

COLOMBIA



History of Partnership

The House Democracy Partnership¹ (HDP) approved a legislative strengthening partnership with the Congress of Colombia in September 2006. HDP has focused its work with the Chamber of Representatives and Senate on strengthening independent research and analysis capabilities, the Chamber's budgetary oversight and drafting capacity, and legislative oversight of the executive branch. The current focus of the program with Colombia includes anti-corruption, constituent relations and modernization of the legislature through use of information and communication technology (ICT).



HDP Engagement with the Congress of Colombia

- **MP and Regional Seminars:** Since 2007, members from the Congress of Colombia have participated in 10 MP seminars that focused on combatting modern threats to democracy; openness and transparency in government; effective engagement with constituents and civil society; the legislative process; the role of politics and political parties in the legislature; the importance of an independent legislative research service; and the benefits of independent budget analysis information and oversight of the executive branch.
- **Staff Delegations and Technical Assistance Consultancies (TACs):** HDP has organized six staff delegations and technical assistance consultancies with the Congress of Colombia focused on issues such as budget drafting, research, and analysis; legislative tracking through transparent digital infrastructures; and parliamentary research services.
- **Staff Seminars:** Between 2008 and 2015, parliamentary staff participated in four staff seminars that focused on issues related to legislative oversight mechanisms; internal communications between members of the Congress; communications between the Congress and constituents; committee procedures; conducting public hearings; and the importance of legislative transparency.

HDP Congressional Delegations (CODELs)

- HDP has organized three U.S. Congressional delegation visits to Colombia.
 - August 2007
 - August 2009
 - November 2011

¹ At the time the partnership was initiated, the House Democracy Partnership was known as the House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC). The name was subsequently changed to reflect the nature of HDP as a partnership with partner countries.