

The International Budget Project
Open Budget Initiative
2006

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
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MEDIA ADVISORY

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The International Budget Project to Unveil the Open Budget Index 2006

Group to unveil an index of country rankings and release its top three findings.

The International Budget Project at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) will hold a press conference to launch the Open Budget Index 2006. Civil society organizations from 59 countries joined together to create this index, the first ever to rate countries on how open their budgets books are to public participation. The index provides citizens, legislators, financial institutions and civil society advocates with comprehensive yet practical and reliable information needed to gauge a government's commitment to budget transparency and accountability.

At this event, IBP will *unveil the country rankings*, release its *top three findings*, and discuss the implications of these findings. Activists from 6 developing countries will be available for questions and interviews.

WHAT: Launch and Media Release of the **Open Budget Index 2006**

WHEN: **Wednesday, October 18, 2006, 10:00 a.m. EDT (1400 GMT)**

WHERE: **National Press Club, First Amendment Room**
529 14th St., NW, Washington, D.C.

SPEAKERS: Warren Krafchik, International Budget Project
Pamela Gomez, International Budget Project
Daniel Lukwago, Uganda Debt Network
Georgi Angelov, Bulgaria's Open Society Institute— Sofia
Tamuna Karosanidze, Transparency International— Georgia
Helena Hofbauer, Mexico's FUNDAR Center for Research and Analysis
Yamini Mishra, India's Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability
Ana Quiros, Nicaragua's Center for Health Information and Advisory Services