Board of Directors
ParlAmericas is run by parliamentarians for parliamentarians, with a Board of Directors composed of 21 seats which represent countries from North, South, Central America and the Caribbean.

In addition, the Board has ex-officio representation from the Plenary Host, the ParlAmericas Immediate Past President, the Directors of the ParlAmericas Corporation, the ParlAmericas International Secretariat, and the OAS General Secretariat.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**President**

**Blanca Ovelar**
Senator, Paraguay

Senator Ovelar is an elected national senator of Paraguay for the 2018-2023 term. She held the position of Minister of Education and Culture and Coordinator of the Social Cabinet of the Presidency of the Republic from 2002 to 2007. She has also served as Deputy Minister of Education and National Director of Higher Education, in addition to having been a school teacher, a professor, and a researcher at the National University of Asunción. She was a presidential candidate for the Republic of Paraguay for the 2008-2013 term for the Colorado Party and an elected national senator for the 2013-2018 term.

**Vice-President**

**The Honourable Bridgid Annisette-George**
Speaker of the House of Representatives,

Mrs. Annisette-George first entered Parliament as a Senator and Attorney General on November 8, 2007, and thus became the third woman to hold this post in the history of Trinidad and Tobago, following Mrs. Kamla Persad-Bissessar and Mrs. Glenda Morean-Phillip. An alumnus of St. Joseph’s Convent, Port-of-Spain, Mrs. Annisette-George is also a graduate of the University of the West Indies, having obtained her Bachelor of Law from that institution in 1981. Before taking up the portfolio of Attorney General, Mrs. Annisette-George was the sole practitioner at Messrs. G.R. Annisette & Co. Mrs. Annisette-George has held a wide variety of positions in both the private and public sector including Commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Trinidad and Tobago (2003), Chairman of the Diego Martin Regional Corporation (1999-2003) and associate tutor/lecturer at the Hugh Wooding Law School. She entered Parliament with some 24 years of experience as an Attorney-at-law. She was elected Speaker of the House on September 23, 2015, a position she currently holds.
2nd Vice-President and President of the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality

Maya Fernández Allende
Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Chile

The Honorable Fernández is a biologist, veterinarian, and politician from the Socialist Party of Chile. She was a councillor for the municipality of Ñuñoa for the 2008-2012 period and has been elected a Member of the Chamber of Deputies for districts 21 and 10 of the Metropolitan Region of Santiago for the 2014-2018 and 2018-2022 legislatures, respectively. Ms. Fernández has served as President of the Chamber of Deputies since March 11, 2018. She is also a member of the Women and Equity Committee, the National Defence Committee, and the Sports and Recreation Committee.

2nd Vice-President and President of the Open Parliament Network

Javier Macaya
Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Chile

Member of the Chamber of Deputies Macaya is a lawyer, having obtained his law degree from the Catholic University of Chile. He has also received a Master’s in management from the Adolfo Ibáñez University and a Diploma in criminal legal reform from the University of Valparaíso. He was a lawyer in the Municipal Corporation of Viña del Mar for social development. He is the President of the Independent Democratic Union Party (UDI). In December 2009 he was elected as a Member of the Chamber of Deputies in representation of UDI for the 6th region of Libertador Bernardo O Higgins, district No. 34 (legislative period 2010-2014), being re-elected in 2013. In 2017 he was re-elected for Rancagua, district Nº 15 for 2018-2022. He is currently a member of the Bicameral Group on Transparency which leads the National Congress of Chile’s efforts and action plans on open parliament.

2nd Vice-President and President of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change

The Honourable Rosa Galvez, Senator, Canada

Rosa Galvez, originally from Peru, is one of Canada’s leading experts in pollution control and its effect on human health. She has a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering from McGill University and has been a professor at Université Laval à Québec since 1994, heading the Civil and Water Engineering Department from 2010 to 2016. She specializes in water and soil decontamination, waste management and residues, and environmental impact and risk assessment. Senator Galvez is a member of the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec, the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering and Engineers Without Borders. Senator Galvez was appointed to the Senate on December 6, 2016, representing Québec (Bedford) and is an independent senator. Her work as a legislator focuses on strengthening environmental protection, the gender perspective and income equality, as well as transparency in government. Senator Galvez was elected President of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change during its 5th Gathering, held in June 2021. She is also the Treasurer of the ParlAmericas Corporation.
Ms. Giacoppo is a member of the Radical Civic Union (UCR) political party. She has been a Senator since 2015, when she assumed her position as the alternate for Gerardo Morales who assumed the role of governor for Jujuy. She was re-elected in 2017 by the Jujeño community until 2023. She is currently a member of the Judicial Council. She is a lawyer, with a Master in family law. She has exercised her profession as long as she hasn’t held a position in public office. She centers her efforts and interests on social issues, on the agricultural sector, regional economies, the environment and gender issues. She currently lives in Monterrico, Jujuy, the city where she has been Mayor and conducts agricultural activities.

Germán Blanco is a lawyer specializing in public administration, political culture, human rights, and international humanitarian law. He also has a master’s degree in government. During his professional career, he has worked as a university professor, Social Security Manager of Antioquia, and Director of Edatel Antioquia. He is also a major in the Professional Reserve of the National Army of the Republic of Colombia. He has stood out in his political career for promoting social matters, the pro-life cause, the solidarity economy, the environment, and sports. He was a member of the Departmental Assembly of Antioquia from 2001 to 2007, and President of the Departmental Assembly of Antioquia in 2006. Since 2010 he has been a representative to the Chamber, where before becoming President, he served as First Vice-President and was a member of the Economic Affairs Committees of the Chamber of Representatives. In addition, he is the Founding Co-Chair of the Conservation and Oceans Caucus of the Colombian Congress and the delegate of the Colombian Parliament to ParlAmericas. Germán currently chairs the General Committee of the Chamber of Representatives, having been unanimously elected by his colleagues on July 20 for the 2020-2021 period.

Hon. Manzoor Nadir, MP, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Parliament of Guyana. Hon. Nadir is a married father and grandfather. He holds a Master’s Degree in Economics and a Bachelor of Commerce Degree. Hon. Nadir is a six-term Member of Parliament, first being elected in 1992, and a two-term Cabinet Minister. He piloted more than 15 Bills and served on many Parliamentary Committees. Hon. Nadir served for 10 years as the administrative head of the Caribbean Youth Movement; an elected Vice President of the 1987 United Nations Youth Forum; an Executive of CARIBCARE; President of the Guyana Public Transportation Association; and President of the Everest Cricket Club.
South America

Mr. Florentín holds a degree in Accounting from the Faculty of Economic Sciences, Administrative and Accounting of the National University of Asunción, with a master's degree in business management from the Faculty of Business Sciences of the Autonomous University of Asunción and the faculty of economic sciences and administration of the University of Chile. He was elected national senator of the Republic of Paraguay for the period 2018-2023. He was previously a Member of the Chamber of Deputies of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party for the Department of Cordillera during the periods 2008-2013 and 2013-2018. In addition, he is the leader of the Senate’s multi-party caucus; leader of Caucus B of P.L.R.A; Full Member of the following Senate Committees: Finance and Budget, Economy, Cooperativism, Development and Economic Integration of Latin American; member of the Open Parliament Committee; member and rapporteur of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger; and member of the Bicameral Budget Commission 2018-2019.

South America

Marinus Bee MSc. LL.B is the current Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Suriname with 20 years of experience in politics. Driven by passion for community service he worked as district secretary at the commissioner’s office of Marowijne and held the positions of vice-chairman of the Board for the development of rural Suriname, chairman of the Albina Sport Foundation and chairman of the Congress Board. He has taught Constitutional Law and Integral Management at IBW and is currently secretary to the ABOP political party. He is a socially engaged person and is an exemplary figure who promotes and stimulates youth participation and gender equality.

Central America

Ms. Solís holds a Bachelor's degree in Marketing Communications and a Master's degree in Business Administration. She has served as First Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship; Costa Rica's Director for Expo Shanghai, China; Logistics Manager in the Ministry of Foreign Trade; and Protocol Assistant in the Office of the President of the Republic of Costa Rica. As a current Member of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica for the Christian Social Unity party, she was part of the Legislative Directory (board of the Parliament) as Vice-President for the period of 2018-2019 and is a member of the Committees on Finance Affairs, International Relations, the Second Committee with Full Legislative Power and the Special Committees of the province of Alajuela and of coastal and border areas.
Ms. Espinales is a departmental Member of the National Assembly for the FSLN and is currently the 1st Vice-President of the National Assembly of Nicaragua. She is a librarian by training and studied at the Central American University (UCA). Ms. Espinales is a promoter of human rights, prioritizing the defense of education as a fundamental right, the promotion of gender equality, and the empowerment of women in decision-making. She also serves as a union leader in the university sector. She is a member of the committee for Education, Culture, Sports and Social Media and the committee on the Modernization of the National Assembly.

Mr. Arce has a degree in Law and Political Science. He has an outstanding political career within the Democratic Revolutionary Party where he has served as a delegate to various congresses, National Director, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the District of David and director of the National Board of Directors of the organization area of Chiriquí no. 1. He has served as Alternate Member of the National Assembly in the National Assembly of Panama, where he currently acts as a principal Member of the National Assembly and is the president of the Committee on Foreign Relations. He has held important sport leadership roles in soccer, where he has held the positions of President of the National Soccer Federation of Panama and vice president of the Soccer Federation of the Panama National Football team (FEPAFUT in Spanish), founding member of the Athletic Sports Club of Chiriquí, as well as President of the FEPAFUT Amateur Football Commission. He has also served as a delegate of the Republic of Panama to several international FIFA conferences.
The Honourable Arthur E. Holder is a teacher, social worker, lawyer, and politician. As a trained social worker, Speaker Holder has served as a local consultant for the United Nations International Drug Control Programme for targeted efforts to eradicate drug use. As an attorney, Speaker Holder has done significant pro-bono work on behalf of juveniles brought before the Criminal Courts, and uses such opportunities to counsel the youth and their families. Currently, he is the Speaker of the House of Assembly and a member of the Barbados Labour Party team.

Senator the Honourable Alincia Williams-Grant is the President of the Senate of Antigua and Barbuda. She was the youngest woman senator elected to this role following her appointment in June 2014. President Williams-Grant is a senior member of the Antigua and Barbuda Bar and is a notary public, currently engaged as the Managing Attorney at the law chambers of Williams Grant Inc. During her 21 years’ experience as a legal practitioner, she has served as legal advisor and corporate secretary to a number of local companies including statutory bodies. She previously worked in the banking sector, serving as a director on the Board of Directors of the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) and as the chairperson of its Strategic Review Committee. President Williams-Grant is recognized as having a keen interest in and passion for community development and nation building. Her commitment to service is borne out in her ongoing support for other local charities and NGOs designed to empower and serve women and youth.

Ms. López Bejerano, Member of the National Assembly of Cuba, received a Bachelor’s degree in nuclear physics and serves as the Director of the Center for Radiation Hygiene. She worked in the Budget Unit for the Construction of the Center for Nuclear Investigations and the Center for Radiation Protection and Hygiene, where she held various responsibilities. She is currently on the panel of experts of the Nuclear Branch Program of Cuba and an expert at the International Atomic Energy Agency. She is a delegate of the Fifth Congress of the Party, representing the municipality of Cotorro.
Marc G. Serré is the MP for Nickel Belt. He is involved in several standing committees including Status of Women; Natural Resources; Transport, Infrastructure and Communities; Industry, Science and Technology; and Citizenship and Immigration. He is the former Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Rural Economic Development. Marc's motion M-106 passed in the House of Commons which called for the development of Canada’s first ever National Seniors Strategy. Prior to politics Marc founded an ISP Internet business, was Regional Director of the Canadian Hearing Society, and served as a municipal councilor and school board trustee. He is a proud recipient of the Ontario Community Action Award for his work in both the non-profit and disability sectors. He is a member of the Algonquin First Nation and a proud francophone.

Senator Dr. Longmore was appointed to the Senate of Jamaica in March 2016. She is a psychiatrist and primary care physician, and has been a consultant to UNICEF and a lecturer in neuroanatomy at the University Hospital of the West Indies. She is also a guest physician/psychiatrist on various media programs in Jamaica, among her extensive experience as a media contributor and presenter. Senator Longmore has also served on the Board of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund and as Executive Director of the Jamaica Network of Seropositives Secretariat.
Senator Antares G. Vázquez Alatorre holds a medical degree from the La Salle Mexico University, a specialization in dermatology and subspecialization in cryosurgery from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, a Master’s degree in Education and Teacher Training from the University of Salle Bajío, and a Doctorate in Educational Innovation from the Technological Institute of Monterrey. She is a member of the LXIV Legislature of the Mexican Congress, Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Senate of the Republic, Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, and a member of the committees on Education, Health, and Human Rights.

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

ParlAmericas Immediate Past President

Vacant

Host Parliament - 18th Plenary Assembly

Senator Marcela Sabat is Vice-President of Renovación Nacional (National Renewal) and leads the women’s sector of the party in Chile. She has served as a senator since August 2020 and received the most votes of any Member of the Chamber of Deputies in the 2017 elections. She studied law at Universidad del Desarrollo. She is currently a member of the Public Safety Committee, the Special Committee for Children, and the Committee for Women and Gender Equality. She authored a bill that requires gender parity in the Constituent Assembly. Along with other women parliamentarians, she has also led initiatives such as compulsory telecommuting for pregnant women and the extension of maternity and postnatal emergency leave for mothers during the pandemic.
Ms. Alisha Todd joined ParlAmericas in March 2014, bringing her expertise and enthusiasm for promoting democratic principles and strengthening governance institutions. Prior to joining ParlAmericas, Alisha specialized in designing and implementing international democracy, governance, humanitarian, and security sector programming with an Ottawa-based NGO. Alisha has extensive experience in developing innovative programming, strengthening relationships, and building partnerships with international and regional stakeholders. Alisha's passion for the Americas started in her teens; having on occasion lived, worked and traveled throughout the region. She speaks English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish and is a graduate from the University of Toronto's Trinity College, specializing in International Relations and Latin American Studies.

Mr. Hoback was elected Chair of the Canadian Section of ParlAmericas in March 2010 and served from February 2011 to September 2014 as President of ParlAmericas at the hemispheric level. His experience working closely with farm organizations led him to Ottawa, where he served as a special advisor to the Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, and Minister of the Canadian Wheat Board. He was elected in 2008 as the Member of Parliament for Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Due to his experience with Trades and Agriculture, he has developed a strong interest in Canada’s trading partners, particularly, in promoting dialogue and trade with Latin America as he believes in Canada’s given responsibility to collaborate with the Americas for a stronger and safer hemisphere. He currently sits on the Standing Committee on International Trade. He holds a business administration certificate through the University of Saskatchewan, and Chartered Director's designation (C. Dir.), which he completed through McMaster University's Chartered Directors College.

Mr. Guerrero is the Secretary for Strengthening Democracy of the Organization of American States (OAS) since June, 2015. He has held several positions in the public sector, like Senior Director at the Social Studies and Public Opinion Centre (CESOP) at the Mexican Chamber of Deputies; Chief of Staff for the President of Mexican Senate; National Sub-commissioner at the National Medical Arbitration Commission (Conamed); Head of International Affairs Office and Chief of Staff both at the Secretariat of Labour and Social Welfare, and also served as Chair of the General Coordination for Affiliated Workers at the Institute for Security and Social Services for State Workers (ISSSTE).
The ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality (PNGE) promotes women’s political leadership and gender mainstreaming in the agendas and operations of the national legislatures of the Americas and the Caribbean.

Since its creation in 2003, the Network (formerly known as the Group of Women Parliamentarians) has carried out activities and initiatives that bring together legislators from across the hemisphere for the exchange of knowledge and good practices to advance women's rights and gender equality. Through its inter-parliamentary gatherings, the Network has addressed topics of shared importance such as women’s economic empowerment, ending gender-based political violence, electoral reforms to promote women's candidacies, gender-sensitive media and communications, and parliamentary caucuses for gender equality, among others. The outcomes of these activities also inform the development of specialized resources and online communities for parliamentarians.

The Network for Gender Equality is committed to creating diverse and inclusive working spaces, encouraging the participation of male allies, and collaborating with women's organizations and social movements towards shared objectives.

The Network is governed by an elected Executive Committee, composed of the President (who also serves as 2nd Vice-President on ParlAmericas’ Board of Directors) and four sub-regional Vice-Presidents representing North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean.

**Maya Fernández Allende**  
President  
Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Chile

**Verónica Camino Farjat**  
Vice-President - North America  
Senator, México

**Vacant**  
Vice-President - Central America

**Chester Humphrey**  
Vice-President - Caribbean  
President of the Senate, Grenada

**Vacant**  
Vice-President - South America

**Marcela Sabat**  
Alternate Vice-President - South America  
Senator, Chile

**Lisane Thirsk**  
Deputy Director, Gender Equality and Communications  
ParlAmericas
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Open Parliament Network

The ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network (OPN) promotes legislative openness through efforts to increase transparency and access to public information, strengthen the accountability of democratic institutions, promote the participation of citizens in legislative decision-making, and ensure a culture of ethical behaviour and probity in the national legislatures of the Americas and the Caribbean.

Since its integration in ParlAmericas in 2015, the Network (formerly known as Inter-American Parliamentary Network on Transparency, Access to Public Information, and Probity), provides workshops, facilitates peer to peer exchanges and produces tools for legislators with the ultimate objective of combating corruption, enhancing public trust and strengthening our democratic institutions, to build peaceful and inclusive societies that provide access to justice for all and boast of effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, in support of Sustainable Development Goal 16. The outcomes of these activities also inform the development of specialized resources and online communities for parliamentarians.

The Network is governed by an elected Executive Committee, composed of the President (who also serves as 2nd Vice-President on ParlAmericas’ Board of Directors) and four sub-regional Vice-Presidents representing North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean.

**Javier Macaya**  
President  
Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Chile

**Bertha Alicia Caraveo Camarena**  
First Vice-President - North America  
Senator, Mexico

**The Honourable René Cormier**  
Second Vice-President - North America  
Senator, Canada

**Ana Lucía Delgado Orozco**  
First Vice-President - Central America  
Member of the Legislative Assembly, Costa Rica

**Corina Cano Córdoba**  
Second Vice-President - Central America  
Member of the National Assembly, Panama

**The Honourable Ranard Henfeild**  
Vice-President - Caribbean  
Senator, The Bahamas

**Wilma Andrade Muñoz**  
Vice President - South America  
Member of the National Assembly, Ecuador

**Emilie Lemieux**  
Deputy Director, Open Parliament and Sustainable Development  
ParlAmericas
The ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change (PNCC) was created in 2016 with the objective of promoting parliamentary diplomacy on climate action within parliaments, aligned with existing international frameworks that work towards combating climate change and achieving sustainable development. The PNCC fosters knowledge exchanges between parliamentarians, expert practitioners, civil society and other stakeholders on effective practices for climate change mitigation and adaptation through workshops, dialogues and the creation of specialized resources.

The work of the PNCC encourages cooperation between parliaments and government agencies in the development and implementation of innovative policies to combat climate change. Recent topics of focus include renewable energy, disaster risk reduction, and climate financing concepts such as loss and damage, carbon pricing and markets, as well as the importance of integrating gender into climate action and raising ambition within the Nationally Determined Contributions to meet the Paris Agreement goals and attain the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Network is governed by an elected Executive Committee, composed of the President, and sub-regional Vice-Presidencies representing North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean.

Rosa Galvez  
President  
Senator, Canada

Raúl Bolaños-Cacho Cué  
Vice-President - North America  
Senator, Mexico

Paola Vega Rodríguez  
Vice-President - Central America  
Member of the Legislative Assembly, Costa Rica

Luis Bruno Segovia Mejía  
First Vice-President - South America  
Member of the National Assembly, Ecuador

Radjendrekoemar Debie  
Second Vice-President - South America  
Member of the National Assembly, Suriname

Anthony Vieira  
Vice-President - The Caribbean  
Senator, Trinidad and Tobago

Emilie Lemieux  
Deputy Director, Open Parliament and Sustainable Development  
ParlAmericas
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Maria José Aguilera (Leave)
**ParlAmericas**

ParlAmericas is the institution that promotes **parliamentary diplomacy in the Inter-American System**

ParlAmericas is composed of 35 national legislatures from North, Central and South America and the Caribbean.

ParlAmericas facilitates the exchange of parliamentary good practices and promotes cooperative political dialogue.

ParlAmericas mainstreams gender equality by advocating for women’s political empowerment and the application of a gender lens in legislative work.

ParlAmericas fosters open parliaments by advancing the principles of transparency, accountability, citizen participation, ethics and probity.

ParlAmericas promotes policies and legislative measures to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

ParlAmericas works towards strengthening democracy and governance by accompanying electoral processes.

ParlAmericas organizes consultations and builds multi-stakeholder partnerships with young leaders and civil society organizations.

ParlAmericas is headquartered in Ottawa, Canada.