

# 3rd Meeting of the Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament

#ParlAmericasOPN



**THEME:** Technological innovation, artificial and collective intelligence, cybersecurity, disinformation



**DATES:** March 22, 2021



**LOCATION:** Virtual



**PARTICIPANTS:** More than **90** parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, specialists and representatives of civil society and multilateral organizations from **20** countries



**ORGANIZING PARTNER:** In Collaboration with the Parliamentary Association of the Commonwealth of Great Britain (CPA-UK) in the working groups



**HOST:** Parliament of Canada



*This activity is aligned with SDG 16.*

This meeting allowed parliamentary and other stakeholders to analyze how technology and innovation can contribute to legislative openness and parliamentary strengthening. The topics discussed, such as A.I. and cybersecurity, were considered in relation to modernization and digital transformation processes, taking into account the challenges posed by disinformation that public institutions are currently facing.

## Technological innovation in parliaments

The panel of specialists emphasized the importance of publishing legislative information, verifying parliamentary processes prior to their digitalization, and understanding the needs of users when transitioning to digital parliaments. They also focused on the use of technological tools and online platforms that can contribute to legislative processes, as well as support communication with citizens and citizen engagement in parliamentary work.

In addition, they highlighted that the protection of parliamentary information is essential to preventing cyberattacks, preserving public information, and protecting legislators who are public figures and may become targets of cyberattacks.

In this transition towards the digitalization of parliament, they encouraged the use of artificial and collective intelligence in the production and distribution of disaggregated data to analyze the contributions made by citizens through virtual platforms, among other uses. They also recognized the importance of creating information technology (IT) tools and services with ethical and accountability criteria that limit discrimination, for example, in tools that use facial recognition.

## Working groups

The parliamentary staff members were organized in working groups to encourage in-depth discussion on distinct thematic areas that aim to strengthen technological innovation in parliaments to continue improving the efficiency of legislative work. Technological innovation is essential for legislative openness, as it can be used to make public information transparent, engage continuously with citizens, and ensure effective accountability for parliamentary work.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening remarks by:

- Senator **Silvia Giacoppo** (Argentina), ParlAmericas Board Member
- Mr. **Blair Armitage** (Canada), Clerk Assistant, Committees, Senate

### Panel on technological innovation in parliaments:

- Dr. **Tiago Carneiro Peixoto**, Senior Public Sector Specialist, Governance Global Practice, World Bank
- Ms. **María Paz Hermosilla**, Director of the Public Innovation Lab (GobLab), School of Government, Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Chile
- Mr. **Diego Subero**, Consultant, Cybersecurity Program, Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), Organization of American States (OAS)
- Mr. **Chris Beall**, Policy Lead, Platform Governance, Centre for International Governance Innovation

### Presentation on the Open Data Center by:

- Ms. **Patricia Almeida** (Brazil), Coordinator of Innovation and Digital Strategy of the Chamber of Deputies and Coordinator of the Open Data Center

After the working groups addressed topics related to parliamentary innovation, the meeting was adjourned.

### Closing remarks by:

- Mr. **Luis Rojas** (Chile), Deputy Secretary General of the Chamber of Deputies

### ***Working groups on issues related to parliamentary innovation:***

#### **Working group 1: Artificial intelligence in parliaments**

- Moderator: Mr. **Soufiane Ben Moussa** (Canada), Chief Technology Officer of Parliament
- Mr. **Cristián Carrión** (Chile), Deputy Head of the Department of Information Technologies of the Senate
- Ms. **Patricia Almeida** (Brazil), Coordinator of Innovation and Digital Strategy of the Chamber of Deputies

#### **Working group 2: Maximizing resources to modernize parliament**

- Moderator: Mr. **Garreth Ferguson** (Trinidad and Tobago), ICT Director of Parliament
- Mr. **Jonathan King** (Isle of Man), Deputy Clerk and Clerk of the Tynwald Legislative Council

#### **Working group 3: Cybersecurity in parliaments**

- Moderator: Ms. **Sonia Vezzaro** (Argentina), Head of Multilateral Parliamentary Diplomacy of the Chamber of Deputies
- Mr. **Pablo Torrealba** (Chile), Information Systems Adviser to the Chamber of Deputies

#### **Working group 4: Virtual sittings and digital transformation in parliaments**

- Moderator: Mr. **Claudio Prieto** (Ecuador), Coordinator General for IT of the National Assembly
- Mr. **Juan Manuel Cheppi** (Argentina), Secretary General of the Chamber of Deputies
- Ms. **Anabel Dávila** (Peru), Head of the Department of Rapporteurship and Agenda of the Congress



### **KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INNOVATION AND THE TRANSITION TOWARDS THE DIGITALIZATION OF PARLIAMENTS:**

- Use of artificial intelligence to promote engagement between parliaments and citizens, as well as to collect data for parliamentary investigations, and present and publish public information.
- Use of information and communications technology (ICT) tools to strengthen and improve the efficiency of legislative work, and to provide support in the event of parliamentary staff limitations.
- The incorporation of cybersecurity mechanisms is essential for protecting private data, as well as for safeguarding the information and content of parliamentary institutions.
- The exchange of experiences and lessons learned from the parliaments of Argentina, Ecuador, and Peru, one year after their respective transitions to virtual legislative work, is important for providing guidance as other parliaments adopt similar practices for the modernization of parliamentary institutions to meet current needs.



The complete [agenda](#), [press release](#), and [presentations](#) from this activity can be accessed on the ParlAmericas website.

## PARTICIPATING PARLIAMENTS



Argentina



Chile



Grenada



Isle of Man



Paraguay



Belize



Costa Rica



Guatemala



Mexico



Peru



Brazil



Dominica



Guyana



Nicaragua



Suriname



Canada



Ecuador



Honduras



Panama



Trinidad  
and Tobago

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ParlAmericas organizes consultations and builds **MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS** with young leaders and civil society organizations



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



ParlAmericas is headquartered in **OTTAWA, CANADA**

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