

DECLARATION

22nd ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly and the 10th Gathering of the Open Parliament Network **Parliamentary Leadership for Shared Prosperity: Advancing Trade, Innovation, and Security in a Changing World**

May 20-22, 2026

Ottawa, Canada

We, parliamentarians from the Americas and the Caribbean,¹ met on May 20, 21 and 22, in Ottawa, at the Parliament of Canada, on the occasion of the 22nd ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly and the 10th Gathering of the Open Parliament Network, held jointly under the title *Parliamentary Leadership for Shared Prosperity: Advancing Trade, Innovation, and Security in a Changing World*.

The gathering provided a space to reflect on how democratic governance, trade, innovation, and security intersect in a period of geopolitical reconfiguration and economic realignment across the Hemisphere, and examined how parliaments can help ensure that economic transformation advances equitable growth in an increasingly interdependent region.

Our deliberations reaffirmed that trade can serve as a pathway to sustainable development, social stability, and deeper political integration in the Americas and the Caribbean when anchored in transparent governance and inclusive policy making. Discussions further underscored the need to align trade and innovation strategies with open parliament principles, gender equality, and intergenerational equity.

As ParlAmericas marks twenty-five years of inter-parliamentary cooperation, we reaffirm the responsibility of legislatures to shape coherent legal frameworks, oversee international commitments, and ensure that economic and security policies strengthen accountability and advance shared prosperity across our Hemisphere.

Considering the above and,

Recognizing:

1. That the global and regional context is marked by geopolitical realignments, strategic competition, shifting trade alliances, and the reconfiguration of global value chains, which presents both opportunities for economic growth and risks of fragmentation and requires coordinated legislative responses;

¹ Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sint Maarten, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.

2. That a strong, effective, and inclusive rules-based international and regional system – anchored in international law, democratic principles, and respect for human rights – is essential to managing these geopolitical and economic transformations, and that the inter-American system plays a vital role in fostering cooperation, dialogue, and collective action to promote stability, democratic governance, and shared prosperity across the Americas and the Caribbean;
3. That there is a growing interconnection between trade and security, which requires coherent public policy, robust regulatory safeguards, and effective parliamentary oversight in order to address risks arising from vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure, supply chains and financial systems, among others, and harness the ability of trade to promote resilience and stability;
4. That trade has significant impacts on human security, including food security, access to energy, livelihoods, and community resilience, and that strengthening inclusive and sustainable economic systems can reduce vulnerabilities and contribute to enduring regional stability;
5. That inclusive economic growth requires deliberate efforts to advance gender equality, facilitate equitable participation in political and economic decision-making, and eliminate structural barriers and discrimination based on factors such as race, ethnicity, Indigenous identity, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, or geographic location;
6. That resilient and predictable trade systems depend on transparent regulatory environments, legal certainty, effective anti-corruption measures, and the harmonization of domestic legislation with international commitments, and that the application of open parliament principles – transparency, accountability, access to information, citizen participation, and high ethical standards – builds institutional trust and is essential to strengthening the quality, credibility, and legitimacy of trade and economic governance;
7. That parliaments play a vital role in ensuring that economic policy advances equitable development, social cohesion, and long-term institutional stability, including by reviewing trade agreements, overseeing public expenditures, scrutinizing regulatory reforms, and assessing the implementation of international commitments;
8. That effective trade and development outcomes increasingly depend on collaboration among governments, the private sector, civil society organisations, innovation ecosystems, and development institutions, and that parliaments play a key role in shaping enabling environments for these partnerships;
9. That strengthening innovation capacity requires long-term public policy, institutional coordination, investment in skills and knowledge, and legal certainty that enables research, entrepreneurship, technological adaptation, and productive transformation, particularly in a context of accelerated global competition and reconfigured global production and trade;

10. That digital transformation, technological change, and the expansion of data-driven economies are reshaping production, trade, labour markets, and public institutions across the Hemisphere, creating opportunities to strengthen competitiveness, diversify productive capacity, and expand inclusion, while also raising governance challenges related to data protection, cybersecurity, technological asymmetries, and gaps in access to and use of technologies;
11. That young people face profound challenges as a result of transformations in the world of work, the technological landscape, and conditions for democratic participation, and that intergenerational dialogue strengthens long-term policy resilience to confront these issues;
12. That sustainable development and economic stability are mutually reinforcing, and that environmental stewardship, responsible resource governance, and climate resilience are integral to long-term prosperity;
13. That agricultural trade and food systems play a critical role in regional resilience, supporting livelihoods, reducing vulnerability, and strengthening food security across the Americas and the Caribbean;
14. That while these complex and interconnected challenges require coordinated action among different branches and levels of government, regional and multilateral institutions, the private sector, civil society, and communities, parliaments are uniquely positioned to translate shared priorities into law, provide democratic oversight, and sustain the legitimacy and coherence of policy responses across the Hemisphere.

We commit to:

1. Uphold a rules-based international and regional system, grounded in international law, democratic governance, the rule of law, and respect for human rights, as foundational pillars of secure, resilient, and prosperous societies and of inclusive and sustainable development across the Americas and the Caribbean;
2. Call on our governments to strengthen support for the institutions, norms, and cooperative processes of the inter-American system as a space for political dialogue and collective action to advance coordinated responses to shared challenges, and uphold democratic standards;
3. Strengthen parliamentary oversight of trade, economic, and security policies, while proactively advancing legislative initiatives, policy proposals, and committee-driven reforms that promote resilient trade systems, responsible innovation, and inclusive and sustainable economic development;

4. Promote legislative harmonization with regional and international trade agreements and frameworks, ensuring coherence between domestic law and international obligations amid changing trade realities, while safeguarding social cohesion, institutional balance, and democratic integrity;
5. Strengthen the trade-security nexus across the Americas and Caribbean through legislative and other actions – such as developing new and enhancing existing regional partnerships, strategies, and initiatives – to protect critical infrastructure, secure supply chains, and combat corruption and illicit flows, while advancing policies that address the root causes of insecurity, support alternative livelihoods, and build lasting community resilience;
6. Apply open parliament principles to economic and trade policymaking so that legislative decisions affecting economic transformation are more transparent, participatory, and publicly accountable;
7. Champion legislative and regulatory frameworks that drive responsible innovation, bridge digital and productive divides, and position the Hemisphere's economies to compete and cooperate in a technology-driven global landscape;
8. Foster constructive dialogue and collaboration between parliaments, the private sector, academic and scientific institutions, civil society, and innovation actors to build the ecosystems and enabling conditions that foster innovation and facilitate broad and inclusive economic opportunity;
9. Promote trade and economic policies that contribute to gender equality, including through gender-responsive budgeting and oversight, conducting or requiring gender impact assessments of trade and economic legislation, and supporting inclusive trade agreements;
10. Advance dialogue and collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, consistent with constitutional, legislative, and international standards, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to ensure that economic and trade policies respect rights and cultural diversity and facilitate partnership to achieve shared prosperity;
11. Integrate sustainable development as an essential component of trade, innovation, and security policies, including through legislative frameworks that promote sustainable production systems, environmental stewardship, climate resilience, responsible resource governance, and long-term economic stability across the Hemisphere;
12. Strengthen mechanisms for youth engagement in parliamentary processes, particularly in areas related to the future of work and skills development, digital transformation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable economic policy, recognizing the intergenerational responsibility to ensure expanded opportunities and decent employment for young people;

13. Reinforce the collective capacity of the parliaments of the Americas and the Caribbean to address shared economic and security challenges through coordinated action and the exchange of information and good legislative practices related to trade policy oversight, supply chain resilience, port and border security governance, measures to address illicit financial flows and transnational organized crime, and regulatory harmonization;
14. Reaffirm our resolve to work through ParlAmericas and its established networks and mechanisms for interparliamentary cooperation to exercise the legislative leadership and forge the collective action needed to ensure that trade, innovation, and security serve the democratic stability and shared prosperity of all peoples of the Americas and the Caribbean.

Adopted in Ottawa, Canada, on May 22, 2026