

## Consensus Building

Directorio Legislativo is a non-partisan organization working to strengthen legislative powers and consolidate democratic systems through dialogue, transparency and access to public information.

Within this framework, DL works in the area of consensus building with the aim of “generating spaces for dialogue that promote agreements between different social actors and legislators”.

A fundamental aspect of DL's work is advocacy. These spaces use dialogue as a tool to reach agreements that can then be transmitted to political decision-makers.

The agreements reached and the dialogue promoted by DL in general, center on the following fundamental values:

- Equality: recognizing the voices of multiple actors equally;
- Respect and collaboration: acknowledging the wisdom of involving and partnering with wide-ranging actors and the benefits of exchanging ideas and visions and maintaining mutual respect;
- Empathy: putting itself in the position of others and seeking allround benefits and enrichment;
- Integrity: adhering to high standards of ethics and professionalism.

Likewise, the dialogue roundtables created within the consensus building framework need to meet the following criteria:

- Social knowledge: share expertise and know-how on problems relevant to communities and publicly share results and outcomes.
- Scientific validity: working on the basis of empirical evidence and academic research to underpin the information and diagnostics on given issues.
- Equitable representation: ensuring fair recruitment and selection including in terms of, though not limited to, gender and socioeconomic status to capture a diverse range of voices; and ensuring any risks or benefits impact upon staff or other participants evenly.

To support the working groups within its “consensus building” program, DL receives funds from both international donors and the private sector. In no case does the origin of those funds influence the dynamics, opinions or activities that DL develops within the framework of the dialogue building process. DL does not receive funds that require endorsement of any

product or a particular vision. The minutes of our roundtable meetings are publicly accessible, allowing for open civic auditing and evaluation.

To achieve the objective stated above, DL fulfills the role of promoter and coordinator of advocacy processes in public policies, fulfilling the following functions:

#### 1. Process function

- Summons the various sectors to be part of the consensus building groups. The selection of participants is carried out based on the different visions and positions around the topic or issue in question, seeking a fair and equitable balance and representation.
- Serves as a permanent nexus between members to facilitate partnership working and exchange.
- **Follows up** on debates, agreements and proposals reached by each consensus building group, nurturing trust and confidence in the process.
- Ensures compliance with the operating protocols of each group.
- Resolves challenges and situations not foreseen in the operating protocols through the generation of "common criteria" for decision-making.

#### 2. Advocacy

- Designs the various stages of the dialogue process for each group.
- Designs an advocacy strategy, which is submitted to the member actors for approval and subsequent delivery.
- Outlines the current regulatory situation on the subject being addressed.
- Generates reports and public policy documents, materializing the agreements and proposals of the working groups rooted in a diversity of views and joint decision-making.