AGENDA

Second Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Security

Public Security in the Americas and the Caribbean: Parliamentary Responses to Organized Crime and Violence

October 21, 22, and 23, 2026 | Valparaíso, Chile

The second gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Security will be held in a hemispheric context in which public insecurity has become one of the primary challenges affecting people's daily lives, the wellbeing of communities, and opportunities for social and economic progress.

The expansion of illicit economies, the sophistication of criminal networks, lethal violence, extortion, and other manifestations of insecurity are placing growing pressure on States, justice systems, and democratic governance. The Gathering will offer a space for parliamentarians from the Americas and the Caribbean to examine regional trends, share national experiences and good practices, and reflect on the role of parliamentary action to strengthen effective public security policies that align with the rule of law and human rights and contribute to the safety of people and communities.

All activities of the Gathering will take place in the Salón de Honor of the National Congress of Chile unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, October 21

08:30	Transfer of participants to the National Congress of Chile
09:00 - 12:00	**Panel co-organized with International IDEA – "Democratic Security in Latin America and the Caribbean: Legislative Responses to Organized Crime and Cybercrime"**
12:00 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 14:45	**Inauguration and Welcoming Remarks** ● Senator **Iván Flores García** (Chile), President of ParlAmericas ● The Honourable **Ahmed Hussen,** M.P. (Canada), President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Security ● Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Felipe Camaño Cárdenas** (Chile), First Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies ● Minister **Martín Arrau**, Minister of Public Security of Chile ● Senator **Paulina Núñez** (Chile), President of the Senate

14:45 - 16:00 **Session 1 – High-level dialogue - Public Security in the Americas and the Caribbean: Trends and Impacts**

This session will provide an overview of the main trends shaping the public security landscape in the Americas and the Caribbean. Drawing on regional data and comparative information, the conversation will examine the changing realities of violence, crime, and perceptions of insecurity, as well as the security challenges affecting different countries of the hemisphere.

Moderator:

- The Honourable **Alvina Reynolds** (Saint Lucia), President of the Senate and Vice-President of ParlAmericas

Panellists:

- **Andrea Pochak**, Commissioner, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)
- **Olivier Inizan**, Deputy Representative for the Andean Region and the Southern Cone, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

16:00 - 16:15 **Official Photograph**

16:15 - 16:30 Health Break

16:30 - 17:00 **Special Presentation – Harmonizing Security Policy: National Parliamentary Action to Address Transnational Challenges**

- Dr. **Vinicius de Carvalho**, Reader in Brazilian and Latin American Studies, Department of War Studies, King's College London

17:00 - 18:30 **Session 2 – Illicit Economies: The Financing of Criminal Networks and the Circulation of Illicit Funds**

This session will explore the main illicit economies that finance organized crime in the region, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, arms trafficking, extortion, illegal mining, and cybercrime. It will also explore how these resources infiltrate the formal economy and influence public institutions, territories, and social dynamics. The discussion will address phenomena such as money laundering, corruption, and the use of cryptocurrencies, as well as their effects on economic dependence, market distortions, institutional weakening, and democratic governance.

Moderator:

- Member of the National Assembly **Mishel Mancheno** (Ecuador), President of the National Assembly

Panellists:

- **John Grajales**, Section Chief for International Cooperation and Technical Assistance, Department against Transnational Organized Crime, Organization of American States (OAS)
- **Lucía Dammert**, Professor of International Relations and Expert on Organized Crime, University of Santiago de Chile

Commentator:

- **Luis Yáñez**, Secretary of the Commission, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

18:30 Transfer of participants to dinner

19:00 Welcome dinner

Thursday, October 22

08:30 Transfer of participants to the National Congress

09:00 - 09:15 **Welcoming remarks**

- H.E. **Christian Salazar Volkmann**, Resident Coordinator in Chile, United Nations System

09:15 - 10:15 **Special Presentation – *Paz Ciudadana* Foundation**

Moderator:

- **Daniel Johnson Rodríguez**, Executive Director, *Paz Ciudadana* Foundation

Panellists:

- Senator **Javier Macaya** (Chile)
- **Beatriz Mella Lira**, Director, *Empresa Portuaria de Valparaíso*

10:15 - 11:45 **Session 3 – Public Insecurity and Daily Life: Impacts on People and Communities**
This session will assess the human and community dimensions of public insecurity, analyzing how its various manifestations affect the daily lives, rights, and wellbeing of individuals and communities. It will explore issues such as homicide, extortion, the recruitment of children and youth by criminal networks, and the differentiated impacts of insecurity on women, girls, and other historically marginalized groups. How these dynamics transform everyday life, limit opportunities, affect participation in public life, and generate new pressures on the institutions responsible for protecting people and communities will also be assessed.

Moderator:

- Senator **Karol Cariola** (Chile)

Panellists:

- **Diego Molano**, Director of Citizen Security, Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF)
- **Ruqayyah Scott**, youth leader and international development professional

Commentator:

- **Rayssa Lemes**, social scientist and member of *Rede Politize*

11:45 - 12:00 Health Break

12:00 - 12:15 **Special Presentation: Transregional Cooperation in Addressing Public Security Challenges**

- **Massimo Meccheri**, Programme Manager, Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drugs Policies (COPOLAD)

12:15 - 13:30 **Session 4 – Public Security Under Pressure: Effectiveness and Human Rights**

This session will examine responses to public insecurity through an approach centred on the protection of people and communities, the rule of law, human rights, and States' international obligations. The discussion will explore strategies to ensure that the exercise of State powers – particularly in contexts of intense pressure to deliver immediate results – remains consistent with the principles of legality, proportionality, effectiveness, the protection of rights, and accountability. It will also assess parliament's role in ensuring that responses to public insecurity are subject to democratic deliberation, parliamentary oversight, and public scrutiny.

Moderator:

- Senator **Verónica Noemí Camino Farjat** (Mexico), Vice-President of the Senate and Member of the ParlAmericas Council

Panellists:

- **Francesco Nicola Maria Petricone**, Professor of Sociology of Political and Legal Phenomena and Chair of EU Policies and Global Challenges, LUISS Guido Carli University and LUMSA University
- **Lina Marmolejo**, Specialist, Citizen Security Division, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

13:30 - 14:45 Lunch

14:45 - 15:00 **Special Presentation: Tools to Support Parliamentary Work to Address Violence against Women and Girls**

- **Ana Elena Obando-Mendoza**, Legal Advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean, Equality Now

15:00 - 17:30 **Session 5 – Panel and Working Groups - Public Security and Justice: Institutional Capacities to Address Crime**

This session will explore how strengthening and modernizing justice systems can improve responses to crime, reduce impunity, and consolidate more effective and legitimate public security policies. Beginning with an introductory presentation, it will provide an overview of the institutional capacities, conditions, and reforms needed for justice systems to respond more effectively to the different manifestations of insecurity, in accordance with human rights and States' international obligations.

Parliamentarians will then engage in working group discussions to exchange national experiences, good practices, and lessons learned on specific dimensions of the justice system related to public security.

Moderator:

- The Honourable **Carolyn Trench-Sandiford** (Belize), President of the Senate and Member of the ParlAmericas Council

Panellists:

- **Rodrigo Nakada Catro**, Coordinator of Studies, Justice Studies Center of the Americas (CEJA)
- **Sara Rodríguez**, Coordinator of Legal Affairs and Rights Restitution, Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN-OAS)

Thematic working groups:

- Frameworks and Conditions for Justice System Reform and Modernization (in English and Spanish)
- Effective Access to Justice and Institutional Responses to Victims (in English and Spanish)
- Criminal Justice Reforms, Penitentiary Systems, and Public Security (in English and Spanish)
- Preventing the Recruitment of Children and Adolescents and Strengthening Protective Environments (in Spanish)

17:30 Transfer of participants to the official hotel

Friday, October 23

08:30 Transfer of participants to the National Congress

09:00 - 09:15 **Special Presentation – Ameripol**

- Director General **Marcelo Araya Zapata**, Executive Secretary, Police Community of the Americas (Ameripol)

09:15 - 10:45 **Session 6 – Intelligence Systems and Parliamentary Oversight for Public Security**

This session will focus on the role of intelligence systems in preventing and responding to public security threats. It will explore relevant legal frameworks, mechanisms for coordination and information-sharing, and challenges related to governance, oversight, and accountability. From a parliamentary perspective, the discussion will focus on the role of parliaments in establishing oversight mechanisms and safeguards that strengthen these capacities in accordance with democratic principles and the rule of law.

Moderator:

- Member of Parliament **Patricia Lattanzio** (Canada), 2nd Vice-President of ParlAmericas

Panellists:

- **Matias Romero Ale**, Assistant Director for the Americas & Europe of the Global Outreach and Regional Support Directorate, General Secretariat, Interpol
- **Tonya Ayow**, Deputy Executive Director, CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS)
- Member of the European Parliament **José Cepeda**, European Co-Chair, Working Group on Security, Terrorism, Hybrid Threats, and the Fight against Organized Crime and New Forms of Criminality, Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EuroLat)

10:45 - 11:00 Health Break

11:00 - 12:30 **Session 7 – Artificial Intelligence and State Capacities for Public Security**

This session will examine how artificial intelligence and the use of data can strengthen State capacities for preventing, investigating, and responding to public security challenges. It will explore their potential to process information, identify criminal patterns, support decision-making, and improve interinstitutional coordination. The discussion will also address emerging concerns related to the collection, storage, and use of personal data by digital platforms and technology providers in the field of public security, as well as the implications these practices may have for surveillance, privacy, and human rights.

Moderator:

- Member of the House of Representatives **Ana Magdalena Figueroa** (El Salvador), Second Vice-President for Central America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Security

Panellists:

- **Juan Carlos Lara**, Co-Executive Director, *Derechos Digitales*
- **Maurice McNaughton**, Director, Caribbean Open Institute

12:30 - 13:30 **Closing**

- Reading of the official declaration of the Second Parliamentary Gathering on Security
- Vote of thanks
  - **Alisha Todd**, Director General, ParlAmericas
- Closing remarks
  - H.E. **Karolina Guay,** Ambassador of Canada to Chile
  - Senator **Iván Flores García** (Chile), President of ParlAmericas

13:30 Lunch and cultural activity

Follow us on social media.

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.