERU - 2018



## SUMMIT TALKS

### DEMOCRATIZATION OF INFORMATION: OPEN DATA IN PREVENTING AND FIGHTING CORRUPTION

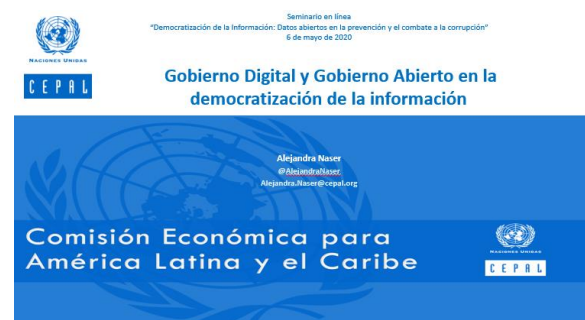
Wednesday, May 6, 2020

This report summarizes the points highlighted and conclusions reached during the session and also contains links to documentary resources such as the video and presentations. Thus, this report presents a compendium of recommendations on the subject of open data in preventing and fighting corruption.

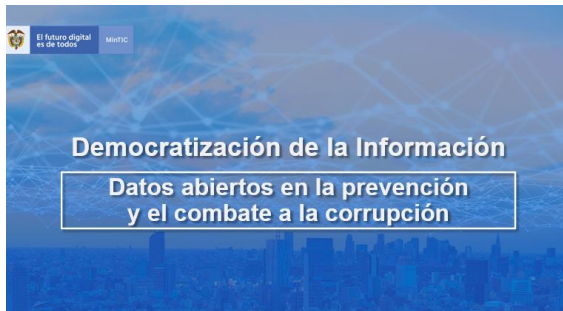
#### Video



#### Presentations



ECLAC



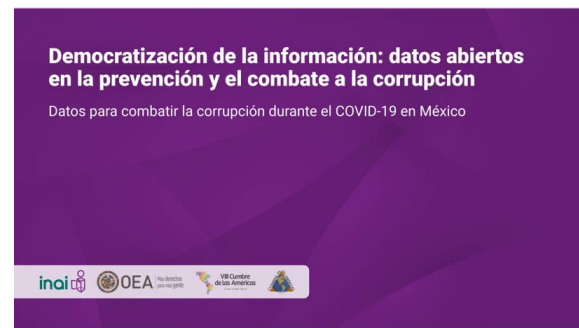
COLOMBIA, MINTIC



PERU, OJO PÚBLICO



CAF



MEXICO, INAI

- [AGENDA](#)
- [PHOTO GALLERY](#)

#### Introduction

This Summit Talk or virtual seminar 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 that context, the seminar sought 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 combat corruption, as both a cause and an effect of the democratization of information, particularly in terms of the need to incorporate open data in actions taken in response to emergency situations such as the current global health crisis brought about by COVID-19.

Session participants included experts representing two governments (Colombia and Mexico), two representatives from international organizations and JSWG entities (ECLAC and CAF), and one representative of civil society (Peru). The seminar was opened by the country serving as Chair of the Summits of the Americas Process, represented by Ambassador Luis E. Chávez, National Coordinator for the Summits Process and Director of Multilateral and Global Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru.

The Lima Commitment from the Eighth Summit of the Americas held in 2018 encourages the use of open data to prevent and combat corruption. In paragraph 20, the Heads of State and Government of the Hemisphere called for efforts in support of establishing an Inter-American Open Data Program (PIDA) within the OAS in order to strengthen open information policies and increase the capacity of governments and citizens to prevent and combat corruption. This commitment took shape with approval of the PIDA by the member states at the 49<sup>th</sup> OAS General Assembly in 2019 through the resolution on strengthening government, in Chapter VII on open and transparent digital government.

### ***Thematic Approach***

The session was approached from five different perspectives in order to analyze the topic with a comprehensive view.

First, the presentation from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (**ECLAC**) introduced the topic from the perspective of the evolution from electronic government to e-government, together with the inception of open government. The introduction of technologies to modernize public institutions with e-government was the precursor for initiating mass data generation processes in public administration. The presentation was followed by the approach to the use of technologies for digital delivery of government procedures and services to citizens through e-government. The interim saw the emergence of open government based on the pillars of transparency, collaboration, and participation. These pillars push government to open by involving civil society in the cycle of public policies and call for the opening of governmental data so that actors outside of government can use that data to generate value in the form of new services and applications for citizens. The following are some of the specific points presented by ECLAC:

- Commitments undertaken by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the area of access to information in light of the Alliance for Open Government have increased and actually represent the subject area with the largest number of cumulative commitments in the region, with a total of 570 commitments. The next area on the scale is “citizen participation and collaboration among actors,” with 390 commitments.

- The opening of government data in Latin America and the Caribbean increased from 30,000 to 40,000 data sets published between 2018 and 2020, along with a slight increase (from 2,504 to 2,677) in the number of institutions that publish such data.

The objective of the second presentation, delivered by the **Ministry of Information and Communications Technologies of Colombia (MinTIC)** was to highlight the regional importance of the Inter-American Open Data Program to Prevent and Combat Corruption (PIDA). Colombia discussed the country's efforts on the subject of opening priority data sets for preventing and combating corruption in light of the adoption of the PIDA. The methodology used by Colombia to implement the PIDA consists of: a) diagnosis of the status of data; b) publication and display of PIDA data; c) promotion of multi-actor dialogue; and d) development of tools.

Colombia identified nine (9) PIDA data sets available in the country, notably those associated with government procurement, investment, and expenditure and the registry of public officials; thirteen (13) that are partially available; and eight (8) that have not begun to be published by the entities responsible. The following challenges were identified:

- Linking the commitment on implementing the PIDA in Colombia to the fourth action plan for open government in order to coordinate efforts with the national entities responsible for the opening of data.
- Encouraging the use of open data in new services or applications that make it possible to combat corruption through sustainable entrepreneurship initiatives.
- Implementing the quality strategy and generating capacities so that government entities can improve the quality of the PIDA's open data sets.

One of the most important ways to use open data against corruption is through investigative journalism. The seminar's third presentation was delivered by the independent news medium **Ojo Público del Perú**. It emphasized the importance of open governmental data as evidence for journalistic investigation in building news and constructing stories that are able to bring irregularities to public light. These points were illustrated through the presentation of news items such as "The War over Water," "Kickbacks," "The Palta Network," and "FUNES," the latter being a tool that analyzes thousands of data in Peruvian government contracts and identifies political and financial relationships using an algorithmic model that assigns weights to corruption risk scenarios.

The fourth presentation was delivered by the Directorate for Digital Innovation of the State of the **Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)** and focused on the post-COVID-19 digital transformation agenda that it called integrity and digital resilience of governments, indicating that the governments' responses to the crisis reflect uneven degrees of digital maturity. It noted in particular the relevance of government purchases during the response to the pandemic and the complexities of lax regulatory and control environments during the crisis and limited technology environments in contracting. For the CAF, there is a relationship between direct contracting in times of crisis, increased product prices, and "kickbacks" (bribes and acts of corruption). To alleviate this situation, it is important to promote the digitization of procedures and simplification of processes.

To close the session, **Mexico's National Institute for Transparency, Access to Information, and Personal Data Protection (INAI)** focused on emphasizing that not only open data but Proactive Transparency (PT) and Open Government as well play a substantial role within the democratic exercise of any government.

With this emphasis, the INAI indicates that any Proactive Transparency policy of considering and promoting the generation of open data and useful information for reducing information asymmetries optimizes decision-making, improves access to procedures and services, and favors accountability. This was illustrated through the presentation of the INAI's proactive transparency COVID-19 microsite, which provides data on requests for information related to the pandemic, including an open data section for downloading this information.

### **Conclusions**

- The evidence presented during the seminar indicates that there is a correlation between a larger number of commitments in light of the Alliance for Open Government in the area of access to public information and progress made on the subject of open data; the more commitments, the more opening.
- The challenges for consolidating open data persist and are based on: a) ignorance of the need for data; b) the need for improvement and updating of open data platforms; c) the need for strengthening knowledge and data capacity among human resources in the countries; and c) the need for greater communication and dissemination regarding open data policies.
- The countries' commitments in light of the Alliance for Open Government on the subject of public integrity and accountability show a lower percentage among all the countries' commitments.
- The availability of priority and good-quality data sets, which the PIDA points to for preventing and combating corruption, is low.
- The publication of open data for journalistic use may help to reduce the costs of combating corruption and ensure access to fundamental rights.
- Given the limited access in open format to governmental data on the responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with special emergency provisions in government contracting, pandemic-related purchases in Latin America are opaque and show reduced competition.
- Appropriate management of the crisis caused by COVID-19 could be the opportunity for the transition from digital and open government to Smart Government.
- The digital transformation synergistically induced by COVID-19 requires greater interoperability of information systems, which will in turn redound in greater transparency and improved accountability.
- Proactive Transparency has significant potential within democratic control of the exercise of power, through the construction of a more informed citizenry that is capable of demanding accountability from its leaders and capable of becoming involved in public matters based on the analysis of useful and quality information.

### **Recommendations**

The following recommendations are presented as the result of the exchange maintained in the seminar and are provided as input to the OAS member states for its efforts to follow up commitments on the subject of open data and combating corruption arising from the Eighth Summit of the Americas; and for strengthening transparency and accountability in the light of governments' actions to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. It is important to consolidate the position of the right of access to public information; this includes updating regulatory and institutional frameworks on access to public information existing in the countries, or generating them where they do not exist. Updates should address the new scenario presented by open data.
2. Promoting a culture of opening that encourages institutions' willingness to meet the demands for information from the citizenry and civil society seeking to learn about their operations, as well as the manner and rationale for the decisions they make and the public funds they administer.
3. Making progress in the adoption of proactive transparency policies.
4. Promoting intra- and inter-institutional interoperability frameworks.
5. Continuing to promote the establishment of country commitments on the subject of open data in light of the Alliance for Open Government so as to continue experiencing improvements in the publication and utilization of data.
6. Increasing the number and quality of governments' commitments on the subject of public integrity and accountability in light of the Alliance for Open Government.
7. Linking implementation of the PIDA to the countries' commitments in their action plans in light of the Alliance for Open Government.
8. Focusing efforts on opening governmental data sets in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that have priority in terms of fighting corruption.
9. Approaching national open data strategies as foundational in national strategies on governmental interoperability, in that the structuring open data sets may help to define the interoperability protocols of public administration.

## **Program**

11:00 am *I. Introduction to the session and instructions*

11:05 am *II. Opening remarks: Ambassador Luis E. Chávez, National Coordinator for Peru to the Summits Process representing the Chair of the Summits of the Americas Process*

11:15 *III. Presentations*

1. E-government and open government in the democratization of information | Alejandra Naser, Chief of the Public Management and Open Government Area, ECLAC.
2. PIDA data in the National Data Portal | Luisa Medina, Open Data Leader, Ministry of Information and Communications Technologies (MinTIC), Colombia.
3. Kickbacks and data journalism | Nelly Luna, Founder and Editor, *Ojo Público*, Peru.
4. Resources, investment, and transparency: The data agenda in international financial institutions | Camilo Cetina, Executive Principal for the Innovation of the State Directorate, CAF.
5. Data to fight corruption in the context of COVID-19 | Ricardo A. Valencia Lara, Director of Transparency, National Institute for Access to Information (INAI), Mexico.

12:30 *III. Q and A session*

12:50 IV. *Final thoughts:* María Celina Conte, Acting Director, Summits of the Americas Secretariat, OAS

*Moderator:* Mike Mora, OAS Specialist, Department for Effective Public Management

## ON THE PRESENTERS



***Alejandra Naser, Chief of the Public Management and Open Government Area, ECLAC.***

Alejandra Naser, a Chilean national, has a civil engineering degree in informatics from the University of Concepción, Chile (1994) and a master's degree in information technology from the Federico Santa María University, Chile (2009). In more than twenty years of professional life, she has pursued various specialization courses on subjects related to technologies and informatics, modernization of the State, public innovation, open government, open data, and other topics.

After having held senior management positions with Telefónica de Chile and in regional governments in Chile, in 1997 she became a permanent United Nations professional performing tasks as a specialist in e-government and open government for the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), where she has led technical cooperation projects in the countries of the region, training hundreds of Latin American professionals and giving specialized lectures at different international events. In recent years, she has published about ten documents on these subjects. She currently serves as Officer in Charge of the Public Management and Open Government Area of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), which belongs to the United Nations/ECLAC system.



***Luisa Medina, Open Data Leader, Ministry of Information and Communications Technologies (MinTIC), Colombia.***

Luisa Medina is a Systems and Telematics Engineer with more than 15 years of professional experience, a specialist in information systems in the organization, with a master's degree in Design and Management of Technology and PMP Projects. Since 2011 when she joined the on-line government program team of Colombia's MinTIC, she has led large-scale projects for the country such as Notaries on Line, Mobile Solutions for Government and Open Data; she has been in the forefront in the design, promotion, and implementation of innovative schemes for technology acquisition such as software factories and technological services. She currently holds the position of Advisor to the MinTIC's Vice Ministry for the Digital Economy, leading the national strategy on open data and free software from the E-Government Directorate.



***Nelly Luna Amancio, Founder and Editor, Ojo Público, Peru.***

Nelly Luna Amancio is the co-founder and general editor of *Ojo Público*, a digital medium dedicated to investigation with the widest readership in Peru and a benchmark in Latin America. She is an investigative journalist who specializes in data analysis, the environment, and human rights. Her investigations have received various forms of national and international recognition such as the Journalistic Excellence Award from the Inter-American Press Society (IAPA) and the Scientific



Journalism Award from the Institute of the Americas. As a member of the *Ojo Público* team, she has won Peru's National Human Rights Prize (2015), the best investigation of the year prize of the Data Journalism Awards (2015), and in 2019, together with her team, she obtained honorable mention from the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) for their role providing in-depth coverage of subjects for an understanding of Latin America. Nelly is a collaborator in the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) and was part of the Panama Papers team in the global investigation that won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize.



***Camilo Cetina, Executive Principal for the Innovation of the State Directorate, CAF.***

Camilo Cetina currently serves as the executive principal of the Digital Innovation of the State Directorate (DIDE) at the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), leading the public integrity agenda. He holds a professional degree in government and international relations from the Externado de Colombia University, with a masters in economics from the University of Copenhagen. Camilo is an expert supporting state reforms for good government, institutional strengthening, and combating corruption; in particular, he was in charge of implementing anti-corruption policy in Colombia between 2014 and 2017, as well as developing the first Transparency and Anticorruption Observatory in the country and coordinating public integrity initiatives for the purpose of Colombia's accession to the OECD.



***Ricardo A. Valencia Lara, Director of Transparency, National Institute for Access to Information (INAI), Mexico.***

Ricardo Valencia holds a master's degree in government and public administration from the Complutense University of Madrid (UCM), a bachelor's degree in economics, and a bachelor's degree in political science from the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico (ITAM). He has professional experience in management positions at the federal and municipal level. He has been a presenter at International Political Science Congresses and has publications printed by the Presiding Officers of the Senate of the Republic and the Legislative Research Institute of the Congress of the State of Guanajuato. He has also been a professor in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at the University of the Valley of Atemajac (UNIVA) in the State of Guanajuato, as well as the School of Law of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). He currently serves as the Director of Transparency in the General Directorate of Open Government and Transparency at the National Institute for Transparency, Access to Information, and Personal Data Protection (INAI) and is pursuing a doctoral program in Political Sciences and Administration and International Relations at the Complutense University of Madrid.

### **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 combat 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 combat corruption. The Summits 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 purpose of the OAS Department for Effective Public Management (DEPM), with which the Summits Secretariat will coordinate to carry out this event, is to contribute to making public management 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 with regard to e-government and open data.