



Agenda

16th Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas

Workshop: Monitoring Progress towards SDGs through Public Spending

October 30th | Asuncion, Paraguay



#ParlAmericas2019

#ParlAmericasSDG

As the government's main policy and funding instrument, the national budget process is critical for allocating and spending public funds towards the achievement of the SDGs. Through their role of reviewing, modifying (depending on the political system) and approving the national budget, as well as overseeing its implementation, parliamentarians are uniquely placed to ensure that public spending is effectively reaching its intended objectives and leaving no one behind. This workshop will explore the ways through which parliamentarians can analyze budget proposals, allocations and expenditures to ensure that spending is effectively aligned and contributing to national efforts to meet the SDGs.

Note: The workshop will take place in the Archives and Library of the Congress of Paraguay.

14:20 – 14:30 Welcome remarks

- Senator **Blanca Ovelar**, President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

14:30 – 15:00 Introduction: Public Spending as a Lens to Assess Commitment and Progress on SDGs

- Facilitator: **Helaina Gaspard**, Ph.D., Director of Governance and Institutions, Institute for Fiscal Studies and Democracy (IFSD) of the University of Ottawa

Public spending can be a helpful lens through which parliamentarians can contribute to and monitor progress towards the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This session will set the stage for a discussion on how parliamentarians can analyze budget proposals and allocations, as well as public expenses to ensure that spending is effectively aligned and contributing to national efforts to meet the SDGs. A draft publication on *Fiscal Openness for Parliaments* developed by ParlAmericas, IFSD and the Global Institute for Fiscal Transparency (GIFT) will also be presented and participants will be invited to provide their input.

15:00 – 16:00 National Experiences: Supporting Parliamentary Scrutiny of Public Spending to Achieve SDGs

- Moderator: **Arthur E. Holder** (Barbados), Speaker of the House of Assembly and ParlAmericas Board Member and ParlAmericas Board Member
- Senator **Stephan Rassmusen** (Paraguay)
- **Maria Eugenia David Du Mutel de Pierrepont**, Director of Studies, Analysis and Evaluation, Budget Office of the Congress of Argentina

Throughout the hemisphere, parliamentary offices and government departments have been developing tools that assist parliamentarians in scrutinizing budget proposals, program allocations, and execution and understanding their impact on

their country's progress towards achieving the SDGs. This session will allow participants to explore examples of such practices.

16:00 – 16:10 **Coffee break**

16:10 – 17:40 **Working Session: Identifying Tools and Tactics to Monitor SDGs through Case Studies**

- Facilitator: **Helaina Gaspard**, Ph.D., Director of Governance and Institutions, IFSD

During this working session, participants will work in groups to identify tools and tactics that can be applied by parliamentarians to monitor national progress towards achieving the SDGs throughout the budget process. As part of this exercise, participants will analyze case studies focused on gender equality, poverty reduction and climate change, and recommendations presented will be synthesized and shared with participants following the workshop.

17:40 – 17:45 **Conclusion**

17:45 – 18:00 **Evaluations**

18:00 **Transportation of participants to official hotel**

Dinner at leisure



Please note that meeting sessions will be audio-recorded to become podcast episodes. Find ParlAmericas on iTunes and Google Play to listen to sessions and presentations from our past gatherings held across the hemisphere.



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