This inter-parliamentary dialogue will provide an opportunity for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff to exchange on the benefits of inclusive social protection systems with subject matter experts. A panel will open the session to illustrate the importance of social protection in the COVID-19 context and beyond. Each presenter will focus on specific aspects of social protection and the connections to the advancement of gender equality. The importance of high-quality data in facilitating the development and implementation of the necessary protections to achieve this goal will also be emphasized. Participants will then have space to discuss these themes and the role of legislatures in strengthening social protection measures to reach all members of society.

Welcoming remarks

- The Honourable Valerie Woods (Belize), Speaker of the House of Representatives and co-host of the PNGE Gathering
- Mr. Andrónico Rodríguez Ledezma (Bolivia), President of the Chamber of Senators and co-host of the PNGE Gathering
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies Maya Fernández Allende (Chile), President of the PNGE

Panel Discussion: Social protection beyond COVID-19

The panel will examine the benefits of social protection, as well as some specific components of the systems that facilitate the achievement of positive impacts. It will also be an opportunity for panellists from the UN system to spotlight particular initiatives, areas of work, or resources that can be valuable for parliamentarians’ ongoing work in these areas.
Moderator: Senator Natalie Campbell-Rodriques (Jamaica)

Panellists:
- Carlos Maldonado, Social Affairs Officer from the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- Zahrah Nesbitt-Ahmed, Gender and Development Research Manager from the UN International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Office of Research - Innocenti
- Claudia Brito Bruno, Policy Officer for Gender and Social Systems from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Dialogue among participants

Following panellist presentations, a moderated debate will invite parliamentarians and panellists to respond to one or more of the following questions:

- What good practices exist in your country to ensure that women and girls receive adequate social protection coverage over their lifetimes, regardless of their employment status? What kinds of enhanced measures have been put in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?
- Drawing on the information shared by the panel, what are some of the key indicators you feel are necessary to assess the success of your countries’ national social protection system in contributing to ending inequality?
- How can parliaments play a more active role in guaranteeing social protection that is designed to meet the differing needs of women and marginalized communities?

Evaluation of the session

Closing remarks
- The Honourable Bridgid Annisette-George (Trinidad and Tobago), Speaker of the House of Representatives and Vice-President of ParlAmericas

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Sessions will be recorded and turned into podcast episodes. Find ParlAmericas on iTunes and Google Play, and listen to our past meeting sessions.

This activity is being undertaken with financial support from the Government of Canada.