# Itinerant Citizens' Assembly (ICA) Bogotá-Colombia

**ASAMBLEA** CIUDADANA DE BOGOTÁ

**IXTITUTO** POLÍTICA ABIERTA

*Fundación* **corona**

**iDeemos** Laboratorio de Innovación Democrática

**Concejo** de **Bogotá**

**IOPD** International Observatory on Participatory Democracy

**UCLG** United Cities and Local Governments

# Origin of the innovation

In 2020, the Bogota City Council, through Demolab, its public innovation lab, launched the Itinerant Citizens' Assembly (ICA).
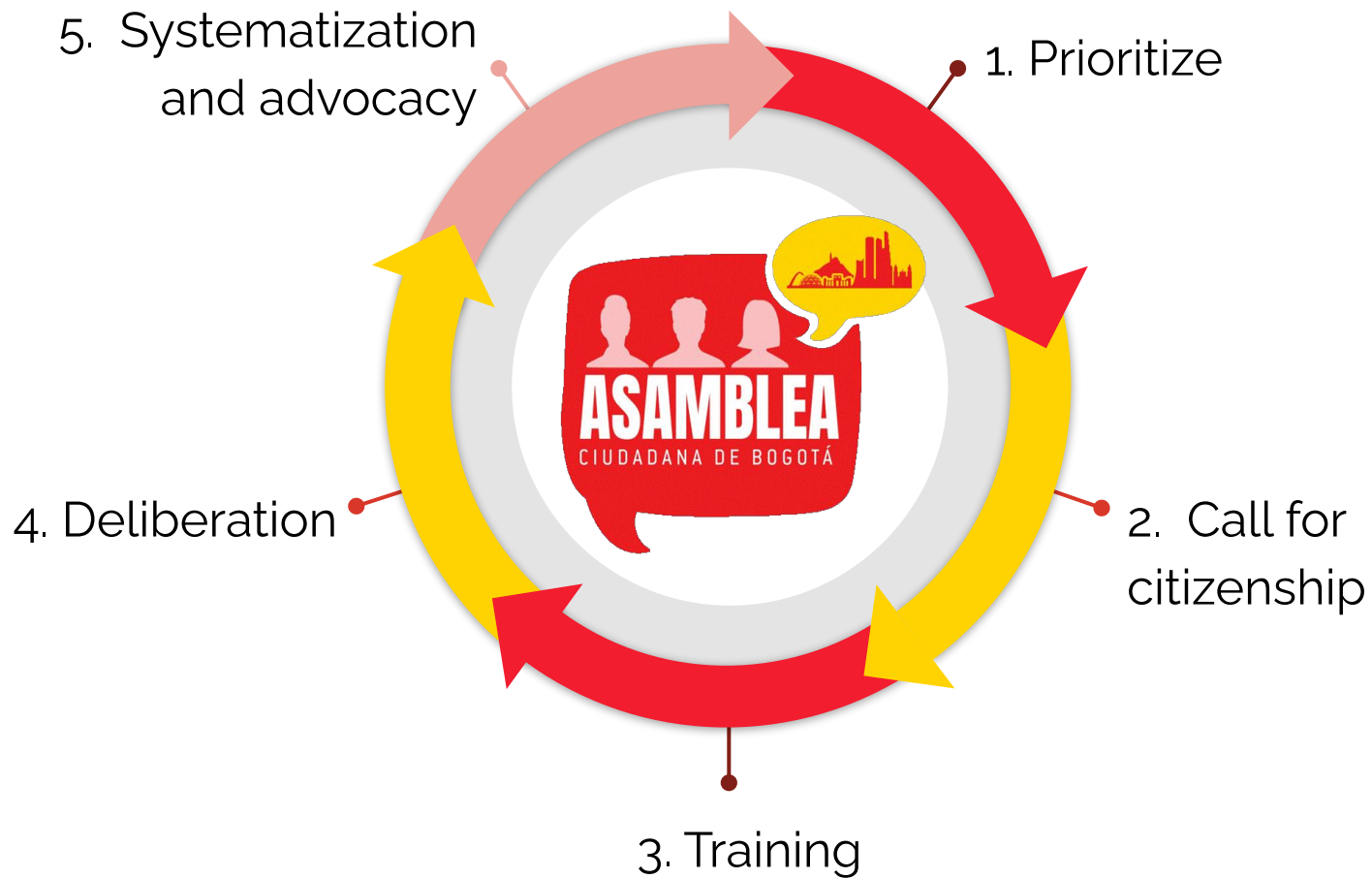
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## Itinerant Citizens' Assembly (ICA)

- The first Citizens' Assembly in Colombia.

- One of the first deliberative mini-publics in Latin America

- One of the eight cases of institutionalization in the world of deliberative democracy identified by the OECD and the only one in the Global South.

- Mixed governance model.

# 240 members

KEY POINTS

itinerancy

advocacy

institutionalization

# itinerancy:

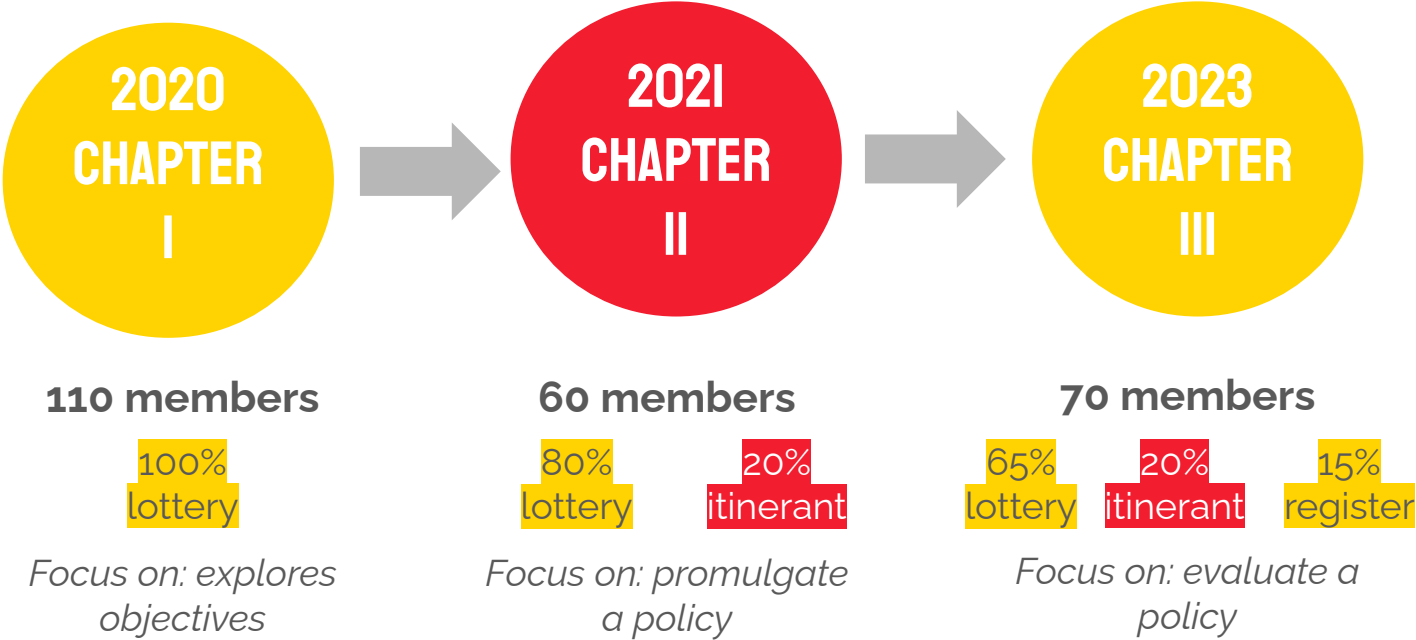**multi-body deliberation**

The ICA has different "chapters."

**distributed deliberation**

Chapters have different purposes. For example, one explores objectives, a second promulgates a policy, and a third conducts an evaluation.

**sequential deliberation**

Each chapter tries to learn from the previous ones.

# itinerancy:

**2020 CHAPTER I**

**2021 CHAPTER II**

**2023 CHAPTER III**

**110 members**

100% lottery

*Focus on: explores objectives*

**60 members**

80% lottery   20% itinerant

*Focus on: promulgate a policy*

**70 members**

65% lottery   20% itinerant   15% register

*Focus on: evaluate a policy*

# advocacy:



**70%** Council members report that they have used more than 25% of citizens' recommendations.

**79,6%** Citizens improve their trust and image of the Council after participating in the Assembly.

**63,3%** Citizens feel more engaged with the problems of the city

**5** Election debates with the candidates for mayor, in which the results of the ICA were presented and used.

**institutionalization:**

**ICA** has been included in the Council's action plan for the last 4 years.

**Councillors** participate as part of the training of experts and call random citizens directly to invite them to participate.

**Civil servants** are trained in deliberative democracy and participate as part of the assembly staff.

## Lessons learned

- political will shapes the world, the interesting thing is to learn how to hack these scenarios.
- citizen assemblies do not have a single design.
- the commitment of the institutions is key, they must understand and accept to give up a little of their power.

## Political recommandations

- advocacy is one of the greatest challenges, the question remains how to guarantee participation and generate ownership of these exercises.
- assemblies should not necessarily compete with the representative system; they can strengthen it and open up more spaces for direct citizen decision-making
- the success of the citizens' assemblies of these times is to demonstrate that multi-stakeholder work is possible.

# Thank your for your attention!