Board of Directors
ParlAmericas is run by parliamentarians for parliamentarians, with a Board of Directors composed of 23 legislators, representing 18 countries from North, South, Central America and the Caribbean.

In addition, the Board has ex-officio representation from the ParlAmericas International Secretariat and the OAS General Secretariat.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**President**

Elizabeth Cabezas  
Member of the National Assembly, Ecuador

The Honourable Cabezas, Member and President of the National Assembly of Ecuador, worked in the Municipality of Quito as director of Citizen Security. From the Ministry of Social Development, she promoted the provision of school uniforms and breakfast in the country’s schools. As a councillor in Quito for the period of 2009 - 2013, she led the legalization of more than 300 neighborhoods, which represented the most important process of land legalization in Quito, seeking to ensure a safer and more prosperous city. Ms. Cabezas is an economist and holds a Masters in Management from the University of Catalonia and a diploma in Banking and Finance from the University of the Pacific. In the National Assembly, she promotes issues such as the recovery of capital lost due to corruption; the evaluation and monitoring of problems related to land transportation, transit, and road safety; and care for people with disabilities.

**Vice-President**

Vacant
2nd Vice-president and President of the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality

Blanca Ovelar
Senator, Paraguay

The Honorable Fernández is a biologist, veterinarian, and politician from the Socialist Party of Chile. She was a councillor for the municipality of Ñuñoa for the 2008-2012 period and has been elected a Member of the Chamber of Deputies for districts 21 and 10 of the Metropolitan Region of Santiago for the 2014-2018 and 2018-2022 legislatures, respectively. Ms. Fernández has served as President of the Chamber of Deputies since March 11, 2018. She is also a member of the Women and Equity Committee, the National Defence Committee, and the Sports and Recreation Committee.

Maya Fernández Allende
Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Chile

2nd Vice-president and President of the Open Parliament Network

Senor Ovelar is an elected national senator of Paraguay for the 2018-2023 term. She held the position of Minister of Education and Culture and Coordinator of the Social Cabinet of the Presidency of the Republic from 2002 to 2007. She has also served as Deputy Minister of Education and National Director of Higher Education, in addition to having been a school teacher, a professor, and a researcher at the National University of Asunción. She was a presidential candidate for the Republic of Paraguay for the 2008-2013 term for the Colorado Party and an elected national senator for the 2013-2018 term. She is currently the President of the Open Parliament Network and 2nd Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Board.

Ana Belén Marín
Member of the National Assembly, Ecuador

2nd Vice-president and President of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change

Ms. Marín Aguirre is an engineer specializing in socioeconomic development and the environment. She has more than 10 years of experience in the public sector, having served as director of the Ministry of Environment and director and undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries. She is currently a Member of the National Assembly of Ecuador, centring her political and technical experience in forestry, agriculture, livestock, mining and the environment. In addition to being a member of the ParlAmericas Board, she is the alternate Vice-President for South America of the Climate Change Network – ParlAmericas for the period of 2017-2019.
Ms. Giacoppo is a member of the Radical Civic Union (UCR) political party. She has been a Senator since 2015, when she assumed her position as the alternate for Gerardo Morales who assumed the role of governor for Jujuy. She was re-elected in 2017 by the Jujeño community until 2023. She is currently a member of the Judicial Council. She is a lawyer, with a Master in family law. She has exercised her profession as long as she hasn’t held a position in public office. She centers her efforts and interests on social issues, on the agricultural sector, regional economies, the environment and gender issues. She currently lives in Monterrico, Jujuy, the city where she has been Mayor and conducts agricultural activities.

Mr. Florentín holds a degree in Accounting from the Faculty of Economic Sciences, Administrative and Accounting of the National University of Asunción, with a master’s degree in business management from the Faculty of Business Sciences of the Autonomous University of Asunción and the faculty of economic sciences and administration of the University of Chile. He was elected national senator of the Republic of Paraguay for the period 2018-2023. He was previously a Member of the Chamber of Deputies of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party for the Department of Cordillera during the periods 2008-2013 and 2013-2018. In addition, he is the leader of the Senate’s multi-party caucus; leader of Caucus B of P.L.R.A; Full Member of the following Senate Committees: Finance and Budget, Economy, Cooperativism, Development and Economic Integration of Latin American; member of the Open Parliament Committee; member and rapporteur of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger; and full member of the Bicameral Budget Commission 2018-2019.
The Honorable Simons, a member of the House of Parliament in Suriname, first entered politics in 1996 as a representative of the National Democratic Party and has since been elected four times to Parliament. She has served as the Speaker of the House since 2010. Her compassion for people motivated her to study medicine, and she has been active as a practitioner (MD), university lecturer, and public health policymaker. In addition, she has vast experience in educational innovation and development, which includes the founding of EDUCONS, an NGO promoting information and communications technology. She also introduced distance education to Suriname. After becoming Speaker of the House, Dr. Simons initiated the Institutional Strengthening Program for Parliament and the Association of Parliamentarians for the Development of Children and Youth. She is considered a national icon for independent women, as she is an inspiring visionary and firm believer in self-determination and life-long learning.

Ms. Solis holds a Bachelor's degree in Marketing Communications and a Master's degree in Business Administration. She has served as First Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship; Costa Rica's Director for Expo Shanghai, China; Logistics Manager in the Ministry of Foreign Trade; and Protocol Assistant in the Office of the President of the Republic of Costa Rica. Currently, Ms. Solis is a Member of the Legislative Assembly for the political party Unidad Social Cristiana and serves as Vice President on the legislature's executive committee. She is a member of the Legal Affairs, International Relations, and Foreign Trade Committees, the Second Plenary Committee with Legislative Power, and the Committee for the Province of Alajuela.
Ms. Cornejo is the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Libertad and is Third Secretary on the executive committee of the Legislative Assembly for the 2018-2021 period. She currently works on the commissions on electoral and constitutional reform, and legislation and constitutional points. In addition to being a member of the ParlAmericas Board, she is Vice-President for Central America of the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality for the 2018-2020 period.

Cristina Cornejo
Member of the Legislative Assembly, El Salvador

Ms. Espinales is a departmental Member of the National Assembly for the FSLN and is currently the 1st Vice-President of the National Assembly of Nicaragua. She is a librarian by training and studied at the Central American University (UCA). Ms. Espinales is a promoter of human rights, prioritizing the defense of education as a fundamental right, the promotion of gender equality, and the empowerment of women in decision-making. She also serves as a union leader in the university sector. She is a member of the committee for Education, Culture, Sports and Social Media and the committee on the Modernization of the National Assembly.

Maritza del Socorro Espinales
Member of the National Assembly, Nicaragua

Mr. Arce has a degree in Law and Political Science. He has an outstanding political career within the Democratic Revolutionary Party where he has served as a delegate to various congresses, National Director, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the District of David and director of the National Board of Directors of the organization area of Chiriquí no. 1. He has served as Alternate Member of the National Assembly in the National Assembly of Panama, where he currently acts as a principal Member of the National Assembly and is the president of the Committee on Foreign Relations. He has held important sport leadership roles in soccer, where he has held the positions of President of the National Soccer Federation of Panama and vice president of the Soccer Federation of the Panama National Football team (FEPAFUT in Spanish), founding member of the Athletic Sports Club of Chiriquí, as well as President of the FEPAFUT Amateur Football Commission. He has also served as a delegate of the Republic of Panama to several international FIFA conferences.

Fernando Arce
Member of the National Assembly, Panama
The Honorable Daniel worked at the Saint Lucia Development Bank and then proceeded to study law at the Holborn College, London. He returned to St. Lucia in 1999 where he was called to the bar. He immediately commenced private practice until he was appointed as a Magistrate. He was one of the founders of Youth for the Development of his community (Youf-Doc), Treasurer of the National Youth Council, as well as President of the Students Branch of the National Youth Council. He served as leader of the opposition in the Senate and as a candidate for Dennery North Constituency. He is currently the Speaker of the House of Assembly of Saint Lucia and an executive member of the ruling United Workers Party (UWP).

Ms. López Bejerano, Member of the National Assembly of Cuba, received a Bachelor’s degree in nuclear physics and serves as the Director of the Center for Radiation Hygiene. She worked in the Budget Unit for the Construction of the Center for Nuclear Investigations and the Center for Radiation Protection and Hygiene, where she held various responsibilities. She is currently on the panel of experts of the Nuclear Branch Program of Cuba and an expert at the International Atomic Energy Agency. She is a delegate of the Fifth Congress of the Party, representing the municipality of Cotorro.

The Honorable Annisette-George first entered Parliament as a Senator and Attorney General on November 8, 2007, and thus became the third woman to hold this post in the history of Trinidad and Tobago. An alumnus of St. Joseph’s Convent, Port-of-Spain, Mrs. Annisette-George is also a graduate of the University of the West Indies, having obtained her Bachelor of Law from that institution in 1981. Before taking up the portfolio of Attorney General, Mrs. Annisette-George was the sole practitioner at Messrs. G.R. Annisette & Co. Mrs. Annisette-George has held a wide variety of positions in both the private and public sector including Commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Trinidad and Tobago (2003), Chairman of the Diego Martin Regional Corporation (1999-2003) and associate tutor/lecturer at the Hugh Wooding Law School.
Mrs. Cuthbert-Flynn is an accomplished Olympian, and most recently politician. She is a 5 time Olympian and double Olympic Silver medallist. She has served as board member for the Sports Development Foundation, Insport and the Disciplinary Panel of the Jamaica Anti Doping Commission. She has been an advocate for the rights of athletes and championed a case for all national athletes to receive health insurance. Mrs Cuthbert-Flynn currently serves her country in the capacity of Member of Parliament for West Rural St Andrew and is an advocate for the review of the anti-abortion laws to allow women safe and respectable options of terminating pregnancies under specific circumstances.

The Honorable Holder is a teacher, social worker, lawyer, and politician. As a trained social worker, Speaker Holder has served as a local consultant for the United Nations International Drug Control Programme for targeted efforts to eradicate drug use. As an attorney, Speaker Holder has done significant pro-bono work on behalf of juveniles brought before the Criminal Courts, and uses such opportunities to counsel the youth and their families. Currently, he is the Speaker of the House of Assembly and a member of the Barbados Labour Party team.

Vacant, Canada
North America

Senator Antares G. Vázquez Alatorre holds a medical degree from the La Salle Mexico University, a specialization in dermatology and subspecialization in cryosurgery from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, a Master’s degree in Education and Teacher Training from the University of Salle Bajío, and a Doctorate in Educational Innovation from the Technological Institute of Monterrey.

She is a member of the LXIV Legislature of the Mexican Congress, Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Senate of the Republic, Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, and a member of the committees on Education, Health, and Human Rights.

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Host Parliament–17th Plenary Assembly

Costa Rica

Chair of the ParlAmericas Corporation Board

Mr. Hoback was elected Chair of the Canadian Section of ParlAmericas in March 2010 and served from February 2011 to September 2014 as President of ParlAmericas at the hemispheric level. His experience working closely with farm organizations led him to Ottawa, where he served as a special advisor to the Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, and Minister of the Canadian Wheat Board. He was elected in 2008 as the Member of Parliament for Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Due to his experience with Trades and Agriculture, he has developed a strong interest in Canada’s trading partners, particularly, in promoting dialogue and trade with Latin America as he believes in Canada’s given responsibility to collaborate with the Americas for a stronger and safer hemisphere. He currently sits on the Standing Committee on International Trade. He holds a business administration certificate through the University of Saskatchewan, and Chartered Director’s designation (C. Dir.), which he completed through McMaster University’s Chartered Directors College.
Ms. Alisha Todd joined Parlamericas in March 2014, bringing her expertise and enthusiasm for promoting democratic principles and strengthening governance institutions. Prior to joining Parlamericas, Alisha specialized in designing and implementing international democracy, governance, humanitarian, and security sector programming with an Ottawa-based NGO. Alisha has extensive experience in developing innovative programming, strengthening relationships, and building partnerships with international and regional stakeholders. Alisha's passion for the Americas started in her teens; having on occasion lived, worked and traveled throughout the region. She speaks English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish and is a graduate from the University of Toronto's Trinity College, specializing in International Relations and Latin American Studies.

Mr. Guerrero is the Secretary for Strengthening Democracy of the Organization of American States (OAS) since June, 2015. He has held several positions in the public sector, like Senior Director at the Social Studies and Public Opinion Centre (CESOP) at the Mexican Chamber of Deputies; Chief of Staff for the President of Mexican Senate; National Sub-commissioner at the National Medical Arbitration Commission (Conamed); Head of International Affairs Office and Chief of Staff both at the Secretariat of Labour and Social Welfare, and also served as Chair of the General Coordination for Affiliated Workers at the Institute for Security and Social Services for State Workers (ISSSTE).
The ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality (PNGE) promotes women’s political leadership and gender mainstreaming in the agendas and operations of the national legislatures of the Americas and the Caribbean.

Since its creation in 2003, the Network (formerly known as the Group of Women Parliamentarians) has carried out activities and initiatives that bring together legislators from across the hemisphere for the exchange of knowledge and good practices to advance women’s rights and gender equality. Through its inter-parliamentary gatherings, the Network has addressed topics of shared importance such as women’s economic empowerment, ending gender-based political violence, electoral reforms to promote women’s candidacies, gender-sensitive media and communications, and parliamentary caucuses for gender equality, among others. The outcomes of these activities also inform the development of specialized resources and online communities for parliamentarians.

The Network for Gender Equality is committed to creating diverse and inclusive working spaces, encouraging the participation of male allies, and collaborating with women’s organizations and social movements towards shared objectives.

The Network is governed by an elected Executive Committee, composed of the President (who also serves as 2nd Vice-President on ParlAmericas’ Board of Directors) and four sub-regional Vice-Presidents representing North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean.

**Maya Fernández Allende**  
President  
Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Chile

**Verónica Camino Farjat**  
Vice-President - North America  
Senator, México

**Norma Cristina Cornejo**  
Vice-President - Central America  
Member of the Legislative Assembly, El Salvador

**Chester Humphrey**  
Vice-President - Caribbean  
President of the Senate, Grenada

**Karina Arteaga**  
Vice-President - South America  
Member of the National Assembly, Ecuador

**Marcela Sabat**  
Alternate Vice-President - South America  
Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Chile

**Delsa Solórzano**  
Observer  
Member of the National Assembly, Venezuela

**Lisane Thirsk**  
Deputy Director, Gender Equality and Communications  
ParlAmericas
The ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network (OPN) promotes legislative openness through efforts to increase transparency and access to public information, strengthen the accountability of democratic institutions, promote the participation of citizens in legislative decision-making, and ensure a culture of ethical behaviour and probity in the national legislatures of the Americas and the Caribbean.

Since its integration in ParlAmericas in 2015, the Network (formerly known as Inter-American Parliamentary Network on Transparency, Access to Public Information, and Probity), provides workshops, facilitates peer to peer exchanges and produces tools for legislators with the ultimate objective of combating corruption, enhancing public trust and strengthening our democratic institutions, to build peaceful and inclusive societies that provide access to justice for all and boast of effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, in support of Sustainable Development Goal 16. The outcomes of these activities also inform the development of specialized resources and online communities for parliamentarians.

The Network is governed by an elected Executive Committee, composed of the President (who also serves as 2nd Vice-President on ParlAmericas’ Board of Directors) and four sub-regional Vice-Presidents representing North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean.

**Blanca Ovelar**  
President  
Senator, Paraguay

**Vacant**  
Vice-President - North America

**Vacant**  
Vice-President - Central America

**Ranard Henfeild**  
Vice-President - Caribbean  
Senator, The Bahamas

**Javier Macaya Danús**  
Vice President - South America  
Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Chile

**Andrés García Zuccardi**  
Alternate Vice-President - South America  
Senator, Colombia

**Williams Dávila**  
Observer  
Member of the National Assembly, Venezuela

**Emilie Lemieux**  
Deputy Director, Open Parliament and Sustainable Development  
ParlAmericas
The ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change (PNCC) was created in 2016 with the objective of promoting parliamentary diplomacy on climate action within parliaments, aligned with existing international frameworks that work towards combating climate change and achieving sustainable development. The PNCC fosters knowledge exchanges between parliamentarians, expert practitioners, civil society and other stakeholders on effective practices for climate change mitigation and adaptation through workshops, dialogues and the creation of specialized resources.

The work of the PNCC encourages cooperation between parliaments and government agencies in the development and implementation of innovative policies to combat climate change. Recent topics of focus include renewable energy, disaster risk reduction, and climate financing concepts such as loss and damage, carbon pricing and markets, as well as the importance of integrating gender into climate action and raising ambition within the Nationally Determined Contributions to meet the Paris Agreement goals and attain the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Network is governed by an elected Executive Committee, composed of the President, and sub-regional Vice-Presidencies representing North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean.

**Ana Belén Marín Aguirre**
President
Member of the National Assembly, Ecuador

**Rosa Galvez**
Vice-President - North America
Senator, Canada

**Paola Vega Rodríguez**
Vice-President - Central America
Member of the Legislative Assembly, Costa Rica

**Andy Daniel**
Vice-President - Caribbean
Speaker of the House of Assembly, Saint Lucia

**Vacant**
Vice-President - South America

**Jennifer Simons**
Alternate Vice-President - South America
Speaker of the National Assembly, Suriname

**Emilie Lemieux**
Deputy Director, Open Parliament and Sustainable Development
ParlAmericas
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ParlAmericas is the institution that promotes PARLIAMENTARY 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 PARLIAMENTS 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.

ParlAmericas is headquartered in OTTAWA, CANADA.