



Consensus- building

The role of Directorio Legislativo Foundation

Directorio Legislativo Foundation is an independent organization that fosters the strengthening of legislative powers and democratic consolidation through dialogue, transparency and access to public information.

Within this institutional context, DL works in consensus- building in order to "generate dialogue spaces that encourage agreements among social stakeholders and policymakers". A key aspect in DL's work is incidence. These spaces use *dialogue* as a tool to reach agreements that can be subsequently forwarded to decision makers.

Commitments entered into as well as the results of dialogue spaces promoted by DL are underpinned by several fundamental values:

- Equality: to acknowledge the institutions' voting and speaking privileges;
- Respect and cooperation: to recognize the wisdom of all stakeholders and the benefits arising from exchanging ideas and viewpoints, preserving mutual respect;
- Empathy: to put oneself in someone else's shoes and benefit from each other;
- Integrity: to act in agreement with ethics and professional trust;

Additionally, dialogue discussion tables within this program must meet the following criteria: Social knowledge: to share expert and counter- expert knowledge about community-relevant problems and to make results available for the whole society.

Scientific validity: to offer empirical evidence and academic research that account for available information and diagnosis on issues at stake.

Equitable representation: to ensure a fair selection procedure in terms of gender, socio-economic situation and expression of all standpoints, and also to distribute risks and benefits equitably among participating groups.

DL receives international cooperation and private sector funds to support its activities and working sessions within the "consensus- building" program. Under no circumstances the sources of funding alter or manage the dynamics, opinion or activities conducted by DL in the dialogue process. DL does not receive funds directly related to supporting a donor's product or point of view. Discussion table minutes, protocols agreed and outcomes are accessible for participants to enable process audits and assessments.



In order to achieve the aforementioned objective, DL plays the role of promoter and coordinator of public policy incidence processes. For that purpose, it performs the following functions regarding:

1. Processes:

- Summons all sectors to form part of these groups. The selection of these agents is conducted based on different existing views, seeking to achieve a fair and equitable balance.
- Acts as a continuous communication link among members to facilitate encounters.
- Follows up debates, agreements and proposals achieved by each group and encourages the trust building process among members.
- Ensures compliance of the groups' operating protocol.
- Settles cases and situations not considered by the operating protocol creating "common criteria" for decision making.

2. Incidence

- Designs stages for the groups' dialogue process.
- Designs an incidence strategy submitted for consideration of members for approval and subsequent joint implementation.
- Surveys the regulatory framework valid for the topics to work on.
- Generates reports and public policy documents, materializes agreements and proposals of working groups in line with decisions taken jointly and various positions.