



## PRESS RELEASE

*For immediate release*

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### **Parliamentary Training Session: Maximizing the use of technology to improve communication with constituents**

On December 5, ParlAmericas, in collaboration with the Senate of Mexico, is organizing a training session in English on the use of technology to improve communication with constituents, with participating parliamentary delegations from 11 countries across the Americas and the Caribbean.

This activity follows the adoption of ParlAmericas' [Road Map Towards Legislative Openness](#), which was co-created by parliamentarians and civil society organizations to translate principles of transparency, accountability, citizen participation and ethics into concrete actions to be undertaken by parliaments and parliamentarians. In this 1-day session, parliamentarians will explore best practices and strategies for the use of various social networks to communicate with and get feedback from constituents. In addition, they will exchange experiences on communication tools and mechanisms, such as participative budgeting, that can be used by parliaments to create spaces for citizens to engage in legislative decision-making processes. Lastly, parliamentarians will experiment first hand one of tools discussed, Facebook Live, which will be used to simulate an online hearing with civil society organizations from across the hemisphere to continue a collaborative discussion on mechanisms for citizen participation.

These parliamentary exchanges will contribute to increasing parliamentarians' repertoire of tools and mechanisms with which to connect effectively with citizens, leading to more inclusive, participative and representative decision-making. This subject will be further explored at ParlAmericas' 13<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly which will follow on December 6 and 7, with a theme of *Strengthening parliaments and building resilient societies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*, with particular focus on SDG 16 which aims to strengthen institutions to ensure they are transparent, effective, accountable and inclusive.

For updates on the training session, follow the event hashtag: [#PA13Mex](#).

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ParlAmericas is a network of the national legislatures of member states of the Organization of American States (OAS). It serves as an independent forum for parliaments of the Americas and the Caribbean committed to cooperative political dialogue and participation in the inter-American system. For more information, visit [www.parlAmericas.org](http://www.parlAmericas.org).