

YEAR IN HIGHLIGHTS

2017

In memory of the Honourable Tobias C. Enverga, Jr. (1955 - 2017), a valued contributor to the ParlAmericas community and a devoted voice for his constituents and for Canada.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Courtesy of host parliaments and partner organizations

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ABOUT PARLAMERICAS



*ParlAmericas is the institution 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***

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear colleagues,

ParlAmericas has been advancing resolutely, reaffirming its commitment to inter-parliamentary diplomacy and cooperation in the Americas and the Caribbean; fostering spaces for productive dialogue in search of concrete answers to common concerns; and recognizing the role we as legislators have in strengthening the democratic model.

In 2017 we have continued to position our platforms for action as hemispheric reference points on gender equality, open parliament, and climate change. Each of these pillars has been institutionalized in order to coordinate regional efforts on these agendas.

This year, we organized 18 activities with the support of our member parliaments in Argentina, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, Peru, and Trinidad and Tobago. Moreover, we provided legislators with new tools to enrich and strengthen their legislative work, including specialized interactive publications and podcasts of highlighted presentations from our conferences. In

addition, as an institution that promotes participation in the inter-American system and in multilateral forums of hemispheric relevance, ParlAmericas was represented in meetings organized by the Open Government Partnership, the Organization of American States, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and Parlatino, among others.

Within this context, we have established important and growing ties with various international bodies. In September, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recognized ParlAmericas as an official observer organization. In October, ParlAmericas and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction signed a Letter of Cooperation as a first step in a joint work plan to update and promote a parliamentary protocol that will serve as a guide for national parliaments in updating legislation related to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

In the pages that follow, we share the achievements we have made over

the past year, which have involved the active participation of more than 600 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, renowned experts, and civil society representatives.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to you my commitment and dedication to ParlAmericas, and invite you to continue working with the same vigour in 2018.

With my best wishes,

Marcela Guerra



MARCELA GUERRA

Senator, Mexico

President of ParlAmericas

 FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER @MARCELAGUERRANL

NATIONAL LEGISLATURES REPRESENTED ON OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee of the Board of Directors (as of November 2017; 14th ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly):

MARCELA GUERRA, President. Senator, Mexico

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

KARINA BANFI, 2nd Vice-President and President of the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality. Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Argentina

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 parliamentarians, with a Board of Directors composed of 19 legislators who are elected by their peers and represent 14 countries from North, South and Central America, and the Caribbean. In addition, the Board of Directors has ex-officio representation from the ParlAmericas International Secretariat and the OAS General Secretariat.



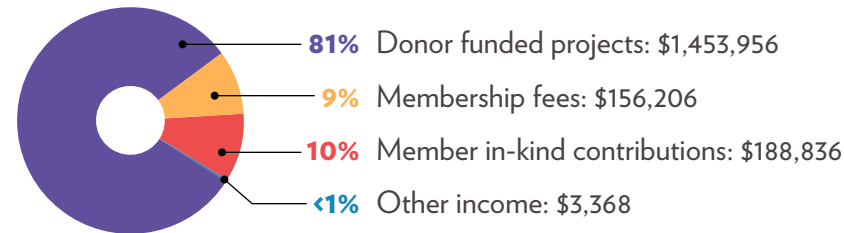
OPERATIONS AND FINANCES

ParlAmericas' operations and activities in the 2017 fiscal year were financed through the support of our member parliaments, our partners, and the generous contributions of the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada.

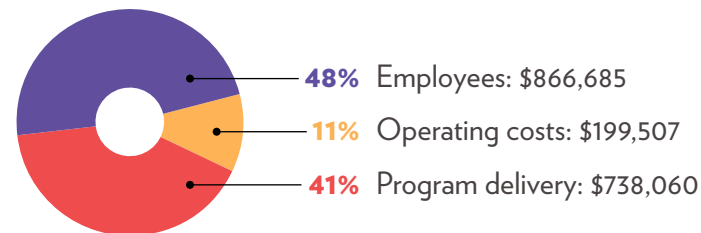
Note: The in-kind contributions included in ParlAmericas' financial statements are recorded when fair values can be reasonably estimated and supporting documentation is provided by the member parliament. We recognize that the amount shown is a fraction of the overall value of in-kind support provided by member parliaments and partners in the normal course of ParlAmericas' operations. ParlAmericas therefore also tracks and records an indicative value of the total contributions to ParlAmericas' programming. ParlAmericas wishes to acknowledge with sincere appreciation the invaluable support, expertise, time, and travel contributed by member parliaments, individual parliamentarians, and partners to ensure the successful implementation of ParlAmericas' programming throughout the year.

Source: The following information represents ParlAmericas' audited financial statements as of September 30, 2017, and the corresponding annual financial report presented at the ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly.

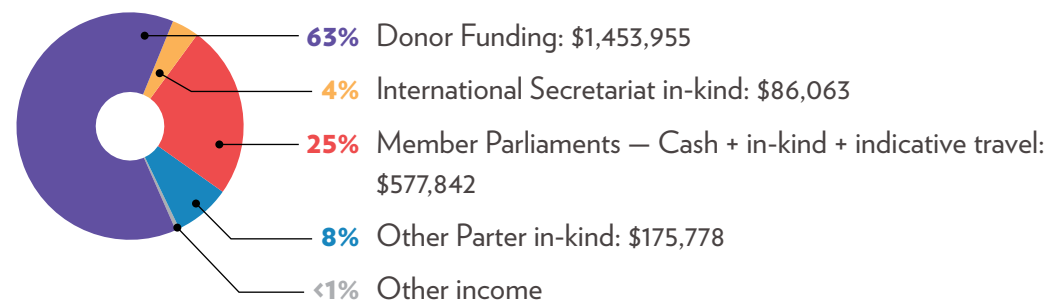
CONTRIBUTIONS | \$1,802,365



EXPENDITURES | \$1,804,252



INDICATIVE VALUE OF TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS | \$2,297,006



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 and the Caribbean.

ParlAmericas and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) signed a Letter of Cooperation as the first step in a joint work plan to update and promote a parliamentary protocol that will guide national parliaments in updating legislation related to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.



Global Affairs Canada
Affaires mondiales Canada

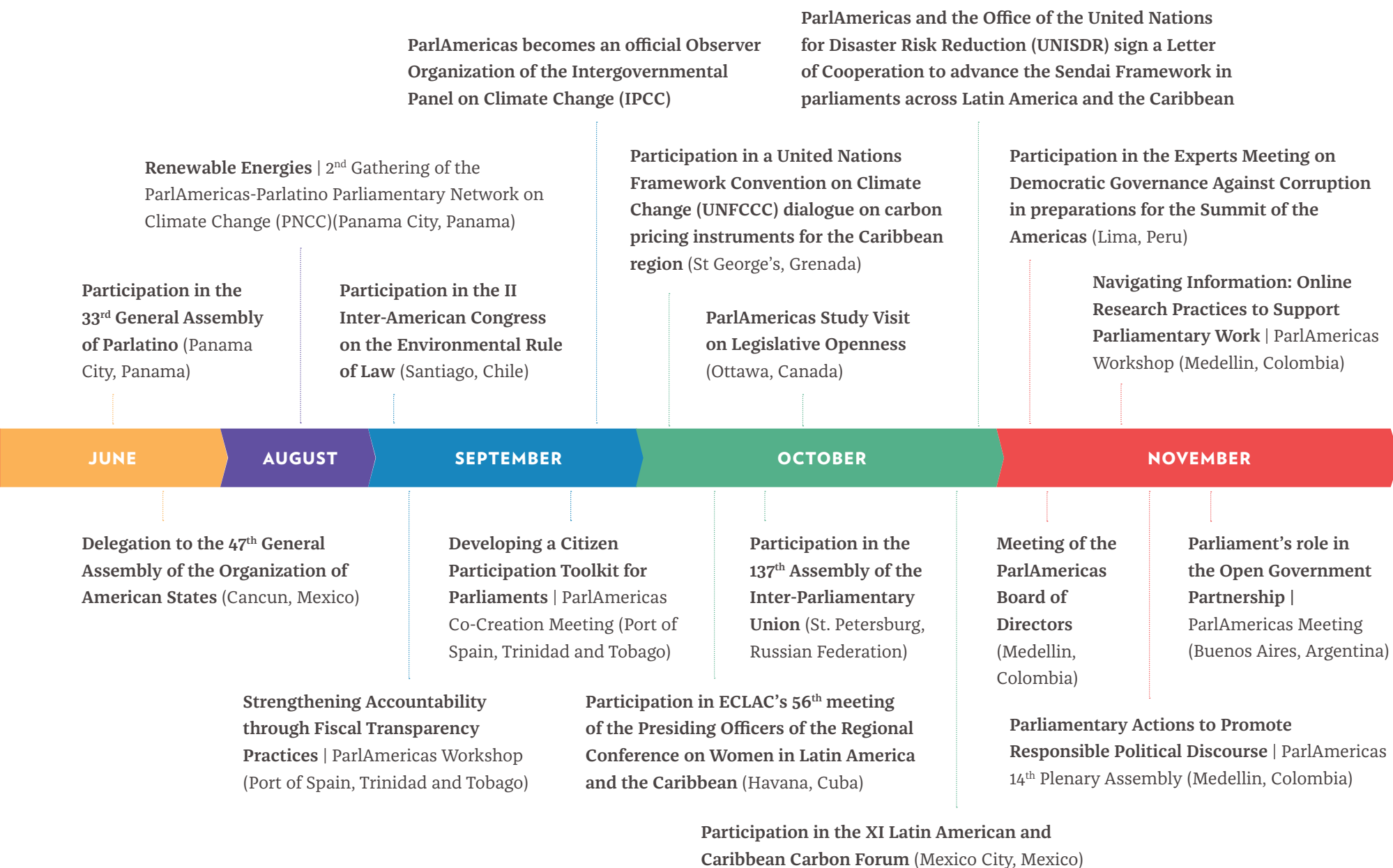




2017 AT A GLANCE

In order to reduce our ecological foot print, the Year in Highlights 2017 publication, activity reports and resource publications are available at www.parlamerica.org. For easy access through your mobile phone, we invite you to download a QR code reader application.





PARLAMERICAS IN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM



ParlAmericas 14th Plenary Assembly

THEME: Parliamentary Actions to Promote Responsible Political Discourse

LOCATION: Medellin, Colombia

DATES: November 16-17, 2017

PARTICIPANTS: More than 50 parliamentarians and civil society representatives from 21 countries



ParlAmericas Delegation at the General Assembly of the OAS

THEME: Strengthening Dialogue and Concerted Action for Prosperity

LOCATION: Cancun, Mexico

DATES: June 19-21, 2017

PARTICIPANTS: Delegation of 12 parliamentarians from 6 countries



Title: Election Observation: Aide Memoire for Parliamentarians

DESCRIPTION: This publication shares key information on election observation missions, how they are conducted, and the principles and norms that guide them, as well as how ParlAmericas contributes to and accompanies electoral processes.



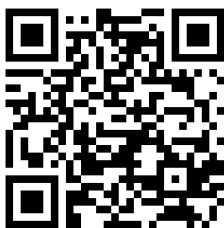
NEW COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS

This year ParlAmericas launched new online tools for parliamentarians to access specialized information and resources. These include:



ParlAmericas Podcast

A series of audio recordings that feature key panel discussions and sessions from ParlAmericas activities. These can be listened to directly online through the resources tab on our website at www.parlamericas.org. They can also be downloaded through applications like iTunes and Google Play, where you can subscribe to automatically receive new podcast episodes on your iPhone or Android device.



Toolkit on “Male Allies for Gender Equality”

Part of the ParlAmericas interactive learning portal for parliamentarians in the Anglophone Caribbean, developed with UN Women—Multi-country Office—Caribbean. This toolkit contains resources on the importance of men’s involvement in gender equality work and practical ways to take action as an ally in parliament and in everyday life. Available at www.parlagentools.org/male-allies-gender-equality.



For any general inquiries about accessing ParlAmericas’ resources and tools, please contact: communications@parlamericas.org



Member of
Parliament, Vice-
President of
ParlAmericas, **HON.
ROBERT NAULT**
(Canada)

“I am looking forward to working with the OAS to reinforce the important role of parliaments in governance and law-making throughout the hemisphere. The OAS provides a great forum to gain a better understanding of global issues like climate change and gender equality, while also emphasizing Canada’s focus on developing inclusive and open democratic societies.”

“Participating in these instances allows us to present the ways in which parliaments can play a role to support the resolution of difficulties between and within States.”



President of the Senate, Vice-
President of the Parliamentary
Network for Gender Equality
for the Caribbean, **CHESTER
HUMPHREY** (Grenada)

“First, to understand more precisely the dynamics of these Assemblies, to hear firsthand the positions of each country, and to identify possible legislative solutions to the problems Member States face to help to avoid fundamental themes like democracy, the division of power, and respect for human rights, among others, being setback in any of our countries.”

Member of the Chamber of Deputies,
TERESA LIZÁRRAGA (Mexico)



“The presence of parliamentarians legitimizes our role in regards to diplomatic decisions taken by the Executive, allowing us to do the necessary lobbying to position our parliamentary work.”



Representative, Host
of the 14th ParlAmericas
Plenary Assembly,
GERMÁN BLANCO
(Colombia)

“These meetings were important for promoting the values of inclusive, democratic governance; these values are shared by the legislative branch.”

Senator, ParlAmericas Board
Member, **JOSÉ OLVERA**
(Mexico)



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLAMERICAS PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK FOR GENDER EQUALITY



Dear colleagues,

In 2017 we undertook a series of activities dedicated to promoting women's political leadership and gender mainstreaming in our respective legislative agendas.

We held our 9th Gathering of the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality (PNGE), *Women's Empowerment: Social and Political Responses*, in Buenos Aires with these objectives in mind. The occasion convened more than 70 legislators, former legislators, and social movement activists who participated in productive working sessions on themes such as the opportunities and challenges facing social movements dedicated to gender equality and women's economic autonomy. For the PNGE, collaborative work with women's organizations and movements is of central importance, and we hope to continue strengthening our ties to civil society in our next activities.

I wish to also highlight the launch of two publications on promoting and strengthening women's political participation: *Promoting*

Women's Candidacies and *Multi-Party Caucuses for Gender Equality*. Both of these documents are available for download on ParlAmericas' webpage. Additionally, in partnership with the UN Women Multi-Country Office—Caribbean, we have launched an online portal for our Anglophone membership which includes a toolkit on men's engagement as allies in gender equality work. All of these resources have been developed with the aim of providing specialized material to enrich our legislative work.

I wish to also take the opportunity to thank Gina Godoy of Ecuador who was the president of the Network from 2015 until May of this year. Under Gina's dedicated leadership, the PNGE affirmed its hemispheric importance in advancing the gender equality agenda in the legislatures of the Americas and the Caribbean. Her commitment inspires us as we continue and persevere in our efforts.

In 2018 we will continue our work towards the advancement of women's rights and the achievement of gender equality, with diverse activities and initiatives. We hope that you will

be able to join us, and I invite you to follow our calendar of activities and to encourage the participation of your colleagues.

I trust the information and resources featured on these pages will be of use to you. I thank you for your continued participation and support in the work towards our common objective of achieving gender equality and parity in politics.

Sincerely,

Karina Banfi



KARINA BANFI

Member of the Chamber of
Deputies, Argentina
President of the Parliamentary
Network for Gender Equality

 FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER @KBANFI

GENDER EQUALITY IN ACTION



9th Gathering of the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality

THEME: Women's Empowerment: Social and Political Responses

LOCATION: Buenos Aires, Argentina

DATES: May 23-24, 2017

PARTICIPANTS: More than 70 parliamentarians and civil society representatives from 25 countries and territories



3rd Parliamentary Forum on Beijing 20 Years Later

THEME: Women and the Media

LOCATION: Santiago, Chile

DATES: January 12-13, 2017

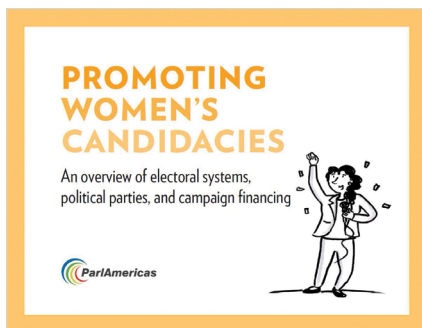
PARTICIPANTS: 27 parliamentarians from Central and South America, along with Chilean journalists and communications professionals



Title: Equal Media Treatment of Women Politicians

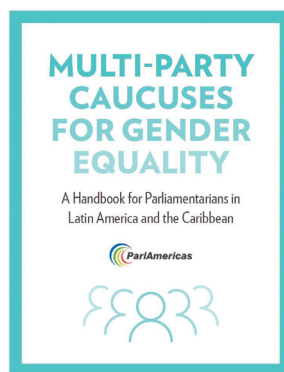
DESCRIPTION: This publication provides recommendations to promote balanced media coverage and communication free of gender stereotypes for parliamentarians and journalists.





Title: Promoting Women's Candidacies

DESCRIPTION: ParlAmericas presents this brief review of the obstacles related to electoral systems and their respective mechanisms, political campaign financing, and the role of political parties, with the objective of summarizing the principal—but not the only—filters that discourage and limit women's political participation.



Title: Multi-Party Caucuses for Gender Equality

DESCRIPTION: The handbook has three sections. The first outlines five key considerations to address when designing a gender caucus. Accompanying these considerations are questions to prompt discussion with potential caucus members, as well as recommended strategies to help ensure success. The second section features three case studies of gender caucuses from across the hemisphere to showcase the different forms these groups can take. The final page suggests additional resources that can help support the creation of a gender caucus.



For any information related to ParlAmericas' work on Gender Equality, please contact: parlamericasgen@parlamericas.org

This year, ParlAmericas' Gender Equality programming aligned with SDGs 5 and 16



Senator, Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality for North America, **MOBINA JAFFER** (Canada)

“When we talk about political representation we have to look at education, but also where are we in economic empowerment and who we are speaking for. Are we speaking for women who look like us, for women we went to school with, or are we speaking for all women?”



Member of Congress, **SANDRA MORÁN** (Guatemala)

“As parliamentarians, the great challenge is to receive the demands of social movements and organizations, give them a space that is complementary to the space in which we work, and advance collectively in order to resolve the serious problems that affect women in the Americas.”

“If this is a battle, the adversaries are within our own selves, men and women. Only a deep reflection on our actions and everyday sayings that reveals what is behind each of us—and on the reasons that lead us to unconsciously uphold centuries of discrimination—will allow us to win this battle.”

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



“I am the daughter of social movements in Haiti, locally and nationally, and I pledge to continue to collaborate with the grassroots organizations in my community to advance their claims before the central State.”



Member of the Chamber of Deputies, **GUERDA BENJAMIN** (Haiti)

“Social discontent is a motor for change. It is precisely activism's demands and social movements that allow us to make progress.”

Member of Congress, **ALBERTO BELAUNDE** (Peru)



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLAMERICAS OPEN PARLIAMENT NETWORK



Dear colleagues,

In 2017 we have undertaken many activities aimed at moving forward on the topics outlined in the *Road Map towards Legislative Openness*. Citizen participation, one of the pillars of our *Road Map*, was the main topic this year. It was addressed during our 2nd annual gathering, which took place in Costa Rica with the participation of more than 70 parliamentarians and civil society representatives. This gathering was steered towards reflection and sharing experiences, to set in motion initiatives that seek to facilitate interactions between citizens and the parliament. Following this activity, a toolkit was co-created and systematized at meetings held in Colombia and Trinidad and Tobago. This toolkit presenting practices and mechanisms currently being applied to involve citizens in parliamentary work will be launched during the 3rd gathering of the Network in 2018. Furthermore, in cooperation with several legislatures that are members of the Network, we produced a publication on good practices for transparency and citizen participation allowing interested countries to replicate these practices.

To strengthen accountability, transparency, and ethical standards in our legislatures, we also worked on topics related to fiscal transparency and technical units for budgetary support to parliaments, as well as on developing standards for lobbying regulation. These topics were examined during our activities in Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Peru. Additionally, we had the opportunity to learn about Canada's experience in these areas in our most recent study visit. Finally, at our meeting in Argentina, we explored the importance of open government and parliament efforts being transversal across all branches of the State, taking into account the role we bear as parliamentarians. Our goal must be to create open States, and the legislative actions we undertake should also aim to bolster and strengthen reforms in our governments based on the principles of the Open Government Partnership.

In the upcoming year, we will continue to develop the pillars of our *Road Map* keeping in mind that implementing open parliament action plans, working with civil society, creating tools, and sharing experiences

between countries are critical as we pave the way for good government and the fight against corruption. This is a task that falls to all of us, that will result in greater citizen trust in the parliament, and along with that, greater legitimacy for our democratic systems. I encourage you to continue to support these initiatives and to involve more colleagues from your respective legislatures.

I thank you for your support and commitment to the activities of ParlAmericas' Open Parliament Network and hope that you will participate in the upcoming meetings of our Network.

Sincerely,

Hernán Larraín



HERNÁN LARRAÍN

Senator, Chile

President of the Open Parliament Network

FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER @HERNANLARRAINF

OPEN PARLIAMENT IN ACTION



2nd Gathering of the Open Parliament Network

THEME: Strengthening the Ties between Citizens and Legislatures

LOCATION: San Jose, Costa Rica

DATES: March 16-17, 2017

PARTICIPANTS: More than 70 parliamentarians and civil society representatives from 25 countries



Citizen Participation Co-Creation Meeting

THEME: Citizen Participation

LOCATION: Bogota, Colombia

DATES: April 19, 2017

PARTICIPANTS: 15 parliamentarians and civil society representatives from Latin America



Workshop: Building Trust Between Parliaments and Citizens

THEME: Fiscal Transparency

LOCATION: Bogota, Colombia

DATES: April 20-21, 2017

PARTICIPANTS: 24 parliamentarians and civil society representatives from 10 countries





Co-Creation Meeting: International Standards for Lobbying Regulation

THEME: Lobby Regulation

LOCATION: Lima, Peru

DATES: May 29, 2017

PARTICIPANTS: 13 parliamentarians and civil society representatives from Latin America



Workshop: Strengthening Accountability Through Fiscal Transparency Practices

THEME: Transparency and Accountability

LOCATION: Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

DATES: September 6, 2017

PARTICIPANTS: 28 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and civil society representatives from 11 countries



2nd Citizen Participation Co-Creation Meeting

THEME: Citizen Participation

LOCATION: Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

DATES: September 7, 2017

PARTICIPANTS: 24 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and civil society representatives from 11 countries



This year, ParlAmericas' Open Parliament programming aligned with SDG 16



Member of the Legislative Assembly, Vice-President of the Open Parliament Network for Central America, **KARLA PRENDAS** (Costa Rica)

“Given the transversal character of gender issues, the challenges and exposure facing women politicians need be made visible, need to be addressed, and need to be the target of awareness-raising efforts, within the framework of the Open Parliament initiative. These efforts should be led by all those engaged in politics, whether they are men or women.”



Senator, Vice-President of the Open Parliament Network for South America, **MAURICIO LIZCANO** (Colombia)

“We are very committed to open data. We have already held a meeting with civil society and journalists where we chose the data, we performed an in-person survey with them to identify the information which was most valuable to them.”

“Our legislatures are entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring and overseeing the executive in the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) identified by Agenda 2030, by which no one shall be left behind... This workshop focuses our attention on our roles as parliamentarians and members of civil society respectively in the identification of mechanisms and tools to improve accountability and transparency in the budgetary cycle... [which is critical] to our role of holding our executives to its international obligation to achieve sustainable development.”

Speaker of the House of Representatives, ParlAmericas Board Member, **BRIDGID ANNISSETTE-GEORGE** (Trinidad and Tobago)



“One of the key takeaways from this workshop is that in order to build political will to overcome these challenges, we need to focus on public education and make this relatable to the everyday person on the street and ensure they understand how this impacts their lives... education is critical.”



Senator, Vice-President of the Open Parliament Network for the Caribbean, **DR. SAPPHIRE LONGMORE** (Jamaica)



LEMARQUE CAMPBELL,
Chairman, Citizens for a
Better Bahamas

“I think most importantly, once the citizens have the access to information, it increases trust. It dispels any perception of wrong-doing on part of the government. So you can see how this [access of information legislation] is an effective tool to not only engage the citizens but to have them participate in the actual decision-making process.”

“Public participation improves the distribution of resources and the provision of services, generates a better response to the specific preferences of the electorate, (and it) gives opportunities for marginalized groups to have a certain influence over the decisions that affect them.”

JUAN PABLO GUERRERO,
Director of GIFT



“Citizens see the world from a different perspective than politicians, and for this reason, their vision is fundamental to ensure an effective, participative, transparent and democratic exercise.”



CECILIA RODRÍGUEZ,
Representative of
Costa Rica Íntegra

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



Dear colleagues,

The ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change (PNCC) has made significant progress in 2017. At the 2nd gathering of the PNCC, Renewable Energies, co-organized with Parlatino, we explored the commitments made by national governments under the Paris Agreement. During this gathering, ParlAmericas presented two publications developed in conjunction with the Organization of American States (OAS): *A Comparative Overview of Legislative and Executive Responses in the Americas* and *A Comparative Overview of the Rights Based Approach in the Americas*, both of which can be found on our website.

Since then, parliamentarians from the PNCC have actively participated in various forums, including the Inter-American Congress on the Environmental Rule of Law held in Santiago, Chile, where our delegation had the opportunity to share the legislative perspective on the state of the environmental rule of law in the region. In Grenada, a parliamentary

delegation participated in a dialogue convened by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to explore the possibility of creating a carbon market for the Caribbean, which would be critical to developing financial mechanisms for countries in the region. That same month, Mexico hosted the Latin American and Caribbean Carbon Forum, where we presented on the important role of parliaments in advancements and innovation related to mitigating carbon emissions. One of the most significant achievements of the year was the recognition of ParlAmericas as an observer organization to the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This designation will allow us to continue working actively in defining the global climate change agenda. Finally, in November, we signed a cooperation agreement with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction with the objective of updating the legal frameworks of countries in the region to assist in improving national disaster risk reduction mechanisms.

As legislators we face complex challenges

within the climate change agenda, and, through the PNCC, we are committed to identifying best practices and learning from the most successful experiences. Further, we are seeking to support coordinated actions, incorporating the vision of social actors in order to provide a parliamentary perspective on the various objectives of this agenda.

I send you my warmest regards and invite you to continue actively participating in our activities.

Sincerely,

Javier Ortega



JAVIER ORTEGA

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

 FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER @VOTAPATACON

CLIMATE CHANGE IN ACTION



2nd Gathering of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change

THEME: Renewable Energies

LOCATION: Panama City

DATES: August 3-4, 2017

PARTICIPANTS: 46 parliamentarians from 23 countries and territories, 7 international organization specialists, and representatives of 2 networks of non-governmental organizations



Title: A Comparative Overview of the Legislative and Executive Responses in the Americas

DESCRIPTION: This publication provides a comparative analysis of trends in the development of legislation and policy instruments to address climate change in OAS Member States. It looks at the implementation of legal principles by legislative and executive branches and their contribution to defining how climate change is addressed at a national level.



Title: A Comparative Overview of the Rights Based Approach in the Americas

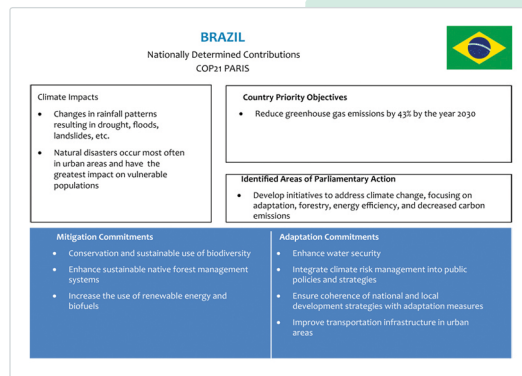
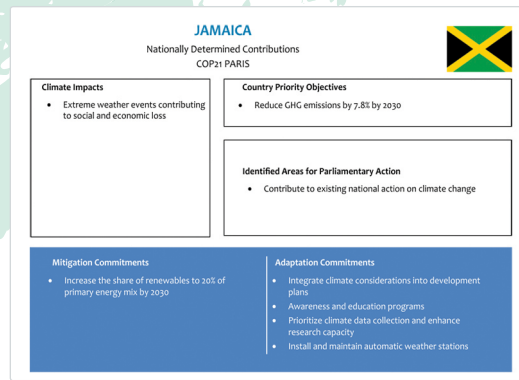
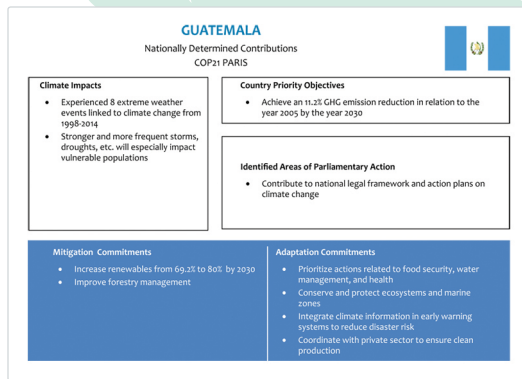
DESCRIPTION: This publication provides a regional perspective on climate change and rights for OAS Member States. It is intended to brief policymakers and parliamentarians on current knowledge and understanding of climate change the Inter-American agenda.



Mapping Nationally Determined Contributions

In December 2015, at COP 21 in Paris, Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) reached a historic agreement to combat climate change and accelerate actions needed for a zero-carbon and climate resilient future. The agreement establishes a common cause of keeping global temperature rise in this century to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The signatory countries outlined their respective commitments to reducing carbon emissions and undertaking adaptation efforts through Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).

This interactive map provides summary information for parliamentarians on the INDCs originally submitted by the signatory countries of the Americas and the Caribbean, which have since been ratified. These will be updated as countries submit new contributions and report on progress towards achieving their goals.



This year, ParlAmericas' Climate Change programming aligned with SDGs 7, 9, 11, 13 and 17



Speaker of the National Assembly, Vice-President of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change for South America, **JENNIFER SIMONS** (Suriname)

“Given the real and immediate danger of climate change for the peoples and economies of the region, the initiative of ParlAmericas to address this issue in a structural and permanent way through the Network on Climate Change, will prove to be of great importance for the hemisphere.”

“We have to focus on consumption patterns that are currently unsustainable. We see the climate variations and have many objectives to achieve. Each adaptation and mitigation activity, action and policy must adjust to the reality of each country, territory, or region, and we must work in accordance with these differences.”

Member of the National Assembly, Alternate Vice-President of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change for South America, **ANA BELÉN MARÍN** (Ecuador)



“The Nationally Determined Contributions describe the national efforts towards low emissions and climate resilient development, but preliminary analysis suggests that these will not be sufficient to achieve the goal of maintaining climate change below 2 degrees with current consumption and production patterns. We therefore need measures that modify these patterns to ensure that climate change policies are implemented.”



Researcher, Climate Change, **ORLANDO REYES**, ECLAC



Senior Evaluation Specialist,
NEERAJ NEGI, Independent
Evaluation Office, GEF

“Parliamentarians can utilize indicators as useful tools for the oversight and supervision of renewable energy projects to take corrective measures, find value for money, and understand the effects of new projects on vulnerable populations.”

“This type of event is about best practices and understanding the struggles across the region. We really will not get the type of action that we need and deserve without going forth as a group... this type of forum moves the agenda forward.”



Senator,
MATTHEW SAMUDA
(Jamaica)

“Adaptation and mitigation are addressed separately and have not seen the adoption of an integrated approach. They are in fact two sides of the same coin, but there are different priorities for planning and implementation; specific options operate at different scales and institutional levels, in addition to country priorities providing more support for mitigation.”

Executive Director, **MARIANELA CURI**,
Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano



For any information related to ParlAmericas' work on Climate Change, please contact: parlamericascc@parlamericas.org

Thank you for being part of ParlAmericas in 2017. We look forward to building on these successes with your continued support!

THE PARLAMERICAS TEAM

ALISHA TODD

EILISH ELLIOTT

LOURDES LI-SMITH

ÁLVARO TERÁN

EMILIE LEMIEUX

MATEUSZ TRYBOWSKI

ANABELLA ZAVAGNO

JACK MELAMED

NATALÍ CASANOVA

DEBORAH NOVAES

JOSE DI BELLA

THAÏS MARTÍN NAVAS

LISANE THIRSK



International Secretariat of ParlAmericas
710 - 150 Wellington St., Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5A4 Canada

Telephone: + 1 (613) 594-5222 | Fax: + 1 (613) 594-4766

www.parlamericas.org | info@parlamericas.org

