During the Open Americas regional conference, ParlAmericas and the Chamber of Deputies of the Dominican Republic organized an inter-parliamentary meeting with the objective of promoting strengthened parliaments in the region through legislative openness. Parliamentarians and representatives of international organizations and civil society participated in a panel and working groups, outlining progress on open parliament efforts in the region, including good practices during co-creation processes and initiatives related to transparency, accountability, citizen participation, and ethics. The importance of continuing to advance this agenda, while incorporating a gender perspective and initiatives to expand the participation of women in these processes, was highlighted throughout this forum.
**Agenda Highlights**

**Opening:**
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Alfredo Pacheco Osoria** (Dominican Republic), President of the Chamber of Deputies
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Nelsa Shoraya Suárez Ariza** (Dominican Republic), Secretary of the Board of Directors and Host of the Inter-Parliamentary Meeting
- Senator **Bertha Caraveo** (Mexico), Vice-President for North America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network (OPN)

**Panellists:**
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Carolina Delgado** (Costa Rica), ParlAmericas Board Member
- **María Barón**, Global Executive Director, Directorio Legislativo
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Vlado Mirosèvic** (Chile), ParlAmericas Board Member
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Elíaz Báez de los Santos** (Dominican Republic)
- Member of the National Assembly **Nathalie Arias** (Ecuador)
- **María Liz Sosa**, Director General, Directorate of Institutional Development and External Cooperation, Chamber of Senators of Paraguay
- **Rosario Pavese**, Regional Lead for South America, Senior Parliamentary Advisor (Global), Open Government Partnership

**Working group leads:**
- Senator **Bertha Caraveo** (Mexico), Vice-President for North America of the ParlAmericas OPN
- Member of Congress **Karina Paz** (Guatemala)

**Moderators:**
- **Guadalupe Valdez** (Dominican Republic)
- **Rocío Noriega**, Advisor to the Bicameral Group on Transparency, National Congress of Chile

**Closing:**
- Member of the National Assembly **Corina Cano** (Panama), Vice-President for Central America of the ParlAmericas OPN
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Nelsa Shoraya Suárez Ariza** (Dominican Republic), Secretary of the Board of Directors and Host of the Inter-Parliamentary Meeting

**KEY CONCLUSIONS FROM THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY DIALOGUE.**
- Strengthening transparency and access to information, accountability, citizen participation, and ethics and probity is an urgent need and a commitment for those who recognize legislative openness as an essential principle of good governance.
- Broadening participatory spaces as well as strengthening the availability of virtual mechanisms for participation would enable citizens to meaningfully engage in public affairs and parliamentary decision-making processes.
- Public integrity should be an objective not only for the branches of government, but for society as a whole in order to build a culture of integrity based on the highest legal and ethical standards for all interactions between the public and private sectors, civil society, and individuals.
- Although several countries in the region have a legal framework for citizen participation, there is still much work to be done in terms of citizen ownership and their participation through these mechanisms.
COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

- Argentina
- Bolivia
- Chile
- Costa Rica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Mexico
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru

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

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

ParlAmericas mainstreams GENDER EQUALITY by advocating for women’s political empowerment and the application of a gender lens in legislative work.

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