



Declaration on Parliamentary Engagement in the Inter-American System through ParlAmericas

We, parliamentarians of the Americas and the Caribbean, members of the parliamentary delegations of our respective national parliaments¹, gathered in Bogota, Colombia, on the occasion of the 19th Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas,

Recalling that Resolution 1673 (XXIX-0/99) of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States called for the creation of a Parliamentary Network of the Americas, resulting in a meeting of chairs of foreign relations committees of national parliaments and congresses of OAS member states, held at OAS headquarters on March 29 and 30, 2000, achieving consensus to create the Inter Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA);

Recalling that the Inter Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA), now called ParlAmericas, was constituted by the national parliaments of the hemisphere at an inaugural meeting held in Ottawa Canada from March 7 to 9, 2001, with the purpose to promote parliamentary engagement in the Inter-American System and contribute to inter-parliamentary dialogue on issues of hemispheric relevance;

Recognizing that ParlAmericas is the inter-parliamentary institution composed of the national legislatures of the 35 sovereign states of the Americas and the Caribbean through which parliamentarians of the hemisphere have gathered since 2001 to promote cooperative political dialogue, facilitate parliamentary diplomacy, and foster the exchange of good legislative practices;

Reaffirming our commitment to democracy, to the observance of the separation and independence of the branches of government, and to the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as enshrined in the Inter-American Democratic Charter;

Emphasizing that multilateralism, regional integration, globalization, and the promotion of human rights and democracy through international relations require an increasingly active engagement of parliaments, as representatives of the will of the people, in international affairs;

Recognizing that ParlAmericas actively engages with the different actors and bodies that make up the Inter-American System including the different OAS entities and organisms, in particular the General Assembly, the Permanent Council, the General Secretariat, the Inter-American Commission of Women, and the Inter-American *Task Force* on Women's Leadership; and the different stakeholders of the Summits of the Americas process, such as the Summit Implementation Review Group, the UN agencies and other institutions that comprise the Joint Summit Working Group, and the Summits of the Americas Stakeholder Forums; as well as other parliamentary institutions and hemispheric and regional multilateral spaces;

¹ Parliamentary delegations from the national parliaments of Belize, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago. The delegations from Bolivia and Nicaragua stated that they would present the Declaration to the leadership of their respective parliaments.



Welcoming the inclusion of a mandate to promote parliamentary engagement, through ParlAmericas, as an integral part of the Summits of the Americas, as stated within the [Inter-American Plan of Action on Democratic Governance](#) adopted by the Heads of State and Government on June 9, 2022, at the IX Summit of the Americas;

Embracing the provisions set forth by the ParlAmericas Board of Directors in the document [Commitment for Parliamentary Engagement in the Summits of the Americas Process](#) adopted on June 16, 2022 within the framework of the IX Summit of the Americas;

Noting that Resolution 5778/22 on Strengthening Democracy adopted during the 52nd OAS General Assembly held in Lima, Peru calls for a special meeting with parliamentarians through ParlAmericas and other regional parliamentary organizations to share best practices and recommendations with the member states, with a particular focus on the gender perspective, in order to enhance inter-American parliamentary dialogue.

We commit to:

1. Actively participate, through ParlAmericas, in the different multilateral spaces of the Inter-American System to offer, as representatives of the interests of our constituents, parliamentary perspectives in discussion of issues of hemispheric importance, such as climate change, gender equality and women's rights, migration, the strengthening of democratic governance, the fight against corruption, the consolidation of the rule of law, the defence of human rights, and the reduction of poverty and social inequalities, among others.
2. Exercise parliamentary oversight on the implementation of the commitments and agreements adopted by our governments under the framework of the Inter-American System, and promote the principles of accountability and transparency in the organizations that make up the Inter-American System.
3. Foster collaboration between our respective parliaments and the Permanent Missions to the OAS, appointed by our governments, to address issues of relevance to the agenda of the Inter-American system.
4. Inform the development of the ParlAmericas Strategic Plan 2023-2030 that includes a vision for strengthening parliamentary diplomacy and parliamentary engagement in the Inter-American System in line with shared democratic principles.
5. Participate through ParlAmericas in the special meeting with parliamentarians to be organized by the Permanent Council of the OAS through the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) and the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC), to share best practices and recommendations with the member states, with a particular focus on gender equality, in order to enhance inter-American parliamentary dialogue, in accordance with Resolution 5778/22 on Strengthening Democracy of the 52nd OAS General Assembly.



6. Contribute to the Summit of the Americas Process through ParlAmericas by promoting hemispheric inter-parliamentary dialogue on the issues addressed during the Summits and by advocating for legislative actions in line with the political commitments adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Americas and the Caribbean within the framework of the Summit, among other actions in accordance with the document [Commitment for Parliamentary Engagement in the Summits of the Americas Process](#) adopted on June 16, 2022 by the ParlAmericas Board of Directors during the IX Summit of the Americas.

Adopted on December 2, 2022