

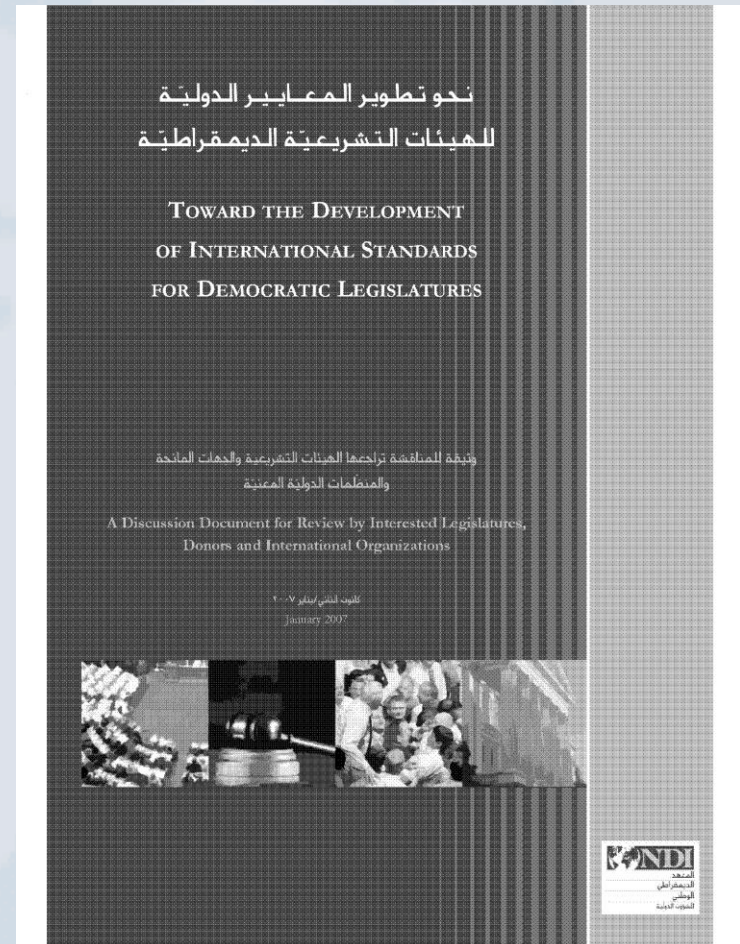
# **International Standards for the Functioning of Democratic Legislatures**

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# Development of the Standards

- “Toward the Development of International Standards for Democratic Legislatures”
  - Existing practice
  - International declarations / statements
  
- Technical input into CPA discussions on benchmarks
  - Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)
  - Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF)



# Survey Methodology: Questionnaire

- Based on Standards
- Measure perception gap between
  - Legal powers of the legislature
  - Powers legislators exercise in practice
- As differently perceived by
  - Legislators
  - Legislative staff
  - Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)
- Useful for diagnostic or reform efforts;
- Useful in addressing issues of “stove-piped” or “siloed” approaches to parliamentary development

# Survey Methodology: Interview

- Guided interview
  - Administered by NDI staff
- 25 two-part sets of affirmative statements:
  - Formal powers
  - Actual practice
- Statements designed to elicit a range of responses, rather than yes or no answers
  - Strongly Agree
  - Agree
  - Disagree
  - Strongly Disagree

# Survey Methodology: Questions

<p><u>Election and Status</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Immunity</li> <li>•Remuneration and Benefits</li> </ul>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p>	<p><u>Organization</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Procedure</li> <li>•Committees</li> <li>•Caucuses</li> <li>•Parliamentary Staff</li> </ul>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p>
<p><u>Functions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Legislative</li> <li>•Oversight</li> <li>•Representation</li> </ul>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>4</p> <p>2</p> <p>1</p>	<p><u>Values</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Accessibility</li> <li>•Transparency / Integrity</li> <li>•Public Consultation</li> </ul>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>2</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p>

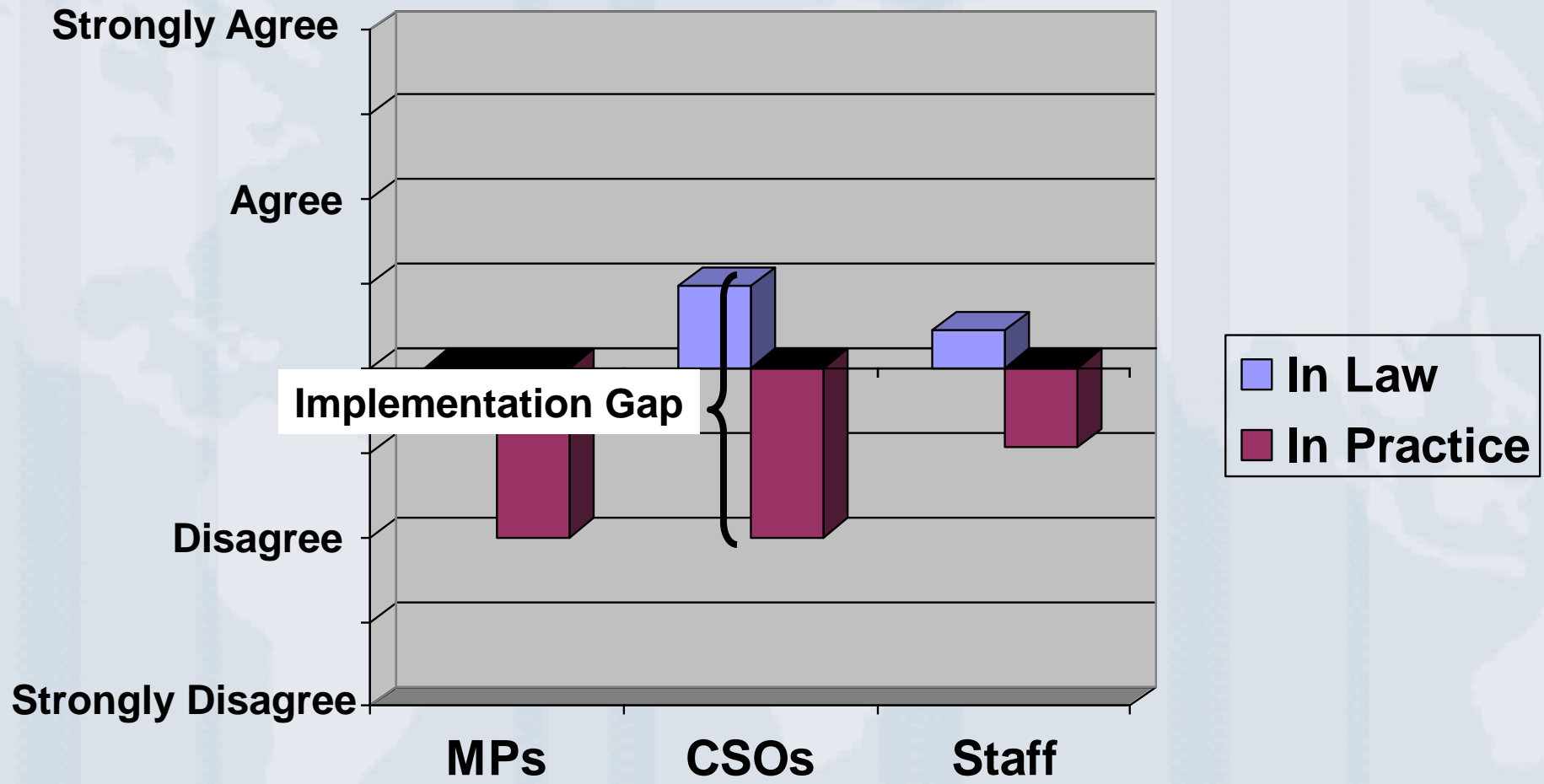
## Testing of Survey Tools

- 2008 pilot in Bosnia-Herzegovina
- 2009 participating countries:
  - Colombia
  - Guatemala
  - Peru
  - Serbia

## Example: Oversight (Statement 15)

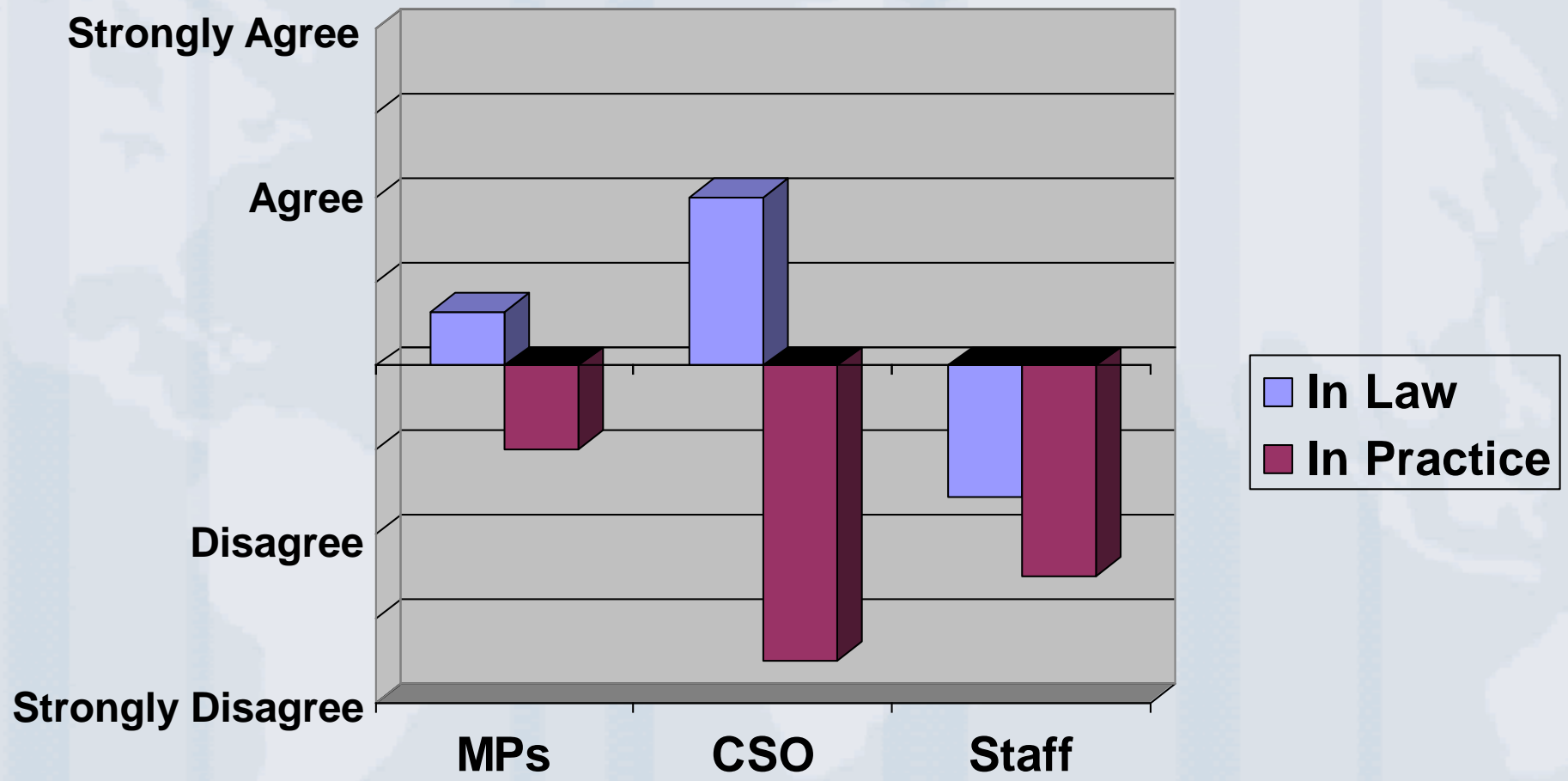
- *Legally*, the legislature has sufficient means and mechanisms to effectively fulfill its oversight function.
- *In practice*, the legislature has sufficient means and mechanisms to effectively fulfill its oversight function.
  1. Strongly Agree
  2. Agree
  3. Disagree
  4. Strongly Disagree

# Statement 15: Oversight (All)





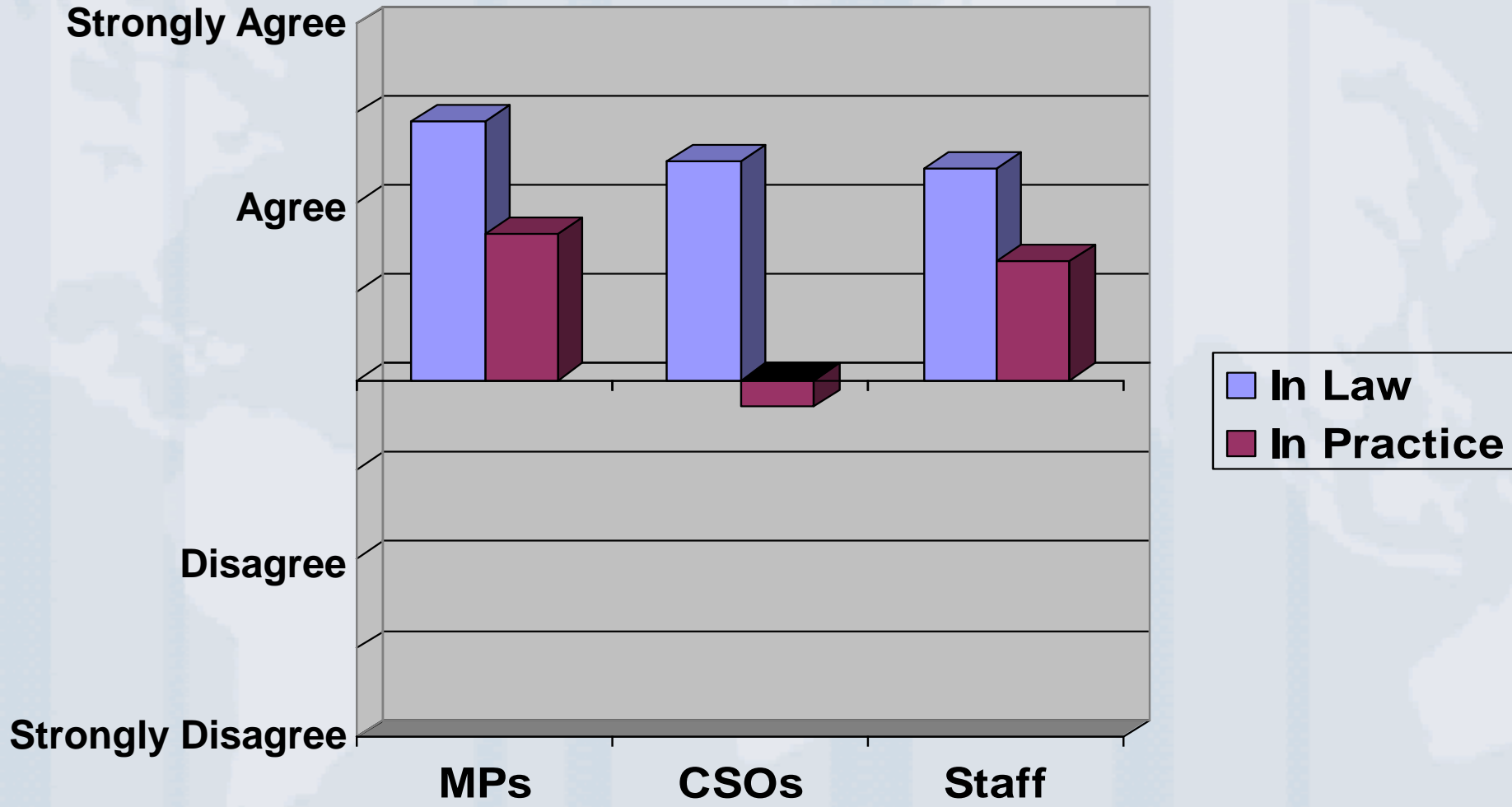
# Statement 15: Oversight (Colombia)



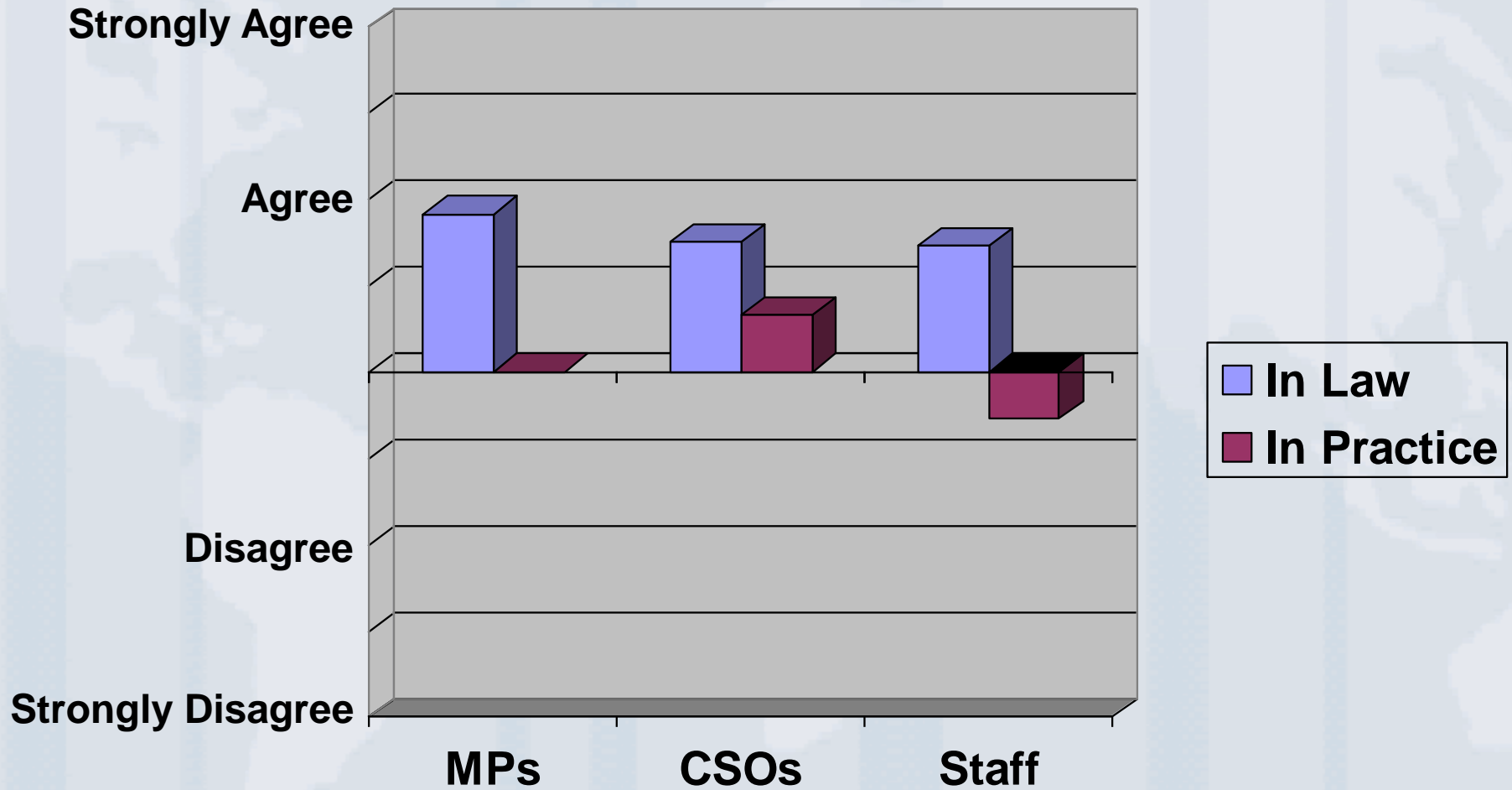
## **Example: Budget (Statement 12)**

- *Legally*, the legislature has the power to amend the budget before approving it.
- *In practice*, the legislature amends the budget before approving it.
  1. **Strongly Agree**
  2. **Agree**
  3. **Disagree**
  4. **Strongly Disagree**

# Budget (All)



# Budget (Colombia)



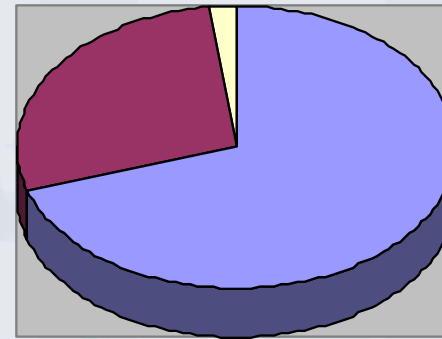
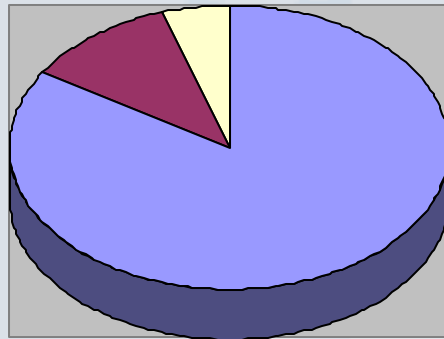
# Gender

Statement 14: The legislature determines and approves its own budget:

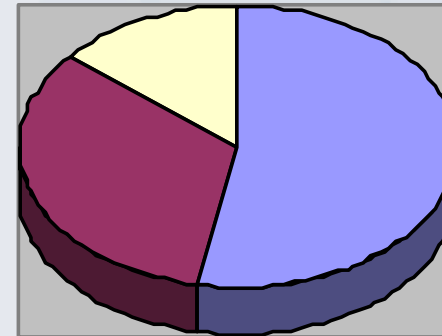
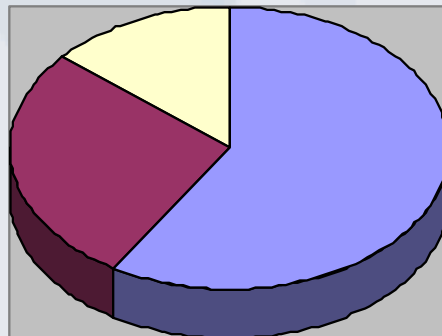
**In Law**

**In Practice**

**Men**



**Women**

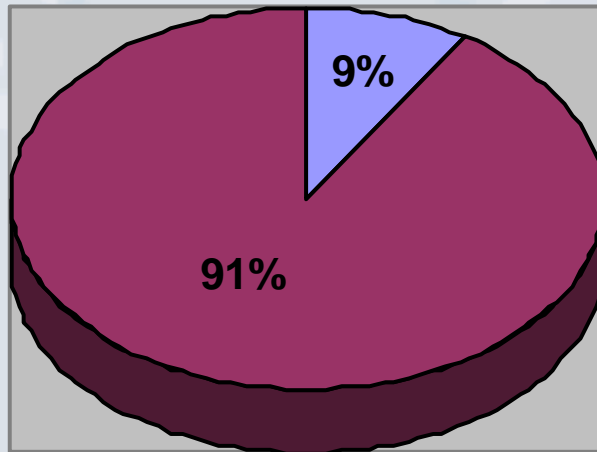


- The differences may suggest lack of inclusion among the women respondents in the process of developing the legislative budget.

# Serbia: Citizen Engagement

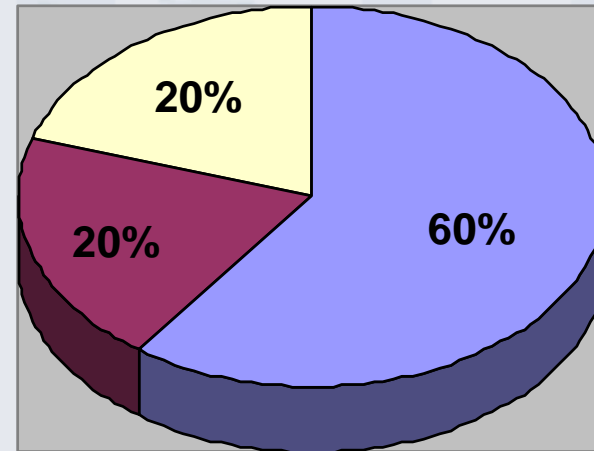
Statement 21b. In practice, the legislature uses mechanisms for receiving and considering public views on proposed legislation.

### CSO Response



■ Agree ■ Disagree

### MP Response



■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ No Opinion

# Indonesia

- Example of how a similar survey was used to
  - inform discussion
  - propel debate
  - determine political will for reform
- Questionnaire helped the leadership of the legislature understand
  - perspectives of individual members
  - priorities for change

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Towards a More  
Effective  
Indonesian  
House of  
Representatives:  
**Options for Positive  
Change by  
Legislators**

## Next Steps

- Customize questionnaire to inform and support reform: organization, function, election/status, values
- Integrate questionnaire into parliamentary reform projects
- Use questionnaire to promote dialogue between CSOs, representatives and staff to narrow perception gaps
- Share with legislators and staff
  - Identify areas of potential reform
  - Promote full use of legislature's powers