



16th Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas

#ParlAmericas2019 #ParlAmericasSDG

The 16th ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly, hosted by the Chamber of Senators of Paraguay, brought together parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, experts and civil society representatives to discuss strategies and good practices that can be applied to strengthen the important role that parliaments play in accelerating progress and increasing ambition to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Plenary Assembly opened with welcome remarks from Senator **Patrick Kemper** (Paraguay), Host of the Plenary Assembly, Member of the National Assembly **Ana Belén Marín** (Ecuador), 2nd Vice-President of ParlAmericas and President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change, and Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), 2nd Vice-President of ParlAmericas and President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network. The inaugural session was attended by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) country representatives from the Americas and the Caribbean, and the keynote address was delivered by **Achim Steiner**, Administrator of the UNDP, who outlined critical steps that parliaments can take to spur the transformational change needed to reach the SDGs and leave no one behind.

THEME

Accelerating Progress on Agenda 2030: Good Practices for Parliamentary Action

LOCATION

Asuncion, Paraguay

DATES

October 30 –November 1, 2019

PARTICIPANTS

More than 70 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, experts and civil society representatives from 21 countries



This activity is aligned with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals



As the elected representatives of the people, parliamentarians are in a unique position to drive forward a process of “localization” – that translates global goals into nationally relevant commitments reflective of the views, interests and aspirations of a diverse range of constituents. Members of Parliament bear primary responsibility to advance policies that further environmental sustainability, promote inclusive growth and are conducive to peace. The same is equally true – and perhaps even more – with respect to parliament’s role in enacting and scrutinizing the government budget. Furthermore, in effectively representing their constituents’ views and in working to keeping the executive power accountable – parliamentarians are invaluable partners in ensuring the inclusive, participatory and transparent governance that underpins the 2030 Agenda.



Achim Steiner, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Opening Plenary Session

As the Annual General Meeting of its members, the Plenary Assembly included a session devoted to statutory business. Senator **Patrick Kemper** (Paraguay), Host of the Plenary Assembly, chaired the session. His Honour **Arthur E. Holder** (Barbados), Speaker of the House of Assembly and ParlAmericas Board Member, delivered the Annual Report from the Board to the Members of ParlAmericas.

This session also provided an opportunity to update parliamentary delegations on successes that have been achieved under each ParlAmericas stream of work. Representatives from each thematic network highlighted key working sessions and gatherings, as well as related knowledge resources and online community spaces that have been developed over the past year to assist parliamentarians and to strengthen good practices in the hemisphere. These reports were delivered by Member of the Legislative Assembly **Cristina Cornejo** (El Salvador), ParlAmericas Board Member and Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality for Central America; Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network; and Member of the National Assembly **Ana Belén Marín** (Ecuador), President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change. **Alisha Todd**, Director General of ParlAmericas, also provided an update on ParlAmericas' operations and the contributions of donors and parliaments to the organization's activities.



The ParlAmericas International Secretariat signed a pledge to formalize its participation in the [Climate Neutral Now](#) initiative, which aims to encourage and support all levels of society to take concrete climate actions and work towards becoming climate-neutral by the second half of the 21st century. As part of efforts to reduce its carbon footprint, staff have have offset all their travel for ParlAmericas activities in 2019. Participants are invited to contribute and offset their travel using the [UNFCCC's Carbon Offset Platform](#).



The SDGs constitute the largest strategic matrix we have, to guarantee the progress of our countries, they guide us to promote public policies to transparent our actions and thus contribute to the well-being of our citizens. It is urgent to incorporate the SDGs into a strategic plan that, with accurate analysis and quantifiable evaluations, allows us to assess the achievements and correct misdirection.



Senator **Patrick Kemper** (Paraguay),
Host of the 16th Plenary Assembly



The main issues that we have been working in the last year are the economic empowerment of women and alliances with civil society to advance the commitments of our governments in gender equality, applying an intersectional approach that impacts our daily lives.



Member of the Legislative Assembly **Cristina Cornejo** (El Salvador), ParlAmericas Board Member and Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality for Central America



Open Parliament is an essential pillar on which the organization's action is affirmed to regain citizen confidence in the political sector. Parliaments are in interdiction, the political class is viewed with distrust, and we need to regain the value of politics and reconnect it with its essential goal which is the common good. Open parliament is an irreversible trend in the world, and with its work, ParlAmericas helps our region to build and develop a true parliamentary opening.



Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President
of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network



The actions for climate change are now. We do not have more time to continue waiting to take measures to cover these important issues, we must act now! The ParlAmericas meetings allow us to address relevant issues for parliaments in the region.



Member of the National Assembly **Ana Belén Marín** (Ecuador), President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change



I commit all of my work and efforts to strengthening the role of parliaments, and to the topic of social dialogue, which is fundamental to strengthen the democracy in our countries.



Member of the National Assembly
Elizabeth Cabezas (Ecuador), President
of ParlAmericas



In our discussion on strategic direction for planning future ParlAmericas programming, the Board reiterated the importance of continuing the emphasis on coordination and collaboration with other organizations and incorporating the youth perspective in events and discussions.



His Honour **Arthur E. Holder** (Barbados),
Speaker of the House of Assembly and
ParlAmericas Board Member

ParlAmericas Board of Directors Elections Results 2019-2021

(all positions were filled by acclamation)

Caribbean : Cuba, Saint Lucia

Central America: El Salvador, Panama

South America: Argentina, Paraguay

PRESIDENCY OF PARLAMERICAS

ParlAmericas is grateful for the leadership and vision of the Honourable **Robert Nault** (Canada) , Member of Parliament, during his term as President of ParlAmericas. As his term in Parliament comes to an end, and in accordance with the ParlAmericas Regulations, Member of the National Assembly **Elizabeth Cabezas** (Ecuador), previously Vice-President of ParlAmericas, assumes the Presidency of ParlAmericas for the remainder of this term ending in 2020.

ParlAmericas is run by parliamentarians for parliamentarians, with a [Board of Directors](#) composed of **legislators representing 17 countries** from North, South, Central America and the Caribbean. Board Members are elected to a two-year term by the member parliaments of ParlAmericas during the Annual Plenary Assembly.

The Opening Session was followed by a series of working sessions where delegates heard from subject matter specialists and fellow parliamentarians about existing mechanisms and good practices as well as strategies and the role of parliaments in contributing and monitoring progress to implement the SDGs. Participants exchanged experiences on how their parliaments have organized themselves to better support the 2030 Agenda and discussed the importance of gender equality, as an essential condition for achieving the 17 SDGs. Finally, they explored opportunities for partnerships and collaboration to strengthen their contribution to a more sustainable future. This culminated in a Final Plenary Session with the adoption of the meeting Declaration.



Session 1: Examining regional progress in implementing the SDGs from a parliamentary perspective

The first working session, “Examining regional progress in implementing the SDGs from a parliamentary perspective,” was moderated by Member of the Legislative Assembly **Cristina Cornejo** (El Salvador), ParlAmericas Board Member and Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality for Central America. It presented a general overview of the current state and progress in implementing the SDGs in the hemisphere, four years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. The important role that parliaments play in these efforts and opportunities to further contribute to this process were also discussed. Panellist **Emanuele Sapienza**, Policy Advisor, UNDP Regional Center in Panama, ([presentation](#)) presented an overview of the progress achieved in the Americas and the Caribbean and offered concrete examples of the main challenges and obstacles that countries from the hemisphere face in the implementation of the SDGs. During this session, Member of the Legislative Assembly **María Inés Solís** (Costa Rica), ParlAmericas Board Member, presented a joint publication developed by ParlAmericas and UNDP on “*Parliament’s Role in Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. An Adapted Version for the Americas and the Caribbean.*”

The session closed with roundtable work where participants exchanged their experiences and developed concrete recommendations for action to make progress towards the achievement of specific SDGs through the exercise of their parliamentary functions.



The publication presents mechanisms, instruments and practices that parliaments in the hemisphere are using in order to mainstream the SDGs in their work and contribute to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda in their countries. Parliaments and their members, in dialogue with relevant stakeholders, are best placed to determine the most appropriate ways in which they can play an active role in the realization of the SDGs. The present handbook seeks to support this dialogue in the Americas and the Caribbean by: 1) providing a framework to evaluate and design engagement options; 2) sharing information on good practices and 3) discussing opportunities and challenges in the application of international standards to the work of parliaments. Consult the publication [here](#).

This publication presents the mechanisms, instruments and practices that parliaments in the hemisphere are using to integrate the SDGs into their work and shares good institutional practices that will be very useful for our legislatures to undertake similar initiatives respecting the differences in our systems.



Member of the Legislative Assembly
María Inés Solís (Costa Rica),
ParlAmericas Board Member



Sustainable development requires simultaneous work on the political, the social, the economic and the environmental side. Parliaments play a central role in the implementation of SDGs, but there is a definite margin for improvement and events like the ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly and discussions like the one we are having today, can help us move forward with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.



Emanuele Sapienza, Policy Advisor,
UNDP Regional Center in Panama





A larger budget must be given to the national statistical institutes so that they can produce and collect general and segmented data and statistics on the implementation of the SDGs, a parliamentary commission must be created to promote any type of initiatives that collaborate with the progress of the 2030 Agenda.



Member of the Legislative Assembly **Ana Lucía Delgado** (Costa Rica)



The commitment of civil society for the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs is essential for the advancement of the 2030 Agenda. The information and data required for the realization of statistics must be transparent, real and reliable so that the distribution of resources really promotes the reduction of inequality.



Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Mónica Bautista** (México)



The information must be centralized to facilitate access to it, not only for parliamentarians or public officials, but also for the citizen, making access to information more efficient. There must be parliamentary units that provide support to parliamentarians to obtain more information on the progress towards the 2030 Agenda.



Member of the Legislative Assembly **Maytee Iraheta** (El Salvador)



Interested in this topic? Watch the full video of this session on our [ParlAmericas YouTube Channel](#)

Session 2: From words to action – Case studies on how parliaments have adapted and are making progress to achieve the 2030 Agenda

In the second working session, “From words to action – Case studies on how parliaments have adapted and are making progress to achieve the 2030 Agenda,” panellists and participants shared their experiences, advancements, achievements and the obstacles they have faced in response to the demands required to contribute to the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs in their respective countries, as well as internal compliance to the objectives and goals of sustainable development. The session was moderated by Member of Parliament **Juliet Cuthbert Flynn** (Jamaica), ParlAmericas Board Member.

Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay) ([presentation](#)) discussed how open parliament initiatives can facilitate the monitoring the SDGs, and the importance of parliamentary oversight to achieve these goals. One initiative mentioned is a Digital Platform for Legislative Monitoring of the SDGs (based on [Parlamento2030](#)) which will allow parliamentarians and the public to link bills with the national development agenda. Member of the Legislative Assembly **Nielsen Pérez** (Costa Rica) ([presentation](#)) shared the progress that the parliament of Costa Rica has made to implement the SDGs through a road map in the Legislative Assembly which includes trainings for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff, tracking SDGs in legislation and monitoring progress in 5 areas (Legislation, Political Oversight, Citizen Participation, National Budget and Institutional Policies). Senator **Antares Vázquez** (Mexico), ParlAmericas Board Member, discussed the efforts of the Senate of Mexico to address the SDGs, including a newly created working group with a mandate to monitor progress on the SDGs.

The session closed with a series of interventions and questions from the delegates, drawing upon the experiences from their respective countries and personal reflections.



Costa Rica was the first country in the world to sign a national pact for the SDGs, where the executive, legislative, judicial, electoral tribunal, autonomous institutions and the 81 municipalities of the country were involved. The pact implies an institutional architecture of follow-up from a Technical Committee of the SDGs to a National Forum of the SDGs and a High-Level Council of the SDGs was also created, which is chaired by the President of the Republic.



Member of the Legislative Assembly
Nielsen Pérez (Costa Rica)

The working group for the monitoring of the SDGs was created to advance the 2030 Agenda and 4 sub-groups were created to achieve the SDGs, there is a systematic advance in Mexico to implement the National Development Plan in accordance with the Objectives of Sustainable Development. It has also been doing a great job of raising awareness of what the SDGs pursue, to promote reflection on their integrality in all aspects of our lives.



Senator **Antares Vázquez** (Mexico),
ParlAmericas Board Member

Jamaica has prioritized the implementation of the SDGs at a national level, through the development of a Roadmap for SDGs Implementation, that articulates the alignment of the SDGs with national priorities defined in the national development plan (Vision 2030 Jamaica), as well as the institutional coordination mechanisms that will support implementation, monitoring and evaluation of these goals. To support parliamentary oversight of the implementation of these goals, all budget and appropriation proposals presented to parliament for approval are displayed in a way that align planned expenses to corresponding SDGs.



Member of Parliament **Juliet Cuthbert Flynn**
(Jamaica), ParlAmericas Board Member





In Panama there are a series of plans and programs that give us the opportunity to receive updated information on the 17 SDGs, in addition to the parliament, several laws that are aligned with the SDGs have been approved since 2015 and promote the advancement of the Agenda 2030 in the country. The National Assembly has a citizen participation office, which is responsible for promoting the SDGs in the Country.



Member of the National Assembly
Alain Cedeño (Panama)



Suriname has recently started the progress to achieve the Agenda 2030 and to implement the SDGs with mechanisms that include the alignment of the SDGs with the Budget and a 5-year plan. A process has been implemented for parliamentarians to align the SDGs to what the government is planning. We need targeted data, but it is a work in progress.



Speaker of the National Assembly
Jennifer Simons (Suriname),
ParlAmericas Board Member and
Alternate Vice-President of the
ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on
Climate Change for South America



Interested in this topic? Watch the full video of this session on our [ParlAmericas YouTube Channel](#)



Session 3: Gender equality: an essential condition for achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals

The third working session, “Gender equality: an essential condition for achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals,” assessed the region’s standing on SDG 5 on gender equality and women’s empowerment, and its linkages to other sustainable development priorities. The panellists shared knowledge on different SDG 5 targets and highlighted the data required for monitoring progress. The session was facilitated by Senator **Rosa Gálvez** (Canada), Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change for North America, ([presentation](#)) who discussed how gender equality is an essential condition for achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

During her intervention **Dosia Calderón**, Senior Officer for Latin America and the Caribbean of Girls Not Brides, ([presentation](#)) discussed SDG Target 5.3: Child, early and forced marriage, and provided an overview of the regional situation and the role of parliamentarians in eradicating this issue. **Ayesha Constable**, Advisor to FRIDA - The Young Feminist Fund and Caribbean Representative of the Sustainable Development Solutions Youth Network, ([presentation](#)) discussed how promoting equity and climate resilience through land ownership is inextricably linked with fundamental rights such as food security, health, access to water, decent work and a safe home. Lastly, during her intervention, **Melania Canales Poma**, President of the National Organization of Andean and Amazonian Indigenous Women of Peru, ([presentation](#)) explained how an increase in women’s leadership at the community level and in international negotiations has a positive, reciprocal impact on the number of women holding seats in national parliaments, local governments and in managerial positions.

The session closed with a series of interventions and questions from the delegates.



Parliamentarians have a key role in the adoption and the implementation of legislative frameworks and national strategies to promote gender equality, which is a prerequisite and an accelerator for the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals.



Senator **Rosa Gálvez** (Canada),
Vice-President of the ParlAmericas
Parliamentary Network on Climate
Change for North America

Today, there are many challenges to change harmful social and cultural constructs about what has been understood as being a woman or a man, and where practices have put one sex or gender at a disadvantage over the other, in these cases legislative experience is key to achieve change in our region.



Dosia Calderón, Senior Officer for Latin America and the Caribbean of Girls Not Brides

Unless gender equality is extended to land rights and ownership, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development would become an impossible vision.



Ayesha Constable, Advisor to FRIDA - The Young Feminist Fund and Caribbean Representative of the Sustainable Development Solutions Youth Network



Indigenous women have always been hidden. Racism and discrimination have been so strong that we were not allowed to be in public spaces or positions. Only 4 of the 169 SDG goals mention indigenous people. There is not a single mention of indigenous women in the SDGs. In Peru alone, indigenous women represent 51% of the indigenous population.



Melania Canales Poma, President of the National Organization of Andean and Amazonian Indigenous Women of Peru

Interested in this topic? Watch the full video of this session on our [ParIámericas YouTube Channel](#)

Session 4: Encouraging partnerships and collaborative work for a sustainable future



During the last working session, “Encouraging partnerships and collaborative work for a sustainable future,” panellists presented how the cooperation and significant participation of diverse public actors and civil society are essential to advance the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The session was moderated by Senator **Ranard Henfield** (The Bahamas), Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network for the Caribbean.

Panellist **Jessica Domínguez**, Sustainable Development Division of Allcot, ([presentation](#)) shared the role private sector plays in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and what strategies, processes and tools they have been implementing to help private companies to better contribute to this global objective. During his intervention, **Emanuele Sapienza**, Policy Advisor, UNDP Regional Center in Panama, ([presentation](#)) explained the role of the United Nations in supporting the national implementation of SDGs and expressed how partnerships and collaborative work are necessary for a sustainable future. In the last intervention of the session, **Fabián Forestieri**, Director of Institutional Relations of the office of the Comptroller General of the Republic of Paraguay, ([presentation](#)) presented on the role the Comptroller General plays in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and shared the experience of this office in collaborating with other stakeholders such as the parliament and national and local governments to this end.



The panel session was followed by interactive round table work, where participants discussed various challenges, they had previously identified related to the implementation or the oversight of government policies to advance the SDGs, to explore possible solutions. Participants shared their experiences and good practices and provided reflections and suggestions on how to address these challenges, summarized in the following table:

Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation and oversight of resources towards the SDGs • Long term strategic planning to achieve the SDGs • Lineal instead of holistic monitoring of the SDGs • Need for capacity building of parliamentarians and parliamentary staff on the SDGs • Regular and on-time data collection to measure progress towards targets • Limited funding for the implementation of the SDGs • Need for harmonization of national sector plans with the SDGs • Need for stronger local government frameworks to localise implementation of goals
Collaboration Opportunities to Address Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliaments can work closely with government agencies that have oversight responsibilities and generate inter-institutional communication to exchange information that is valuable for implementing the SDGs. • There is a need to strengthen dialogues and consultations with all interested stakeholders to ensure that no one is left behind. • The monitoring of the SDGs should be integral, not lineal, and it should involve all the interested stakeholders and government offices. • Parliaments can work closely and sign collaboration agreements with International Organizations and NGOs to deliver workshops on relevant issues, especially to newly elected parliamentarians. • It could be helpful to bring together the statistics office, NGOs, community-based organizations, and international organizations that collect data, to share and compare information, and it is important to involve academia for the data analysis. • Improving the collaboration with civil society and private sector could be helpful to prioritize the most urgent matters, and to address them quickly, when there is not enough funding available to take action on all SDGs simultaneously. • The UNDP Rapid integrated assessment Tool can be helpful to support countries in mainstreaming the SDGs into national and subnational planning, by helping assess their readiness for SDG implementation.

Sadly, the public and private sectors have been working very far apart, but since the Paris Agreement was reached, I have seen how many common points are being found, and that there is an objective aimed at fostering alliances, to strengthen the SDGs, since we have very little time to implement and achieve them.



Jessica Domínguez, Sustainable Development Division of Allcot

The comptrollerships are intrinsically linked to the success of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda, due to the control of the State and the public funds they carry out, this is given in conjunction with the parliaments that are responsible for crystallizing public policies for citizenship, promoting democracy for everyone.



Fabián Forestieri, Director of Institutional Relations of the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic of Paraguay

The traceability of the SDGs must be done from the moment of the conception of any law, making clear the objectives involved in it, but for this both legislators and support staff must be trained.

Governments cannot do it alone. The participation of the private sector, civil society and academia are crucial to advance the 2030 Agenda.



Senator **Ranard Henfield** (The Bahamas), Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network for the Caribbean

Small states have their own peculiar difficulties; this includes a lack of human resources and difficulties to find technical expertise that is necessary to execute a lot of what the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda requires. In Grenada, the parliamentary oversight responsibility is blurred since there is no opposition in and technically there is no clear division of powers between the legislative and the executive branches.



President of the Senate **Chester A. Humphrey** (Grenada), Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality for the Caribbean



Senator **Ovidio Peral** (Mexico)

The Plenary Assembly concluded with the reading of the [declaration](#) by Senator **Amado Florentín** (Paraguay), which was adopted by the delegations of each parliament represented. It recognized that parliamentarians have a critical role to play in achieving the SDGs which are an urgent call to action by all countries, recognizing that the principles of inclusion and leaving no one behind must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, spur economic growth, all while continuing the fight against climate. The declaration included the following commitments:

- Effectively advancing the 2030 Agenda and the implementation of all SDGs through the exercise of our lawmaking, oversight, budget allocation and representation functions, as well as within internal parliamentary processes;
- Scrutinizing resources allocated to the achievement of the SDGs – including international development funds – to ensure that they produce sustainable and impactful results, as measured through the national adaptation of SDG indicators;
- Establishing new and strengthening existing mechanisms to improve citizen participation in decision making process related to the implementation of the SDGs, and ensuring that those who are most impacted by current unsustainable social, environmental and economic practices can voice their needs and contribute to the development of solutions;
- Taking concrete measures to reinforce collaboration with national and local governments, as well as with oversight institutions to contribute to the development, adoption and monitoring of national frameworks and plans to successfully implement the 2030 Agenda;
- Continuing to strengthen the capacity of our parliaments to ensure that frameworks, mechanisms, processes and strategic plans that address the 2030 Agenda and its Goals are established and effectively support the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs.



Training Session: Monitoring Progress towards SDGs through Public Spending

A training session on “Monitoring Progress towards SDGs through Public Spending” was facilitated by Dr. **Helaina Gaspard**, Director of Governance and Institutions at the Institute for Fiscal Studies and Democracy (IFSD) at the University of Ottawa ([presentation](#)) on the margins of the 16th Plenary Assembly. Her intervention invited participants to consider public funds as a lens to evaluate governments’ policy priorities and results, and to strengthen fiscal scrutiny practices to better oversee progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The workshop provided participants with an overview of how the national budget process is an important avenue through which parliaments can monitor and evaluate progress towards the SDGs, since it is the main policy instrument that identifies annual revenue expectations and spending priorities.

The workshop included a panel discussion which provided a more in depth look at parliamentary offices that have been developing tools to assist parliamentarians in scrutinizing budget proposals, program allocations, and execution and help them understand their impact on their country’s progress towards achieving the SDGs.

The panel was moderated by His Honour **Arthur E. Holder** (Barbados), Speaker of the House of Assembly and ParlAmericas Board Member. Senator **Stephan Rassmusen** (Paraguay) ([presentation](#)) shared the work performed by the General Directorate of Oversight of Public Management of the Senate to develop reports that support parliamentarians in their scrutiny of budgetary expenses linked to Paraguay’s National Development Plan, which is aligned with the SDGs. During her intervention, **Maria Eugenia David Du Mutel de Pierrepont**, Director of Studies, Analysis and Evaluation of the Budget Office of the Congress of Argentina, ([presentation](#)) described the methodology used by the office to provide parliamentarians with insight into how the national budget and program allocations contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

The workshop closed with roundtable work where participants analyzed a case studies focused on budgeting and performance evaluation of programming to promote gender equality and then shared recommendations.



ParlAmericas presented the first draft of the joint publication developed by ParlAmericas, IFSD and the Global Institute for Fiscal Transparency (GIFT) entitled *Strengthening Accountability through Fiscal Openness: A Toolkit for the Parliamentarians in the Americas and the Caribbean*. It provides an overview of good practices to promote transparency, accountability and participation throughout the financial cycle, tailored to parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and relevant stakeholders in the Americas and the Caribbean. It will be officially launched next year.

“Parliamentarians have an obligation to approve, reject, amend or even propose how public money is collected and spent...this is the foundation of democracy. Parliamentarians also have an opportunity to leverage their fiscal oversight function throughout the financial cycle to survey government action and inaction on various matters, including progress on the SDGs.”



Dr. **Helaina Gaspard**, Director of Governance and Institutions at the Institute for Fiscal Studies and Democracy (IFSD)

“The role of the legislative branch is essential to achieve the SDGs. Understanding where the priorities are in the budget to advance the SDGs is essential to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The identification of priorities must be accompanied by mechanisms for monitoring budget execution for each of the Objectives and thus identify the products that are being achieved.”



Senator **Stephan Rassmusen** (Paraguay)



“From the design of public policies, you can identify planned expenditures that are allocated to actions linked or originated in the fulfillment of the SDGs. In addition, the definition of priorities and the design of the policy may be independent or have been prior to the commitments acquired with the 2030 Agenda.”



María Eugenia David Du Mutel de Pierrepont, Director of Studies, Analysis and Evaluation of the Budget Office of the Congress of Argentina

“ When we talk about such a sensitive issue like gender violence and the difficulty of dimensioning it, it makes us think how many more problems are not even in the picture, which makes our work as parliamentarians difficult, and complicates the ability to advance the 2030 Agenda and achieve the SDGs. ”



Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Claudia Domínguez (Mexico)

“ The lack of information or misinformation makes parliamentary work difficult, and we must do our best to solve this problem at the root, since without the correct data we cannot move towards the fulfillment of the SDGs. ”



Member of the National Assembly
Maritza Espinales (Nicaragua)
ParlAmericas Board Member



Interested in this topic? Watch the full video of the workshop on our [ParlAmericas YouTube Channel](#)



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PARLAMERICAS



ParlAmericas is the institution that promotes **PARLIMENTARY DIPLOMACY** in the **INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM**



ParlAmericas is composed of the **35 NATIONAL LEGISLATURES** from North, Central and South America and the Caribbean



ParlAmericas facilitates the exchange of parliamentary **GOOD PRACTICES AND** promotes **COOPERATIVE POLITICAL DIALOGUE**



ParlAmericas mainstreams **GENDER EQUALITY** by advocating for women's political empowerment and the application of a gender lens in legislative work



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



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



ParlAmericas works towards strengthening democracy and governance by accompanying **ELECTORAL PROCESSES**



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