



## **STATEMENT OF MADRID**

In the city of Madrid, on days 24, 25 and 26 March 2015 has developed the 15th Conference of the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy (IOPD), which brought together researchers, academicians, representatives of national, regional and local governments, international organizations as well as representatives of civil society.

Under the heading of "Open Government: Transparency and Citizen Participation" speakers and attendees have discussed and reflected on the growing importance of the exercise of public responsibilities according to the principles of transparency, accountability, open data and participation and ongoing cooperation with citizens as a way to further progress in the democratization of our society.

In the evolution experienced by modern societies citizens are aware of their rights, they want to exercise them fully, and their obligations, so that public managers must take the necessary measures to ensure that the right of participation and access to information must be real and effective, establishing the necessary channels to achieve higher levels of transparency in management, with ICT as an indispensable instrument.

During the course of the Conference have been held 9 tables in which has demonstrated the diversity of Open Government policies that are being implemented throughout the world and the future prospects we can offer to the public, in each case adapted to the characteristics of each society and territory. From the discussions we declare:

- A growing demand of citizens for access to further information on the management of public resources, considering that the exercise of public responsibilities should be performed with greater transparency, efficiency and accountability.
- The value of transparency and openness is essential data for the provision of quality services to citizens and to prevent corrupt practices that generate distrust of citizens in their governments.
- Public management must be focused on citizenship with the aim of achieving higher levels of social welfare, which must govern not only for citizens but also with citizens, promoting the expansion and strengthening of mechanisms for participation and collaboration that allow neighbors to be protagonists of government actions.

Therefore, we declare our commitment for that the exercises of public responsibilities are carried out in accordance with the following premises:

- Increasing transparency in planning and governance, increasing the volume of information on the performance of the managers of public resources. Local



- governments have collected information on behalf of citizens and they have the right to request and obtain this information. It is therefore necessary to facilitate access to the information available to the different governments.
- Provide citizens and entities data sets in a structured way, easily accessible and reusable, understandable and searchable formats, establishing channels for receipt of requests for adding new data.
  - Encourage consolidation of citizen participation systems and promote the development of new mechanisms to put the necessary permanent dialogue and responsible public managers with society into practice, along with individual citizens or through organized civil society. The participation of citizens is essential to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of governments they can receive their knowledge, ideas and ability to evaluate the management of public affairs aspect.
  - Promote the development of tools that enhance the ways of participation of individual citizens, so that their opinions, ideas and proposals for improving the delivery of public services favor the mutual rapprochement between citizens and institutions.
  - Support the capacity of nonprofit organizations for that its operation is consistent with the values of transparency, independence, freedom of association and expression, establishing mechanisms of collaboration between governments and society through these entities.
  - Extend the use of new technologies (ICT) to promote transparency, open data, accountability and collaboration and citizen participation. The opportunities that offered access to new technologies for the exchange of information and obtaining views of citizens are unquestionable. For this reason, it will create online spaces accessible not only for the management of services but as a platform to seek the views and assessment of citizens about the actions of their governments , as well as a channel for new ideas to increase the quality utility and effectiveness in decision -making.

IOPD members, aware that the development of management models supported on Principles of Open Government requires a permanent job and evolving, recommend the application of the values of transparency, open data, social innovation, collaboration and citizen participation as key element to advance the challenges of modern societies