



ParlAmericas Parliamentary Delegation to Washington

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Democracy, Rights, and Development in the Americas: Parliamentary Perspectives for a Renewed Inter-American Agenda

March 16-20, 2026
Washington, D.C.

Democracy and diplomacy are essential foundations for peace, development, and human dignity across the Americas and the Caribbean. Yet rising political polarization fuelled by citizen frustrations, economic pressures, and a convergence of regional and global crises – amid rapid geopolitical shifts that are challenging established international frameworks and expectations – is placing long-standing mechanisms of cooperation and democratic governance under significant strain. In this context, the coinciding 25th anniversaries of ParlAmericas and the Inter-American Democratic Charter provide a timely opportunity to consider how a strengthened inter-American system, rooted in collaborative and resilient democracies, can foster regional security, inclusive and mutually beneficial development, and the well-being of all people.

Through interparliamentary consultations with member states and officials of the Organization of American States, as well as counterparts from the United States Congress, this year's ParlAmericas Delegation to Washington offers an opportunity for legislators from across the Americas and the Caribbean to advance a constructive dialogue and strengthen commitment to regional cooperation rooted in sovereignty and democratic governance, in order to deliver shared prosperity within and across nations.

Monday, March 16

Throughout the day **Arrival of delegates**

Tuesday, March 17

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

08:45 - 09:10 **Transfer to and registration at the Organization of American States**
Rubén Darío Room – OAS General Services Building, 8th floor (1889 F Street NW, 20006)

09:10 - 09:30	Opening Remarks
09:30 - 10:15	Civil Society Participation: Cornerstone of Democratic Renewal in the Inter-American System
Inter-Parliamentary Exchange with the Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Laura Gil	
	<i>This session will explore how the OAS is working to strengthen inclusive spaces for dialogue that connect citizens, civil society organizations, and democratic institutions across the region. The discussion will focus on how meaningful participation enhances the quality of democratic decision-making, reinforces the legitimacy of multilateral action, and contributes to more resilient democratic governance.</i>
<i>Conceived as an open exchange with parliamentarians, the session will invite reflection on how parliaments and the Inter-American system can better align their efforts to support civic participation and strengthen democratic space, reinforcing the democratic legitimacy and relevance of hemispheric cooperation.</i>	
10:15 - 10:30	Health break
10:30 - 12:30	Building Democratic Resilience: Interactive Working Session with the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy
<i>This session will feature a concise institutional briefing on the mandate and priority initiatives of the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy, followed by an interactive format designed to deepen engagement between parliamentarians and the leadership of its four programmatic pillars. After introductory remarks from the Secretary for Strengthening Democracy and short presentations from each departmental director, participants will rotate through small-group dialogue sessions, enabling direct discussion on current challenges, strategic priorities, and opportunities for collaboration across the hemisphere.</i>	
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 14:00	Transfer to and arrival at the Main Building of the Organization of American States <i>OAS Main Building (17th St. and Constitution Ave. NW)</i>
14:00 - 14:45	Protocolary meeting with the Chair of the Permanent Council of the OAS
14:45 - 15:00	Health break
15:00 - 17:00	The Inter-American Democratic Charter at 25: Reaffirming a Hemispheric Commitment to Democracy and Human Rights <i>Hall of the Americas, OAS Main Building (17th St. and Constitution Ave. NW)</i>

High-Level Dialogue with Representatives of Permanent Missions to the OAS

Marking the 25th anniversary of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, this high-level dialogue will convene parliamentarians and representatives of Permanent Missions to the OAS to reflect on the Charter's enduring relevance and the collective responsibility to advance its principles amid today's complex regional landscape. The session will provide space to examine contemporary governance pressures and evolving expectations of hemispheric cooperation, considering how a strengthened inter-American system—rooted in collaborative and resilient democracies—can foster regional security, inclusive and mutually beneficial development, and the well-being of all people.

17:00 **Reception**

Wednesday, March 18

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

08:45 - 09:00 **Transfer to and arrival at the Organization of American States**
Rubén Darío Room – OAS General Services Building, 8th floor (1889 F Street NW, 20006)

09:00 - 10:00 **Women, Peace and Security: Parliamentary Action for Inclusive and Sustainable Peace**

This session will examine the Women, Peace and Security agenda as a critical dimension of democratic governance, sustainable peace, and inclusive development in the Americas and the Caribbean. Drawing on the expertise of the Inter-American Commission of Women, the discussion will engage parliamentarians in reflecting on how integrating a gender perspective into peace, security, and institutional responses strengthens democratic legitimacy, addresses multidimensional security challenges, and supports more equitable development outcomes. The dialogue will further explore the role of parliaments in advancing women's leadership and meaningful participation in security governance, and in aligning national legislative frameworks with hemispheric commitments.

10:00 - 10:15 **Health break**

10:15 - 12:15 **Security and Institutional Cooperation: Insights from the Inter-American System**

This session will provide parliamentarians with an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS) on priority security challenges facing the hemisphere. The discussion will focus on the inter-American framework on firearms, including the implementation of Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), as well as selected elements of the Secretariat's drug policy portfolio, such as the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control

Commission (CICAD), examining how these areas intersect with legislative responsibilities.

12:15 - 13:15 **Lunch**

13:15 - 14:00 **Transfer to the U.S. Congress**

14:00 - 14:30 **Arrival and registration at the U.S. Congress**
U.S. Congress (Washington, DC 20004, USA)

14:30 - 16:00 **Legislative Dialogue on delivering shared prosperity in the Western Hemisphere**

Organized in collaboration with the U.S. Congress House Democracy Partnership, this session will provide delegates with an opportunity to engage with Members of the United States House of Representatives to exchange perspectives on regional priorities for economic growth and resilience, and to discuss ways to reinforce democracy and good governance while promoting shared prosperity, security, and social well-being across the region.

16:00 - 16:30 **Group photo at the U.S. Congress**

16:30 **U.S. Congress guided tour (optional)**

Thursday, March 19

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

08:40 - 09:10 **Transfer and arrival at the Organization of American States**
Guerrero Room – OAS Main Building (17th St. and Constitution Ave. NW)

09:10 - 10:00 **Technical Briefing: Haitian-led Roadmap for Stability and Peace with Regional and International Support**

This session will provide an opportunity for parliamentarians to learn about the [Haitian-led Roadmap for Stability and Peace with Regional and International Support](#), including the conditions necessary for its effective implementation. It will also provide a space to exchange perspectives on how parliamentary diplomacy can complement this coordinated multilateral effort within the Inter-American system to support stability and peace in Haiti.

10:00 - 11:00 **Inter-Parliamentary Exchange with the Secretary General of the Organization of American States**

This meeting will provide an opportunity to dialogue with the Secretary General on his priorities for the OAS and to articulate parliamentary views on regional issues where strengthened OAS engagement would be beneficial.

11:00 - 11:30 **Transfer and arrival at the F-Street Building**

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

11:30 - 13:00 **Mental Health and Health System Resilience in the Americas and the Caribbean**

Furthering the goals of the 2025 OAS Resolution “Addressing the Critical Mental Health Crises in the Americas,” this session will update parliamentarians on the Inter-American working group supporting its implementation and facilitate a discussion on the social determinants shaping mental health outcomes, the intersections between mental health and other priority health areas, and how integrated, rights-based approaches can strengthen access, resilience, and wellbeing.

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

14:00 - 16:00 **Labor and Economic Development in the Americas and the Caribbean**

In recognition of the 30th anniversary of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI)—the OAS body that advances hemispheric cooperation on social, economic, and sustainable development—this session will explore overarching labor and economic developments shaping the region and discuss policy approaches to enhance employment opportunities, reinforce economic stability, and promote inclusive and sustainable growth.

16:00 - 17:00 **Closing session: Reflections and takeaways**



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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.