

POSTPONED

DRAFT AGENDA

The Escazú Agreement: From Ratification to Implementation

A Call to Action for Parliaments to Foster More Effective and Inclusive Climate Solutions

July 9, 2024 | Parliament of Grenada

This half day workshop will aim to raise awareness of the benefits of the Escazú Agreement, ratified by Grenada in 2023, as an open parliament framework through which parliament can promote an inclusive environmental democracy which is responsive to the needs of communities. Moreover, the workshop will examine the intersectionality of the impacts of climate change and through understanding these linkages share ways that parliamentarians can better communicate on the urgency to take ambitious climate action.

9:00 - 9:10 Introductory Remarks

- The Honourable **Leo Cato**, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
- The Honourable Dr. **Dessima Williams**, President of the Senate, Member of the ParlAmericas Board of Directors

9:10 - 9:30 Presentation: The Importance of the Escazú Agreement

This session will explore the mandates of the Escazú Agreement, which include improving access to environmental information, public participation, and the protection of the rights of environmental defenders; as well as progress achieved to date in Grenada in its implementation. Discussions will include the role of parliamentarians in the promotion and use of the Agreement.

9:30 - 10:10 Panel: Building Environmental Democracy from all Angles

The Escazú Agreement provides a unique opportunity to integrate open government principles— access to public information, participation, transparency and accountability —into the formulation, oversight, and assessment of policies, programs, and environmentally impactful projects. This session will examine these parallels, emphasizing effective mechanisms and positive initiatives that contribute to achieving these pillars, with a focus on citizen participation, in order to foster comprehensive and inclusive environmental policies and decisions that leave no one behind.

10:10 - 10:55 Multi Stakeholder Dialogue: Understanding and Overcoming the Challenges for Effective Public Participation in Environmental Discussions

The dialogue will facilitate a space for parliamentarians and other actors to help identify barriers and strategies to promote public participation in environmental discussions and access to environmental information, as well as the manner in which ParlAmericas can provide technical support.

Question for parliamentarians: What is your experience in engaging civil society on climate or environmental issues, are there any challenges that you encountered that could be constructive to explore? What strategies have you taken to try to overcome these?

Question for civil society: What is your experience in engaging with parliament on climate or environmental issues, are there any challenges and opportunities that you encountered that could be constructive to explore?

10:55 - 11:10 Health Break

11:10 - 11:55 Panel: Building a Case on Why Inclusive Climate Action Matters to All

Similarly to the Escazú Agreement, the Paris Agreement recognizes the importance of protecting and respecting human rights in all climate actions. While the connections between environmental efforts and various economic sectors or social issues may not always be apparent, understanding these links and effectively communicating about them can enhance climate awareness within communities and foster social acceptance.

This session will present on the role of parliamentarians in supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement and its NDCs, as well as delve into the intersectionality of climate change and explore strategies for parliamentarians to incorporate an inclusive climate perspective into sectors such as tourism, agriculture, health, among others.

11:55 - 12:15 Open Dialogue: Effective Communication on Climate Action

Applying the discussions of the previous session, participants will have the chance to reflect on the presentations and discuss the challenges and opportunities they face when communicating on climate work.

12:15 - 12:25 The Work of ParlAmericas to Support Parliamentary Work

The workshop will wrap up with a concise overview of resources and tools developed by ParlAmericas to assist parliamentarians in advancing on various topics, including those already discussed.

12:25 - 12:30 Closing Remarks

12:30 - 1:30 Lunch



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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.