








#ParlAmericasGEN


 **TITLE:** Legislative Perspectives for Inclusive Economic Growth: Investing in the Care Economy

 **THEMES:** Gender equality, care work, economic value of care work

 **DATES:** November 30, 2022 & December 1, 2022

 **LOCATION:** Bogota, Colombia

 **PARTICIPANTS:** More than 85 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, specialists and representatives of civil society organizations from more than 18 countries of the Americas and the Caribbean.

 **HOST:** Congress of the Republic of Colombia



This activity aligned with SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 11 and 17.



14th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality (PNGE)

The 14th Gathering of the PNGE explored good legislative practices to recognize, redistribute and regulate [care work](#), with a gender, intersectionality, intercultural and human rights perspective. Parliamentarians discussed the economic dimensions of care and the importance of data as a key to legislative action. Moreover, the [Inter-American Model Law on Care](#) and the Care Blocks initiative of the City of Bogota were presented. Within the framework of the Gathering, a [Memorandum of Understanding was signed between ParlAmericas and the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger](#) (FPH). In order to reflect the importance of inclusive approaches to these issues, the methodology of the various sessions of the Gathering was enriched with contributions from women's organizations and specialists in the field.



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Opening remarks:

- Honourable representative **David Racero** (Colombia), president of the House of Representatives
- The Honourable **Bridgid Annisette-George** (Trinidad and Tobago), Speaker of the House of Representatives and Vice-President of ParlAmericas
- Senator **Verónica Camino Farjat** (Mexico), President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality
- Honourable Representative **Jezmi Barraza** (Colombia), Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality
- Senator **Germán Blanco** (Colombia), member of the ParlAmericas Board
- Ms. **Gabriela Serrano**, Director of Programs, IRI Colombia
- Mr. **Marcos Rodriguez Fazzone**, Senior Specialist of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Colombia

Specialists:

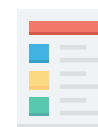
- Ms. **Cecilia López** (Colombia), Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Ms. **Ana Gúezmes**, directora de la división de asuntos de género, CEPAL
- Ms. **Helen Royer**, directora de desarrollo humano, Secretaría de la CARICOM
- Ms. **Julieth Solano**, Technical Director of the Directorate of Statistical Regulation, Planning and Standardization, National Administrative Department of Statistics (Colombia)
- Ms. **Isiuwa Iyehen**, Deputy Representative, UN Women Multi Country Office – Caribbean
- Ms. **Alejandra Mora Mora**, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM, by its Spanish initials)
- Ms. **Bibiana Aído**, Representative, UN Women Colombia
- Ms. **Natalia Moreno Salamanca**, Director of the Care System, Secretariat for Women's Affairs, City of Bogota

Sessions moderated by:

- Honourable representative **Juan Carlos Losada** (Colombia)
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Christian Tapia** (Chile)
- Senator Dr. **Saphire Longmore** (Jamaica), member of the ParlAmericas Board

Reading of the declaration on the care economy:

- The Honourable **Dessima Williams** (Grenada), president of the Senate
- Member of the Congress **Silvia Ayala** (Honduras)



[FULL AGENDA](#)



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DECLARATION ON THE CARE ECONOMY

During the Gathering, parliamentarians adopted a declaration that includes, among other commitments, the following:

- Adopt an approach in our lawmaking and oversight functions that acknowledges that care work, caregiving, and investing in the care economy should be priorities for government action, essential to the advancement of social and economic development and gender equality commitments.
- Introduce legislation, table motions, or conduct oversight to require our governments to improve the collection of disaggregated data through periodic time-use surveys and economic analyses in order to gain a more complete and nuanced understanding of care work and the care economy.
- Advocate for the public and private sector to adopt measures that lessen the burden of care work and foster the social co-responsibility of care via economic incentives, education, flexible working arrangements that do not compromise labour and social rights, extended paid family and sick leave, and programmes that provide compensation or accommodations during closures of care services like schools or daycare centres.
- Promote the implementation of gender-responsive counter-cyclical fiscal policies, in order to mitigate the impact of economic crises and recessions on all women's lives and promote regulatory frameworks and policies to galvanize the economy in sectors key to the sustainability of life, including the care economy (Paragraph 28, Buenos Aires Commitment).
- Introduce legislative reforms, table motions, or conduct oversight to expand protections for all care workers and recipients of care, with a special focus on migrant workers and other traditionally marginalized groups.
- Consider the elements developed in the Inter-American Model Law on Care of the CIM/OAS as a reference tool for the development of legal frameworks on the recognition, regulation, redistribution, provision, and promotion of care work.
- Call on our governments to take into account the current situation of unpaid care work in the development of the Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas to be implemented by 2030, as part of the larger strategy to expand equitable access to comprehensive, high-quality, and people-centred health services accounting for the sociocultural, economic, and structural challenges facing the hemisphere, as agreed by the Heads of State and Government during the IX Summit of the Americas.
- Advocate for the development and strengthening of health programmes that prioritize mental health and encompass prevention and early intervention through services, treatments, and supports that offer those living with mental illness the opportunity to experience significant improvements in their quality of life. In this regard, we will take note of the recommendations to be issued in the final report of the High-Level Commission on Mental Health and COVID-19 of the Pan-American Health Organization.
- Introduce legislation or motions, and undertake the oversight required to provide tax and financial incentives to businesses and industries that adopt inclusive care work practices and further provide social protection service infrastructure, including by supporting access to care services for the sick, disabled, the elderly, and children.
- Promote public programmes and campaigns that help to reshape the norms and stereotypes surrounding care work with the objective of achieving more gender-equal households, workplaces, economies, and societies.



Senator **Verónica Noemí Camino Farjat** (Mexico),
President of the PNGE

"Caregiving is an inherent necessity of life and a matter of gender inequality, because it has historically been performed by women in unpaid forms, without social benefits or labor rights. This sexual division of labor and time is rarely addressed as one of the determinants of the prevailing inequality in the region. Despite the increase in women's participation in the labor market, a considerable percentage do not have their own income, not because they do not work, but because they do so without remuneration or real recognition of the value of care and its contribution to the economy."



Honourable Representative **Jezmi Barraza** (Colombia),
Vice-President for South America of the PNGE

"The care economy from a gender perspective is a fundamental issue in the legislative agenda of each of our countries. This gathering is the platform to make visible the efforts and good practices as well as to share the pending challenges to legislate on care and build better opportunities for all, based on equity policies."



The Honourable **Bridgid Annisette-George** (Trinidad and Tobago), Speaker of the House of Representatives and Vice-President of ParlAmericas

"The care agenda represents a historical debt for all people, especially for women and girls, who have had to face many forms of discrimination. We have the opportunity to address care from a human rights approach, starting with the appropriate design of care policies, a shared responsibility of the State, Parliament and the private sector."



Senator **Germán Blanco** (Colombia), member of the ParlAmericas Board

"We have an important responsibility as parliamentarians to make women and men equal through legislative efforts."



The Honourable **David Racero** (Colombia), president of the House of Representatives

"It is claimed, recognized and meaningful that a State in its public policy focuses on the care economy, with a cross-cutting approach to gender and diversities [...] Care work in Colombia represents about 20% of GDP. If we generated adequate policies regarding the care economy we could create more than 2.5 million jobs in the country."

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