Open Parliament Day and Parliamentary Track of the Open Government Partnership Global Summit

#ParlAmericasOPN #OGPCanada

Open Parliament Day of the Open Government Partnership Global Summit, hosted by the ParlAmericas Canadian Section, with support from the Open Parliament e-Network (OPeN), brought together parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and civil society representatives from across the world to share experiences, knowledge and strategies to strengthen parliaments' efforts to advance open government reforms.

THEME
Leveraging collaboration with civil society to improve legislative and public policy solutions

LOCATION
Ottawa, Canada

DATES
May 29-30, 2019

PARTICIPANTS
More than 120 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and civil society representatives from 34 countries

This activity is aligned with SDG 16

The meeting was opened by **Randy Boissonnault** (Canada), Member of Parliament and Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network and **Greg Fergus** (Canada), Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Treasury Board and Minister of Digital Government, along with **Elizabeth Cabezas** (Ecuador), Member of the National Assembly and Vice-President of ParlAmericas who presented the [Executive Summary of the Guide to Develop Open Parliament Action Plans](#).

Welcome remarks were followed by a working session where parliamentary delegates exchanged their experiences regarding collaboration with civil society to develop and implement open parliament action plans or initiatives. They also explored how this collaboration could be leveraged to strengthen parliament's representation and oversight roles to build stronger and more inclusive democracies that deliver better services and public policies, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda. The meeting ended with a panel discussion to explore opportunities through which parliament can leverage the openness agenda to contribute to more informed debates and transformative public policy outcomes. It also discussed emerging challenges, like fake news and disinformation, and considered possible solutions.

> Open Parliament and Open Government go hand in hand and Canada is honoured to co-chair the Open Government Partnership at this critical time in the world for transparent, trusted and democratic participation… Our participation in OGP has stretched across two governments of different political stripes. It is vital that legislators like us, no matter what their party affiliation, embrace the values of openness and transparency so that despite changeovers citizens continue to benefit from this global movement.

Greg Fergus (Canada), Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Treasury Board and Minister of Digital Government

> Our collective progress motivates me and is a source of pride in our contributions as parliamentarians to the global Open Government movement… Legislatures that are stable, predictable, and efficient rely on tested conventions. But let's not be afraid to shake things up and push past comfort zones; legislatures that are relevant and trusted are also constantly adapting their practices.

Randy Boissonnault (Canada), Member of Parliament and Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

"Many of the delegations present have or are developing Action Plans, as is the case of the National Assembly of Ecuador … this Guide to Develop Open Parliament Action Plans has been useful in these processes because it provides a framework for the development of action plans, as well as offering advice for each step according to the experience of other parliaments."

Elizabeth Cabezas (Ecuador), Member of the National Assembly and Vice-President of ParlAmericas

"By anchoring OGP commitments beyond the government and involving parliaments, OGP is able to build a larger political consensus that improves the sustainability of open government reforms beyond elections. OPeN was created in 2018… by organizations involved in the OGP to work closely together and coordinate global efforts to advance legislative openness. These organizations have provided support to over 55 countries over the past decade."

Devin O'Shaughnessy, Director of Programmes at the Westminster Foundation for Democracy

"Open Parliament e-Network started working with a group of parliamentarians that we could count on one hand, and today we are here with more than 100 reformers from parliaments and congresses."

Maria Baron, Global Executive Director of Directorio Legislativo

Open Parliament e-Network

The Open Parliament e-Network (OPeN) is a consortium of international and civil society organizations composed of ParlAmericas, National Democratic Institute, Latin American Legislative Transparency Network, Westminster Foundation for Democracy, Directorio Legislativo, and Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) that have come together to coordinate global efforts to advance legislative openness and contribute to global progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 16 to build strong institutions.

OPeN partners can support actors involved in the Open Parliament Action Plan cycle by:

⇒ Sharing experiences and best practices on aspects of action plans.
⇒ Reviewing and providing feedback on content of draft action plans.
⇒ Identifying ambitious model commitments to include in action plans.
⇒ Helping parliaments incorporate feedback from self-assessments and Independent Review Mechanism reports.
⇒ Connecting parliaments to learning resources such as case studies, good practices, research papers, etc.
⇒ Conducting bilateral or regional peer exchanges among countries.
⇒ Providing technical assistance at the country-level to help with any stage of the action plan process.
⇒ Organizing periodic regional and global events for the parliamentary openness community.
⇒ Supporting advocacy efforts related to parliamentary openness, such as the Global Legislative Openness Week (GLOW).

For any additional information about OPeN or its Parliamentary Leadership Council, contact the consortium through any of the partner organizations or by contacting openparlnetwork@gmail.com.

Working Session: Leveraging opportunities for collaboration with civil society to develop better legislation and improve oversight of government policies

Rethinking the interaction between public institutions and people to build trust and be more responsive to their needs, is at the heart of the openness agenda. By opening their doors and increasing meaningful collaboration with civil society, parliaments have achieved important steps towards improving the legislative process and strengthening its oversight function.

This session, moderated by **Carolina Hidalgo Herrera** (Costa Rica), Member of the National Assembly, provided an opportunity for delegates to learn from parliamentary colleagues who are involved in Open Parliament Action Plan cycles and civil society representatives who work closely with their parliament, as well as share their thoughts on challenges, mitigation strategies and new opportunities to collaborate towards a joint objective of opening parliament.

As part of their discussions, delegates identified challenges they face within parliament that impact their ability to effectively engage civil society. These included the polarization of political parties which complicates any joint efforts to engage the public, a parliamentary culture that has not allowed for this type of engagement in the past, constitutional or legislative support for such engagement without defining mechanisms or processes and a lack of public trust in institutions. To address these challenges, delegates identified the possible measures listed on the next page.

Measures to effectively engage civil society in the legislative process

Civic Space	➲ Protect civic space and the safety, freedom and independence of the media ➲ Adopt measures that support the develop of strong and independent civil society organizations
Participative Spaces	➲ Use technology (SMS, online platforms, mobile application, etc.) to complement in-person spaces for collaboration, and engage more individuals in a convenient way ➲ Use a mix of mediums when consulting citizens to reach a wider audience ➲ Hold seminars with civil society to work with them to determine how to improve their engagement in the legislative process ➲ Adopt legislation or regulation to define opportunities and standards for participation across the legislative process ➲ Create a mechanism through which feedback is provided to participants to let them know how their input is considered by decision-makers ➲ Ensure that participative spaces are inclusive and promote the participation of women, indigenous peoples and other historically marginalized groups ➲ Engage youth on progressive issues that are important to them; often a youth parliament can address some important issues that the parliament is unable to address ➲ Ensure that participative spaces are open and do not exclude any groups
Transparency and Accessibility	➲ Open the parliament to public visits and have a procedure for citizens to attend sittings in person ➲ Live stream plenary and committee sessions ➲ Publish parliamentarians' agendas and expenses
Ethics	➲ Regulate lobbying by registering lobbyists, noting their interests, clients and meetings with parliamentarians and government officials ➲ Adopt a system for asset declarations by parliamentarians administered by an independent office

Measures to effectively engage civil society in the legislative process

Awareness raising and communications	➲ Build familiarity with citizens and share information with those living in remote areas by travelling to these regions ➲ Develop a formal structure for communicating information with citizens regularly ➲ Consider the impact of political discourse and dramatic debates in parliament on citizen trust in the institution ➲ Educate citizens about the role of parliament, its processes and opportunities to engage ➲ Inform civil society on the most opportune moments for intervening in the legislative process ➲ Use openness to counter fake news and disinformation
Institutional capacity building	➲ Invest in parliamentary staff who are going to implement these new measures and guarantee their sustainability beyond electoral cycles

Guide to Develop Open Parliament Action Plan

Open Parliament Action Plans have proven to be a useful tool to advance legislative openness through an innovative process involving an important collaboration with civil society. A practical step by step guide explaining how to develop Open Parliament Action Plans in accordance with OGP's co-creation standards and legislative policy, with insights from parliamentarians, parliamentary clerks and civil society representatives who have gone through this process, is a valuable resource for others working on their first plan or those who wish to improve their processes.

To this end, a working document has been developed by ParlAmericas in collaboration with OPeN, with input by parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and civil society representatives obtained at ParlAmericas working sessions. While the full guide is still in development, this executive summary provides an overview of the process to develop an Open Parliament Action Plan.

Should anyone wish to share their experience to help inform this guide, please contact parlamericasopn@parlamericas.org. The full guide, along with this executive summary, will be updated following a further consultative process and will be published in 2019.

Consult the Executive summary.

9

Panel and Group Discussion: Emerging trends, opportunities and challenges in open parliament efforts

Openness across all branches of the State can lead to better legislation and public policy that serve citizens' needs and interests. This requires efforts beyond strengthening processes to building an institutional culture in which transparency is key. Parliamentarians need reliable, up to date and accurate information concerning public policy issues at hand to develop evidence-based bills and provide effective oversight of executive actions. Civil society also benefits from openness to strengthen their participation in legislative and public policy issues.

This session moderated by Senator **Samson Chararkey** (Kenya) explored opportunities through which parliament can leverage the openness agenda to contribute to more informed debates and transformative public policy outcomes. It also explored emerging challenges, like fake news and disinformation, and consider possible solutions. The discussion was led by panelists **Bob Zimmer** (Canada), Member of Parliament and Chair of the Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics, **Mukelani Dimba**, Head of Development at the International School for Transparency and **Carla Piccolomini** (Argentina), Member of the Chamber of Deputies.

> It is about creating opportunities for citizens to set political agendas, to shape and monitor policies, to speak and be heard, not once every four or five years, but every day of the week, and getting right can be difficult. Meaningful participation is about changing the culture of government, it is about seducing citizens to participate, make sure that the processes they participate in are worth their while. Creating that space for dialogue with citizens is what OGP is all about.

Paul Maassen, Chief of Country Support of the Open Government Partnership

Carla Piccolomini (Argentina), Member of the Chamber of Deputies

> In Argentina we began a process of profound change and priority was given to transparency and the importance of putting the State at the service of citizens... This is how the initiative was taken to publicize information that was not previously shown and provide citizens with tools to encourage their participation in the work we do in the National Congress, with these two objectives in mind, the main change that was promoted in the Chamber of Deputies is the creation of the Open Laws Portal.

> "There is serious information asymmetry between the executive and legislative bodies. By this I mean that the executive holds information and resources that are simply not available to most legislative authorities in order for them to exercise their responsibilities in terms of oversight and their mandate in general… Civil society organizations also face a situation of information starvation and this creates a platform of commonality for parliaments and civil society to work together to advance towards a common goal of openness as tool to create accountability for the management of public affairs."

Mukelani Dimba, Head of Development at the International School for Transparency

International Grand Committee

Following the success of the first International Grand Committee Meeting in London in November 2018, Canada's House of Commons Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics hosted a second meeting in Ottawa on May 28 under the theme "Big data, democracy and privacy."

Parliamentarians from Canada, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Mexico, Morocco, United Kingdom, Singapore and Saint Lucia participated in this hearing and interviewed various experts, including academic experts, journalists, government officials and officials from big data platforms such as Google/YouTube, Facebook, Twitter to discuss global cooperation to identify solutions to issues that have arisen from these big data platforms.

Members signed a joint declaration reaffirming their commitment to protecting fair competition, increasing the accountability of social media platforms, protecting privacy rights and personal data, and maintaining and strengthening democracy.

The next meeting of the International Grand Committee will take place in Dublin, Ireland in November 2019.

> The International Grand Committee members at this most recent meeting collectively represented 400 million people. The question it aims to address is how do we legislate, to continue allowing groups like Facebook, Amazon, etc. to exist as we appreciate their services, but ensure that they do not manipulate us. For example, Facebook collects 1100 data points on every individual using their services… This has a large impact on our democracies. The solution starts with more transparency, especially when it comes to political campaign advertising.

Bob Zimmer (Canada), Member of Parliament and Chair of the Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics

Parliamentary Track of the Open Government Partnership Global Summit

Parliamentary delegations participated in OGP Global Summit sessions where they exchanged with peers, government officials, academia, civil society, and other open government stakeholders. They had the opportunity to debate strategies to enable citizens, civil society and business to participate in government decision-making; empower under-represented people to engage actively with governments; and help citizens understand how open government affects their day-to-day lives.

By participating in various sessions across the summit, they discussed important issues, such as disinformation, beneficial ownership registries, gender equality, participatory and inclusive policy making, public sector innovation, anti-corruption, artificial intelligence and access to justice, among others. Among these was a session focusing on the role of parliaments in advancing the open government agenda beyond opening the institution of parliament and another focusing on exchanging good practices between government and parliament action plans to fight corruption. Several parliamentarians also led the conversation as panelists in their respective sessions.

THEME
Participation, Inclusion, Impact

LOCATION
Ottawa, Canada

DATES
May 30-31, 2019

PARTICIPANTS
More than 2,600 participants from 119 countries

Open Government Partnership

In 2011, government leaders and civil society advocates came together to create a unique partnership—one that combines these powerful forces to promote accountable, responsive and inclusive governance. Seventy-nine countries and a growing number of local governments—representing more than two billion people—along with thousands of civil society organizations are members of the Open Government Partnership (OGP).

OGP promotes the engagement of parliaments from participating countries and local governments in their Action Plan process. In accordance with OGP's Parliamentary Engagement Policy, parliaments can directly contribute to Action Plans in two ways:

1. Submit stand-alone legislative openness commitments to be included in the government's 2-year Action Plan.

2. Co-create an independent Open Parliament Action Plan to be included as an annex or separate chapter to the government's 2-year Action Plan.

To learn more consult the Executive Summary of the Guide on Open Parliament Action Plans.

Parliaments as Partners for Open Government Reform

Parliaments can be formidable champions of OGP principles and values and pivotal partners in advancing the open government agenda. More specifically, parliamentarians can contribute to setting the national agenda and lend political weight to openness initiatives, guarantee the sustainability of these efforts across electoral cycles by building multi-partisan support, oversee their government's openness commitments and hold them accountable, develop, review and adopt relevant legislation and lead by example, by opening the institution of parliament, among others.

This session organized by ParlAmericas and OPeN, was moderated by **Randy Boissonnault** (Canada), Member of Parliament and Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network and provided an opportunity to discuss parliament's role in advancing such reforms nationally with open government stakeholders. Panelists included **Alfonso De Urresti** (Chile), Deputy Speaker of the Senate, **Aida Kasymalieva** (Kyrgyzstan), Deputy Speaker of the Supreme Council, **Moses Kipkemboi Cheboi** (Kenya), Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Senator **Ranard Henfield** (The Bahamas), Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network for the Caribbean, Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network, **Noel Alsonso Murray**, Director General of Directorio Legislativo and **Nicolás Martín**, Executive Director of Somos Más.

Inclusion Plenary

Many citizens around the world are marginalized, feel left behind, and are losing faith in institutions. This plenary explored why inclusion should be a priority, and how open government can shed light on these issues and help drive change. This session, organized by OGP and the Government of Canada, launched the [Break the Roles Campaign](), asking all participating countries to strengthen the gender perspective of their OGP commitments. It highlighted the efforts of **Aida Kasymalieva** (Kyrgyzstan), Deputy Speaker of the Supreme Council who is the country's youngest ever woman in parliament. It also featured a panel to promote gender inclusion composed of Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network who is the first woman to run for President in her country. She was accompanied by **Randy Boissonnault** (Canada), Member of Parliament and Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on LGBTQ2 issues, **Michael Cañares**, Senior Research Manager for Digital Citizenship at World Wide Web Foundation and **Delia Ferreira**, Chair of Transparency International.

From Transparency and Openness of Data to Effective Anti-Corruption Strategies: Comparing Lessons from the Open Parliament and Open Government Communities

When governments and parliaments commit to greater transparency and openness of data, but don't address broader issues of corruption, it leaves parliaments, and OGP more generally, open to allegations of open-washing. Transparency has not led to increased responsibility to the needs of the broader population, particularly marginalized groups such as women and ethnic minorities, who are more likely to be negatively impacted by high levels of impunity and corruption.
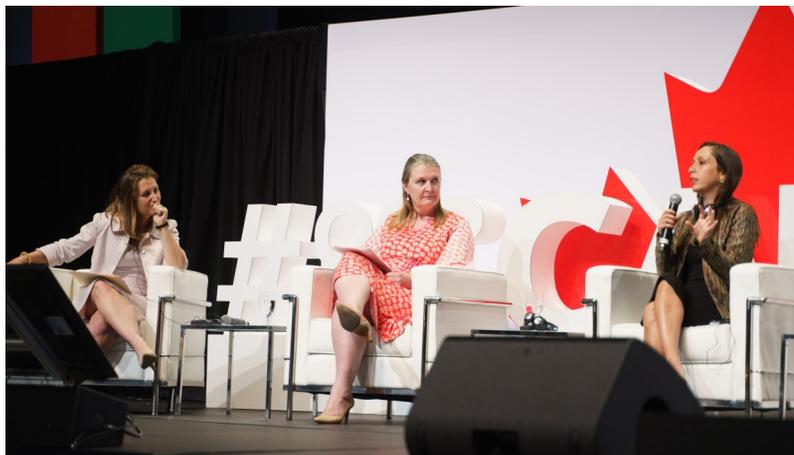
This session organized by the National Democratic Institute and OPeN, and moderated by Maria Baron, Global Executive Director of Directorio Legislativo explored areas where parliaments and governments have sought to link transparency and openness of data more directly to greater accountability and anti-corruption. Panelists included **Mauricio Mejia Galvan**, Chief of Staff of Member of Parliament Paula Forteza (France), **Krzysztof Izdebski**, Policy Director of ePaństwo Foundation, **Florencia Romano**, Administrative Secretary of the Chamber of Deputies of Argentina and **Jorge Santos** (Cabo Verde), President of National Assembly.

Open Government Commitments for Accountable and Gender-Responsive Natural Resource Governance

This session organized by Publish What You Pay, Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, Oxfam America, Natural Resource Governance Institute and Development Gateway explored five challenges at the intersection between women's rights and natural resource governance, including through the experiences shared by women from resource rich countries. Based on those experiences, and drawing on practitioner and academic research, it put forward tangible proposals for gender transformative model OGP commitments to promote women's meaningful participation in natural resource governance by: bridging the women's rights and transparency movements; addressing negative impacts of the extractive sector on women through responsive local decision making; ensuring that data is accessible and relevant to a diverse set of stakeholders, including women in extractive communities; and promoting resource allocation approaches that include, and would benefit, women. Senator **Rosa Galvez** (Canada) presented her experience on Addressing Access: Feminist approaches to participation through natural resource data accessibility and contributed to a round table discussion on this subject.

Stronger Media Systems for Open Government

This session organised by the Center for International Media Assistance (CIMA), an initiative of the National Endowment for Democracy, explored opportunities provided by the OGP process for improving the democratic governance of media systems. Because the media plays a critical role in the open government movement and given the rise of "fake news" and declining public trust in institutions, the session aimed to raise the profile of the media sector as a critical thematic area within the OGP. It was moderated by the Honourable **Chrystia Freeland** (Canada), Minister of Foreign Affairs who lead a discussion between **Susan le Jeune d'Allegeershecque**, British High Commissioner to Canada, **Carolina Hidalgo Herrera** (Costa Rica), Member of the National Assembly, and **Zuzana Wienk**, Founder and Program Director, Fair-Play Alliance.

> The Chilean Congress has innovated tremendously in terms of incorporating new technologies to bring citizens and new generations closer through the Virtual Congress ... The Virtual Congress is a platform that allows any citizen to interact with the deputies on bills ... and allows to systematize, organize and quantify information and citizen participation in the legislative process.

Alfonso De Urresti (Chile), Deputy Speaker of the Senate

> Women's access to political power is a dynamic utopia... Women suffer discrimination, subordination, impairment and violence in different ways in much of the world including Latin America. It is essential to promote the political participation of women, because they are essential to achieve open and inclusive governments.

Blanca Ovelar (Paraguay), President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

> Historically most of the national developments we have achieved have come about because of activists and parliaments working together. However, we have parliaments today who have lost the trust of the citizenry. It is the responsibility of parliamentarians to publicly invite civil society and the citizenry to contribute their input to bills… and appreciate and embrace the role of civil society in co-creation.

Senator **Ranard Henfield** (The Bahamas), Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network for the Caribbean

> The Parliament of Kyrgyzstan has cocreated an Open Parliament Action Plan with civil society. It was a difficult dialogue, but it was successful and in August the Action Plan will be presented. This is a great step but there is still much more to be done to transform the culture of parliament for officials and members alike to truly take the value of openness to heart, as this is at the core of any successful reform.

Aida Kasymalieva (Kyrgyzstan), Deputy Speaker of the Supreme Council

> The Senate has brought a bill to parliament to effectively improve public participation in the legislative process. The issues it aims to address is a lack of uniformity, resources, and staff, and to provide a mechanism to follow public participation and be able to determine how citizens' proposals were integrated qualitatively into the system.

Moses Kipkemboi Cheboi (Kenya), Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

> There is distrust in the Parliament about openness, but civil society and young people have generated alternatives to what parliament is discussing... Parliament must interact with society to achieve a regulatory consensus that satisfies both parties... The key is in emphasizing the benefits of the Open Parliament, only then can the political will that is required be built.

Carolina Hidalgo Herrera (Costa Rica), Member of the National Assembly

Action Points

During Open Parliament Day and the Parliamentary Track of the Open Government Partnership Global Summit, the following action points were highlighted:

1. Participate more actively in national open government efforts by promoting existing Action Plans and raising ambitions, or promoting the participation of your government in the Open Government Partnership.

2. Build multi-partisan support for openness principles to guarantee the sustainability of Action Plans across electoral cycles.

3. Develop, review and adopt legislation that increases transparency, accountability, citizen participation and ethical standards for public office holders, in support of Action Plan commitments (i.e. lobby regulation, access to information, asset declarations, participation regulation, etc.)

4. Co-create, implement, monitor and evaluate Open Parliament Action Plans with civil society, to commit to key priorities to transform the interaction between parliament and the public towards more inclusive and effective legislation and oversight of public policies to ensure they meet citizens' needs.

5. Establish spaces for citizen participation to contribute to a more exhaustive and inclusive debate around important national policy issues going beyond openness in general (i.e. climate change, pension reform, anti-corruption bills, etc.), and to co-create solutions to these issues.

6. Take advantage of technology to complement in-person spaces for participation and create platforms that reach more citizens through an easy and convenient process.

7. Ensure that all participative spaces established are inclusive to women, indigenous peoples and other historically marginalized groups, so that they can be used to bring the voices of the under-represented to the table.

8. Adopt measures to facilitate communication between the parliament and civil society to justify decision-making and explain how input received was taken into consideration.

9. Implement institutional capacity building programs for youth, teachers, and civil society in general, to raise awareness on the role of parliaments and avenues for citizen engagement.

10. Promote transparency and access to information from the executive branch to strengthen the parliament's ability to effectively oversee the government as well as to foster public accountability.

11. Contribute to national and international debates to identify policy solutions to tackle disinformation and fake news while respecting freedom of expression, especially during electoral campaigns, which can have an important impact on the public discourse and trust in public institutions.

12. Adopt legislation and oversee policies to promote a strong, safe and inclusive civic space allowing both civil society organizations and the media to operate freely and independently to undertake their respective roles which are critical for all democracies.

13. Contact partner organizations of the Open Parliament e-Network, which include ParlAmericas, Directorio Legislativo, National Democratic Institute, Westminster Foundation for Democracy, Latin American Network for Legislative Transparency, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights for support to advance open parliament initiatives.

Parliaments Present:

Albania	Brazil	France	Mexico	Portugal
Antigua and Barbuda	Canada	Ghana	Morocco	Saint Lucia
Argentina	Cape Verde	Guatemala	New Zealand	Sri Lanka
Armenia	Chile	Honduras	Panama	Trinidad and Tobago
The Bahamas	Costa Rica	Jamaica	Paraguay	Tunisia
Barbados	Ecuador	Kenya	Pakistan	United States of America
Bolivia	El Salvador	Kyrgyzstan	Peru	

ParlAmericas Podcasts

Find ParlAmericas on iTunes and Google Play to listen to the sessions of our meetings.

PARLAMERICAS

*ParlAmericas is the institution that promotes **PARLIMENTARY DIPLOMACY** in the **INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM***

*ParlAmericas fosters **OPEN PARLIMENTS** by advancing the principles of transparency, accountability, citizen participation, ethics and probity*

*ParlAmericas is composed of the **35 NATIONAL LEGISLATURES** from North, Central and South America and the Caribbean*

*ParlAmericas promotes policies and legislative measures to mitigate and adapt to the effects of **CLIMATE CHANGE***

*ParlAmericas facilitates the exchange of parliamentary **BEST PRACTICES AND** promotes **COOPERATIVE POLITICAL DIALOGUE***

*ParlAmericas works towards strengthening democracy and governance by accompanying **ELECTORAL PROCESSES***

*ParlAmericas mainstreams **GENDER EQUALITY** by advocating for women's political empowerment and the application of a gender lens in legislative work*

*ParlAmericas is headquartered in **OTTAWA, CANADA***