

**24th Conference of the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy
(OIDP)**

**“Connect, Integrate and Humanize: Cities facing the challenge of generating
Community”**

CONCEPT NOTE

Session 10

Open Government and Transparency

Date: 22 May 2025

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: UCC Auditorium, Córdoba, Argentina

Thematic Area: **Government in the Digital Era**

CONTEXT

At a time when democracies face growing citizen disaffection, **regaining trust** in public institutions is an urgent task. The perception of **opacity, inefficiency, and disconnection from the real needs** of the community weakens the social contract and widens the gap between governments and citizens. In this context, the **Open Government** approach — a model of public management based on three fundamental principles: **transparency, citizen participation, and accountability** — presents itself as a key strategy to renew democratic legitimacy.

This model of governance not only involves adopting technological tools or meeting transparency standards, but also a deep **cultural transformation** that promotes a more collaborative relationship between the State and society. Globally, initiatives such as the **Open Government Partnership (OGP)** have driven governments to make concrete commitments to make their administrations more **open and accessible**. At the city

level, Open Government has great potential: local governments are closer to citizens, which facilitates direct participation processes, collaborative data management, participatory budgeting, open urban planning, among others.

Moving toward Open Government means creating spaces and mechanisms that allow citizens to actively engage in the **development, implementation, and evaluation of public policies**. It is about **transforming the way power is conceived and exercised**, toward a more horizontal, inclusive, and effective model. This session aims to showcase and exchange local and international experiences that promote real government openness, strengthening a model of governance that is closer, more transparent, and participatory.

OBJECTIVES

- Explore how Open Government can **strengthen trust in public institutions and renew democratic legitimacy**, especially at the local level.
- Analyze key elements for implementing a **more transparent, participatory, and collaborative governance model**, based on transparency, accountability, and citizen participation.
- Showcase and **share local and international experiences that promote real openness of governments** toward citizens through the use of digital technologies and active participation mechanisms.
- Discuss how to **transform the relationship between the state and citizens** by creating effective participation spaces in the development, implementation, and evaluation of public policies for more inclusive and effective governance.

METHODOLOGY

This **90-minute panel** will begin with an introduction to establish the foundations of the Open Government concept. Afterwards, **a panel of representatives from local governments will share their experiences and Open Government models**, addressing issues of transparency and citizen participation. Speakers will have the opportunity to comment on their experiences, discuss practices, and explore solutions to move toward more accessible and participatory urban governance. An interactive questions and answers session will follow, encouraging public participation.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- How can the Open Government approach strengthen citizen trust and renew democratic legitimacy at the local level?
- What institutional, cultural, and technological conditions are necessary to implement Open Government policies effectively and sustainably?
- How can we ensure that transparency and open data are accessible, useful, and understandable to all citizens?
- What role does organized civil society play in the co-creation of more open and accountable public policies?

SPEAKERS (Preliminary)

- **Roberto Neira Aburto**, Mayor of Temuco (Chile)
- **Bruno Venâncio**, Open Government Coordinator of São Paulo (Brazil)
- **Ignacio Gei**, Secretary of Smart City and Digital Transformation of Córdoba (Argentina)