



17th ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly

#ParlAmericas2020

The 17th ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly hosted virtually by the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica on November 13, 16, 20 and 27, involved a series of activities devoted to the circular economy, a systemic approach to sustainable development designed to benefit society, the environment and the economy. The events gathered parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, youth activists and subject-matter experts to discuss the importance of circular economy and its pertinence in the economic recovery processes needed to overcome the serious socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic across the region.



Access the videos of this Plenary Assembly and other related videos on [this playlist](#)

THEME

Towards a Circular Economy

LOCATION

Online, hosted by the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica

DATES

November 13, 16, 20, and, 27

PARTICIPANTS

More than 110 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, youth delegates and representatives of civil society and multilateral organizations from more than 25 countries.



This activity is aligned with SDG 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 14

ParlAmericas annual reports

This year, annual reports by the President of ParlAmericas as well as the three network presidents of the working networks were presented via video and shared with member parliaments as well as published on the ParlAmericas website and on social media on Friday, November 13.

“I would like to highlight that, as we have discussed in some of our activities, the socio-economic effects of the pandemic have specifically and disproportionately affected women and girls, aggravating persistent problems in the region that jeopardize some of the gains made towards gender equality... [which is why we’ve] offered workspaces to respond to some of these issues, to provide parliamentarians access to specialized information, innovative good practices, and legislative inputs to inform their work during these difficult months.”

Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Maya Fernández Allende** (Chile), President of the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality (watch [report](#))



Member of the National Assembly **Ana Belén Marín** (Ecuador), President of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change (watch [report](#))

“The Network has continued to support parliaments during these times of crisis, promoting mechanisms for building back better after the pandemic... Now more than ever, it is imperative that we expand the goals of climate action and move toward sustainable and resilient societies. There can be no doubt about it: this is the great challenge of our time.”

“Since October 30, 2019, ParlAmericas has organized and participated in over 47 activities, including: 17 meetings organized by ParlAmericas, with the participation of over 1,100 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, embassy representatives, experts, and representatives of civil society organizations from over 39 countries and territories.”

Member of the National Assembly **Elizabeth Cabezas** (Ecuador), President of ParlAmericas (watch [report](#))



“Although our parliamentary work has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, as an organization we have been able to position ourselves dynamically and support the region’s parliaments in areas that have been essential in these circumstances... [I must] acknowledge the high level of commitment shown by the region’s parliaments, both at the political and institutional levels, to [the open parliament] agenda and to forging ahead in these challenging times.”

Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President of the Open Parliament Network (watch [report](#))



Working group sessions

The plenary reports were followed by two working sessions held on November 16th and 20th, discussing the overall concept of circularity, good practices to achieve a circular economy, and the social, economic, and environmental factors that should be considered to attain a just transition.

First session: November 16th

The working session held in English and French on Monday, November 16, included welcoming remarks from Member of the National Assembly **Elizabeth Cabezas** (Ecuador), President of ParlAmericas, Member of the Legislative Assembly **María Inés Solís** (Costa Rica), ParlAmericas Board Member, and the Honourable **Bridgid Annisette-George**, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Trinidad and Tobago and ParlAmericas Board Member.

The session was moderated by Senator **Rosa Gálvez** (Canada), Vice-President for North America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change, and included the participation of Mr. **David Oswald** ([presentation](#)), Founder and President of Design + Environment, and Ms. **Virginia Rose Losada**, Specialist in Sustainable Enterprise Development and Job Creation for the International Labour Organization (ILO). The dialogue answered questions on the importance of a circular economy in the current socio-economic climate caused by COVID-19, strategies to achieve a just and inclusive transition, the value of a blue economy to diversify and create jobs, good practices to achieve circularity, financing options, and the application of circular models to the tourism industry. A dialogue session followed where legislators, parliamentary staff, and youth activists exchanged ideas and projects on the circular economy and posed questions to the panelists. Lastly, Senator **Ranard Henfield** (The Bahamas), Vice-President for the Caribbean of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network, closed the working session.

“Within the Legislative Assembly, many bills can be promoted to make that leap toward a circular economy, including proposals to improve waste management, save energy, and use resources sustainably. We need to promote policies that involve all sectors of local government, communities, and public-private partnerships that can incorporate these new development models. This will allow us to achieve sustainable growth, improve competitiveness, save on costs, and even create jobs.”

Member of the Legislative Assembly **María Inés Solís** (Costa Rica), ParlAmericas Board Member



Read the follow-up article written by panellist David Oswald on the 17th ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly:

➔ "[What is the role of parliamentarians in enabling the circular economy & what does it mean for business?](#)"

“This year, due to the pandemic, humanity's connection with nature is clearer than ever, making it crucial to repair this relationship. The circular economy provides a new model by which we can break the connection between economic growth and environmental damage.”

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



“We parliamentarians have an important duty to fulfill, we are accountable for the successes or failure of the response and we must use every opportunity to build a more resilient society. We have to use this pandemic as a big lesson and come out wiser. We need to see it as an opportunity to provoke and promote a constructive and inclusive conversation on possible ways to move forward together.”

Senator **Rosa Gálvez** (Canada), Vice-
President for North America of the
ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network
on Climate Change



During the Plenary Assembly the following publications were launched:



[Guide on Supporting a Post-COVID-19 Green Economic Recovery](#)

The Guide on a green recovery provides an overview of the science behind the climate crisis, the socio-economic co-benefits of building back greener, as well as tools and frameworks to guide parliaments in their work to invest in a more inclusive sustainable future.



[Guide on Green Parliaments: Actions to Promote Sustainable Practices within Parliaments](#)

The Guide on green parliaments outlines actions that can be taken to promote green practices within parliaments by starting to measure their current environmental footprint and develop a plan to improve their sustainability practices.

The session highlighted the following key messages:

1. Circular economy is a framework that can be used to address the interconnected nature of economies and view economic activity through a system-wide approach to build adaptive capacity and consider socio-economic and socio-ecological resilience.
2. Data and reporting systems are necessary to model organizational, community and national economies, as well as track and monitor their inflows and outflows.
3. Environmental Management Systems can be used as a lens to systematically monitor and track energy use, waste management, and health and safety concerns at different scales within a country.
4. Governments need to be entrepreneurial in positioning themselves and local industries to gain access to funding; there is a growing demand by banks and financial organizations for entities to demonstrate sustainability as part of their due diligence work to determine if a project is approved for financing.
5. Changes in the production and consumption patterns will have profound impacts on labour supply and demand.
6. The structural transformation of economies needs to be accompanied by a socially just and inclusive transition, securing the livelihoods of those who may lose their jobs in the transition towards greening industries; such a transition strategy can be co-created by government, private sector industries, workers, academia, civil society organizations and the public at large, with a focus on traditionally marginalized groups.
7. Productive economies depend on healthy environments.
8. As policy decisions are taken to promote new green sectors, there must be a conscious and purposeful consideration of gender dimensions, for example, to ensure equal career prospects and representation through all levels of the value chain.
9. Specific programs should be developed and designed to support youth and women to allow them to access finance, enter emerging sectors, and have agency over their own decisions.
10. Industries can incorporate circular practices by mapping out their value chains and identifying opportunities to improve efficiencies, reduce waste and pollution and reuse or recycle products.
11. Government should be demanding of multinational companies, requesting that companies working on their territory abide by environmental and circular practices.

Second session: November 20th

At the working session in Spanish and Portuguese held on November 20, Member of the Legislative Assembly **Paola Vega** (Costa Rica), Vice-President for Central America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change welcomed the participants along with Member of the National Assembly **Elizabeth Cabezas** (Ecuador), President of ParlAmericas.

Mr. **Luis Yáñez** of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) moderated the session, which included the participation of Ms. **Adriana Zacarías**, Head and Global Coordinator of Global Opportunities for SDGs and Regional Coordinator of Resource Efficiency at the United Nations Environment Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean, Member of the National Assembly **Elizabeth Cabezas** in her role as the author of a bill on [circular economy](#) in the National Assembly of Ecuador, and Ms. **Ana Belén Sánchez**, Regional Green Jobs Specialist for the ILO. The three panellists discussed how circular economy can be used as a tool to move away from business as usual approaches especially in a post-COVID-19 reality, the support that the UN can provide to legislators to drive a circular economy agenda, as exemplified by Ms. Cabezas' bill on circular economy, the steps to undergoing a transition to circularity, and how such a transition should be guided by the principles of justice and equality. Parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, and young representatives of civil society organizations then participated in an exchange on initiatives and projects related to the circular economy. Senator **Silvia Giacoppo** (Argentina), ParlAmericas Board Member, concluded the working session.

“Our work is about integration; it is possible to both discuss human rights and an economic recovery, and it is fully fitting to talk about our environment and development. This is best exemplified by the circular economy, which will not only help us strike this balance, but will also allow us to create many green jobs and achieve better economic indicators.”



Member of the Legislative Assembly
Paola Vega (Costa Rica), Vice-President
for Central America of the ParlAmericas
Parliamentary Network on Climate
Change

Member of the National
Assembly **Elizabeth Cabezas** (Ecuador),
President of ParlAmericas



“The circular economy benefits society, businesses and the environment; it offers viable and sustainable alternatives for creating economic, social and natural capital, and for reducing its impact on people and the environment.”

“The pandemic has brought the accumulated vulnerabilities of Latin America and the Caribbean to the forefront; it has drawn attention to inequalities, health systems, high levels of informal labour, gender-based discrimination and violence, and the exploitation of natural resources. It has also compelled us to build back better, that once this crisis is over, we take a moment to reflect so that we don’t go back to business as usual. We want to forge new paths, and the circular economy presents a path to shift our current paradigm, based on the notion of eliminating waste and the belief that we have a planet with endless possibilities and resources.”

Luis Yáñez, Secretary, ECLAC



“One of the most important steps we can take towards a circular economy is finding new ways to educate ourselves, society's youth, as well as those who came before us and future generations, so that we may understand what this concept means and how it could be put into practice. [Furthermore], as consumers... we can start a new movement... our [new] consumption trends can cause pressure unto our economies, providing us with the power to accelerate the change we need to see.”

Caleb Padilla, Regional Leader and member of the Global Shapers Climate Action Board for Latin America, and leader of Climate Reality



The session highlighted the following key messages:

1. A circular economy can contribute to fixing many systemic problems by decreasing resource waste, reducing the importation of resources, promoting science and innovation, improving process inefficiencies, strengthening the social fabric and resiliency of communities, generating employment, and restoring environmental health.
2. The root cause of the planetary crisis is the unsustainable patterns of production and consumption that have also been partial culprits for the climate crisis, environmental contamination and degradation, and loss of biodiversity. It is estimated that 80% of products are thrown away after a single use or 6 months after their initial purchase.
3. Population sizes have increased and so have extraction levels; however, the distribution of resources remains inequitable. There is a paradox in which there are people who suffer from malnutrition while others from obesity.
4. There is a need to review subsidies and fiscal incentives available to ensure that they contribute to sustainable development objectives.
5. Municipalities and autonomous territories, which are largely responsible for waste management activities, have a great role in implementing circular practices, however capacity must be built, and financial resources are needed to support this endeavour.
6. The improvement of recycling and waste sorting systems and infrastructure is essential to achieve circularity; efforts must be made to enable 'inclusive recycling' and the formalization of these jobs through, for example, the creation of cooperatives.
7. Environmental, social and labour authorities must work together to identify mechanisms and spaces that allow for sustainable transformations but also help to attain decent work which ensures health and safety measures.
8. Many potential green sector jobs are in fields that are predominately accessed by men, which calls for a meaningful discussion on how to ensure that green growth is centred on gender equality principles and promotes work opportunities for women.
9. In the labour transformation towards greener economies there will be businesses who grow economically and in importance (i.e. renewable energy sectors) and those that have a reduction in significance (i.e. fossil fuel energy). It is therefore important to identify the impact circular economy legislation and frameworks will have on employment in order to diagnose what programmes can be put in place to manage the potential loss of livelihoods.
10. There will be an adaptation period in which education will have to shift towards new realities of circularity and industries will have to adapt their processes, as well as take part in an 'industrial symbiosis' scheme.

Plenary session

The closing plenary session held on Friday, November 27, was inaugurated by Vice-President of the Legislative Assembly **Jorge Luis Fonseca** (Costa Rica) and host of the 17th ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly, and by Member of the National Assembly **Elizabeth Cabezas** (Ecuador), President of ParlAmericas. There was a subsequent round of presentations moderated by Member of the Legislative Assembly **María Inés Solís** (Costa Rica), ParlAmericas Board Member, where each parliament designated a legislator to share national progress in the transition towards a circular economy and a sustainable and equitable economic recovery.

“We must understand that the traditional economy, based on the consumption of finite resources, needs to transition towards a sustainable model based on the well-being of society, on an economy that can allow us to regenerate the goods and services we produce; that's the great challenge we're facing.”

The Honourable **Luis Fonseca** (Costa Rica), Vice-President of the Legislative Assembly and host of the 17th ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly



Parliamentary presentations

“The legislature has been able to support the State’s efforts and movement to a less linear economy, this policy decision has evolved as a solution to address our high generation of waste due to our significant dependency on the importation of products, these sustainable development policies focused, among others, on working with waste industry stakeholders to repurpose waste as a renewable resource and reduce emissions, as well as to foster more individual responsibility for our sustainable development. Antigua and Barbuda also became the first country in the Latin America and Caribbean region to take extensive action to reduce single use plastics.”



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

“[Among] the key policies that the parliament has transferred into law are that by 2030 Barbados is committed to generate 100% of our electricity needs from renewable sources and to be carbon neutral... [which] will also require a local component to stimulate local entrepreneurship. On post-COVID matters our tourism transformation is being pursued on a circular sustainable basis, in relation to construction, financial incentives, and local use of products and services in value chains.”



The Honourable **Reginald Farley** (Barbados), President of the Senate

Senator **Eva Humerez** (Bolivia)



“In Bolivia, Mother Earth is regarded as a collective entity of public interest with legally guaranteed rights; as a being, not an object, and it is understood that humans can achieve a holistic development, in harmony and in equilibrium with Mother Earth to Live Well.”

“From a sustainability perspective, in 2016, the Government of Canada released a framework for meeting its emission reduction targets and building resilience while strengthening the economy. The framework was developed with Canada’s provinces, territories, and in consultation with our Indigenous peoples. As well, regulations brought into force in 2018 are designed to phase out coal fired electricity generation by 2030 and task forces on just transition have been created to provide recommendations aimed at supporting the transition of coal workers and communities to cleaner electricity. As G7 president in 2018, Canada led the development of the Ocean Plastic Charter committing to take action towards resource efficiency lifecycle management.”



Member of Parliament **Marc Serré** (Canada), ParlAmericas Board Member



Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Javier Macaya** (Chile), Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

“Since March of this year, the Ministry of Environment, together with the Ministry of Economy and the EuroChile foundation, has been designing a road map for a circular economy on the basis of open government, high levels of public participation, and co-creation workshops. This roadmap will provide guidance on promoting policies and initiatives, actions and goals to facilitate the transition towards more efficient and sustainable value chains, especially in terms of how we use resources... The pillars of the Road Map are: 1. Procurement of raw material; 2. Production; 3. Consumption; and 4. Buildings and waste management.”

“We have been designing public policies and legislation on both the executive and legislative levels. The national government, for example, presented a national strategy for a circular economy in 2018, with the aim of promoting innovation and adding value to the production and consumption system, etc. In parliament, we have debated 7 important bills related to the circular economy over the past few months... Yesterday evening, we were able to approve the entrepreneurship law based on the circular economy, which will allow us to create new enterprises for reusing various products and moving forward towards a productive economy, a circular economy.”



The Honourable **Germán Blanco** (Colombia), President of the Chamber of Representatives

Member of the Legislative Assembly
Ana Lucía Delgado (Costa Rica)



“I firmly believe that Costa Rica is the ideal place for a circular economy. We are a country that reforests and a leading force in renewable electricity generation. Today, for example, we have twice the forest cover we had 30 years ago (comprising 52% of the national territory), and in 2019, we achieved 99% renewable electricity generation through clean sources such as water, wind, geothermal, biomass, and solar power.”

“The parliament of Ecuador is debating the circular economy bill which will represent a step forward, towards a new type of economic planning in which production chains will incorporate alternative and recycled materials and 3 models of more equitable employment and environmentally-friendly processes. The passing of this law opens up a wealth of opportunities for the industry of Ecuador at a time when productive development and public well-being are emerging as key post-pandemic goals.”



The Honourable **César Litardo** (Ecuador), President of the National Assembly



The Honourable **Manzoor Nadir** (Guyana), Speaker of the National Assembly

“As we come to the circular economy and sustainable development in the COVID period, ... emphasis is going to be given to food security, efficient use of our natural resources, on the issue of those items that cause harm to our natural environment. In this regard Guyana some 13 years ago completed agreements in terms of the sustainable use of our forests and launched the Low-Carbon Development Strategy. The last government also launched the Green State Development Strategy. All these programs are very in-sync with the circular economy.”

“The circular economy would mean that all layers of a society can participate in the effort of developing and improving the living conditions of the peoples of the Americas, with consideration for an equitable and integrative economy. As a senator and a member of the American community, I would like to share my concerns for the tendency of economies which do not have solidarity with the weakest ... I am inclined to ask all of you and myself, to work so that the world becomes a little more equitable.”



Senator **Patrice Dumont** (Haiti)



Senator Dr. **Sapphire Longmore** (Jamaica),
ParlAmericas Board Member

“The circular economy is something we definitely are addressing. We recognize that our domestic market is highly susceptible to energy market disruptions as Jamaica imports 90% of its fossil fuels. The Government of Jamaica’s policy is that 30% of energy to the national grid will be renewable sources by the year 2030... [while] continuing to promote the further development of indigenous renewables energies... We are trying to push, not just the government approach but also the private sector interest in developing a circular economy... [and] in developing energy efficient and renewable avenues as a business proposal.”



Senator **Verónica Camino** (Mexico), Vice-President
for North America of the ParlAmericas
Parliamentary Network on Gender Equality

“All parliamentary groups in the Senate of the Republic have certainly shown interest in moving forward with this topic. We have received 22 initiatives related to circular economy and waste management. These responses include extended producer responsibility, product labelling to inform the public on environmental impacts and proper disposal, and the promotion of new consumer habits.”



Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Soraya Pérez Munguía (Mexico)

“In Mexico, there is an urgent need to approve a regulatory framework that can promote the circular economy, not just on a voluntary basis, but with the force of law. Last year, 60 Mexican companies, along with various associations and chambers of commerce throughout the country, signed a national agreement on the new economy for plastics in Mexico. The agreement seeks to eliminate single-use plastics. The Senate is debating a comprehensive circular economy bill which proposes various monitoring and management tools, including solid waste management and joint responsibility plans as well as State and municipal programs.”

“The National Assembly of Nicaragua aims to strengthen our legislation by applying a principle of integration, considering that the circular economy, or creative economy, as we call it, does not simply require a specific law... The circular economy is closely tied to the activities of multiple sectors... It is therefore essential that, as members of the National Assembly, we guarantee that all related bills submitted to our committees be reformed or updated in accordance with this new focus.”



Member of the National Assembly
Arling Alonso (Nicaragua)



Member of the National Assembly
Edison Broce (Panama)

“The circular economy addresses two extremely important challenges in the region, which are pollution and climate change, the latter no doubt being the greatest challenge humanity is currently facing. At the National Assembly of Panama, we have welcomed and received the support of various parties for the bill on reducing single-use plastics... We've been promoting this bill for two years, with the collaboration of strategic actors such as industry and NGOs... We had to compromise on some points and win on others, but I believe it has been a very important exercise. One of the most significant achievements of this bill, which has just been passed and will soon be enacted, is that it does not allow the replacement of plastic with plastic.”

“In Paraguay, we held a Latin America Forum on the Circular Economy, which included the participation of government authorities. Energy used in Paraguay is 100% renewable, which is a significant milestone. The country has also passed laws that are conducive to a sustainable economy, such as the law on the use of plastic bags in supermarkets, which has already been passed, and the law on zero deforestation and the establishment of protected natural areas.”



Senator **Amado Florentín** (Paraguay),
ParlAmericas Board Member



Member of Congress **Rolando Ruíz**
(Peru), ParlAmericas Board Member

“The circular economy in Peru seeks to achieve an efficient use of resources while primarily reducing environmental impacts, reusing and recycling products and promoting innovation and economic growth. The circular economy should be contemplated in every country's budget if we hope to create a clean and healthy economy. To this end, we need the collaboration of not only governments but also the private sector, and that is what Peru is aiming to achieve; a joint effort.”

“The Government of Saint Lucia throughout the years has played its part towards the circular economy, we may not have referred to it as that but many of the pieces of legislation thus far contend to that. The most recent and where the word circular economy was mentioned was last year, when the Cabinet of Saint Lucia looked to decommission landfill facilities as of the first of October 2019 and to adopt the policy that Saint Lucia would be land fill free by 2030. That policy reflects the current thinking in the position of reference to the circular economy.”



The Honourable **Andy Daniel** (Saint Lucia), Speaker of the House of Assembly and Vice-President for the Caribbean of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change



The Honourable **Marinus Bee** (Suriname), Speaker of the National Assembly and ParlAmericas Board Member

“When we are forced to think of new ways to make things work, it is likely that we will have new trends in the way we produce, distribute, purchase and consume things. Those trends, influenced by our new limitations, seem to favor a circular economy. The Support Recycling Suriname Foundation is raising awareness among the community about waste separation. Since 2015, the Foundation has been active in placing collection bins for all types of plastic bottles, plastic bags and aluminum cans in Suriname. The ultimate goal is to place 450 collection bins throughout the country.”

“In Tobago particularly, the main export is tourism and a significant part of its value proposition is an island that is clean, green, and serene. An initiative that involved the blue economy is the island of Tobago pursuing Blue Flag status for three of its most popular beaches, an eco-label with worldwide recognition in the international tourism market known for clean, safe and environmentally safe beaches. Additionally, the island of Tobago has also started several recycling initiatives through private-public partnerships with an emphasis on plastics, aluminium cans and the elimination and reuse of waste products.”



The Honourable Senator **Randall Mitchell**, Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

Member of the National Assembly **Delsa Solórzano** (Venezuela)



“In Venezuela, the future poses an immense challenge to us, in view of the limited industry that remains in our country today. Out of the 19,000 industries that existed in Venezuela in 1998, there are only 2,400 left today, which are working on internal mechanisms in favour of a circular economy that could benefit us all in the future.”

Declaration

The 17th ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly concluded with the reading of the [declaration](#) in Spanish, French, English and Portuguese, by Member of the Legislative Assembly **Ana Lucía Delgado** (Costa Rica), Member of Parliament **Marc Serré** (Canada), President of the Senate the Honourable **Alincia Williams-Grant** (Antigua and Barbuda), and **Fabio Almeida Lopes** (Brazil), Chief of Staff International Relations Secretariat, Chamber of Deputies, respectively. It recognized that current economic models exert unsustainable pressure on the environment, contribute to climate change, exacerbate economic inequalities, threaten people's well-being, and pose serious challenges to future generations, thereby demonstrating the importance for parliaments to take action to move towards circularity in order to support more sustainable development.



Among the commitments adopted by the convened parliamentary delegations are:

Work with national and local authorities to put circular economy on the public agenda and promote its importance in mitigating the effects of climate change and its relevance in the context of postCOVID-19 economic recovery plans.

Advocate for competent authorities to generate, compile, and disseminate disaggregated environmental information in a systematic, regular, accessible, and comprehensible manner, and ensure that it is available to the public and can inform the design of initiatives and public policies aimed at advancing the sustainable development agenda, for example tracing post-industrial and consumer waste to evaluate its impact.

Establish initiatives and policies that foster a fair and inclusive transition that ensures that workers in unsustainable industries are not left behind, such as training programs, as well as technical and financial assistance, to facilitate their transition to jobs in emerging green industries, while giving particular consideration to women and people with low levels of education to avoid the persistence of existing inequalities in the linear economic model.

Adopt legislation needed to finance the transition to circular economic models by providing tax and fiscal incentives, as well as financial stimulus, to industries that adopt circular economy practices, including by assuming responsibility for their products beyond the point of sale, encourage industrial symbiosis (the waste or by-product of an industry becomes a resource for the other) and by promoting innovative mechanisms to facilitate access to multilateral funds or private capital intended to finance sustainable ventures.

Ensure, through our oversight function, that foreign investments are governed by the same environmental protection and circular economy principles promoted at the national level and that multinationals registered and/or operating in our jurisdiction comply with the highest international standards on environmental protection.

Promote the incorporation of a gender perspective and intersectional approach to the discussion and analysis of circular economic models, acknowledging the role of women in production and consumption and promoting women as agents of change by financing their green enterprises and community projects, as well as ensuring their participation in decision-making processes.

“The pandemic has brought to the forefront the pressing need for high-level political action from States, and especially from parliaments.”

Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), Incoming President of ParlAmericas elected by acclamation at the 17th ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly



“It is a first for the English Speaking Caribbean to serve at this level of the organization ... I look forward to helping guide the organization in the achievement of its objectives, particularly within the context of its three pillars. Work and progress in all these areas are critically needed in our member countries of the English Speaking Caribbean and particularly so in the area of climate change.”



The Honourable **Bridgid Annisette-George** (Trinidad and Tobago), Speaker of the House of Representatives and Incoming Vice-President of ParlAmericas elected by acclamation at the 17th ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly

ParlAmericas Board of Directors Elections Results 2020-2022

(all positions were filled by acclamation)

ParlAmericas is run by parliamentarians for parliamentarians, with a Board of Directors composed of 21 seats which represent countries from North, South, Central America and the Caribbean. In addition, the Board has ex-officio representation from the Plenary Host, the ParlAmericas Immediate Past President, the Directors of the ParlAmericas Corporation, the ParlAmericas International Secretariat, and the OAS General Secretariat. Board Members are elected to a two-year term by the member parliaments of ParlAmericas during the Annual Plenary Assembly.

Presidency

- ➡ Senator Blanca Ovelar (Paraguay)

Vice-Presidency

- ➡ The Honourable Bridgid Annisette-George (Trinidad and Tobago), Speaker of the House of Representatives

Representatives for the Caribbean

- ➡ Antigua and Barbuda
- ➡ Barbados
- ➡ Jamaica

Representatives for South America

- ➡ Colombia
- ➡ Guyana
- ➡ Suriname

Representatives for Central America

- ➡ Costa Rica
- ➡ Nicaragua

Representatives for North America

- ➡ Canada
- ➡ Mexico

Host of the 18th ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly

- ➡ Chile

ParlAmericas is grateful for the leadership and vision of Member of the National Assembly Elizabeth Cabezas (Ecuador), during her term as President of ParlAmericas.

Parliaments Present



Antigua and
Barbuda



Argentina



Bahamas



Barbados



Bolivia



Brazil



Canada



Chile



Colombia



Costa Rica



Cuba



Ecuador



El Salvador



Grenada



Guyana



Jamaica



Haiti



Mexico



Nicaragua



Panama



Paraguay



Peru



Saint Lucia



Suriname



Trinidad and
Tobago



Venezuela

Canada



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PARLAMERICAS



ParlAmericas is the institution that promotes **PARLIMENTARY DIPLOMACY** in the **INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM**



ParlAmericas is composed of the **35 NATIONAL LEGISLATURES** from North, Central and South America and the Caribbean



ParlAmericas facilitates the exchange of parliamentary **GOOD PRACTICES AND** promotes **COOPERATIVE POLITICAL DIALOGUE**



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



ParlAmericas fosters **OPEN PARLIMENTS** by advancing the principles of transparency, accountability, citizen participation, ethics and probity



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



ParlAmericas works towards strengthening democracy and governance by accompanying **ELECTORAL PROCESSES**



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