

## DECLARATION

### *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

Parliamentarians the Americas and the Caribbean<sup>1</sup> met on May 27, 28 and 29, 2025, in Montevideo, at the Parliament of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, on the occasion of the 21st Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas and the 9th Meeting of the Open Parliament Network, held jointly under the title Legislating for the Future: Harnessing Anticipatory Governance in Parliamentary Action.

The meeting provided a space to discuss anticipatory governance and strategic foresight approaches and their application in parliamentary work as key tools to respond proactively and forward-looking to some of the major transformations of the 21st century, including the technological revolution, the effects of climate change, the demographic transition and the threats facing our democracies.

Our dialogues reaffirmed the urgency of advancing in the institutional transformations required to build the parliaments of the future, modernizing legislative work, renewing models of representation and participation, and expanding the capacities needed to anticipate risks, manage transitions and shape a more just, inclusive, sustainable and democratic future.

Considering the above and,

#### ***Recognizing:***

1. That the growing complexity and interdependence of today's challenges—including profound demographic shifts, transformative technological advances, the growing impacts of the climate crisis, the unprecedented increase in migration, worsening inequalities, and persistent challenges to democracy—call for the consideration of new governance frameworks and methodologies in decision-making;
  - a. The Americas and the Caribbean are undergoing a process of accelerated demographic aging<sup>2</sup> that will profoundly transform our societies in the coming decades and will have significant economic, social and health consequences;
  - b. The accelerated development and widespread use of technologies, such as artificial intelligence and other emerging innovations, opens up unprecedented opportunities for human progress, but also poses ethical, social, economic and political challenges;
  - c. The economic transformations resulting from digitalization, automation and demographic changes are reshaping employment, productivity and wealth distribution, with impacts that could further deepen existing inequalities<sup>3</sup>;
  - d. The climate crisis, one of the greatest challenges of our time, represents a critical threat to the prosperity and stability of the hemisphere, with the regions heightened dependence on natural resources, the health of its biodiverse geography and the oceans, its persistent levels of inequality and poverty<sup>4</sup>, factors that amplify the risks of food insecurity, forced displacement,

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<sup>1</sup> Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Grenada, Mexico, Panama, Saint Lucia and Uruguay. Parliamentary delegations representing the Parliament of Sint Maarten and Curaçao also participated.

<sup>2</sup> Population aging is a structural trend throughout the hemisphere. In the United States, people over 65 years of age already represent 17% of the population and are projected to reach 22% by 2040 ([Administration for Community Living, 2023](#)). In Canada, one in five people are aged 65 and over, and the population aged 85 and over is expected to triple by 2046 ([Statistics Canada, 2021](#)). According to the [Inter-American Development Bank](#), Latin America and the Caribbean are aging faster than the rest of the world.

<sup>3</sup> According to a [joint report by the World Bank and the International Labor Organization](#) (2024), between 26% and 38% of jobs in Latin America and the Caribbean could be exposed to generative artificial intelligence.

<sup>4</sup> [Environment at a Glance in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (OECD, 2023).

and economic and social destabilization;

2. That contemporary democracies are facing worrisome setbacks, marked by growing citizen anxiety and frustration with government performance—exacerbated by disinformation, extreme polarization, and the malicious use of digital technologies designed to deliberately erode public confidence in democratic institutions and electoral processes.
3. That parliaments, by exercising their legislative, representative, budgetary and political oversight functions, can make decisive contributions to building a prosperous and sustainable future that benefits all people, responding to the diverse needs and aspirations of the population and promoting more open, inclusive and participatory governance that anticipates emerging challenges, strengthens democratic legitimacy and is more responsive to social transformations;
4. That anticipatory governance, understood as a proactive, future-oriented decision-making model that draws on scientific evidence, strategic foresight, emerging technologies, and collective intelligence—generated through broad-based participatory processes—is a transformative approach that can be adapted to strengthen legislative work.
5. That parliaments across the Americas and the Caribbean have made progress in advancing open parliament initiatives, commitments, and action plans—creating an institutional ecosystem that can be leveraged to implement anticipatory governance, particularly through the use of inclusive, deliberative citizen participation as a key tool for generating collective intelligence.
6. That placing human rights at the center of anticipatory governance—by guaranteeing the full and effective participation of all sectors of society in decision-making processes, with special attention to historically marginalized groups, including women, youth, Indigenous peoples, Afrodescendent and Indodescendent peoples affected by the legacy of slavery and indenture, people with disabilities, migrants and displaced persons, LGBTI+ individuals, and others—is essential for building a more just, inclusive, and democratic future;
7. That intergenerational equity is a fundamental principle of anticipatory governance. It establishes the ethical and political responsibility to safeguard the rights and interests of future generations, ensuring that decisions made today contribute to their well-being, the full exercise of their rights, and the creation of a dignified and fulfilling future.
8. That the effective use of scientific evidence in parliamentary decision-making—particularly through the systematic collection and analysis of disaggregated data by gender, age, ethnicity, disability, and other relevant factors—is essential for crafting inclusive, equitable, and evidence-informed public policies that respond to the diverse realities of the population;
9. That recent international instruments, such as the [Pact for the Future](#), promoted by the United Nations and the strategic foresight frameworks promoted by the OECD<sup>5</sup>, have reaffirmed the importance of strengthening anticipatory governance, long-term planning and the protection of the rights and interests of future generations;
10. That the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) of the Organization of American States, through its support of Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Science and Technology and other hemispheric initiatives, has contributed to strengthening regional cooperation and institutional capacities to anticipate scientific and technological developments in strategic sectors, in order to expand the benefits of research and innovation in the region;
11. That international organizations, like the UNDP and ECLAC, and inter-parliamentary spaces, such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), have promoted the adoption of future-oriented approaches in parliaments, encouraging the establishment of Committees of the Future and other initiatives aimed at strengthening the capacity of legislatures to respond with foresight to emerging dynamics;

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<sup>5</sup> [Strategic Foresight Unit in the Office of the OECD Secretary-General](#).

12. That in the face of a shifting world order and the growing complexity of converging global crises—ranging from climate change and geopolitical instability to technological disruption and social fragmentation—it is imperative that parliaments take a more active role to strengthen multilateralism and foster collaboration through parliamentary diplomacy, as essential strategies for advancing collective solutions and safeguarding democratic resilience;

***We commit to:***

1. Proactively lead the development of shared visions for a prosperous and and sustainable future that benefits all people, by promoting public dialogue and deliberative models of participation that bring together diverse social actors—with special attention to historically marginalized groups—and position parliaments as spaces for broad, pluralistic social dialogue to address the complex issues of the 21st Century.
2. Promote the use of anticipatory governance and strategic foresight approaches in our legislative work, to anticipate trends, manage complex risks and formulate adaptive and future-resilient legislation with long-term vision and intergenerational responsibility.
3. Enrich anticipatory governance approaches from an Open Parliament perspective, integrating its pillars (transparency, citizen participation, accountability, ethics and probity) and promoting action plans and other co-creation mechanisms that broaden the diversity of voices, strengthen dialogue processes about the future and contribute to collectively building legislative agendas that respond in a more legitimate and inclusive way to the needs of today's and tomorrow's societies.
4. Advocate for the institutionalized collection, analysis, and dissemination of disaggregated data by our governments—guided by open data principles—as a foundation for evidence-informed public decision-making that reflects the diverse realities of our societies, promotes transparency and accountability, and strengthens inclusive and equitable governance.
5. Adopt the systematic use of data, scientific evidence and specialized knowledge in our legislative work, promoting the active participation of the scientific and academic community, research centers and other relevant stakeholders, to enrich, strengthen and legitimize our decisions, incorporating a deeper understanding of future trends and challenges.
6. Incorporate considerations of intergenerational equity in our legislative work, promoting the safeguarding of the rights and interests of future generations and encouraging the active participation of youth in the formulation of public policies with a long-term vision, especially on those issues that are at the core of their aspirations and concerns.
7. Advocate for deeper regional cooperation across the Americas and the Caribbean that leverages the institutions and mechanisms of the inter-American system – recognizing that the converging challenges of demographic shifts, migration, climate change, digital transformation, and the intensifying global competition for natural resources vital to the digital and green transitions – necessitate regional solidarity to ensure that governance frameworks uphold human rights, promote intergenerational and global equity, reduce structural inequalities, and reinforce social cohesion, environmental stewardship, and long-term sustainability in an increasingly interconnected world.
8. Promote initiatives aimed at reducing the digital divide and improving connectivity across the Americas and the Caribbean, guided by the [Regional Agenda for Digital Transformation](#)—adopted at the IX Summit of the Americas—and grounded in the recognition that equitable access to digital technologies is essential for ensuring social inclusion, strengthening citizen participation, and enabling all people to benefit from the opportunities of digital transformation.
9. Promote the development of regulatory frameworks and ethical principles for digital governance, including artificial intelligence and other technological innovations - establishing restraints to prevent

abuse of power, not curtail innovation - that ensure that their development and adoption respect and uphold human rights, promote equity, reduce socioeconomic gaps and strengthen democratic values in our societies.

10. Urge our governments to strengthen public planning by incorporating the principles of anticipatory governance into decision-making processes—enhancing the State’s capacity to anticipate trends, manage complex risks, and design sustainable responses rooted in a commitment to building fairer, more inclusive, and sustainable futures that safeguard the rights of future generations.
11. Encourage inter-parliamentary cooperation for the exchange of experiences, knowledge and good legislative practices on anticipatory governance, strategic foresight, digital transformation and democratic strengthening, through spaces such as ParlAmericas’ Open Parliament Network and its Digital Caucus, to promote a legislative culture of innovation and regional cooperation in the face of emerging challenges.

Adopted in Montevideo, Uruguay on May 29, 2025