

## Preliminary Agenda

**21st ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly &  
9th Gathering of Open Parliament Network**

### ***Legislating for the Future: Harnessing Anticipatory Governance in Parliamentary Action***

May 27 - 29, 2025  
Montevideo, Uruguay

[Registration link](#)

*The social and economic consequences of a rapidly changing world have put existing governance models increasingly under pressure. Citizen trust in the ability of public institutions to deliver results that improve their lives is eroding. Increased polarization is straining democracies and undermining peace and stability in the hemisphere at a time when overlapping crises – including climate change, a changing economic and political global order, shifting demographics, and the transformative impact of Artificial Intelligence and the expanding digital revolution – amplify the imperative for urgent, coordinated action.*

*To rebuild trust and collaboration between institutions and society, parliaments have a decisive role to play as spaces for democratic dialogue and consensus-building to guide the construction of a new social contract, where citizens are involved in shaping a common vision for a prosperous and sustainable future that benefits all people. This gathering will explore anticipatory governance and open parliament as complementary frameworks to strengthen the capacity of parliaments to effectively address emerging challenges and opportunities, ensuring inclusive and responsive policymaking that reflects the diverse needs and aspirations of their populations.*

*Times shown correspond to the local time in Montevideo.*

#### **Monday, May 26**

Arrival of parliamentary delegations

#### **Tuesday, May 27**

08:00            Transfer of participants to the Parliament of Uruguay

09:00 - 10:00    **Inauguration and welcoming remarks**

- Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President of ParlAmericas
- Senator **Javier Macaya** (Chile), Second Vice-President of ParlAmericas and President of the Open Parliament Network

- **Carolina Cosse** (Uruguay), Vice-President of the Republic, President of the Senate

10:00 - 10:30 **Official photograph and coffee break**

10:30 - 11:30 **Keynote address**  
**Parliaments of the Future: Anticipation, Innovation and Action**

This keynote will explore anticipatory governance – a model for decision making that utilizes scientific evidence, foresight modelling, emerging technologies, and collective intelligence generated through participatory processes – as a framework that parliaments can use to better address the rapid and complex changes faced by modern societies.

11:30 - 13:00 **Session 1: Science and Future Perspectives in Parliament**

This inter-parliamentary dialogue session will explore examples of future-oriented legislative work currently underway in the hemisphere.

*Objectives:*

- Identify good practices that promote the integration of scientific and foresight perspectives in legislative processes, including the creation of parliamentary committees dedicated to the future, science, and technology.
- Discuss the benefits and challenges of adopting an anticipatory governance approach in parliamentary work.
- Explore the synergies between the open parliament and anticipatory governance frameworks, and the opportunity to leverage future-oriented discussions in parliaments as inclusive, collaborative processes.

13:00 - 14:30 **Lunch**

14:30 - 16:30 **Session 2: Working Session - Strategic Foresight and parliamentary modernization**

This working session will introduce the key concepts and tools of foresight, and will provide participants the opportunity to apply these methods in a working group activity.

*Objectives:*

- Introduce the key concepts and tools of foresight, and identify strategies to effectively leverage collective intelligence, through inclusive participatory processes, to inform foresight work.
- In working groups, applying the concepts of foresight and collective intelligence, explore possible courses of action for parliamentary modernization to anticipate how parliamentary work will evolve to address the challenges of the future.

17:00 Transfer of participants to the official hotel

19:00 Welcome reception (TBC)

**Wednesday, May 28**

- 08:00 Transfer of participants to the Parliament of Uruguay
- 09:00 - 10:45 **Session 3: The AI and Big Tech Era: Shaping The Future Tech-Empowered World**  
 This panel session will explore aspects of the current era of the digital revolution, with accelerated technological innovation that presents unprecedented opportunities for progress, but also introduces complex risks that demand ethical and rights-based governance frameworks.
- Objectives:*
- Prompt reflection among parliamentarians about the economic, societal and geopolitical implications of the current era of digital transformation, characterized by the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence and the concentration of power in tech industries.
  - Explore the role of parliament in shaping a future that promotes technological innovation, with safe technologies and cyberspace for all people, with special attention to children, adolescents and women.
- 10:45 - 11:00 **Coffee break**
- 11:00 - 12:30 **Session 4: Preparing for the extreme impacts of climate change and its consequences**  
 The climate crisis is no longer approaching: it is here, accelerating systemic breakdowns and compounding global risks, while intersecting with geopolitical instability and social tensions. This session will explore how parliaments can prepare for its most extreme impacts by embracing foresight as a powerful lens to imagine alternative futures, uncover overlooked risks, and inform urgent legislative action.
- Objectives:*
- Introduce strategic foresight as a tool for exploring possible climate futures, uncovering emerging risks and opportunities, and guiding long-term, inclusive and intersectional policymaking.
  - Explore how anticipatory governance can inform parliamentary responses to climate-related disruptions, including addressing the wider geopolitical and economic shifts driven by climate change and fostering inclusive collaboration and effective communication with communities and vulnerable populations to prepare for and adapt to the anticipated changes.
- 12:30 - 13:30 **Open Parliament Network: Open Parliament Advances in the Region**  
 Parliamentary delegations are invited to present progress on open parliament commitments and actions, to be included in the ParlAmericas [Open Parliament Commitment Tool](#). Legislators are encouraged to prepare and to submit the relevant information in advance by completing this [form](#).
- 13:30 - 15:00 **Lunch**
- 15:00 - 17:30 **Session 5: Working Session - Demographic Transition and Its Impacts**

This working session will include an expert panel to provide an overview of the anticipated impacts of the demographic transition that will reshape societies in the coming decades. This will be followed by round-table discussion groups where participants will use a foresight tool to explore the social, economic, and institutional implications of these changes and consider future-oriented parliamentary actions.

*Objectives:*

- Prompt reflection among parliamentarians about the anticipated economic and social impacts of current and expected demographic trends in the Americas and the Caribbean, and examine the role of parliaments in proactively preparing for these scenarios.
- Apply foresight tools in a collaborative exercise to analyze the scenarios and implications of demographic transition from an inclusive and intergenerational perspective.

17:30 Transfer of participants to the official hotel

**Thursday, May 29**

08:00 Transfer of participants to the Parliament of Uruguay

09:00 - 11:00 **Session 6: The Future of Democracy: Rebuilding the Social Contract**

This session will examine the renewal of the social contract as a democratic imperative in a context of political polarization and declining trust in institutions. It will explore how parliaments can serve as spaces for inclusive dialogue and civic engagement, helping bridge the divide between citizens and the state.

*Objectives:*

- Reflect on the role of parliaments in rebuilding the social contract by fostering inclusive dialogue, encouraging civic participation, and rebuilding trust between citizens and institutions.
- Consider how principles of open parliament and anticipatory governance can guide more transparent, participatory, and future-oriented parliamentary practices in times of democratic uncertainty.

11:00 - 11:10 **Coffee Break**

11:15 - 12:15 **Plenary Assembly Session**

Chair of the Plenary Assembly: Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President of ParlAmericas

- Presentation of the annual reports of ParlAmericas Parliamentary Networks
  - Representative of the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality
  - Representative of the Open Parliament Network

- Representative of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and Sustainability
- Report from the International Secretariat
  - **Alisha Todd**, Director General
- Elections for the ParlAmericas Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

*Elections to the ParlAmericas Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network will take place during this session. For more information, we invite you to review our election advisories:*

- [ParlAmericas Board of Directors](#)
- [Executive Committee of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network](#)

12:15 - 12:45 **Reading of the Declaration of the 21<sup>st</sup> Plenary Assembly and the 9<sup>th</sup> Gathering of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network**

12:45 - 13:30 **Closing Ceremony**

13:30 **Lunch**

Transfer of participants to the official hotel



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*Select sessions of this event will be recorded and turned into podcast episodes.*



*This activity is being undertaken with financial support from the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada.*