

YEAR IN HIGHLIGHTS 2016



PHOTOGRAPHS

Courtesy of host parliaments and partner organizations

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4	Message from the President of ParlAmericas	16	1 st Gathering of the Open Parliament Network
5	Message from the President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians	20	8 th Gathering of the Group of Women Parliamentarians
6	Message from the President of the Open Parliament Network	23	1 st Gathering of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change
7	Message from the President of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change — ParlAmericas	26	Gender Equality in the Electoral Process: The Experience of Women Candidates
8	About ParlAmericas	28	Practices for Legislative Transparency, Ethics and Probity
9	National Legislatures Represented on our Board of Directors	30	Multi-Party Caucuses for Gender Equality
10	Partners	32	Parliamentary Delegation for the 2016 US General Election
12	2016 at a Glance	34	In Focus: 13 th Plenary Assembly
14	Gender-based Political Harassment: Building Awareness in Parliaments	46	Operations and Finances

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF PARLAMERICAS

Dear colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to present to you our annual report. Throughout the following pages, you will be able to appreciate the work that ParlAmericas has done in 2016, mainly across its platforms for gender equality, legislative openness, and climate change. We have reached significant achievements as demonstrated not only in the development of our activities, but also in the recognition of the organization as a point of reference in the hemisphere.

To this effect, we reaffirmed our memorandum of understanding with the Organization of American States (OAS), and we signed new memorandums of understanding with the Inter-American Commission of Women of the OAS, and the United Nations Environment Programme.

In 2016, ParlAmericas celebrated its 15th anniversary serving as the independent forum for the 35 national legislatures of the Americas and the Caribbean, contributing to parliamentary diplomacy in the inter-American system, and creating platforms for cooperative political dialogue to exchange experiences and good legislative practices.

I am grateful for the confidence you have bestowed on me to continue my work as President

of ParlAmericas. I reiterate my commitment to working arduously in the interest of our institution. Throughout 2017, we will continue expanding to new horizons, promoting democracy and strengthening our parliaments.

Sincerely,

MARCELA GUERRA

Senator, Mexico

President of ParlAmericas



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE GROUP OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

Dear colleagues,

2016 was a productive year for the Group of Women Parliamentarians. I am very pleased to share the highlights of our activities with you through this report.

Addressing gender-based political harassment remained a key objective in our efforts to ensure that all barriers to women's participation in public life are eliminated. The topic was central to an inter-parliamentary gathering held in Saint Lucia, and we also launched an interactive online map on the topic, which has served as a tool to visibilize instances of this phenomenon in the region.

At the 8th Gathering of our Group, held in Ecuador, we emphasized the importance of diversifying political power so that the voices of all citizens are integral components of our efforts to build stronger and more inclusive societies. At inter-parliamentary meetings in Guatemala and Canada, we also explored mechanisms to promote women's electoral participation and to establish gender caucuses dedicated to achieving gender equality. In 2016 we furthermore established a joint work plan with the UN Women Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, marking the anniversary of our memorandum of understanding.

With 2017 off to a strong start after the 3rd

Parliamentary Forum on Beijing 20 Years Later, which was held in Chile in January and featured the participation of President Michelle Bachelet, I am excited for the continued growth and progress we will see this year.

On behalf of the Group of Women Parliamentarians, thank you for your support, participation, and commitment in advancing this critical agenda. I look forward to our continued work to ensure the full realization of gender equality.

Best wishes,

GINA GODOY

Member of the National Assembly, Ecuador

President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians

 [FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER @GINAGODOYANDRAD](#)



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE OPEN PARLIAMENT NETWORK

Dear friends,

It is an honour for me to write to you as President of the Open Parliament Network. In 2016 we held our first gathering in Asuncion, Paraguay, where we approved the *Road Map towards Legislative Openness*, developed by legislators in collaboration with civil society organizations. Together, we were able to bring this document to fruition to promote transparency, accountability, citizen participation, and ethics and probity in parliaments in Latin America and the Caribbean. This joint effort has enabled our legislative powers to put action plans and concrete measures for legislative openness in place.

In 2017, we will continue to support parliaments in our hemisphere in their implementation of the commitments adopted in our *Road Map*. ParlAmericas will provide opportunities for the exchange of parliamentary experiences and best practices on mechanisms and institutional reforms that have been developed in order to implement these commitments. We strive to ensure that congresses are more representative and inclusive. We also endeavour to continue strengthening the work of our institutions with the goal of restoring people's trust in our institutions and in the democratic system.

I encourage you to continue championing initiatives and actions towards legislative openness in your respective countries. Thank you for all the contributions and commitments you have shared with our network. I send you my best wishes and hope to meet you again soon to continue working towards more open parliaments in the Americas and the Caribbean.

Sincerely,

Hernán Larraín

HERNÁN LARRAÍN

Senator, Chile

President of the Open Parliament Network

 [FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER @HERNANLARRAINF](https://twitter.com/HERNANLARRAINF)



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE – PARLAMERICAS

Dear friends,

In 2015 I had the honour of hosting the 12th Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas. A key commitment adopted at this meeting was to strengthen the legislative agenda on environmental protection and conservation, and to fight against climate change, as a fundamental dimension of sustainable development.

Since then, we have worked with this goal in mind. In 2016, ParlAmericas and Parlatino held a joint gathering, *Parliamentary Action to Stop Climate Change*, at which parliamentarians from the Americas and the Caribbean established the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change. This network seeks to coordinate efforts between parliaments, specialists, and civil society organizations, directed at drafting laws, reforms, and action plans in each of our countries.

As legislators we work to close the gap between citizens, governments, and decisions made at a global level, taking into account that national legislation and international agreements should reinforce one another. This puts us at the centre of the response to climate change.

I send you my warmest regards and invite you to continue working together to devise legislative

strategies around a common agenda that allows us to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Sincerely,

JAVIER ORTEGA

*Member of the National Assembly, Panama
President of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change — ParlAmericas*



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ABOUT PARLAMERICAS



*ParlAmericas is an independent forum that promotes **PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY** in the **INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM***



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



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



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



*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***

NATIONAL LEGISLATURES REPRESENTED ON OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee of the Board of Directors
(as of December 2016; 13th Plenary Assembly of
ParlAmericas):

MARCELA GUERRA, President. Senator, Mexico

ROBERT D. NAULT, 1st Vice-President. Member of
Parliament, Canada

GINA GODOY, 2nd Vice-President and President of
the Group of Women Parliamentarians. Member of
the National Assembly, Ecuador

HERNÁN LARRAÍN, 2nd Vice-President and President
of the Open Parliament Network. Senator, Chile

JAVIER ORTEGA, 2nd Vice-President and President
of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change
— ParlAmericas. Member of the National Assembly,
Panama

ParlAmericas is run by parliamentarians for parlia-
mentarians, with a Board of Directors composed
of 20 legislators who are elected by their peers and
represent 15 countries from North, South and Cen-
tral America, and the Caribbean.

In addition, the Board of Directors has ex-officio
representation from the ParlAmericas International
Secretariat and the OAS General Secretariat.



PARTNERS

In addition to our member parliaments, ParlAmericas regularly partners with multilateral and civil society organizations with a view to maximizing impacts through complementary programming efforts. We are grateful for their contributions of subject-matter expertise and resources to our project activities over the past year, and look forward to building on these collaborations in support of strengthened democracy, legislative openness, gender equality, and sustainable development in the Americas.

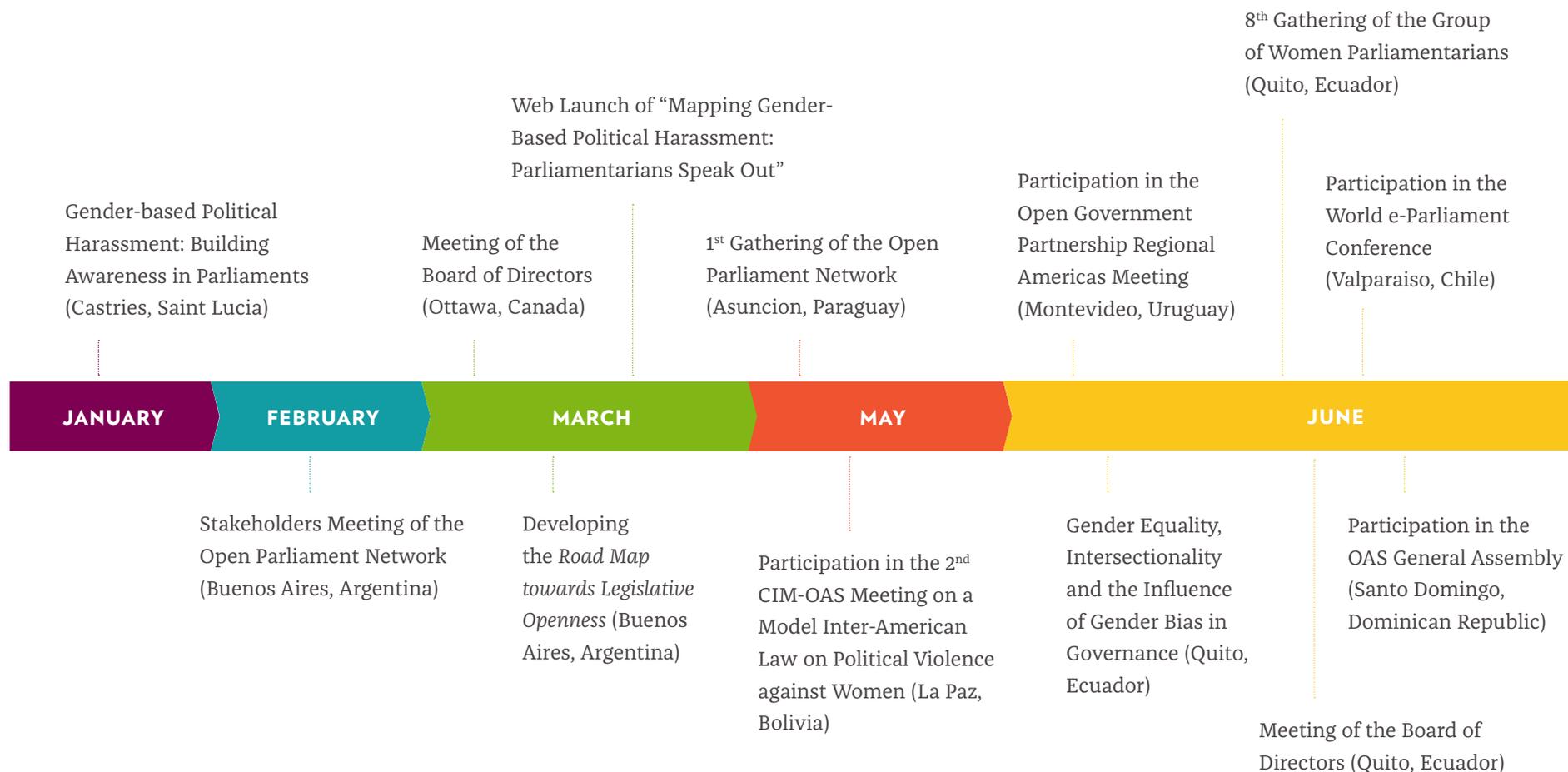
In 2016, ParlAmericas signed new memorandums of understanding with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM-OAS), and the UN Environment Program (UNEP), and reaffirmed its Memorandum of Understanding with the Organization of American States (OAS).





NOTE: ParlAmericas also acknowledges contributions from the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Carleton University Centre for Women in Politics and Public Leadership.

2016 AT A GLANCE







GENDER-BASED POLITICAL HARASSMENT is intimidation, coercion or violence targeting women and other marginalized groups for their activity in political and public life, in ways that exacerbate gendered discrimination. Examples in parliamentary politics include the use of sexist language, biased media coverage, pressure to renounce elected office or even physical violence that is targeted to discourage women from political engagement.

GENDER-BASED POLITICAL HARASSMENT: BUILDING AWARENESS IN PARLIAMENTS

DATE

January 26-27, 2016

LOCATION

Castries, Saint Lucia

PARTICIPANTS

34 parliamentarians and former parliamentarians from 11 countries

This meeting was hosted by the House of Assembly of Saint Lucia and built off the 2015 Gathering of the Group of Women Parliamentarians in further exploring the subject of gender-based political harassment from the perspective of legislators in English-speaking Caribbean countries.

After opening remarks from Hon. **Claudius James Francis**, President of the Senate (Saint Lucia); Hon. **Peter Foster**, Speaker of the House of Assembly (Saint Lucia); and Parliamentary Representative Hon. **Alvina Reynolds** (Saint Lucia), Minister of Health, Wellness, Human Services and Social Relations, delegates heard presentations from subject experts **Tonni Brodber**, Deputy Representative at the UN Women Multi-Country Office — Caribbean; **UnaMay Gordon**, Coordinator of the Caribbean Institute for Women in Leadership (CIWiL); and **Senator Irene**

Sandiford-Garner (Barbados) speaking on behalf of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS). These presentations underlined that gender inequality is engrained in cultural and historical power imbalances that are reflected in political institutions, including parliaments. Taking collective and individual action, education, and cross-party dialogue were identified by panelists and delegates as vital to transforming gender biases and discrimination.

The structural manifestation of gender biases in the parliamentary precinct as a workplace was then further explored through a panel of former parliamentarians **Jeannine Compton-Antoine** (Saint Lucia), Hon. **Jean Augustine** (Canada), Dr. **Rosemarie Husbands-Mathurin** (Saint Lucia) and Dame **Billie Miller** (Barbados) who reflected on

their own struggles and effective techniques to overcome gender-based political harassment.

This was followed by roundtable discussions on media representation of women politicians, in which delegates shared recommendations that can be applied by parliamentarians when interacting with media to discourage gender bias in reporting:

- Do thorough research before participating in an interview. Control the timing of your engagement and only comment when you feel comfortable with the subject matter
- Engage with interviewers in a way that builds respectful and professional relationships



- Find opportunities to listen to and speak with the public directly to build support and shape conversations
- Develop a communications strategy that incorporates traditional and social media practices

Delegates also considered legislative avenues to combat gender-based political harassment through discussions centered on how electoral systems and political party structures could be rendered more gender sensitive. A shortage of regionally-specific data about how gender-based political harassment is experienced and understood, and on the effectiveness of different policies to address this situation in English-speaking Caribbean countries was mentioned throughout the meeting and highlighted in a presentation by Dr. **Gabrielle Hosein** from the Institute for Gender and Development Studies at the University of the West Indies, who encouraged delegates to participate in research to close this gap.

The meeting concluded with a reflection on key takeaways and the development of individual work plans. These featured commitments to support research and educational initiatives on gender-based political harassment, to engage with youth to transform cultural attitudes, and to establish support structures within political parties and parliaments like gender caucuses.

A detailed report about this meeting can be accessed on the [Gender Equality section of the ParlAmericas website](#).

“The actions taken against women in the region are alarmingly extreme. This type of forum is an organized way of engaging women to stand up and participate in positive action to end political harassment and encourage more women to enter elective politics.”



Member of the House of Representatives
Hon. **BEVERLY CASTILLO** (Belize),
Minister of State for Immigration

“I’m motivated to speak out more on this subject and to give greater support to victims.”



Member of the House of
Representatives Hon. **EMMALIN
PIERRE** (Grenada), Minister of Youth,
Sports and Ecclesiastic Affairs

“I knew first hand of the political harassment since I have been a victim of it for more than two decades. I was astounded by the widespread aspect of [it] across the region and around the world. I am now more empowered about the numerous strategies which I can devise and implement.”



Member of Parliament
CYNTHIA FORDE (Barbados)



OPEN PARLIAMENT — also known as Legislative Openness — is a new form of interaction between citizens and legislatures that promotes openness and transparency in parliaments with the aim of ensuring access to public information, accountability, citizen participation, and high standards of ethics and probity in legislative work.

1ST GATHERING OF THE OPEN PARLIAMENT NETWORK

#OPN2016

THEME
Road Map towards Legislative Openness: Transparency, Accountability, Citizen Participation and Ethics

DATE
May 26-27, 2016

LOCATION
Asuncion, Paraguay

PARTICIPANTS
More than 60 parliamentarians and civil society representatives from 20 countries

The 1st Gathering of the Open Parliament Network (OPN) was hosted by the Senate of Paraguay and represented the culmination of a series of working meetings between parliamentarians and civil society organizations focused on the co-creation of a hemispheric *Road Map towards Legislative Openness*.

Parliamentarians from across the hemisphere assembled in Asuncion, Paraguay for discussions on this framework, which translates principles of legislative openness into concrete actions that can be pursued by legislators and by their parliaments in developing national action plans or initiatives in support of legislative openness.

The gathering was opened with welcoming remarks by host Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), who was joined by Senator **Marcela Guerra** (Mexico), President of ParlAmericas; and Senator **Hernán**

Larraín (Chile), President of the OPN; as well as **Hugo Velázquez Moreno**, President of the Chamber of Deputies (Paraguay); and **Mario Abdo Benítez**, President of the Senate (Paraguay), who marked the gathering's significance as a precedent for hemispheric coordination and structured collaboration with civil society on actions to support legislative openness.

A combination of parliamentarians and civil society representatives that contributed to the drafting of the *Road Map* then proceeded to lead discussions addressing: key concepts of legislative openness; technologies and tools to enhance communication between parliaments and citizens, and to strengthen access to information about parliamentary work; national experiences developing and implementing action plans for legislative openness; and lessons learned from parliamentary experi-

ences with open budget and other fiscal transparency mechanisms.

The gathering also featured working sessions at which delegates reviewed and expanded on actions identified in the *Road Map* based on the four pillars of the OPN: transparency and access to public information, accountability, citizen participation, and probity and parliamentary ethics. A separate publication about the gathering contains detailed descriptions of these discussions.

JUAN PABLO GUERRERO,

Director of the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency (GIFT)



“You cannot set up an effective system to combat corruption without fiscal transparency. No one is saying that fiscal or budgetary transparency is enough, but we do know that without it, any effort is inadequate ... Fiscal transparency is only possible if parliamentarians play a central role to act on it and fight for it, in order to counterbalance and bring the necessary oversight to the use of public resources.”

The **OPEN PARLIAMENT NETWORK (OPN)** is a permanent working group of ParlAmericas formed in August 2015. It is the successor of the Inter-American Parliamentary Network on Transparency, Access to Public Information, and Probity. The latter entity was spearheaded by the Bicameral Group for Transparency of the National Congress of Chile to support the implementation of the Santiago Declaration on Parliamentary Transparency and Integrity in Parliaments and Political Parties (2012). The OPN continues in the tradition of the Santiago Declaration, while expanding the network of national legislatures working in support of open parliament to encompass North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. The OPN is led by Senator Hernán Larraín (Chile).



Senator **BLANCA OVELAR** (Paraguay)

“The communications dimension, when opening society, improving transparency, and accountability ... is worthy of analysis and is key to empowering citizens, to include them ... in a system that is being renewed.”

“It is important that there be a formal relationship between civil society and parliament. And how can this formal relationship be created? We create mechanisms agreed to by both parties, through which an action plan and methodology that includes both parties can be developed.”

MARIA BARON, Representative of the Latin American Network for Legislative Transparency (LALT Network)



The ParlAmericas OPN has functioned as a dynamic space for hemispheric coordination and co-creation between parliamentarians and civil society organizations. The concept of **co-creation** originates from the Open Government Partnership (OGP). It refers to an approach that requires political institutions and office-holders to collaborate with civil society in defining and monitoring the implementation of commitments to enhance transparency, accountability and participation in democratic governance. The Road Map towards Legislative Openness is an example of this practice — it was co-created over a series of meetings between parliamentarians and civil society groups held on the margins of the OAS Inter-American Meeting of Presidents of Legislative Powers in Chile (August 2015), and the OGP Global Summit in Mexico (October 2015), as well as a standalone working session of the OPN and the Latin American Network for Legislative Transparency (LALT) in Argentina (March 2016). A complete list of the civil society organizations that contributed to the *Road Map towards Legislative Openness* can be consulted in that publication.



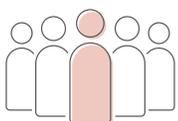
TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Access to public information is a fundamental human right that must be guaranteed by law. Public information belongs to citizens who need it in order to be empowered and to fully participate in democratic processes. In this sense, it creates legitimacy and confidence in our democratic institutions and it is essential in the fight against corruption.



ACCOUNTABILITY

The right to accountability involves citizens' freedom to hold authorities to account and public servants' obligation to justify and accept responsibility for their decisions. This duty derives from two main functions of parliament: representation and oversight. On one hand, the accountability of the executive towards the parliament allows parliaments to evaluate and audit the government's actions, reassigning resources and public policies to obtain better results. On the other hand, the accountability of the parliament towards its citizens allows society to check, examine, and stay informed about what the parliament is doing.



CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Citizen participation is the main pillar of democracy as its objective is for citizens to successfully participate in the public decision-making process. Legislators are a direct reflection of this participation as elected officials, and they play a crucial role as representatives of the citizenry ensuring that mechanisms exist that allow the community to participate in decision-making, oversight, and evaluations of legislation and public policy as well as the legislative process.



ETHICS AND PROBITY

Ethics and probity are essential values for parliaments. Incorporating them into our daily work instils legitimacy, credibility, and confidence in the parliament as well as legislators, for whom it is not sufficient to solely obey the law. Ethics and probity guide the parliamentary process towards the common good, strengthening democracy.

Developing the *Road Map towards Legislative Openness*

DATE

March 17

LOCATION

Buenos Aires, Argentina

PARTICIPANTS

7 parliamentarians
and 5 civil society
representatives from
10 countries

In this working session organized in collaboration with the LALT Network, parliamentarians and civil society organizations discussed the four OPN pillars: transparency and access to information, accountability, citizen participation, and ethics, to identify key commitments that parliamentarians can adopt to translate these principles into concrete actions within legislatures.

Delegates considered the proper implementation of freedom of information acts through enforcement agencies, and open data policies as crucial aspects to ensure access to information for all citizens. Similarly, they discussed the need to foster participatory accountability processes to provide a voice for citizens in holding parliaments and governments accountable, as well as mechanisms to include citizens in legislative decision-making processes. Finally, participants agreed on the importance of promoting ethical behavior through codes of conducts, disclosure of assets and interests, and lobbying regulations. The discussion was summarized in a draft document that was further debated during the 1st Gathering of the OPN and became the *Road Map towards Legislative Openness*.

Parliamentarians Speak Out on Gender Equality and Legislative Openness

ParlAmericas maintains spaces to support online dialogue and sharing of experiences between parliamentarians on regional topics addressed by the Group of Women Parliamentarians and the Open Parliament Network.

Mapping Gender Based Political Harassment: Parliamentarians Speak Out is an awareness-raising initiative that combines video testimonials by parliamentarians and civil society stakeholders to illustrate the continued prevalence of gender-based violence and political harassment and the shared objective of political actors that are mobilizing towards its eradication.

Why Parliamentarians Support an Open Parliament features testimonials by parliamentarians explaining why it is important to pursue measures for enhanced transparency, accountability, citizen participation, and probity and ethics in legislative work. It also highlights the geographic scope of parliamentarians contributing to the legislative openness agenda in the hemisphere.

ParlAmericas will continue building these spaces to foster exchanges of perspectives and online communities of practice in support of gender equality and legislative openness.





8TH GATHERING OF THE GROUP OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

#GoWP2016EC

THEME

Diversifying Political Power to Build Inclusive Societies

DATE

June 2-3, 2016

LOCATION

Quito, Ecuador

PARTICIPANTS

More than 100 parliamentarians and civil society representatives from 27 countries and 2 territories

This year's Gathering of the Group of Women Parliamentarians was hosted by the National Assembly of Ecuador and addressed topics of relevance to a shared regional objective of promoting diversity of political power and in decision-making spaces.

Welcoming remarks by Member of the National Assembly **Gina Godoy** (Ecuador), President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians; Senator **Marcela Guerra** (Mexico), President of ParlAmericas; and **Gabriela Rivadeneira**, President of the National Assembly (Ecuador), were followed by a keynote address from **Otilia Lux de Cotí** (Guatemala), a former parliamentarian and Latin America representative at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

A combination of roundtable and panel discussions allowed for exchanges on the linkages between labour rights, Indigenous women's

The **GROUP OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS** is a permanent working group of ParlAmericas. Since 2003, it has promoted women's political leadership and the incorporation of a gender lens in legislative deliberations and institutional practices of member parliaments. Through its activities, the group facilitates exchanges of knowledge from a gender equality perspective and strengthens the political capacities of women and men parliamentarians committed to advancing women's empowerment.

Executive Committee of the Group of Women Parliamentarians (as of December 2016; 13th Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas):

GINA GODOY, President. Member of the National Assembly, Ecuador

MOBINA JAFFER, Vice-President. Senator, Canada

CLAUDIA NOGUEIRA, Vice-President. Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Chile



Member of the Chamber of Deputies
JOSÉ LUIS RICCARDO (Argentina)

“The asymmetrical power relationships between men and women are evident. Breaking down these prejudices requires that men participate, for example, in the design of educational reforms that address gender equality and new ways for men and women to relate to one another.”

leadership and women’s economic empowerment, with an emphasis on institutional practices to overcome patterns of representational exclusion. Another issue of focus was the importance of men’s participation in efforts to promote gender equality. A separate publication about the gathering includes descriptions of these discussions and resources of interest.

The gathering also provided an opportunity for delegates to engage with community leaders from across Ecuador, and report back on initiatives in their parliaments related to the *Action Plan on Preventing Political Harassment and Violence against Women*. The delegates adopted a declaration to strengthen political leadership for gender equality in connection

to the issues discussed at the gathering. It includes commitments to:

- Propose and advance legislative reforms that facilitate substantial and effective participation of Indigenous women in decision-making processes
- Defend women’s labour rights through legislation that addresses the gaps, challenges and disparities that women face in the workplace
- Place emphasis on involving men in work related to women’s rights and gender equality including the elimination of gender-based violence

“Indigenous women are victims of triple discrimination: being women, being Indigenous, and being poor. We need to take ethnicity into account in decision-making; we must design legislation in which all communities, nationalities, and ethnicities are included.”



Member of the National Assembly
ESTHELA ACERO
(Ecuador)

“The struggle for women’s rights is the struggle of our communities, a struggle for affirmation and a deepening of our democracies in the face of everything that tries to cut them short, condition them, or subject them to particular interests.”

Member of the National Assembly
GABRIELA RIVADENEIRA (Ecuador),
President of the National Assembly





ANDREA MOSQUERA,
Afro-Ecuadorian activist

“These kinds of parliamentary gatherings allow us to put ourselves on the legislative agenda and work collaboratively on a number of concerns and initiatives. In particular, the need for education on gender-sensitive approaches and the opportunity to share the history of Indigenous and Afro communities in Ecuador.”

“It is no secret that women, especially those from less privileged sectors of society, have to juggle a number of roles: as economic actors, heads of households, and mothers. The lack of legal regulations puts many women in a vulnerable situation, silencing their voices and actions.”



Member of Parliament
Hon. **AYANNA WEBSTER-ROY**
(Trinidad and Tobago), Minister of State for Gender and Child Affairs

“Indigenous women’s leadership in Honduras has been seriously affected by repression and violence. In addition, living conditions, particularly in rural areas where scarcely 22.5% of women have access to formal employment, make it difficult to consolidate sustainable [development] processes aimed at strengthening women’s leadership.”



Member of Congress
SCHERLY ARRIAGA
(Honduras)

Gender Equality, Intersectionality and the Influence of Gender Bias in Governance

DATE

June 1

LOCATION

Quito, Ecuador

PARTICIPANTS

10 parliamentarians from 8 countries and 1 territory

This sub-regional training session was conducted with the UN Women Multi-Country Office — Caribbean and focused on practices to apply an intersectional lens when assessing legislation and representing citizen interests. **Intersectionality** recognizes that social identities have multiple dimensions, and are affected by overlapping systems of inequality. Representing the needs of citizens requires consideration of power imbalances that are rooted in gender, age, sexuality, ethnicity, religion and other overlapping social identities.

Delegates considered challenges for sustainable development in the Caribbean region and how these interact with negative gender stereotypes and other forms of discrimination. This was followed by a discussion on the importance of disaggregating data by sex and other factors, on how to balance debt restructuring with social investments that are gender sensitive, and on the experience of different parliaments with gender-sensitive budgeting. An *aide memoire* with guiding questions to promote equity-focused legislation was applied throughout the training session and is available online.



The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) defines **CLIMATE CHANGE** as “a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere.”

1ST GATHERING OF THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE

#StopCC16

THEME

Parliamentary Action to Stop Climate Change

DATE

August 4-5, 2016

LOCATION

Panama City, Panama

PARTICIPANTS

More than 60 parliamentarians and civil society representatives from 17 countries and 1 territory

The 1st Gathering of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change was co-organized with Parlantino. This followed on momentum from the adoption of the Paris Agreement at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21) and prioritization of environmental issues at the 2015 ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly.

The gathering was opened with remarks by Member of the National Assembly **Javier Ortega** (Panama), Member of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas; Member of the National Assembly **Elías Castillo** (Panama), Secretary General of Parlantino; and Senator **Marcela Guerra** (Mexico), President of ParlAmericas; and a keynote address by Minister for the Environment Hon. **Mirei Endara** (Panama).

Delegates then proceeded to share their experiences on effective strategies to mitigate and

adapt to climate change through a series of panels and discussions. The first session on legislative practices was moderated by legal expert **Harley James Mitchell Morán** and featured panelists **Mara Murillo**, Regional Deputy Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Juan Carlos Villalonga** (Argentina); and Parliamentary Representative Hon. **Gale Rigobert**, Minister for Education, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development (Saint Lucia). Panelists discussed the role of parliaments and parliamentarians in implementing the commitments adopted in the Paris Agreement, as well as current progress on framework laws to address and mitigate climate change in the hemisphere.

The second session of the gathering integrated perspectives from legislators who have successfully engaged citizens and civil society organizations

in legislative decision-making related to climate change mitigation, with an emphasis on women, Indigenous peoples, and other groups that are most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. **Sandra Lombardo**, Program Specialist at the UN Women Regional Office for the Americas and Caribbean, moderated the session, which featured presentations from Senator **Plácida Espinoza Mamani** (Bolivia); Representative **Carlos Guevara Villabón** (Colombia); and Member of the National Assembly **Carlos Viteri Gualinga** (Ecuador), who presented on initiatives within their respective legislatures.

The third session on policy frameworks to enable and support scientific innovation in addressing climate change was moderated by environmental engineering expert **Carlos Vargas Lombardo**, and

featured panelists **Monica Araya**, Founder of Nivelá and Costa Rica Limpia; **Amin Asadollahi**, Lead for climate change mitigation in North America at the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD); and Senator **Arnaldo Giuzzio** (Paraguay). Delegates highlighted advances towards clean energy and transportation in Costa Rica and efforts to move away from a carbon-based extractive economy to a sustainable green economy at the sub-regional level in Canada and the United States, and discussed the framework law to protect forests developed and approved by Parlatino's Commission on Environment and Tourism.

The gathering closed with the adoption of a declaration to coordinate legislative action around climate change, which includes commitments to:

- Establish a parliamentary network on climate change to support legislative work and sharing of good practices to mitigate the environmental, social and economic effects of climate change
- Strengthen framework legislation on climate change and support state-level preparations to achieve commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Consider gender implications and encourage citizen involvement in the development and the monitoring of legislation to mitigate and adapt to climate change

“The strategies and mechanisms employed for climate change should consider the participation of municipalities, communities, peoples and nations, as well as geographical differences.”



Member of the National Assembly **CARLOS VITERI GUALINGA** (Ecuador)

“The Latin American region contributes 9.9% of the world's total greenhouse gases emissions, therefore we can say that we may not be the largest contributors to climate change but we certainly are among those most vulnerable to it.”

“In order to generate awareness of the problems generated as a result of climate change, we should link them to the daily lives of citizens.”

MARA MURILLO, Regional Deputy Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)



Minister for the Environment Hon. **MIREI ENDARA** (Panama)



“The contamination of a country affects other countries since we share the same sky and same land, especially those countries that didn't develop economically to protect the environment.”

Senator **PLÁCIDA ESPINOZA MAMANI** (Bolivia)



The **PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE** is a joint initiative of ParlAmericas and Parl Latino to advance parliamentary actions on climate change in the hemisphere. It promotes legislative efforts in support of achieving *intended nationally determined contributions* to which countries have committed under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). At the 2016 Plenary Assembly, a Permanent Working Group for the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change was incorporated to the governance structure of ParlAmericas to be led within the organization under the presidency of Member of the National Assembly Javier Ortega (Panama).



As elected representatives, parliamentarians have an important role in raising awareness and engaging citizens in decision-making on climate change. During the 1st Annual Gathering of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change, ParlAmericas launched a **social media campaign** that showcases different legislative initiatives that can be taken by parliamentarians to advance this agenda. The campaign was introduced by Deputy Minister of Sports in School and University Hon. **Marcos Díaz** (Dominican Republic). Pictures from the social media campaign, which was repeated at several ParlAmericas activities, are also featured in a separate publication.



“Climate change is a reality that the United Nations has reported as an urgent matter. The statistics show that the consequences could be devastating, even worse for developing countries. We need to reach out to people through campaigns that allow citizens to both take individual actions and request decision-makers to take the necessary actions.”



Deputy Minister of Sports in School and University, Hon. **MARCOS DÍAZ** (Dominican Republic)



TEMPORARY SPECIAL MEASURES

accelerate the equal participation of women in political and other spheres. These measures could include electoral gender quotas (in the form of reserved seats or candidate nomination quotas), capacity building programs and campaign financing support.

GENDER EQUALITY IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS: THE EXPERIENCE OF WOMEN CANDIDATES

#EleccionesMujeres

DATE

September 12-13, 2016

LOCATION

Antigua, Guatemala

PARTICIPANTS

21 parliamentarians, former parliamentarians and emerging political leaders from 8 countries

In this inter-parliamentary meeting, participants were joined by representatives from the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) and the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS), in addition to other regional experts, to address common challenges encountered by women candidates in Central America during each phase of an electoral process, with an emphasis on temporary special measures that could be enshrined in legislation or voluntarily applied by political parties to promote women's candidacies. This meeting was generously hosted in the training centre of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID).

The meeting was opened by remarks from Senator **Marcela Guerra** (Mexico), President of ParlAmericas; Member of the National Assembly

Gina Godoy (Ecuador), President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of ParlAmericas; **Milagro Martínez**, OAS representative in Guatemala; and **Susana Asensio**, Mayor of Antigua. Following the inauguration, **Brenda Santamaría**, Chief of Section for Electoral Observation at DECO, presented the objectives and methodologies of electoral observation missions, underlying how their recommendations could be used to inform legislative work that improves conditions for women candidates.

The working session benefited from knowledge shared by parliamentarians who serve on committees specializing in gender equality and electoral reform. They were joined by emerging political leaders who integrated the perspective of future candidates and by former parliamentarians with experience in championing legislation and political party practices to reduce electoral barriers

for women. The latter included **Guadalupe Valdez** (Dominican Republic) who guided participants through facilitated discussions with subject matter experts, unpacking relevant topics throughout the pre-electoral, nomination, campaign, election day and post-electoral phases. The participants identified ways in which regulatory frameworks shape the electoral journey of women candidates in Central America, and they analyzed how different phases of the electoral cycle are impacted by gender discrimination, inequities in resource allocation and political violence. Participants discussed the potential of electoral reforms to remedy these structural obstacles, in addition to other legal or voluntary responses designed to promote women's participation in elections.

“I would like to highlight the value of the small group experience. By being in a group of just Central American legislators, it seems to me that we have had the opportunity to discuss the issues more in-depth. We were able to talk more, get to know each other better, and advance much more on the agenda.”



Member of the Legislative Assembly
EMILIA MOLINA
(Costa Rica)

“It is necessary to have strategies for the issues that present barriers in this process of achieving our objective: greater participation of women in decision-making spaces.”



BALBINA HERRERA
(Panama), Former parliamentarian

“When advancing electoral reform proposals, knowing about other countries' experiences allows for understanding of the obstacles that can arise and means that reforms can be more sustainable and complete.”



MITZY ARIAS
(El Salvador), Emerging leader and Councilperson

ENCUENTRO REGIONAL
“El Camino Electoral de las Candidatas”
ENCUENTRO PARLAMENTARIO AMÉRICA CENTRAL

LA FASE PREELECTORAL





The study visit coincided with the Global Legislative Openness Week (GLOW) and functioned as a flagship regional event to promote that initiative. Participants of the study visit contributed testimonials on tools and practices to engage citizens in legislative work, which were featured on the [GLOW website](#).

You Tube These testimonials can also be accessed on the [ParlAmericas YouTube playlist](#).

PRACTICES FOR LEGISLATIVE TRANSPARENCY, ETHICS AND PROBITY

#VisitaOPN

DATE

September 13-14, 2016

LOCATION

Valparaiso and Santiago, Chile

PARTICIPANTS

15 parliamentarians from 6 countries

This study visit focused on legislative practices for transparency, ethics and accountability in the Congress of Chile, which co-anchors the Legislative Openness Working Group (LOWG) of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) through its Bicameral Group for Transparency. The study visit provided delegates with an opportunity to directly observe and learn about legislation and tools used by parliamentarians, parliamentary committees, parliamentary staff and civil society groups to promote legislative openness in the Congress of Chile.

The co-chairs of the Bicameral Group for Transparency of the Congress of Chile, Senator **Hernán Larraín**, President of the Open Parliament Network of ParlAmericas, and Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Patricio Vallespín**, opened the study visit with a presentation on the processes, objectives and achievements of that body, and how these

correspond to the *Road Map towards Legislative Openness* of the Open Parliament Network. This was followed by a session about tools to improve standards for ethics and probity in legislative work. The delegation received briefings on this topic from **José Luis Alliende**, Deputy Secretary and Treasurer of the Senate of Chile, and Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Germán Vergudo** (Chile) and Secretary General of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile **Miguel Landeros** on behalf of the Ethics and Transparency Committee of the Chamber. Delegates then reviewed and applied codes of ethics from their parliaments to case studies, which informed a discussion on how these could be modified to strengthen public confidence in parliamentary work.

The second day of the study visit featured presentations by senior staff from the National Library of the Congress of Chile on tools to promote

transparency and accountability in parliamentary work. These included *Senador virtual* (Virtual Senator) an online voting system used by the Senate of Chile to directly consult citizens on legislative proposals and provide updates on the progress of related bills; and *Visualización del presupuesto de Instituciones del Estado* (Visualizing the National Budget), an interactive online tool that enables citizens to understand how the national budget is distributed among different state agencies and over different periods. Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Pablo Lorenzini** (Chile) also joined the delegation to present on the *Departamento de evaluación de la ley* (Law Evaluation Department), an office that aims to examine the impact of legislation after it is enacted.

These discussions also integrated perspectives from civil society representatives who briefed delegates on methodologies applied in Chile for citizen monitoring of parliamentary activities. Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Cristián Monckeberg** (Chile) moderated a session on these topics that featured **María Jaraquemada**, Director of Advocacy at *Espacio Público*; **Octavio Del Favero**, Legislative Coordinator at *Ciudadano Inteligente*; and **Jeannette von Wolffersdorff**, Executive Director at *Fundación Contexto Ciudadano*.



Member of the Legislative Assembly
KARLA PRENDAS (Costa Rica)

“The Road Map towards Legislative Openness of ParLAmericas has been a very valuable instrument to develop commitments and to strengthen the second action plan we have implemented in Costa Rica ... The most important thing for Costa Rica at this moment is to create a policy that supports a long term vision of an open parliament for the country, promoting a national open culture with institutional support, and internationally recognized results.”

“The Virtual Legislative Forums are a mechanism for citizen participation implemented by Congress. It’s a process by which information from both individuals and institutions enrich the bills presented in Congress ... Citizens’ opinions are very valuable for legislators; they provide significant input to elaborate and enrich the decisions on proposed bills.”

Member of Congress **JUAN CARLOS GONZÁLES ARDILES** (Peru)



“Transparency and modernization go hand in hand. As citizens demand more transparency, it is necessary for the state to have better processes of modernization ... In Congress, we have an initiative to livestream all commissions and plenary debates. In addition, these debates are recorded and easy to watch later on, so that citizens can analyze them and the bills that most interest them.”



Senator **ANDRÉS GARCÍA ZUCCARDI** (Colombia)

“[We have a team] made up of data scientists, experts in business intelligence, and former civil servants who worked in the Comptroller’s Office, to have know-how about the internal workings of the state. We then mix this with our desire, as civil society, to make public spending more understandable for citizens ... and to promote a way of demonstrating public spending through new technologies and in collaboration with public services.”



JEANNETTE VON WOLFFERSDORFF, Executive Director at *Fundación Contexto Ciudadano*



MULTI-PARTY CAUCUSES FOR GENDER EQUALITY

#GenderCaucus

DATE

October 20-21, 2016

LOCATION

Ottawa, Canada

PARTICIPANTS

18 parliamentarians, former parliamentarians and parliamentary clerks from 6 countries

This study visit was hosted by the Parliament of Canada and addressed the process of establishing sustainable and effective multi-partisan gender caucuses. These could take a variety of forms but have an overarching objective of bringing parliamentarians together to advance gender equality. These groups can ensure that gender equality issues are mainstreamed in parliamentary processes and legislative agendas, promote women's political representation, provide training to their members, and support research and analysis, among other roles.

This study visit provided a space for parliamentarians of governing and opposition parties and for parliamentary clerks who are leading efforts to establish or strengthen gender caucuses to analyze common and context-specific constraints and develop strategies to overcome them. The co-chairs of the All-Party Women's Caucus in the Parliament

Delegates participating in the study visit identified four key considerations for establishing a cross-party gender caucus that is well-suited to the national context:

1. Strategic timing — Is it the right time to establish a caucus? Is there interest from citizens in gender equality topics or an upcoming event that could create momentum for the initiative? Could something like upcoming elections pose challenges?
2. Resources — What financial resources and political will can the caucus access for support? Can partnerships be established in parliament or with civil society to supplement anticipated shortfalls?
3. Formality of the group — What is the caucus being set up to accomplish? What kind of structure will facilitate the achievement of these objectives? A more informal structure could be sufficient to build solidarity among women parliamentarians, whereas a more defined relationship to the parliament might be necessary to contribute to policy development.
4. Leadership and membership — Who will form the caucus' membership? Will men, the Speaker or President of Parliament, and/or former parliamentarians be involved? How will it be run? These questions can be informed by the caucus' objectives and structure.

of Canada **Anita Vandenberg, Marilyn Gladu, Sheila Malcolmson** and **Monique Pauzé**, as well as **Alisha Todd**, Director General of ParlAmericas, welcomed delegates assembled from Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Grenada, Guyana and Jamaica.

The UN Women Multi-Country Office — Caribbean contributed to the meeting with the participation of subject-expert **Sonia Palmieri** who led workshop sessions on processes to build momentum for shared goals and work strategically through gender caucuses in different institutional contexts.

Delegates considered different models for the structure, leadership, membership and decision-making processes of gender caucuses by analyzing draft standing rules and approaches to foster collaboration across political parties. These discussions incorporated perspectives from civil society through the participation

of **Catherine Fortin LeFavre**, representing Equal Voice, a multi-partisan organization working to elect more women in Canada; **Clare Beckton**, Executive Director of the Carleton University Centre for Women in Politics and Public Leadership; and **Nana Oye Hesse-Bayne**, representing the Caribbean Institute for Women in Leadership (CIWiL), who highlighted the importance of alliances inside and outside of parliament. Delegates also considered good practices for agenda-setting and strategic planning for collective work in areas of capacity building, advocacy, and research and analysis. They furthermore discussed how to guarantee the sustainability of gender caucuses by setting targets and adopting practices to monitor and evaluate impacts. The study visit concluded with a roundtable discussion in which delegations presented planned follow-up actions to form or strengthen gender caucuses in their parliaments.

EQUAL VOICE is a multi-partisan and non-profit organization in Canada that seeks to help elect more women to all levels of political office in the country. In a presentation at the study visit, they shared different ways in which civil society organizations can support gender caucuses, including:

- Joining forces to apply public pressure on shared goals
- Creating solidarity around a specific topic
- Helping disseminate information through their networks and channels (e.g., social media accounts, youth networks, and broad membership — where these exist)
- Serving as an informal advisory group to gauge support for ideas and positions

“I’ve made a lot of connections with women that I may not have thought I could [make] because of party lines, and then you realize it’s really not about that. You can achieve so much by working together.”

 **CATHERINE FORTIN LEFAIVRE**, Representative for Equal Voice

“This is a valuable opportunity with female parliamentarians across our continent to share challenges and successes we’ve experienced, and foster a broader support network outside of our parliament.”



Member of Parliament
SHEILA MALCOLMSON
(Canada)

“The meeting provided comprehensive training in creating a multi-party gender caucus, covering every stage of the process. Supportive networks were built and participants departed with a sense of possibility and the knowledge and skills needed for success in establishing a vibrant and sustainable gender caucus.”

“We are ready as the change agents and we want to make sure that this gets off the ground.”

Senator **SHAWN NICHOLAS**
(Antigua and Barbuda)



“What I’ve found from our conversations in this room is that our similarities across the region outweigh any differences we may have, and we can troubleshoot with one another.”



Senator **ROBYN LYNES**
(The Bahamas)



TRACY COHEN,
Parliamentary Liaison Officer
for the Houses of Parliament of Jamaica



ELECTION OBSERVATION is a systematic process of independent information-gathering and analysis. It uses benchmarks drawn from the national laws and regional commitments of the country in which the election is observed. This informs recommendations to address inconsistencies or gaps in legislation that can be used by parliamentarians to support and pursue amendments to improve conditions for equal participation and competition in elections.

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FOR THE 2016 US GENERAL ELECTION

DATE
November 6-9, 2016

LOCATION
Washington DC,
United States

PARTICIPANTS
11 parliamentarians
from 9 countries

ParlAmericas has a track record in supporting parliamentary efforts to enhance transparency and gender mainstreaming, which has guided its engagement on topics of election observation. At the request of the ParlAmericas Board of Directors, and with the cooperation of the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) of the Organization of American States (OAS), a parliamentary delegation visit was coordinated to Washington DC for briefings about election observation that coincided with the 2016 United States General Election, and its observation by international missions deployed through the DECO-OAS, and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in cooperation with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

The parliamentary delegation visit began with

an orientation provided by the DECO-OAS to situate the election in the context of the national laws and regional commitments of the United States. The Inter-American Democratic Charter was highlighted as a central framework from which DECO-OAS missions draw consistent standards to observe and assess elections held across the hemisphere. The delegation was also briefed by the former President of Costa Rica, **Laura Chinchilla**, in her role as Head of Mission for the DECO-OAS Election Observation Mission for the United States Election and by **Francisco Guerrero**, OAS Secretary for Strengthening Democracy, who presented pre-electoral findings on issues of political financing, voter registration, and the use of technology in the electoral process.

Following these discussions on international election observation standards and methodologies, the delegation received a briefing by **Scott Hubli**,

Article 3 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter commits Member States of the OAS to inclusive, transparent and competitive elections and is an important source of shared standards for how elections are observed and assessed across the Americas and the Caribbean.

Director of Governance Programs; **Julia Brothers**, Program Manager for Elections and Political Processes; **Matt Dippell**, Deputy Director for Latin America and the Caribbean; **Caroline Hubbard**, Senior Advisor for Gender, Women and Democracy; and **Claire DeSoi**, Senior Program Assistant for Gender, Women and Democracy, at the National Democratic Institute (NDI). This briefing focused on the role of non-partisan observation of elections by citizen groups. This practice was described to have a positive impact on the transparency of elections when conducted through a systematic methodology that ensures objectivity and non-partisanship. The delegates then had an opportunity to share perspectives with their countries' respective OAS ambassadors through a gathering hosted by Ambassador **Jennifer Loten**, Permanent Mission of Canada to the OAS.



On Election Day, the delegates attended a presentation by **William Sweeney**, President of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), and **Frank Fahrenkopf Jr.** and **Michael D. McCurry**, Chairpersons of the Commission on Presidential Debates, before joining IFES on visits to polling stations in Washington DC, Maryland and Virginia. The delegation then met with Ambassador **Audrey Glover**, Chief Observer of the OSCE-ODIHR Election Observation Mission, **Andreas Baker**, Chief of the Executive Office of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and **Ron Laufer**, Deputy Head of Mission for the OSCE Election Observation Mission. A key topic raised in this meeting focused on the importance of public confidence in electoral processes and how it can be affected by election observation. Participants also exchanged perspectives on effective methods for incorporating parliamentarians in election observation — drawing from the experience of the ParlAmericas 2015 Election Observation Mission to Haiti.

The delegation visit also incorporated perspectives from civil society through a roundtable discussion held with **Janet Hernández**, Senior Project Manager for Elections and Civic Engagement at the National Council of La Raza, which is the country's largest non-profit organization working to assist Hispanic Americans. In her presentation, she pointed to historic gains in electoral participation by Hispanic Americans and how these were supported by non-partisan campaigns to register voters and mobilize turnout.

An aide memoire about international standards for election observation was prepared to inform the delegation visit and is available online.

“The United States citizenry both carried out and participated in an important electoral process, even in the context of a strong and controversial campaign. The mission witnessed an electoral process during which citizens were able to express their differences through institutional mechanisms in a free and respectful manner.”



Former President **LAURA CHINCHILLA** (Costa Rica), Head of Mission for the DECO-OAS Election Observation Mission to the United States

“In my country we will initiate an electoral reform in March [2017] and this type of input helps us to reflect on what we can achieve and how we can achieve it. We can strengthen democracy from within parliament.”



Member of Congress
RICHARD ACUÑA (Peru)

“As we observed in the United States, their citizen trust is very important for the well-functioning of the electoral system, and very difficult to find in many Latin American countries.”



Senator **JOSÉ ANTONIO OLVERA** (Mexico), Member of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas



IN FOCUS: 13TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY

#PA13Mex

THEME

Strengthening Parliaments and Building Resilient Societies to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

DATE

December 6-7, 2016

LOCATION

Mexico City, Mexico

PARTICIPANTS

More than 50 parliamentarians from 25 countries

At the 13th Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas, parliamentarians from across the hemisphere engaged in dialogue about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) — and about their own role in the development and oversight of national policies to achieve associated development targets.

The Plenary Assembly was hosted by the Senate of Mexico and included a keynote address by Dr. Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), as well as a session in which parliamentary delegations reported on the progress of their parliaments in pursuing the achievement of the SDGs — with an emphasis on SDG 16 whose targets to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions (16.6), and ensure inclusive and representative decision-making (16.7) are directly linked to the work of parliaments.

The second day of the meeting featured presentations on indicators and existing mechanisms to monitor the SDGs. Elections were also held for several positions on the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas, and the Executive Committee of the Group of Women Parliamentarians.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Inauguration

The Plenary Assembly opened with welcoming remarks from Senator **Marcela Guerra** (Mexico), President of ParlAmericas; **Javier Bolaños**, President of the Chamber of Deputies (Mexico); **Pablo Escudero**, President of the Senate (Mexico); **Leo Heileman**, Regional Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); and Ambassador **Miguel Ruiz Cabañas** (Mexico), Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights at the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs.

“Our countries have committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We should all work towards them to achieve a more human, more inclusive, safer, and more prosperous world for future generations. I am grateful that this event highlights the importance of parliamentarians in achieving these goals, which place people at the centre of development.”



Senator **PABLO ESCUDERO** (Mexico), President of the Senate

“I am sure that this Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas will encourage very productive dialogue on the challenges facing democracy in our hemisphere ... and, concretely, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.”



Ambassador **MIGUEL RUIZ CABAÑAS** (Mexico), Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights at the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs

“The 2030 Agenda invites us to work transversely as it deals with inter-related goals. If we want to be successful, we must address them in their totality, fully understanding the links between them, and confront them in the same ways through comprehensive laws and policies that take into account and properly analyze the various elements in play.”



LEO HEILEMAN, Regional Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)



Senator **MARCELA GUERRA** (Mexico), President of ParlAmericas

“Since assuming the Presidency of ParlAmericas two years ago, I have insisted on the role that parliamentary diplomacy is called on to play in the world going forward. When events and measurements seem to indicate that the gap between governments and citizens is widening to worrisome levels, we parliamentarians — as representatives of the people — are the ideal actors to resolve these growing differences.”

“We must accept the challenge, recognizing our responsibility within the Sustainable Development Agenda. It clearly establishes the fundamental role that legislatures play in achieving these goals. For this reason, I call upon you to work together to develop a new development model that will allow us to build a world in which we can all live together more harmoniously with one another and with our surroundings.”

Member of the Chamber of Deputies **JAVIER BOLAÑOS** (Mexico), President of the Chamber of Deputies



Keynote Address

Dr. **Luis Almagro**, Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), delivered the keynote address which reflected on the importance of democracy, the fundamental role of parliaments in its safeguarding, and how this relates to the SDGs. In his presentation, Secretary General Almagro highlighted the region's progress in democratic governance in the context of peaceful transfers of executive power and turnover in legislative bodies, the strengthening of institutions, the emergence of new forms of citizen participation, and improvements to transparency in the exercise of public power, in addition to systems that guarantee periodic, free and fair elections.

“For the most part, the goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda require legislative cooperation and an updated and harmonized parliamentary response ... What is also required from [legislators] is the internalizing of standards agreed upon regionally in ministerial or sectoral meetings. These requirements imply the need to search for, promote, and actively participate in inter-parliamentary cooperation, to share and mutually benefit from information.”



Dr. **LUIS ALMAGRO**, Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS)

He also highlighted the work of the OAS through the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which was adopted in 2001 and enshrines rights to democracy, emphasizing the vital role of parliaments in their representative functions. From this perspective, he added that the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs require cooperation and legislative action to meet three essential commitments: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. He also underlined the adoption of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS), which will enable the OAS to align its institutional policy with the SDGs to support OAS Member States to achieve these goals.

Parliamentary Dialogue: Initial Efforts to Implement the SDGs in Parliaments

This dialogue session featured presentations by the permanent working groups of ParlAmericas: the Group of Women Parliamentarians, the Open Parliament Network, and the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change, as well as by delegations from each attending parliament on work being carried out around the SDGs, in order to showcase initial progress and achievements.

Reports were then presented by parliamentary delegations on legislation and policies to support the SDGs in their respective countries.

Delegates highlighted parliamentary initiatives to monitor the implementation of measures to achieve the SDGs through the establishment of multi-partisan SDG oversight committees or all-party groups, or the use of existing standing committees for this purpose. Delegates also mentioned newly adopted legislation, legislative

approval of budget allocations, various programs and government policies and long-term national plans to eradicate poverty, to promote clean and renewable energy, and to strengthen transparency, accountability, health services, economic growth and justice systems. The importance of citizen participation in consultation processes and decision-making around these initiatives was also highlighted.





Senator **MARCELA GUERRA** (Mexico), President of ParlAmericas, opened the dialogue session and underlined impacts achieved by each permanent working group of the organization over the past two years. Senator Guerra also highlighted the inclusiveness of the 2030 Agenda, which seeks to address the root causes of poverty through collective action to achieve positive change that benefits the people and the planet, and builds pathways towards peace, prosperity, security, international cooperation and the strengthening of institutions, parliaments and democratic values.



Member of the National Assembly **GINA GODOY** (Ecuador), President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of ParlAmericas, outlined how that group's meetings, trainings, working sessions and forums have aligned with SDGs 5 and 16 in strengthening gender equality in legislative work and raising awareness about the challenge and remedial strategies to address gender-based violence and discrimination. This work has applied an "intersectional" perspective that recognizes the multiple identities and social roles of citizens and promotes inclusiveness in how parliaments assess legislation and monitor its impacts.



Senator **HERNÁN LARRAÍN** (Chile), President of the Open Parliament Network (OPN) of ParlAmericas, via video, presented the *Road Map towards Legislative Openness* that was adopted at the 1st Gathering of the OPN. In actions to support transparency, accountability, citizen participation and ethics in parliamentary work, Senator Larraín described the *Road Map* as a framework that contributes to advancing SDG 16.



Member of the National Assembly **JAVIER ORTEGA** (Panama), President of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change — ParlAmericas (PNCC), highlighted the establishment of that joint-initiative with Parlatino at the 1st Gathering of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change. The PNCC serves as a hemispheric body to coordinate and promote exchanges of good legislative practices aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change by developing legal frameworks on this issue, and working in a coordinated manner with civil society, among other measures which are closely related to SDG 13.

Maximizing the Use of Technology to Improve Communication with Constituents

DATE

December 5, 2016

LOCATION

Mexico City, Mexico

PARTICIPANTS

21 parliamentarians from

13 countries

This sub-regional training session was conducted on the margins of the Plenary Assembly and focused on the use of technology to improve communication with constituents. Technological advances provide increasing opportunities for parliaments and parliamentarians to better connect with their constituents and enable their participation in legislative decision-making processes, which is a key objective of SDG 16 to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development ... and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.”

The training was facilitated by **Maurice McNaughton**, Director of the Open Caribbean Institute and the Center for Excellence at the Mona School of Business of the University of the West Indies. He was joined by **Sebastián de Lara Gomis**, Managing Partner of Navegación Política, in a session focused on best practices for the use of social

media networks by parliamentarians, and by Garreth Ferguson, Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) Director of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, in a session focused on the use of ICTs by parliaments as institutions. The training concluded with a simulation of an online hearing with civil society organizations using Facebook Live. This discussion was moderated by **Gibrán Mena**, Communications Coordinator of the School of Data at SocialTIC, and included interventions from Apathy is Boring (Canada), Citizens For a Better Bahamas (Bahamas), Open North (Canada), Transparency Institute Guyana, the Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute and Open Knowledge Argentina. A detailed report about this training session that outlines good practices in the development of parliamentary websites, and the use of web cast, video and social media tools, is available on the Open Parliament section of the ParlAmericas website.



Senator Hon. **CHESTER HUMPHREY**
(Grenada), President of the Senate

“I’m better equipped to apply online tools because I have a better understanding of the far reach of social media and the online platform services that are very important for parliaments.”

“This was a very instructive session and also very practical. After this training I will have more confidence to further my social media interactions.”



Senator **MOBINA JAFFER**
(Canada)

“As a result of my participation in the training session, I intend to help improve the use of social media in our parliament and to improve my own personal communication with my constituents.”

“My awareness of challenges faced by women parliamentarians increased and I encourage the point made by male parliamentarians to support and act as champions for our female counterparts.”



Member of the Legislative Assembly **RODRIGO ÁVILA** (El Salvador)



Senator **ANDRE WORRELL**
(Barbados)

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a landmark set of 17 goals adopted by the 193 member states of the United Nations to galvanize and measure actions to eradicate poverty, address climate change and achieve gender equality by 2030. This framework — also known as 2030 Agenda — builds on the Millennium Development Goals, but applies to both developing and developed countries. It is accompanied by 169 targets and corresponding qualitative and quantitative indicators to measure progress. ParlAmericas works with its member parliaments to support the SDGs through programming on shared hemispheric priorities currently focused on gender equality, open parliament and climate change. These are summarized below and also addressed through a [separate publication](#).



ParlAmericas and its Group of Women Parliamentarians contribute to SDG 5 (focused on empowering women and girls) through activities that promote women’s political leadership, gender mainstreaming in parliamentary practices, and the engagement of women and minority groups in legislative decision-making.



ParlAmericas and its Open Parliament Network contribute to SDG 16 (focused on effective, accountable and inclusive institutions) through its *Road Map for Legislative Openness* and corresponding activities that promote institutional practices for strengthened transparency, accountability, citizen participation and ethics in parliamentary work.



Through the establishment of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change, ParlAmericas is also contributing to SDG 13 (focused on combatting climate change). To achieve this objective, parliaments are also advocating for affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), sustainable life below water (SDG 14) and sustainable life on land (SDG 15).



“It was proposed that a legislative working group be formed that would start working on implementing the SDGs in our country ..., a proposal that was approved by the Board of Directors of the Mexican Senate.”



Senator **LAURA ROJAS**
(Mexico)

“Trinidad and Tobago has adopted a National Development Strategy (NDS) which ... lays the foundation and pathway for attaining developed country status by providing a broad socio-economic development framework towards the year 2030.”



Member of the House of Representatives Hon. **BRIGID ANNISETTE-GEORGE** (Trinidad and Tobago), Speaker of the House of Representatives and Member of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas

“By administrative resolution, the Executive [of the Chamber] appointed a group of legislators of the National Assembly to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals ... [The group will be responsible for] defining the priorities, organizing activities and properly directing the management and required resources to achieve these goals.”



Member of the National Assembly **MARTHA MARINA GONZÁLEZ** (Nicaragua), Member of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas

“A Vulnerability and Resilience Country Profile (VRCP) will be developed along with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) focusing on a strategic approach to climate resilient growth.”



Senator Hon. **ANDY DANIEL** (Saint Lucia), President of the Senate and Member of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas

“On SGD 16 in particular, which concerns the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies, the parliament has offered all of its support by granting authority to the Executive Power to create a National Authority on Transparency and Access to Public Information, which should become a fundamental pillar in the fight against corruption.”



Member of Congress **ANA MARÍA CHOQUEHUANCA** (Peru)

“Two parliamentary consultation meetings were held in parliament where members of the public were invited to give their opinions and views with respect to the bills in order to promote citizen participation. Their recommendations and concerns were taken on board and the bills have now been passed into law.”



Senator **MAUREEN PAYNE** (Antigua and Barbuda)

“Significant measures have been taken to reinforce [government] institutes, and our parliament has undertaken some specific actions to ensure the implementation of the SDGs in general We passed legislation to ensure that every citizen has access to health care ..., to include renewables in our energy mix and to improve ease of doing business in Suriname.”



Member of the National Assembly **SHRIE SAMIDIN** (Suriname)

“In Venezuela we have created a commission to modernize the National Assembly ... based on the established 2030 Agenda and guidelines defined by ParlAmericas.”



Member of the National Assembly **DELSA SOLÓRZANO** (Venezuela)

NOTE: The order of intervention was determined to begin with the host parliament and to proceed alphabetically.

“One thing that our country has done is approach the implementation of the SDGs from a national perspective by implementing the National Development Plan for 2040 ..., a joint initiative by the government and civil society.”



Senator **ROBYN LYNES**
(Bahamas)

“The legislative toolkit that we launched with the Inter-Parliamentary Union looks to [first] evaluate the suitability of our parliaments to be able to commit to achieving the SDGs and, second, [looks at] what mechanisms and strategies should be developed to meet these objectives.”



Senator **BLANCA ALCALÁ** (Mexico),
President of Parl Latino

“We are currently in the approval process on a parliamentary agreement ensuring that all the members of our parliament are actively and fundamentally engaged in what we call the parliamentary commitment to the SDGs. This is being carried out through the Parliamentary Observatory’s 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.”



Member of the Chamber of Deputies **MARGARITA STOLBIZER** (Argentina), Member of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas

“Canada considers the SDGs as an opportunity to take concrete steps to make Canada one of the greenest countries in the world and to improve the quality of life for its citizens.”



Member of Parliament Hon. **ROBERT D. NAULT** (Canada), Member of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas

“Our country is poised to design and implement policies on the reduction of the effects of climate change. A special office has been created to work in coordination with the presidency to address this topic.”



Senator **MACARIO COY**
(Belize)

“Most notable are the initiatives adopted on transparency, access to information, accountability, and participatory and inclusive representation, which are directed towards achieving SDG 16, which relates to building efficient and inclusive institutions that are accountable.”



Member of the Chamber of Deputies **CLAUDIA NOGUEIRA** (Chile), Vice-President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of ParlAmericas

“We have now approved the national budget for 2017. This budget is crosscutting, [as is] the topic of climate change. [It] takes [climate change] into account from basic services to value-added hydrocarbons.”



Member of the Chamber of Deputies **ROMINA PÉREZ**
(Bolivia)

“Five pillars will be presented in the Congress [in relation to the peace process]: comprehensive rural reform, ... political participation, ... promoting coexistence with equal conditions ..., transitional justice, ... and the relinquishment of arms and civil reinsertion ... All of this will be implemented through forums and assemblies throughout the country.”



Representative **GERMÁN BLANCO** (Colombia),
1st Vice-President of ParlAmericas
(outgoing)

“We have coordinated with the Executive, modified laws, issued decrees [and] made compromises. [This coordination] allowed for parliamentary leadership in the National Development Plan, focused on the following core pillars: open parliament, ... transparency, accountability and access to public information, ... citizen participation, ... participatory and inclusive representation, ... gender equality and equity.”

 Member of the Legislative Assembly **LIGIA FALLAS** (Costa Rica), Member of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas

“[We have encouraged] the prevention of corruption. To do this, we established what will be a commission on integrity in public life.”

 Senator Hon. **CHESTER HUMPHREY** (Grenada), President of the Senate

“We have established [a project for] a 2030 National Plan for Economic and Social Development. Its strategic components are related to the SDGs: human development, equity and social justice, natural resources and the environment, human potential, science and technology, effective and socialist government, productive transformation and international participation, and infrastructure.”

 Member of the National Assembly **GLADYS LÓPEZ BEJERANO** (Cuba), Member of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas

“[Several] law initiatives have been approved and are linked to the SDGs, among them the Sustainable Development Law, Decree 7 of the Framework Law on Climate Change and the ratification of the Paris Agreement.”

 Member of Congress **LUIS CONTRERAS** (Guatemala)

“There has been a conscious targeting of women for public office to ensure increased participation of women in the highest level of governance, power and decision-making. There has been a significant increase in the number of Dominican female parliamentarians: from 3 (out of 32) during our administration’s last term in office, to 7 during this term.”

 Representative **DENISE CHARLES** (Dominica)

“Vision 2030 Jamaica is a strategic road map to guide the country to achieve its goals of sustainable development and prosperity by 2030 and is in line with the inclusive development paradigm of the United Nations that integrates the standards and principles of human rights — participation, non-discrimination, and accountability.”

 Senator **SAPHIRE LONGMORE** (Jamaica), Member of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas

“In Ecuador we are experiencing a rapid and profound period of transformation referred to as the citizens’ revolution, which prioritizes humankind over capital as a principle. The constitution that was approved in 2008 guarantees rights and it is our guide in transforming Ecuador. It is the tool that will enable us to meet the SDGs.”

 Member of the National Assembly **OCTAVIO VILLACRESES** (Ecuador), Member of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas

“525 decrees have been approved for the benefit and development of the country, 33 of which are laws In the financial area, the Electronic Signature Law was passed, which strengthens public health through its effect on patients’ clinical files, whether in the public or private system.”

 Member of the Legislative Assembly **RODRIGO ÁVILA** (El Salvador)

Indicators and Mechanisms for Monitoring and Evaluation of the SDGs

MODERATOR

Senator **José Antonio Olvera** (Mexico), Member of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas

PANELISTS

Luis Fidel Yáñez, Officer in Charge of the Office of the Secretary at the Commission of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); **Livia Bizikova**, Director of Knowledge for Integrated Decisions at the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD); and **Javier González**, Director of Democratic Governance at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Mexico.

This session focused on SDGs and their respective indicators, the challenges associated with monitoring and evaluation of progress towards their achievement, and related contributions that could be made through parliaments.

Luis Fidel Yáñez outlined that the 17 SDGs have 169 goals and will be evaluated by 231 follow-up indicators, while noting that the latter are still in the process of being formulated for approval in March 2017. He also emphasized the participatory, transformative and evolutionary character of the 2030 Agenda, which was developed with the involvement of actors beyond national governments.

For her part, Livia Bizikova asserted that translating these indicators for use at the national level

is important for measuring and assessing progress, and that existing indicators can sometimes be helpful to assess the progress of the SDGs that do not yet have their own measurement mechanism. She also discussed the process for Voluntary National Reviews, which provides a valuable source of information on implementation and indicators.

Finally, Javier González underlined the five areas where parliaments can have a continuous and active role in monitoring the SDGs: through the establishment of special committees on SDGs; the development, assessment and adoption of legislation; oversight of progress through ordinary and special committees; fostering public awareness and debate; and approving the allocation of corresponding budgetary resources.

“The drafting of the 2030 Agenda was unique: there were years of consultations, and national research to envision a more precise agenda. This agenda also recognizes the involvement of multiple actors apart from national governments, and establishes pathways for its monitoring and evaluation.”

LUIS FIDEL YÁÑEZ, Officer in Charge of the Office of the Secretary of the Commission at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)



LIVIA BIZIKOVA, Director of Knowledge for Integrated Decisions at the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

“If we are really serious and we want to implement the SDGs, it is critical for us to use the correct indicators and implement them at the national level so that we can observe how our efforts progress in addressing social, economic, and environmental problems.”

“The participatory aspect of the building, design, and negotiation of the 2030 Agenda was very significant and we would not expect it to be any less significant in the implementation phase. Public and inclusive participation is fundamental and it is an aspect that legislatures can stimulate by including citizen input in national development plans, through the involvement of local actors, and by holding public hearings as part of the monitoring and evaluation activities.”



JAVIER GONZÁLEZ, Director of Democratic Governance at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Mexico

Roundtable on Inclusive, Participatory and Representative Practices for Decision-Making

A roundtable discussion was devoted to measures that can be taken to strengthen the capacity of parliaments for inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making, which are central to the achievement of SDG 16 and align to commitments defined in the ParlAmericas *Road Map towards Legislative Openness*. This session was facilitated by **Keila González**, Resident Director of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in Mexico, and brought attention to strategies to promote citizen participation and inclusion of underrepresented groups in legislative

decision-making. These include civic education programs, workshops held with civil society, legislative consultations and public hearings. Parliamentarians also explored opportunities provided by new information and communication technologies (ICTs) for communicating with citizens. Keila González emphasized that holding consultations with civil society and citizens raises expectations that feedback provided will be considered by parliament. It is therefore important that these consultative processes include a commitment to consider and incorporate received information in legislative activities.

Before closing the Plenary Assembly, Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Marcela González Salas** (Mexico) read the declaration of commitments adopted by the participating delegations, focused on the achievement and implementation of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

Election Results

Prior to the closing of the Plenary Assembly, the results of elections to several positions on the ParlAmericas Board of Directors and on the Executive Committee of the Group of Women Parliamentarians were announced. Senator **Marcela Guerra** (Mexico) was re-elected as President of ParlAmericas, and Member of Parliament Hon. **Robert D. Nault** (Canada) was elected as Vice-President. Several vacant sub-regional positions on the Board of Directors were also filled with the election of: the parliaments of Canada and Mexico for North America; the parliament of Nicaragua for Central America; the parliaments of Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago for the Caribbean; and the parliaments of Chile and Ecuador for South America. Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Claudia Nogueira** (Chile) was re-elected and Senator **Mobina Jaffer** (Canada) was elected to Vice-Presidencies in the Group of Women Parliamentarians. It was also announced that Colombia will be the host of the 2017 Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas. A complete list of parliamentarians and countries represented on the ParlAmericas Board of Directors can be consulted on page 9 of this report.



15th Anniversary of ParlAmericas

ParlAmericas celebrated its 15th anniversary with a photo campaign that recognized the work of the organization in strengthening democratic systems and processes across the Americas and the Caribbean.



“I am pleased to recognize the growth of ParlAmericas through its different platforms, including the Group of Women Parliamentarians, the Open Parliament Network and the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change. We encourage, then, the design of policies that our respective countries can implement to accompany the great input offered by our ParlAmericas forum I invite you to celebrate together the 15 years of ParlAmericas.”



Member of the Chamber of Deputies **MARGARITA STOLBIZER** (Argentina), Member of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas and Founding President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians

“As the immediate past president of this organization, I have witnessed firsthand the tremendous value of the interaction and sharing of experience that we promote through our work and the impact it has to strengthen the work of our parliaments ... That’s why, I stand here today confident that when we come together to celebrate ParlAmericas’ next 15 years, we will feel great pride in our legislative contribution to achieving the 2030 agenda.”



Member of Parliament **RANDY HOBACK** (Canada), Immediate Past President of ParlAmericas

OPERATIONS AND FINANCES

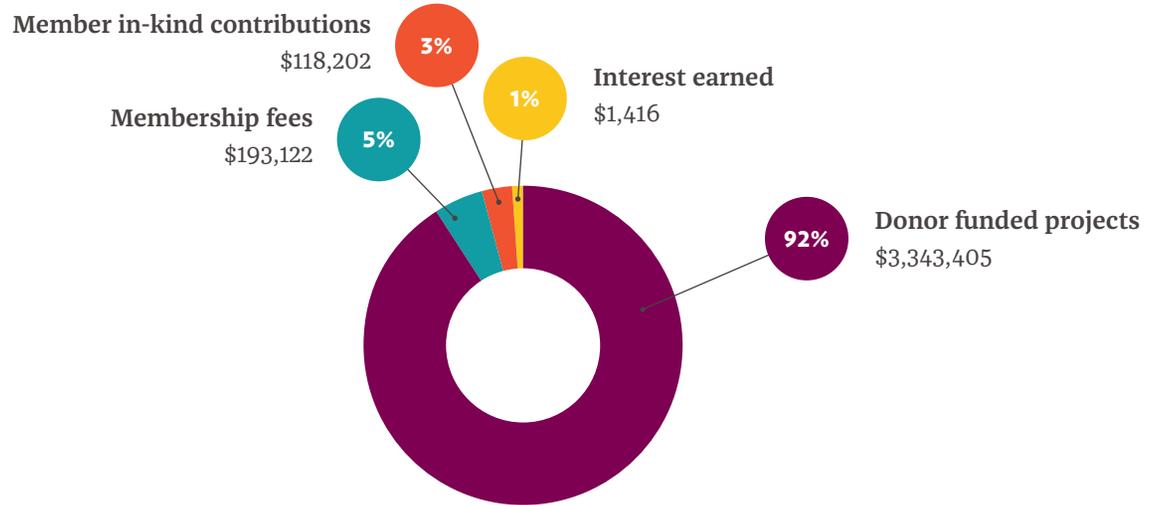
ParAmericas' operations and activities in the 2016 fiscal year were financed through the support of our member parliaments and through Global Affairs Canada (GAC).

NOTE: In-kind contributions are only calculated where fair values can be reasonably estimated or supporting documentation is provided by the member parliament. The amount shown is not an accurate representation of the overall value of in-kind support provided by member parliaments in the normal course of ParAmericas operations through the hosting of activities.

SOURCE: ParAmericas Annual Audited Financial Statements, September 2016

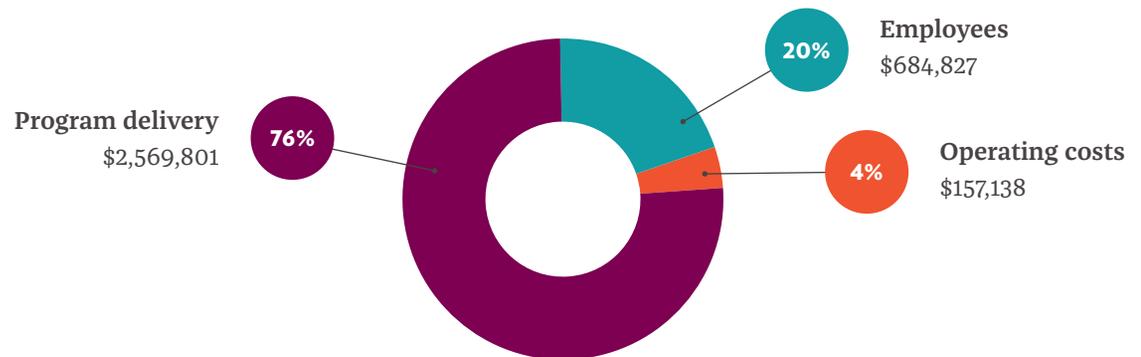
CONTRIBUTIONS

Total: \$3,656,145



EXPENDITURES

Total: \$3,411,766



*Canadian dollars

**Thank you for being part of ParlAmericas in 2016.
We look forward to building on these successes
with your continued support!**

THE PARLAMERICAS TEAM

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EILISH ELLIOTT

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ÁLVARO TERÁN

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