

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

COMMITTEE ON JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS

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SPECIAL MEETING, WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF EXPERTS FROM THE STATES
AND CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES, TO PROMOTE, IMPART, AND EXCHANGE
EXPERIENCES AND KNOWLEDGE WITH RESPECT TO ACCESS TO PUBLIC
INFORMATION AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

April 28, 2006
Columbus Room
Washington, D.C.

SCHEDULE^{1/}

9:00 - 9:30 a.m.

INAUGURAL SESSION

- Remarks by his Excellency Ambassador Francisco Villagrán de León, Chair of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs
- Remarks by Dr. Evelio Fernández Arévalos, President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)

9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

PANEL I

**ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION AND DEMOCRATIC
GOVERNANCE**

- Perspective of a political leader
- Perspective of a civil society specialist with experience in this area
- Perspective of a media representative
- Comments by delegations
 - Ms. Mariclaire Acosta, Director, Department for the Promotion of Governance, OAS
 - Dr. Ignacio J. Alvarez, Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)

1. Approved by the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs at its meeting of January 26, 2006.

- Ms. Melanie Anne Pustay, Office of Information and Privacy, U.S. Department of Justice
- Ms. Valeria Merino, Transparency International
- Mr. Víctor Hugo Ricco, Center for Human Rights and Environment

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **PANEL II**

PRACTICES AND EXPERIENCES IN THE AREA OF ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION

- Government official or governmental expert with experience in this area and in the use of information and communication technologies as tools in these experiences (e.g., state commissions on access to public information; legislative branch portals – INTERLEGIS/Brazil; transparency nodes; electronic government)
 - Civil society representative with experience in this area (e.g., education campaigns, corruption oversight offices; citizens' manuals on access to public information)
 - Media representative with experience in this area
 - Comments by delegations
- Mr. Antoine Chevrier, Chief of Staff, Executive Secretariat for Integral Development, OAS
 - Ms. Joan M. Caivano, Director of Special Projects, Inter-American Dialogue
 - Ms. Kela León, Peruvian Press Council
 - Mr. Ángel Trinidad, Federal Institute for Access to Public Information, Mexico

2:30 - 4:00 p.m. **PANEL III**

REGIONAL CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTING LAWS ON ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION

- Perspective of an expert on implementation of laws on access to public information
- Perspective of an expert on exceptional cases of limits on access to public information

- Perspective of an expert involved in the development of indicators to evaluate the degree of implementation of laws on access to public information in the countries
- Comments by delegations
 - Dr. Jean Michel Arrighi, Director, Department of International Legal Affairs, OAS
 - Mr. Denis Kratchanov, Department of Justice, Canada
 - Dr. Jaime Aparicio, Inter-American Juridical Committee, OAS
 - Mr. Ángel Trinidad, Federal Institute for Access to Public Information, Mexico

4:00 - 5:00 p.m. DIALOGUE OF DELEGATIONS

5:00 - 5:30 p.m. CONCLUSIONS AND REFLECTIONS

- Conclusion of the Meeting: Report
- Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, Director, Department for the Promotion of Democracy, OAS