

# **Practical tips on how to lobby legislators**

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# Prepare yourself well

- Establish your agenda and goals
- Know your subject
- Set outputs for each visit to the legislator
- Listen keenly and find opportunities to provide more information
- Always prepare adequately
- Do not overstay your welcome
- Aim to build relationship
- Know important dates
- Get acquainted with some legislators
- Appeal to their political interests
- Consider capacity building programmes.

# **Know your objectives/goals/outputs**

- This is important to ensure that you don't lose track of your aims
- Lobbying legislators may require compromise so referring back to your objectives will keep you on track
- Know what you want from each visit otherwise you will be wasting time

# **Know your issue/ prepare adequately**

- This will allow you to be knowledgeable to argue out your case
- Use the simplest arguments to convince legislators ( in some countries legislators have a limited understanding of such issues)
- Get as much knowledge on the issue as possible

# The advocacy action plan

- What is an Action plan
- Planning is decision making about future activities.
  - In the plan there have to be mission or purpose statement, strategic vision for future and operating philosophy.
  - Key elements of a plan are goal, strategies, action steps and performance indicators
- The dynamic planning model where by there are five recurring steps which are; **scanning, planning, implementation, monitoring and reviewing**
- Advocacy strategic planning Model, **preparing advocacy action plan, mechanism for implementation of advocacy, monitoring and evaluation**