



**Parliamentary Diplomacy in Action: Advancing  
Multidimensional Security and Regional Cooperation  
Toward the Tenth Summit of the Americas**

**Report of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Delegation to  
Washington, D.C.  
March 25 to 27, 2025**





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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF PARLAMERICAS

It is a pleasure to present this report on the 2025 edition of the ParlAmericas Annual Parliamentary Delegation to Washington, D.C., convened to engage in strategic dialogues with the Organization of American States (OAS) and counterparts in the United States Congress. Building on the success of last year's visit, this delegation marked a key step in our collective efforts to institutionalize parliamentary diplomacy as a meaningful and strategic component of hemispheric governance.

In today's complex geopolitical environment, the voice of parliaments must not only be heard—it must shape our collective responses. Through initiatives such as this delegation, ParlAmericas reaffirms the essential role of parliaments as legitimate, plural, and representative actors in regional and global decision-making processes.

Parliamentary diplomacy enables us to bridge differences, foster mutual understanding, and contribute constructively to the development of shared solutions. It is grounded in the very principles that sustain democracy: transparency, dialogue, inclusivity, and accountability. In this sense, our delegation served not just as a space for institutional engagement, but as a political statement on the importance of building a more participatory multilateralism—one that reflects the aspirations of our peoples and gives democratic meaning to international commitments.

I extend my sincere appreciation to all members of the delegation and our institutional partners. At a time when democratic institutions face growing pressures, our work together affirms that parliaments are not peripheral observers of hemispheric affairs: they are essential actors in shaping a more secure, just, and democratic future for the region.

*Blanca Ovelar*

**Blanca Ovelar**

Senator, Paraguay

Head of Delegation

President of ParlAmericas



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY


From March 25 to 27, 2025, ParlAmericas convened its Annual Parliamentary Delegation to Washington, D.C., under the theme *Multidimensional Security and Regional Cooperation: Parliamentary Perspectives*. The delegation brought together 28 parliamentarians from 18 countries of the Americas and the Caribbean for a series of high-level political dialogues with representatives of the Organization of American States (OAS), members of the United States Congress, and experts from international organizations.

This year's delegation was strategically aligned with the priorities of the upcoming Tenth Summit of the Americas, to be held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. Sessions explored the complex and interrelated drivers of insecurity in the region—including transnational crime, democratic erosion, inequality, and institutional fragility—through a multidimensional lens that placed people's rights and well-being at the center. Parliamentarians contributed perspectives on inclusive development, democratic governance, and regional cooperation, reinforcing the legislative branch's vital role in shaping effective, accountable, and sustainable responses.

An institutional highlight of this year's delegation was the formal high-level dialogue held with Permanent Representatives of OAS Member States. This open and constructive exchange represented a significant institutional achievement for ParlAmericas, advancing its longstanding objective of serving as the parliamentary interlocutor within the inter-American system and contributing to hemispheric decision-making spaces. The dialogue reaffirmed the value of greater legislative engagement in multilateral forums, particularly as the region prepares for a decisive Summit year.

Meetings with members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate took on added significance amid shifting geopolitical dynamics in the Hemisphere. These bipartisan engagements reaffirmed the importance of peer-to-peer cooperation and a shared commitment to democratic values and collective security. Topics addressed included transnational organized crime, illicit arms trafficking, migration, and regional security frameworks.

The delegation also included thematic sessions with international organizations that are members of the Joint Summit Working Group including the IDB, the World Bank, UNDP, PAHO, ECLAC, the OECD, and IICA, in addition to specialists from the OAS Secretariat, the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM/OAS), the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT) as well as other Washington-based policy institutes. These discussions underscored the importance of addressing structural drivers of insecurity through inclusive economic strategies, gender equality, and technological innovation.



In this context, ParlAmericas signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the OAS Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) to strengthen cooperation on transformative technologies, including artificial intelligence, and to support regional capacity-building in data governance, technological foresight, and evidence-based policymaking.

This delegation laid critical groundwork for parliamentary contributions to the Tenth Summit of the Americas, reaffirming ParlAmericas' role as a forum for democratic dialogue and institutional collaboration. It further demonstrated the value of sustained parliamentary diplomacy in advancing shared regional goals, in line with the mandate adopted at the Ninth Summit of the Americas to promote parliamentary participation in the Summit Process.

## Objectives of the Delegation

- Advance parliamentary contributions to the Tenth Summit of the Americas by positioning the delegation as a consultative platform for legislative dialogue on the Summit's core themes of multidimensional security, democratic resilience, and inclusive development.
- Provide delegates with strategic insights into inter-American multilateral architecture, including the role of the OAS, the Summit of the Americas process, and key regional and international organizations, enhancing their capacity to engage with these mechanisms from a legislative standpoint.
- Implement the commitments adopted by the OAS General Assembly to enable regularized parliamentary engagement in the inter-American system, as set out in Resolutions AG/RES. 2989 (LII-O/22) and AG/RES. 3004 (LIII-O/23), and detailed in the ParlAmericas proposal presented to the CAJP-CISC meeting in 2024.
- Expand parliamentary diplomacy with the United States Congress by fostering peer-to-peer dialogue and building pathways for more consistent U.S. legislative engagement with legislators from the Americas and the Caribbean through ParlAmericas, particularly in light of shifting geopolitical dynamics.



## **PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY IN ACTION: ADVANCING MULTIDIMENSIONAL SECURITY AND REGIONAL COOPERATION TOWARD THE TENTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS**

### **Parliamentary Engagement at the OAS: Institutionalizing Legislative Participation in the Inter-American System**


The delegation's engagements with the Organization of American States (OAS) reflected the continued consolidation of a strategic and multidimensional institutional relationship. Building on the momentum of previous years and on the formal commitments adopted by the OAS General Assembly, the 2025 program provided a platform for meaningful parliamentary dialogue not only with senior officials across the OAS system, but also with Permanent Missions of Member States. These exchanges advanced the objective of institutionalizing legislative participation in the inter-American system and underscored the growing recognition of ParlAmericas as a key actor in hemispheric political dialogue.

### **Parliamentary Dialogue with Permanent Missions: Toward a Shared Vision for the X Summit**

Among the standout sessions of the 2025 delegation was the high-level dialogue held between the ParlAmericas delegation and Permanent Representatives of the Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS). Convened on March 26, 2025, in the Hall of the Americas at OAS headquarters, this session brought together parliamentary delegates with diplomatic representatives to discuss shared regional priorities in the lead up to the Tenth Summit of the Americas.

The session represented an important step in realizing ParlAmericas' long-standing institutional objective of establishing structured and sustained legislative engagement within the inter-American system. It gave practical expression to the commitments adopted by the OAS General Assembly and to the proposals advanced by ParlAmericas at the 2024 joint session of the CAJP and CISC committees. The dialogue underscored the value of embedding parliamentary perspectives into intergovernmental processes and fostering more democratic and representative approaches to hemispheric cooperation.

The exchange offered a frank and constructive discussion on the most pressing challenges facing the Hemisphere, including deteriorating security conditions, democratic backsliding, and the urgent need to restore trust in public institutions. Participants acknowledged the multidimensional nature of these crises and emphasized the importance of joint regional efforts to uphold the rule of law, defend human rights, and advance inclusive development. In this



context, the role of parliaments was highlighted as essential to ensuring democratic oversight, enacting responsive legislation, and anchoring multilateral commitments at the national level.

The session was opened with remarks by Ambassador **Stuart Savage**, Permanent Representative of Canada to the OAS; **Pamela Polanco Jorge**, Counselor and Alternate Representative to the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic; and **María Celina Conte**, Director of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat.

The dialogue reaffirmed ParlAmericas' role as the established inter-parliamentary organization of the Hemisphere and a legitimate actor in hemispheric political dialogue. It also demonstrated growing political support from OAS Member States for formalizing channels of engagement with national legislatures and for enhancing the democratic legitimacy of the inter-American system.

### **Meeting with the OAS Secretary General and the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy**

Delegates participated in a high-level meeting with OAS Secretary General **Luis Almagro** and **Francisco Guerrero**, Secretary for Strengthening Democracy and ex officio member of the ParlAmericas Board of Directors. Taking place during the final months of Secretary General Almagro's tenure, the meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on the evolution of the OAS–ParlAmericas relationship and reaffirm shared commitments to democratic governance and inter-parliamentary dialogue.

The discussion highlighted regional trends of political polarization, disinformation, and declining trust in institutions and reflected on the role of parliaments in responding to these challenges by strengthening accountability, civic participation, and public confidence through transparent, rights-based legislative action.

Secretary General Almagro reaffirmed the institutional recognition of ParlAmericas as the inter-parliamentary organization of the Hemisphere and emphasized the indispensable role of parliaments in upholding democratic norms, reinforcing the rule of law, and ensuring inclusive governance. He also expressed support for continued collaboration between the OAS and ParlAmericas to advance the implementation of General Assembly mandates on legislative engagement.

Senator Blanca Ovelar, in her capacity as President of ParlAmericas and head of delegation, conveyed the organization's appreciation to Secretary General Almagro and Secretary Guerrero for their collaboration with ParlAmericas. As both prepare to conclude their terms, she acknowledged their decade of steadfast commitment to advancing the work of the OAS as unwavering champions for democracy, human rights and regional peace and prosperity.



## Protocolary Meeting with the Chair of the OAS Permanent Council

The delegation held a formal meeting with Ambassador **Héctor Enrique Arce Zaconeta**, Chair of the OAS Permanent Council and Permanent Representative of Bolivia. A former parliamentarian, Ambassador Arce delivered a compelling address on the foundational role of parliaments in democratic governance and multilateral cooperation. Reflecting on the history of parliamentary representation and its relevance to the legitimacy of regional integration, he emphasized that true hemispheric integration must include a robust parliamentary dimension, underscoring ParlAmericas' unique value in this regard.

The dialogue covered wide-ranging political themes, including the challenges of democratic erosion, regional inequality, and the fragmentation of political consensus. Ambassador Arce reaffirmed the value of the OAS as a space for sovereign, equal dialogue among states and cautioned against unilateral approaches to regional challenges. He emphasized the importance of safeguarding the democratic character of multilateralism, grounded in mutual respect, shared responsibility, and the defense of constitutional order.

Delegates raised concerns about the transnational arms trade, organized crime, youth disengagement from democratic institutions, and the need to reinforce civic trust in times of uncertainty. Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President of ParlAmericas, reiterated the organization's commitment to advancing a more participatory multilateralism in which parliaments are more effectively engaged. Other interventions called for stronger cooperation between the Permanent Council and ParlAmericas, including greater alignment and coordination among legislative bodies across the region to promote shared legal frameworks on security and democratic governance.

The meeting reaffirmed that deeper parliamentary engagement is critical to revitalizing the inter-American system and to building inclusive, accountable institutions capable of responding to the Hemisphere's most pressing challenges.

## Engagement with the U.S. Congress: Strengthening Parliamentary Ties in a Complex Hemispheric Context

The 2025 delegation included high-level engagements with members of the United States Congress, reaffirming the vital role of parliamentary diplomacy amid shifting geopolitical dynamics and mounting global and regional tensions. These meetings highlighted the importance of sustained peer-to-peer dialogue to strengthen democratic resilience, enhance collective security, and revitalize inter-American cooperation. Discussions underscored the strategic potential of legislative diplomacy to foster trust, bridge political divides, and support joint responses to shared hemispheric challenges.





## Roundtable with Members of the House of Representatives

In collaboration with the House Democracy Partnership (HDP), the delegation took part in a roundtable dialogue with Representatives **Dina Titus** (Democrat-Nevada), **Robin Kelly** (Democrat-Illinois), **Delia Ramirez** (Democrat-Illinois), **Neil Dunn** (Republican-Florida), and **Adrian Smith** (Republican-Nebraska). The conversation addressed pressing regional issues such as transnational organized crime, firearms trafficking, irregular migration, and institutional frameworks for inter-parliamentary collaboration.

Participants acknowledged the importance of building shared understandings and legislative responses to address common threats. The session reaffirmed the role of parliamentary diplomacy in bridging national perspectives, promoting rights-based approaches to security, and fostering institutional relationships grounded in mutual accountability and democratic values.

The meeting also highlighted opportunities for more consistent U.S. legislative engagement with ParlAmericas, recognizing its role as the established inter-parliamentary forum of the Hemisphere and a space for sustained multilateral cooperation.

## A Conversation with Senator Roger Wicker

A separate engagement was held with Senator **Roger Wicker** (Republican-Mississippi), Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, focused on regional security dynamics, migration, and transnational threats. The discussion reflected a shared concern over the impacts of illicit arms flows, synthetic drug trafficking—including fentanyl—and the influence of non-democratic actors in the region.

Senator Wicker emphasized the value of strengthening parliamentary ties between the United States and its hemispheric partners, particularly through constructive and recurring channels for parliamentary diplomacy. He acknowledged ParlAmericas' ongoing efforts to strengthen parliamentary engagement at the OAS in alignment with the [proposal ParlAmericas](#) had put forth the previous year. [A proposal for which Senator Wicker, and now former Senator Ben Cardin, had communicated support with a [formal letter](#) to the OAS Permanent Council]. He expressed support for increased congressional participation in inter-parliamentary exchanges and recognized the growing importance of parliamentary dialogue in promoting regional stability and democratic governance.



## **Parliamentary Perspectives on Regional Security and Cooperation in the Lead-Up to the Tenth Summit of the Americas**


As a core feature of the 2025 delegation, a series of high-level thematic sessions were convened at the OAS Secretariat, providing legislators with the opportunity to engage in strategic dialogue with subject matter experts from the OAS and other international organizations that form part of the Joint Summit Working Group, alongside representatives from leading Washington-based policy institutions. These exchanges offered a comprehensive examination of the political, economic, social, and environmental dimensions of regional security—reinforcing the imperative for holistic policy approaches and stronger parliamentary engagement across the inter-American system.

### **Towards the X Summit of the Americas**

Delegates engaged in a strategic dialogue on the Summit of the Americas process and the political priorities being advanced by the Dominican Republic as host of the Tenth Summit: building a secure, sustainable, and inclusive Hemisphere. Through dialogue with representatives of the OAS Summit Secretariat, the government of the Dominican Republic as host country, as well as representatives from PAHO, ECLAC, and the OECD as members of the Joint Summit Working Group, parliamentarians explored opportunities to contribute meaningfully to the implementation of regional commitments through legislative action and oversight.

The exchange highlighted that while the Summit is led by the executive branch, its effectiveness ultimately depends on robust parliamentary engagement. The parliamentarians highlighted the need for structured mechanisms to incorporate their input throughout the Summit process and underscored the importance of translating hemispheric mandates into national legislation, budgets, and accountability frameworks.

Delegates emphasized that addressing the region's complex security and development challenges demands more than policy reform; it requires confronting root causes and structural inequities. They welcomed the Summit's thematic focus on citizen security and access to food, water, and energy, while also calling for stronger attention to issues such as corruption, post-pandemic vulnerabilities, and persistent health disparities. In particular, they stressed the importance of addressing inequalities through an intersectional lens, including gender disparities that continue to limit women's full participation in post-pandemic recovery and sustainable development. Discussions underscored the importance of policy coherence across sectors and inclusive development models rooted in democratic values.



The session underscored the importance of ensuring that legislative voices are meaningfully integrated into the Summit process to help shape hemispheric priorities and advance more coordinated and coherent regional cooperation.

### **Addressing the Structural Drivers of Insecurity**

This session explored the root causes of insecurity in the Americas and the Caribbean, focusing on the intersections between development, governance, and public safety. In dialogue with experts from UNDP, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank, delegates examined the multidimensional nature of violence and organized crime, and the limits of fragmented or reactive responses.

Parliamentarians emphasized the need to move beyond short-term containment toward comprehensive policies that address the structural conditions—social, economic, and institutional—that fuel insecurity. Interventions highlighted the importance of restoring state presence in marginalized territories, rebuilding public trust, and investing in preventative approaches targeting youth, vulnerable populations, and historically excluded communities. The dialogue underscored that insecurity does not affect all populations equally: women and girls are often disproportionately impacted, both by direct violence and by the erosion of public services and opportunities in insecure environments. This reality calls for integrated responses that apply a gender lens to security, development, and institutional reform.

Participants further analyzed that high levels of violence in the region are driven not only by poverty or inequality, but also by weak institutional capacity and limited rule of law. Organized crime distorts development, undermines public services, and erodes democratic governance by asserting territorial control, extracting rents from legal and illegal markets, and reducing citizen political agency.

The discussion also emphasized the legislative role in shaping coherent, evidence-based responses. Delegates called for stronger oversight of security expenditures, justice system reforms, and integrated strategies that link public health, education, and social policy. Improving access to disaggregated data was cited as critical for effective policy design and accountability.

The session reaffirmed the importance of aligning national efforts with regional cooperation, including through deeper engagement with the inter-American system, development banks, and UN agencies. It underscored that addressing insecurity requires political will, sustained investment, and coordinated legislative leadership to disrupt structural drivers and uphold democratic governance.



## **Inclusive Economic Development: A Strategic Pillar for Stability and Social Cohesion**

Delegates took part in an exchange on how inclusive economic development can serve as a long-term strategy to strengthen stability and social cohesion. Parliamentarians engaged with representatives from the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT), the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) to explore strategies for expanding access to opportunity, reducing inequality, and fostering more cohesive and resilient societies.

Delegates emphasized that sustainable security cannot be achieved without tackling the deep-rooted inequities that limit economic participation, particularly for women, youth, rural communities, and informal workers. They reflected on the importance of shaping economic policies that are attuned to the realities of marginalized populations, including through investment in entrepreneurship, care infrastructure, and inclusive rural development.


Discussions underscored the transformative potential of entrepreneurship when backed by enabling public policy and access to credit. Participants highlighted the need to dismantle systemic barriers such as gender bias in credit systems and legal exclusions from land ownership, which continue to limit the economic agency of historically disadvantaged groups.

Delegates also drew attention to the demographic shifts, including aging populations and youth unemployment, and called for stronger institutional responses to address aging populations, technological transitions, and shifting labor markets. Support for youth leadership in agriculture, expansion of care economy protections, and inclusive land policies were all cited as essential pillars for long-term stability.

The dialogue reaffirmed the central role of parliaments in crafting legislative frameworks that link economic development with social inclusion and democratic resilience, transforming growth into a pathway for peace, equity, and opportunity.

## **The Role of Parliaments in Promoting Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**

Amid shifting migration patterns across the region, this session addressed the complex dynamics of migration in the Americas and the Caribbean, recognizing it as a structural and long-term phenomenon shaped by violence, inequality, environmental stress, and institutional fragility. In conversation with experts from the Migration Policy Institute and the OAS Department of Social Inclusion, participants examined the implications of current trends and explored a parliamentary vision for migration governance grounded in rights, cooperation, and shared responsibility.



The dialogue emphasized that migration must be understood beyond emergency responses or border management. Contributors highlighted the need for legislative action that expands regular pathways for mobility, strengthens regional coordination, and ensures that migrants and refugees can access healthcare, education, and dignified work. A shared concern emerged around the gap between existing legal frameworks and the realities on the ground, pointing to the urgency of updating legislation to address emerging migration flows and reflect the diversity of experiences across the region.

The discussion also stressed the importance of harmonizing national frameworks with regional and international commitments, including the Global Compact for Migration. Participants underscored the value of integrating local and border communities into planning processes, and called for national strategies that avoid criminalizing or marginalizing migrants. The need for budget allocations, oversight tools, and targeted legislative reforms to prevent discrimination, gender-based violence, and exploitation was also a central focus.

The session reaffirmed that parliaments have a key role to play in shaping comprehensive migration policy through inclusive debate, evidence-based lawmaking, and the promotion of narratives that uphold the rights and contributions of migrants. A more democratic and sustainable approach to migration governance, it was agreed, requires coordinated responses across sectors and borders, with legislative leadership at its core.

### **Climate Security and Resilience: Strengthening Governance for a Sustainable Future**

This session addressed the implications of climate change across the Americas and the Caribbean, emphasizing its role as a risk multiplier that intensifies inequality, weakens institutions, and threatens regional stability. Far from being a distant or abstract challenge, climate change is already disrupting livelihoods, displacing communities, and placing mounting pressure on governance systems that are often unprepared to respond.

The dialogue underscored that building resilience is not solely an environmental or technical task, but a core responsibility of democratic governance. Participants highlighted the widening gap between the pace of the crisis and the responsiveness of public institutions. Strengthening the state's capacity to anticipate and manage risk was identified as essential to prevent further erosion of legitimacy and to move beyond a model of reactive crisis response.

Parliaments were recognized as key actors in driving this shift. Their roles in legislating, overseeing public budgets, and articulating social priorities place them at the heart of efforts to promote equitable and sustainable responses. The need to prioritize climate justice, particularly for small island states, rural and Indigenous communities, and youth, emerged as a central



theme. Participants also called for improved intersectoral coordination and more inclusive forms of civic participation in shaping climate policy.

Looking ahead to key hemispheric and global decision-making spaces, the session highlighted the urgency of treating climate security as a strategic parliamentary priority. Resilience demands institutional reform, political leadership, and a focus on those most affected.

### **Regional Security in a Changing Context: Traditional and Non-Traditional Threats**

As security threats grow increasingly transnational and complex, this session brought together parliamentarians and experts to examine how both traditional and emerging challenges are reshaping the regional security landscape. Discussions highlighted the growing influence of transnational criminal networks that operate across borders and markets, often infiltrating state institutions and eroding public trust. Organized crime was identified not simply as a public safety issue, but as a systemic ecosystem that undermines development, extracts rents, and distorts democratic processes.

Participants emphasized the widening asymmetry between the strategic reach of criminal actors and the limited capacity of states to respond. In this context, modernizing legal frameworks, reinforcing institutional resilience, and strengthening regional coordination emerged as urgent priorities.

The dialogue also addressed non-traditional threats, including cybersecurity vulnerabilities and the criminal exploitation of digital technologies, particularly through social media platforms and online spaces, with concern raised over rising gender-based violence and the disproportionate impact on women and marginalized communities. Parliaments were recognized as critical actors in responding to these challenges by shaping security strategies that are grounded in democratic values, territorial equity, and human rights. Delegates underscored the need for legislative action that addresses structural drivers of insecurity—such as inequality, corruption, and impunity—and for oversight tools that reinforce institutional legitimacy.

As the region prepares for the Tenth Summit of the Americas, the session reaffirmed that citizen security must be a political priority and a shared responsibility. Addressing the region's complex security challenges will require bold legislative leadership and renewed cooperation across borders.



## STRATEGIC OUTCOMES AND INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCES

### **1. Implementation of the Legislative Engagement Mandate within the Inter-American System**

The delegation advanced the implementation of General Assembly Resolutions AG/RES. 2989 (LII-O/22) and AG/RES. 3004 (LIII-O/23), as well as the specific proposals submitted by ParlAmericas to the CAJP-CISC in 2024. The political and technical exchanges held with OAS authorities and representatives from the Permanent Missions demonstrated increasing recognition among Member States and OAS leadership of the value of integrating legislative perspectives in shaping hemispheric responses to complex regional challenges and reaffirmed ParlAmericas' readiness to move from endorsement to action in creating sustainable institutional mechanisms for parliamentary engagement with the OAS.

### **2. Expanded Peer-to-Peer Engagement with the U.S. Congress**

Amid growing global and regional instability, the delegation's meetings with members of both chambers of the U.S. Congress strengthened institutional efforts to expand hemispheric inter-parliamentary cooperation to include the United States and signalled a shared recognition of the importance of legislative engagement within the inter-American system. These engagements built on prior efforts to foster U.S. congressional participation in ParlAmericas, opened new lines of communication with bipartisan actors, and underscored the need for coordinated legislative responses to shared threats in the Western Hemisphere.

### **3. Direct Parliamentary Contributions to the Tenth Summit of the Americas**

The delegation provided a political platform for legislators to contribute to the upcoming Tenth Summit of the Americas. Through thematic sessions aligned with the Summit pillars and exchanges with representatives of the host country and members of the Joint Summit Working Group, parliamentarians helped articulate legislative priorities for regional security and development.

### **4. Strengthened Inter-Institutional Partnerships and Thematic Collaboration**

The program reinforced and expanded collaboration with key inter-American entities and multilateral institutions, including the OAS General Secretariat, the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), the World Bank, IDB, UNDP, ECLAC, OECD, IICA, PAHO, as well as leading public policy institution such as the Migration Policy Institute and the Inter-American Dialogue, among others. These relationships create a stronger foundation for future technical cooperation and knowledge exchange on pressing regional issues.



## ANNEXES

### Annex I: Members of the Delegation



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

Elected national senator of Paraguay for the 2023-2028 term. She was Minister of Education and Culture and Coordinator of the Social Cabinet of the Presidency of the Republic from 2002 to 2007. She was a presidential candidate for the Republic of Paraguay for the 2008-2013 term with the Colorado political party; and elected national senator for the 2013-2018 and 2018-2023 terms.



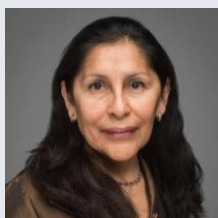
#### **The Honourable Bridgid Annisette-George (Trinidad and Tobago), Speaker of the House of Representatives and Vice-President of ParlAmericas**

Elected speaker of the House of Representatives on September 23, 2015, a position she currently holds. She entered parliament as a senator in 2007 and served as Attorney General (2007-2009).



#### **Senator Verónica Noemí Camino Farjat (Mexico), Second Vice-President of ParlAmericas**

National Senator since 2018. Secretary of the Senate's Executive Committee. Previously served as a Member of the Congress of the State of Yucatán (2015-2018). She is currently the President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality.



#### **Senator the Honourable Rosa Galvez (Canada), Second Vice-President of ParlAmericas**

Senator since 2016. Former Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources and member of the Standing



Committee on National Finance. She is currently the President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and Sustainability.



**The Honourable Alincia Williams Grant (Antigua and Barbuda), President of the Senate**

Appointed President of the Senate on June 25, 2014, a position she currently holds. Before her appointment, she served on the Board of Directors of the Antigua Commercial Bank and held legal roles at the ACB Group and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank.



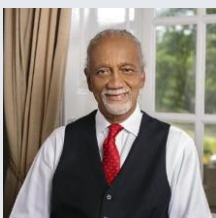
**Member of the Chamber of Deputies Damián Arabia (Argentina)**

Member of the Chamber of Deputies since 2023. He serves as Secretary of the Committee on General Legislation and the Committee on Science, Technology, and Productive Innovation. He is also a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Worship, the Committee on National Defense, the Committee on Finance, and the Committee on Human Rights and Guarantees.



**The Honourable LaShell Adderley (The Bahamas), President of the Senate**

Appointed President of the Senate on October 7, 2021, a position she currently holds. Before her appointment, she had a distinguished legal career in the private sector and served as a member of the Progressive Liberal Party's Constitution Committee.



**His Honour Arthur E. Holder (Barbados), Speaker of the House of Assembly**

Speaker of the House of Assembly of Barbados since 2018. Speaker Holder is a criminal defence lawyer and social worker who specializes in juvenile justice. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas for the Caribbean.



**Senator Félix Ajpi Ajpi (Bolivia)**

Senator since 2020. He currently chairs the Committee on International Policy. Before joining the Senate, he was actively engaged in social and indigenous organizations.



**Senator the Honourable Salma Ataullahjan (Canada)**

Senator since 2010. Former Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights. She is currently the Vice-President of the Canadian Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).



**Senator the Honourable Sharon Burey (Canada)**

Senator since 2022. Counsellor of the Executive Committee of the Canadian Section of ParlAmericas. She is a pediatrician and a recognized leader in children's mental health, equity, and social justice.



**Honourable Senator Germán Blanco Álvarez (Colombia)**

Senator of the Republic since 2022. From 2010 to 2022, he served as a member of the House of Representatives, where he held the position of President (Speaker) of the Chamber of Representatives from 2020 to 2021. He is a member of the Senate First Committee on Constitutional Affairs and currently serves on the ParlAmericas Board of Directors, representing South America.



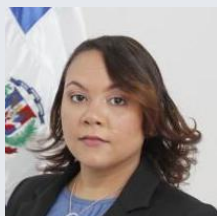
**Member of the Legislative Assembly Luz Mary Alpízar Loaiza (Costa Rica)**

Member of the Legislative Assembly since 2022, she currently serves as First Deputy Secretary of the Legislative Board and Secretary of the Women's Committee and the Social Affairs Committee. She is also the First Vice-President for Central America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network.



**Member of the Chamber of Deputies Nelsa Shoraya Suárez Ariza (Dominican Republic)**

Member of the Chamber of Deputies since 2020, she currently chairs the Committee on Families. She is the coordinator of the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean and serves as the Second Vice-President for the Caribbean on the Executive Committee of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and Sustainability.



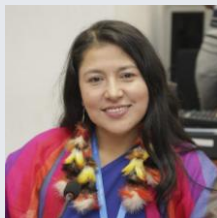
**Member of the Chamber of Deputies Brenda Ogando Campos (Dominican Republic)**

Member of the Chamber of Deputies since 2020. She currently chairs the Committee on Gender Equity and serves on the Committees for Higher Education, Science and Technology; Youth; Mobility and Transportation; and the Ombudsman.



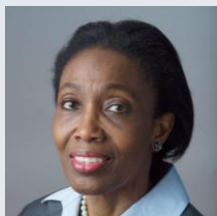
**Member of the Chamber of Deputies Juan Agustín Medina Santos (Dominican Republic)**

Member of the Chamber of Deputies since 2016. He is Chair of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, and Member of the Committees on Municipal Affairs and the Ombudsman.



**Member of the National Assembly Luzmila Abad Morocho (Ecuador)**

Member of the National Assembly since 2023, serving on the Committee on Labor Rights and Social Security. She also serves as the Second Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network.



**The Honourable Dr. Dessima Williams (Grenada), President of the Senate**

President of the Senate since 2022. Dr. Williams formerly served as Grenada's Ambassador to the United Nations and the Organization of American States. She currently serves on the ParlAmericas Board of Directors, representing the Caribbean.



**The Honourable Leo Cato (Grenada), Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Speaker of the House of Representatives since 2022. Speaker Cato previously held various positions in Grenada's Ministry of Education specializing in information technology curriculum and training. He currently serves as Vice-President for the Caribbean of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network.



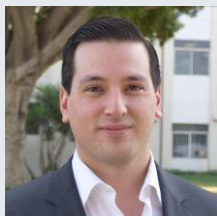
**Senator the Honourable Dr. Sapphire Longmore (Jamaica)**

Senator since 2016. Dr. Longmore is a member of the ParlAmericas Board of Directors, representing the Caribbean. She is a psychiatrist and primary care physician, currently serving as the President of the Jamaica Psychiatric Association.



**Member of the Chamber of Deputies Antares Vazquez (Mexico)**

Member of the Chamber of Deputies since 2024, serving as Secretary of the Committee on Education. Previously a Federal Senator (2018–2024). She is also a member of the ParlAmericas Board of Directors, representing North America.



**Member of the Chamber of Deputies César Israel Damián Retes (Mexico)**

Member of the Chamber of Deputies since 2024. He serves as Secretary of the Commission on Justice.



**Member of the Chamber of Deputies Manuel de Jesús Espino Barrientos (Mexico)**

Member of the Chamber of Deputies since 2024. He previously held this position during the legislative terms of 2015–2018, 2000–2003, and 1994–1997. He currently serves on the Commission on Citizen Security.



**Honourable Member of the National Assembly Joan Manuel Guevara (Panama)**

Member of the National Assembly since 2024. He is Chair of the Committee on Foreign Relations and member of the Committee on Population, Environment, and Development. He currently serves on the ParlAmericas Board of Directors, representing Central America.



**The Honourable Eduardo Salhuana Cavides (Peru), President of the Congress of the Republic**

President of the Congress of the Republic for the 2024-2025 legislative term. He has been serving as a Member of Congress since 2021 and previously held this position from 2001 to 2006 and from 1990 to 1992. In 2005, he served as Minister of Justice.



**Member of the National Assembly Henk Aviankoi (Suriname)**

Member of the National Assembly since 2020. He serves on the Committees on Labor, Employment, and Youth Affairs, as well as Defense. He is also a member of the Commission on Human Rights.



**Member of the National Assembly Remie Tarnadi (Suriname)**

Member of the National Assembly since 2020, serving on the Committees on Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, as well as Public Works. He is also a member of the Commission on Climate Change. Previously, he served in the National Assembly from 1996 to 2000 and again from 2005 to 2017.



**Member of the National Assembly Sidik Moertabat (Suriname)**

Member of the National Assembly since 2020, serving as Chair of the Committee on Defense. He is also a member of the Committees on Local Government and Home Affairs.



## Annex II: Delegation Agenda

### Monday, March 24

*Throughout the day*      **Arrival of delegates**

### Tuesday, March 25

08:30      **Meet in the hotel lobby**

*Hotel Hampton Inn Washington, D.C./White House*

09:00 - 09:30      **Transfer to and arrival at the Organization of American States**

*Rubén Darío Room – OAS General Services Building, 8th floor (1889 F Street NW, 20006)*

09:30 - 10:30      **Welcoming remarks and introduction of delegation members**

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

10:30 - 10:45      **Introductory briefing and overview of the delegation's general objectives**

- **Alisha Todd**, Director General of ParlAmericas

10:45 - 11:00      **Coffee break**

11:00 - 13:00      **Towards the X Summit of the Americas**

*This session will provide the delegation with an overview of the Summit of the Americas' process, and the priorities and objectives established by the Dominican Republic as the host country of the X Summit of the Americas. Mechanisms to facilitate parliamentary participation in the Summit process through ParlAmericas will also be explored.*





*Furthermore, delegates will be joined by representatives of organizations within the Joint Summit Working Group to explore strategies to support OAS Member States in implementing national measures and policies aligned with commitments made at the Summits of the Americas.*

**Panellists:**

- **María Celina Conte**, Director, Summits of the Americas Secretariat
- **Andrés Valenciano**, Acting Director, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Office in Washington
- **Dr. Jarbas Barbosa**, Director, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)
- **Susan Fridy**, Director of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Washington Center
- Ambassador **Mayerlyn Cordero Díaz**, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the OAS

13:00 - 14:00    **Lunch**

14:00 - 15:15    **Addressing the Structural Drivers of Insecurity**

*Insecurity in the Americas and the Caribbean is deeply rooted in structural development challenges such as inequality, social exclusion and institutional fragility, among others. These factors not only contribute to violence and instability but also undermine state capacity, erode public trust, and weaken democratic resilience.*

*This session will examine key structural drivers of insecurity and explore the role of multilateral institutions and financing in supporting long-term stability through development-focused initiatives.*

**Panellists:**

- **Marcela Meléndez**, Deputy Chief Economist, Office of the Chief Economist for Latin American and Caribbean (LAC), World Bank
- **Beatriz Abizanda**, Citizen Security Lead Specialist, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)



- **Jairo Acuña**, Team Leader, Governance, Latin America and the Caribbean, UNDP

**15:15 - 15:30 International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF) Presentation**

- **Katherine Brantley**, International Grants Director, The ICCF Group Conservation Council of Nations

**15:30 - 17:00 Inclusive Economic Development: A Strategic Pillar for Stability and Social Cohesion in the Hemisphere**

*This session will analyze strategies for inclusive economic development as a cornerstone for enhancing stability and social cohesion across the hemisphere.*

*The discussion will highlight innovative legislative approaches for fostering inclusive economies, ensuring equitable access to economic opportunities and promoting entrepreneurship and innovation. It will also underscore the importance of investing in the economic empowerment of women, who suffer disproportionately from poverty, discrimination and exploitation.*

**Panellists:**

- **Alejandra Mora Mora**, Executive Secretary, Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)
- **Lloyd Day**, Deputy Director General, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
- **Luis Viguria**, Chief Executive Officer, Young Americas Business Trust

**Discussant:**

- **Maricarmen Plata**, Secretary for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE), OAS

**Wednesday, March 26**

**08:00 Meet in the hotel lobby**

*Hotel Hampton Inn Washington, D.C./White House*



08:00 - 08:30 **Transfer to the U.S. Congress**

08:30 - 09:00 **Arrival at the U.S. Congress**

*U.S. Congress (Washington, DC 20004, USA)*

09:00 - 10:30 **Legislative Dialogue on Security in the Western Hemisphere**

*Rayburn House Office Building 2168*

*U.S. Congress (Washington, DC 20004, USA)*

*During this session, organized in collaboration with the House Democracy Partnership, delegates will have an opportunity to meet with Members of the U.S. Congress to discuss the state of security in the Hemisphere.*

*Participants will exchange insights on collaborative strategies to improve regional security and respond to cross-border challenges such as transnational organized crime, drug trafficking and human trafficking, among others.*

10:30 - 11:00 **Group photo at the U.S. Congress**

11:00 - 11:30 **Transfer to the OAS**


11:30 - 13:00 **Security in the Context of Our Democracies**

**Meeting with the OAS Secretary General and the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy**

*OAS Main Building (17th St. and Constitution Ave. NW)*

*In this high-level meeting, delegates will engage with the OAS Secretary General and the Secretary for Strengthening Democracy to discuss the state of democracy in the hemisphere and its impact on regional security.*

*Participants will exchange reflections on the role of parliaments in promoting democratic governance, safeguarding the rule of law and addressing threats*



*to regional stability through multilateral efforts that foster coordinated responses to strengthening democracy and security in the region.*

- **Luis Almagro**, Secretary General OAS
- **Francisco Guerrero**, Secretary for Strengthening Democracy at the OAS and ParlAmericas *ex officio* Board Member

13:00 - 14:00    **Lunch**

14:00 - 15:00    **Protocolary meeting with the Chair of the Permanent Council of the OAS**

*OAS Main Building (17th St. and Constitution Ave. NW)*

- Ambassador **Héctor Enrique Arce Zaconeta**, Chair of the Permanent Council, Permanent Representative of Bolivia

15:00 - 17:00    **High-Level Dialogue with Representatives of Permanent Missions to the OAS**

*This high-level dialogue will bring together delegates and representatives from Permanent Missions to the OAS to exchange perspectives on regional priorities related to security, democracy and the strengthening of multilateralism within the framework of the inter-American system. The session will provide a space to analyze the most pressing hemispheric challenges, foster cooperative political dialogue and explore strategies to build safer, more democratic and resilient societies through joint regional efforts.*

17:00            **Reception**

**Thursday, March 27**

08:00            **Meet in the hotel lobby**

*Hotel Hampton Inn Washington, D.C./White House*

08:30 - 09:00    **Transfer and arrival at the Organization of American States**



Rubén Darío Room – OAS General Services Building, 8th floor (1889 F Street NW, 20006)

**09:00 - 10:30    The Role of Parliaments in Promoting Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**

*Building on discussions from the hemispheric interparliamentary meeting "Migration in a Context of Social and Environmental Challenges," held in San José, Costa Rica, in October 2024, this session will offer delegates the opportunity to engage with experts and representatives of regional organizations on parliaments' role in migration governance.*

*Delegates will share insights on legislative strategies to strengthen regulatory frameworks, ensure the protection of migrants' rights and promote coordinated responses that foster safe, orderly and regular migration in the region.*

**Panellists:**


- **Andrew Selee**, President, Migration Policy Institute
- **Claudia González Bengoa**, Head of the Migration and Forced Displacement section of the Department of Social Inclusion (DIS) of the OAS Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE)

**10:30 - 10:45    Coffee break**

**10:45 - 12:15    Climate Security and Resilience: Strengthening Governance for a Sustainable Future**

*This session will examine the interplay between climate security and environmental governance, exploring how parliaments can advance legislative actions that strengthen resilience, promote environmental stewardship, and mitigate risks associated with resource scarcity and environmental degradation. Panelists will discuss strategies to achieve these objectives and foster sustainable development through cross-sector collaboration.*

*Climate change is a risk multiplier that threatens ecosystems, economies, and communities, exacerbating vulnerabilities across the region. Its impacts on*



*water, food, energy, and environmental security require coordinated governance strategies that integrate conservation, sustainable resource management, and legislative action.*

**Panellists:**

- **Kim Osborne**, OAS Executive Secretary for Integral Development
- **Renata Koch Alvarenga**, expert on gender and climate justice, Founder and Executive Director of EmpoderaClima

12:15 - 13:30    **Lunch**

13:30 - 15:30    **Regional Security in a Changing Context: Traditional and Non-Traditional Threats**

*This session will examine the regional security landscape, addressing traditional threats such as transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, alongside non-traditional threats like the role of Artificial Intelligence, cybersecurity vulnerabilities and the influence of international actors. The discussion will highlight the impact of these threats on citizen security, democratic governance and regional stability, with particular emphasis on their disproportionate effects on women and historically marginalized communities.*

*Participants will explore legislative and collaborative strategies to strengthen security and resilience across the hemisphere.*

**Panellists:**

- **Dr. Rebecca Bill Chavez**, president and CEO, Inter-American Dialogue
- **Kerry Ann Barrett**, Chief of Cybersecurity, OAS - Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism
- **Moises Benamor**, OAS Chief Representative Institutions
- **Monica Sanders**, Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown University
- **Christopher Hernandez-Roy**, Deputy Director and Senior Fellow, Americas Program, Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)

15:30 - 16:15 **Closing session: Reflections and takeaways**

*The closing session for the delegation will enable the review of the visit's outcomes and the exchange of reflections. This session will provide an opportunity to identify lessons learned and outline next steps in preparation for the X Summit of the Americas.*

