



Background Documents for July 10, 2024 Meeting on ParlAmericas 2024-2030 Strategic Plan

Objectives for the Virtual Meeting:

The virtual meeting on July 10, 2024 will provide an opportunity for members of the ParlAmericas Board of Directors to discuss with representatives from Caribbean member parliaments, core components of the draft ParlAmericas 2024-2030 Strategic Plan, including the updated Mission, Vision and Value Statements, as well as the plan's strategic goals and objectives.

This engagement aligns with good governance practices to ensure shared understanding and identify any overlooked elements in the strategic plan by drawing on the perspectives of participating parliamentarians in regards to ParlAmericas' internal workings and external positioning.

Note: Should you be unable to attend the meeting, but you would like to contribute to the Strategic Plan consultation process, the International Secretariat would be pleased to set up a call with you directly. Please contact mateusz.trybowski@parlamericas.org.

Core Components of the Strategic Plan:

The ParlAmericas Secretariat is distributing an advanced version of the core components of the 2024-2030 Strategic Plan:

- 1) Updated Mission, Vision and Values statements; and
- 2) Strategic Goals and Objectives.

Their drafting was informed by strategic discussions at meetings of the ParlAmericas Board of Directors, consultations with relevant external stakeholders, and inputs that are continuously collected from parliamentarians engaged with ParlAmericas and its programming. An overview of steps conducted to date in the development of the Strategic Plan can be found in Annex 1.

(1) Updated Mission, Vision and Value Statements

ParlAmericas is the inter-parliamentary organization for the Inter-American system.

Mission:

To foster cooperative political dialogue on hemispheric issues and support parliaments and parliamentarians to fulfill their democratic functions in service of all people throughout the Americas and the Caribbean.

Vision:

A hemisphere in which democracy delivers for all people through effective, open and inclusive parliaments that maintain strong diplomatic and collaborative relations and are integrated in multilateral spaces, upholding principles of mutual respect and equality in their interactions.

Values:

ParlAmericas is guided by values of openness, inclusion, equality, sustainability, multilateral cooperation, and the promotion of democratic principles.

(2) Strategic Goals and Objectives

The strategic plan will outline ParlAmericas' direction and priorities for the 2024-2030 period through clear and concise statements on goals and objectives.

Strategic Goal #1: Deliver responsive programming and facilitate cooperative political dialogue that enables parliamentarians and parliamentary staff to engage effectively on issues of common concern.

Strategic Objectives

- a) ParlAmericas has a founding mandate to serve as the hemispheric vehicle for parliamentary cooperation and exchange of good legislative practices. This will continue to be fulfilled through hemispheric and regional activities that are responsive to needs and priorities identified by parliaments and complemented by the production of tailored resources, and follow-up technical assistance where possible.
- b) ParlAmericas will maintain agility and adaptability to support parliamentarians in addressing hemispheric issues and emerging challenges that they prioritize. Its thematic expertise in gender equality, open parliament, and climate change and sustainability will be leveraged as cross-cutting lenses that strengthen this programming.
- c) ParlAmericas will maintain flexibility in how it mechanizes responsive support to parliaments, including through networks, caucuses and other working structures. It will maintain parallel and structured engagement with parliamentary staff focal points, acknowledging their essential role in

operationalizing priorities and initiatives championed by parliamentarians, at an institutional level.

- d) ParlAmericas will continue to ensure that parliamentarians have access to relevant external resources and experts, including from civil society and multilateral organizations, to support their legislative work and understanding of regional and international instruments to which their countries are committed.

Strategic Goal #2: Strengthen ParlAmericas' positioning as a political organization and vehicle for parliamentary diplomacy in the Inter-American system and other multilateral spaces.

Strategic Objectives

- a) ParlAmericas has the mandate to facilitate parliamentary engagement in the Summit of the Americas process. It will work with the governments and respective parliaments of host countries and other relevant entities to enable and support participation by parliamentarians from across the hemisphere in Summits of the Americas.
- b) ParlAmericas will continuously improve information sharing with national parliaments, including through foreign affairs committees and other political bodies with interest in its work.
- c) ParlAmericas will pursue broadened and more structured opportunities for parliamentary engagement with the work of the Organization of American States (OAS) and its different departments and organs, in accordance with its mandate as the inter-parliamentary organization for the Inter-American system.
- d) ParlAmericas will continue to pursue working partnerships and cooperation agreements with United Nations and other multilateral agencies to facilitate access for parliamentarians to high level political fora and policy arenas, and to ensure that the perspective of the legislative branch is recognized and incorporated in prioritized multilateral spaces, particularly when these are hosted in the hemisphere.

Strategic Goal #3: Ensure that ParlAmericas' values are internalized across its governance, management, programming, and partnerships.

Strategic Objectives

- a) ParlAmericas will ensure that its governance documents reflect its values and continuous improvement of working practices.
- b) ParlAmericas will uphold its efforts to apply principles related to inclusion, openness and environmental consciousness in its institutional practices. It will ensure responsible, efficient and results oriented management of its resources in service of parliaments.
- c) ParlAmericas will continue making effective use of evolving technologies to facilitate strengthened connections and knowledge exchanges between parliaments, and render activities delivered by ParlAmericas more open and accessible to parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, strategic partners, and diverse civil society actors, while mitigating for budget and time constraints affecting abilities to travel to in-person meetings.

- d) ParlAmericas will pursue external partnerships that strategically contribute to its programming, advance shared values and complementary objectives, and enable coordinated pooling of resources that avoids duplication and is conscious of financial constraints in the hemisphere. In this context, ParlAmericas will continue to integrate civil society perspectives and expertise across its programming with a particular focus on under-represented groups in parliamentary work.

Strategic Goal #4: Reinforce strategic goals through effective communication.

Strategic Objectives

- a) ParlAmericas will ensure that its communications promote effective understanding of the organization's political character and responsiveness to parliaments on diverse issues across the Inter-American agenda. In this context, it will also promote public understanding of the value of parliamentary diplomacy and multilateral engagement.
- b) ParlAmericas will pursue regular and broadened dialogue with national governments across the hemisphere through their foreign ministries and diplomatic representatives to ensure a continual understanding and realization of its position and mandate within the Inter-American system.

Annex 1: Progress Achieved and Next Milestones in the Strategic Planning Process

Timeline	Step
October to December 2023	<p>The International Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solicited other inter-parliamentary organizations for their strategic plans • Submitted options for ParlAmericas’ strategic planning process for discussion and approval by the Board of Directors at its meeting on December 12, 2023.
January to February 2024	<p>The International Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed a SWOT analysis (identifying Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) for input and validation by the Board of Directors at its meeting on February 20, 2024.
March to June 2024	<p>The International Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafted core components of the strategic plan by drawing from the SWOT analysis and other strategic discussions at recent board meetings, as well as inputs that are continuously collected from parliamentarians participating in ParlAmericas programming, and engagement with external stakeholders. • Conducted outreach with the: National Permanent Missions to the OAS and OAS Department Officials (as part of the ParlAmericas delegation visit to Washington DC in March 2024); UN ECLAC; UNESCO; UNDRR; UNFCCC; UN Women; UN DOC; Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA); GLOBE Legislators, Parliamentarians for Global Action, IDEA, IRI, NDI, International Science Council, and civil society organizations like Directorio Legislativo (chair of the Latin America Transparency Network), Caribbean Women in Leadership (CIWiL) and the Forums of Women in Political Parties in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and the Dominican Republic, as well as through ongoing participation in meetings of the Inter-American Task Force on Women’s Leadership, and the Open Parliament e-Network (OPeN).
July 2024	<p>The International Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will facilitate virtual meetings on the core components of the strategic plan in English and Spanish for board members and focal points from parliaments that are not currently represented in the Board of Directors. • Undertake ongoing outreach and coordination to consult specific aspects of the strategic plan with other strategic stakeholders.

August - September 2024 (proposed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The finalized version of the strategic plan, incorporating feedback from the virtual meetings, will be reviewed by the Board of Directors at the next ParlAmericas board meeting.• Pending approval, the Strategic Plan will be slated for launch in conjunction with the next ParlAmericas Hemispheric Gathering.
Post-Launch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The new strategic plan will be used by the International Secretariat and the Board of Directors as an outreach tool to communicate to external stakeholders about how we are achieving our strategic objectives and to explore partnership opportunities.