CONCEPT NOTE

FORUM ON PARLIAMENTARY OPENNESS AS AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF OPEN GOVERNANCE

The Open Governance Program (OGP) is a global call to action to curb distrust in government by promoting direct collaboration between citizens and governments. For one week in March, open government doers, leaders, and thinkers from around the world will come together to share ideas, discuss solutions, and commit to new levels of citizen participation in government as part of the 2019 Open Gov Week (OGW). OGW is for all who believe that citizens should play a role in how government makes decisions. It is for all who know that making government open and accountable requires us to tear down the traditional boundaries that prevent too many from having a say.

Legislative bodies across the World are encouraged to embrace the tenets of open governance through parliamentary openness. In September 2012, the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness was launched at the World e-Parliament Conference in Rome as a call to national parliaments, and sub-national and transitional legislative bodies for an increased commitment to openness and to citizen engagement in Parliamentary Work.

The Parliament of Ghana has over the years been embarking on various interventions that contribute to making it open. At this Forum, the agenda of bringing parliament closer to the people will be discussed in relation to the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness. This is to enable participants make useful contributions on how gender and inclusion as key priorities can be focused on in Parliaments quest to be more open and closer to the people.

The Forum will bring together Members of Parliament, Staff of the Parliament of Ghana, Civil Society Organizations (including gender-based, youth and other marginalized groups), members from the business community and academia to explore how Parliament can work better when all voices are included. This is situated in the collective believe that more diverse ideas lead to innovative solutions, and when those solutions respond to the needs of the people, citizens trust in governments increases.

The Forum is organized by the Parliamentary Training Institute and Parliamentary Network Africa (PNAfrica) – a civil society parliamentary monitoring organization. It is in collaboration with the Public Affairs Department of the Parliament of Ghana and MPs championing Open Governance.