



Gathering of Parliamentarians from across the Americas to take place at Parlantino headquarters in Panama

April 9, 2015

Secretary General Elect of the Organization of American States to give keynote speech

Democratic innovations and parliamentary ethics are the main topics slated for discussion tomorrow by more than 80 parliamentarians from across the American continent during the Parliamentary Gathering beginning on Friday, April 10th in the headquarters of the *Parlamento Latinoamericano* (Parlatino) in Panama City.

The event, on the margins of the VII Summit of the Americas, will feature an official opening ceremony with speeches from Mexican Senator and Secretary General of Parlatino, Blanca Alcalá; Mexican Senator and President of ParlAmericas, Marcela Guerra; Member of the National Assembly of Panama and President of Parlatino, Elías Castillo; Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, Rob Nicholson; and the President of the National Assembly of Panama, Adolfo Valderrama.

Following this, Parlatino and ParlAmericas will sign a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at sharing information, increasing joint activities, and fostering cooperation for projects with parliaments in North, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

Another highlight of the gathering will be the keynote speech by Secretary General Elect of the OAS and Uruguayan Senator, Luis Almagro.

The meeting will feature two panel sessions. Panel 1 on “Democratic Innovations” will be moderated by Luis Eduardo Quirós, member of the National Assembly of Panama. Participating in the discussion will be legislators José Roberto Alejos (Guatemala), Gina Godoy (Ecuador), Earl Dreeshen (Canada), Domingos Neto (Brasil) and Alejandro Encinas (Mexico).

Panel 2 on “Parliamentary Ethics” will be moderated by Ana Matilde Gómez, member of the National Assembly of Panama, and will feature the parliamentarians Miguel Edgardo Martínez (Honduras), Wade Mark (Speaker of the House of Representatives of Trinidad y Tobago), Epsy Campell (Costa Rica) and Jorge Pedraza (Colombia).

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ParlAmericas (www.parlamericas.org) is a network of national legislatures of the member states of the OAS. It serves as an independent forum for parliamentarians of the Americas committed to cooperative political dialogue. Parlatino (www.parlatino.org) is a unicameral and permanent regional organization founded 50 years ago to promote regional integrations and the development of its 23 national members.