
 **THEMES:** Digital identity, digital transformation, inclusive digital governance

 **DATE:** August 30, 2024

 **LOCATION:** Virtual

 **PARTICIPANTS:** More than 65 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, representatives of civil society, international organizations, and government representatives from 21 countries in the Americas and the Caribbean



This activity is aligned with SDGs 5, 9 and 16.



Legislative Strategies to Strengthen Digital Identity Governance

Given the vital role of parliaments in promoting secure and inclusive digital spaces, this virtual meeting examined legislative strategies to protect digital identities in an evolving landscape. Discussions explored the need to rethink digital governance strategies as digital identity transforms interactions and transactions once limited to in-person settings. Participants dialogued on harmonizing regulatory frameworks, improving interoperability, and ensuring that digital identities are accessible, affordable, and user-friendly. Participants also addressed the importance of preventing fraud and misuse.

This activity was part of a series of dialogues being carried out by the ParlAmericas Digital Caucus.



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Opening Remarks:

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

Moderator and Meeting Chair:

- Senator **Kenneth Pugh** (Chile), Co-Chair of the Digital Caucus of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

Specialists:

- **Gustavo Giorgetti**, Professor at the University of San Andrés, Argentina
- **Michele Marius**, Director at ICT Pulse
- **Cecilia Danesi**, Researcher at the Institute of European Studies and Human Rights and Special Advisor to ParlAmericas' Digital Caucus

Interparliamentary dialogue conclusions:

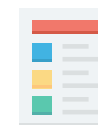
- Member of the Chamber of Representatives **Rodrigo Goñi** (Uruguay), President of the Committee on the Future

Closing Remarks:

- The Honourable **Leo Cato** (Grenada), Speaker of the House of Representatives and Vice-President for the Caribbean of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

KEY CONSIDERATION FROM THE MEETING:

- Digital identity has become essential for accessing services and exercising citizenship in today's world. Its governance should therefore reflect the diverse contexts and needs of people, ensuring accessibility and security for all.
- Digital skills promote the development and appropriate use of digital identities. Ensuring that education systems and policies prioritize digital literacy skills, particularly for girls, women, and traditionally marginalized groups, will help bridge the digital divide and create more equitable opportunities in the digital sphere.
- Ensuring interoperability among digital identity systems, especially in countries with decentralized operations, strengthens resilience, enhances security and prevents vulnerabilities.
- Effective digital transformation and data protection laws come from bipartisan cooperation and active engagement with stakeholders, ensuring more comprehensive and durable solutions.
- Parliamentarians should prioritize citizens' privacy and digital rights by promoting robust digital identity systems and legal frameworks, while urging the executive branch to secure resources and support capacity-building for digital transformation processes.



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