



TITLE: 16th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality (PNGE) and 8th Gathering of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and Sustainability (PNCCS)

DATES: October 23-25, 2024

LOCATION: San Jose, Costa Rica

PARTICIPANTS: More than 100 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, women's organizations, youth leaders, and representatives of civil society and multilateral organizations

CO-ORGANIZERS: Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica; Forum of Presidents of the Legislative Bodies of Central America and the Caribbean (FOPREL)



This activity aligned with SDGs 1, 5, 8, 10 and 13.



Migration in the Context of Socio-Environmental Challenges

This joint Gathering of the PNGE and PNCCS – which additionally marked the occasion of a meeting of FOPREL's commission on women's rights and gender equity – brought together stakeholders from 18 countries and two territories to explore various angles of the issue of migration in the hemisphere.

Topics of discussion included the economic growth opportunities of migration, legislative good practices related to its governance, climate-induced migration, migration data collection, differential impacts of migration based on gender, and social protection and integration of migrants in host communities.



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Opening remarks

- **Rodrigo Arias** (Costa Rica), President of the Legislative Assembly; President pro tempore, FOPREL
- Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President, ParlAmericas
- **Ariel J. Alvarado Urbina**, Executive Secretary, FOPREL
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Carolina Delgado** (Costa Rica), Chair, FOPREL Interparliamentary Commission on Women's Rights and Gender Equity; Member, Board of Directors of ParlAmericas; Host of the Gathering

Spotlight Session - Responsible Migration Governance in a World of Environmental and Social Uncertainty

- **Ana Durán**, Deputy Regional Director for the Americas, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Dr. **Natasha Kay Mortley**, Research Fellow, IGDS, University of the West Indies

Interview - The Migrant Perspective

- **Vlada Krasova Torres Colomer**, activist
- **María Faría**, Director, *Talento Importado*

Presentation of Tools for Legislative Work

- [Inclusive Migration Governance in the Americas and Caribbean: A Primer for Parliamentarians](#), ParlAmericas and CELADE
- [Regional Framework Law on the Management of Migration for Climate and Environmental Reasons with a Human Rights Approach](#) (in Spanish), FOPREL and IOM
- [Regional Framework Law on Migration with a Human Rights Approach](#) (in Spanish), FOPREL and IOM
- [Policy Brief for Legislating on Sexual Violence with a Consent-Based Approach](#), ParlAmericas and Equality Now

Presentations and Thematic Tables - International Instruments on Migration

- **Lindsay Jenkins**, Senior Advisor for Migration, U.S. Department of State
- **Erica Guevara Reyes**, National Project Officer, Western Hemisphere Program, IOM
- Participation in the thematic tables by young women climate advocates who are delegates of the youth parliament program run by the organization *Misión 1.5*

Reflections from ParlAmericas' Parliamentary Networks

- Senator **Carmen Gloria Aravena** (Chile), Vice-President for South America of the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality
- Member of the National Assembly **Radjendrekoeemar Debie** (Suriname), Vice-President for South America of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and Sustainability



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Rodrigo Arias (Costa Rica), President of the Legislative Assembly; President pro tempore, FOPREL

"Today, more than ever, migration challenges us as legislators to formulate policies that not only guarantee the protection of human rights but also promote the empowerment of the most vulnerable populations, with a special focus on women, who face particular challenges in their pursuit of a dignified life."



Ariel J. Alvarado Urbina, Executive Secretary, FOPREL

"The current context presents significant new challenges, making the collective action of parliaments vital. It is essential that we continue strengthening partnerships within the various organizations we are working with and promote the exchange of experiences and good practices."



Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President, ParlAmericas

"Only through a framework grounded in regional cooperation will it be possible to respond in a coordinated manner to the migration challenges we face and to build migration governance models that promote safe, orderly, and regular migration."



Member of the Legislative Assembly **Carolina Delgado** (Costa Rica); Chair, FOPREL Interparliamentary Commission on Women's Rights and Gender Equity; Member, Board of Directors of ParlAmericas; Host of the Gathering

"Having up-to-date and disaggregated information will allow us to design more effective migration policies ... That is why, from our parliaments, we must ensure that data drives our actions and translates into laws that truly address the reality of migration."



Member of the National Assembly **Radjendrekoeemar Debie** (Suriname), Vice-President for South America of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and Sustainability

"Parliaments can play an important role in closing the legal gaps so that environmental and climate migration are recognized as legitimate reasons to move and are included in our national adaptation, development and security plans. Addressing the root causes of forced displacement by mitigating and adapting to climate change must be at the top of our agendas."



Senator **Carmen Gloria Aravena** (Chile), Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality

"As legislators, we have the responsibility to work towards a model of safe, orderly, and regular migration based on the human rights of migrants, one that values their ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and religious diversity and recognizes migrants' contributions to host communities."



Ana Durán, Deputy Regional Director for the Americas, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

"It is essential to promote a discourse based on facts and reliable evidence to counter myths and misinformation about migration. We must highlight the positive contributions of migrants and foster an education from childhood that emphasizes the economic, cultural, and social benefits of migration. Promoting inclusive policies, supporting regularization, encouraging civic participation, and ensuring access to basic services are essential steps to build more integrated and cohesive societies."



Dr. Natasha Kay Mortley, Research Fellow, Institute for Gender and Development Studies, University of the West Indies

"The Caribbean, traditionally known for international migration, is now grappling with evolving migration trends, particularly with displacement driven by environmental issues such as storms, hurricanes, and other natural hazards which have led to increased intra-regional movement. This shift brings complex dynamics, including significant gender disparities and growing concerns around discrimination and xenophobia, demanding urgent attention and action."

DECLARATION

During the Gathering, parliamentarians adopted a [declaration](#) that includes the following commitments:

- Promote the economic, social and cultural benefits derived from safe, orderly and regular migration, while also addressing the challenges and concerns that migration can pose for countries and communities of origin, transit, destination and return.
- Call for the relevant authorities to improve processes for the collection, analysis and dissemination of information, statistics and disaggregated data on the migrant population, including on demographics, socioeconomic and cultural characteristics, motivations, migration status and risks, among other qualitative and quantitative variables, while complying with the highest standards of data protection and confidentiality.
- Promote the legal recognition of climate migrants as rights holders and ensure their protection in migration governance policies.
- Redouble our efforts to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the target in the Paris Agreement, to prevent the worsening of climate impacts, and prioritizing climate adaptation and disaster risk management to contribute to reducing climate and environmental migration.
- Ensure that legislation on migration responds to the differentiated experiences of women, youth and child migrants, low-skilled labour migrants, and people with disabilities, including measures on assistance, healthcare, psychological services and access to justice, seeking to prevent gender-based discrimination, abusive labour conditions, and violence in all its forms and modalities.

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