

DECLARATION

Second Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Security
***Public Security in the Americas and the Caribbean:
Parliamentary Responses to Organized Crime and Violence***

October 21, 22, and 23, 2026
Valparaíso, Chile

We, parliamentarians from the Americas and the Caribbean,¹ met on October 21, 22, and 23, 2026, in Valparaíso, at the National Congress of Chile, on the occasion of the Second Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Security, held under the title *Public Security in the Americas and the Caribbean: Parliamentary Responses to Organized Crime and Violence*.

The Gathering took place in a context in which violence and organized crime are increasingly more complex, interconnected, and transnational, affecting people and communities, public institutions, democratic governance, and the conditions for social and economic development across the region.

Our deliberations underscored that achieving durable improvements in public security requires comprehensive approaches that protect people and communities from crime and violence as well as sustained action to address the multiple root causes and conditions that contribute to insecurity and criminal activity, bringing together prevention, effective law enforcement, and access to justice as mutually reinforcing dimensions of public security.

In this context, we further reaffirmed the importance of sustained political will and parliamentary action to ensure that public security approaches remain effective, accountable, coherent, and capable of responding to evolving realities, while being firmly grounded in democratic governance, the rule of law, and respect for human rights.

Considering the above and,

Recognizing:

1. That public security is a fundamental responsibility of the State, centred on protecting the life, dignity, security, and well-being of people and communities, safeguarding the effective enjoyment of their rights, upholding the rule of law, and contributing to creating conditions for peaceful coexistence;

¹ Argentina, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Sint Maarten, Uruguay

2. That public security, both in physical and digital spaces, must be grounded in democratic principles, the rule of law, and full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
3. That legitimate, effective, and sustainable responses to crime, violence, and insecurity require comprehensive public security and justice policies that bring together prevention; law enforcement; access to justice and criminal prosecution; assistance and reparation for victims; and rehabilitation and social reintegration;
4. That crime and violence are preventable, and that achieving lasting improvements in public security requires sustained prevention policies that address the multiple causes and conditions that contribute to violence, insecurity, and criminal activity, while promoting social inclusion, reducing inequalities, and expanding opportunities for all;
5. That the growing impacts of climate change and extreme climate events can aggravate conditions of insecurity by deepening existing vulnerabilities, causing displacement, affecting livelihoods, and placing additional pressure on communities and institutional capacities;
6. That children and adolescents face particular risks of trafficking in persons for forced criminality including recruitment, use, abuse, and exploitation by criminal organizations, and that victims require special protection and measures to support the restoration of their rights and their reintegration into their families and communities;
7. That crime and violence impact people and communities in different ways, with patterns of victimization and harm shaped by factors such as age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and socioeconomic conditions, including the heightened exposure of young men to lethal violence and the distinct risks and forms of violence that affect women and girls, Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendant communities, migrants, persons with disabilities, and communities in territories heavily affected by organized crime;²
8. That the meaningful participation of people and communities, particularly those disproportionately affected by crime and violence, in the development and evaluation of public security policies is essential to their effectiveness, responsiveness, and sustainability, and contributes to ensuring that their rights, needs, perspectives, and experiences inform public security decision-making;
9. That the public security landscape in the Americas and the Caribbean is increasingly shaped by interconnected and constantly evolving challenges with growing transnational dimensions, including organized crime, trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, illicit trafficking

² [The Impacts of Transnational Organized Crime on Citizen Security in the Americas and the Caribbean: A Primer for Parliamentarians](#), ParlAmericas (2026), pg. 5; [Resolution 1/26 of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Organized Crime and Human Rights in the Americas](#), pg. 6

in drugs and firearms, environmental crimes, including illegal mining and logging, the expansion and diversification of illicit economies, and the misuse of emerging technologies;

10. That transnational organized crime is a complex and dynamic phenomenon with multidimensional causes, consequences, and impacts that affect people and communities, democratic institutions, the rule of law, economies and financial systems, and sustainable development, and that its adaptive nature requires coordinated responses capable of addressing the networks, markets, and structures that sustain criminal activity;
11. That violence and illicit economies are mutually reinforcing dimensions of insecurity, as criminal actors use violence to control territory, populations, and markets, while the profits generated through illicit activities sustain criminal networks, expand their operational capacity, and enable their influence across legal and illegal economies;
12. That the transnational nature of organized crime and related illicit activities requires sustained responses and effective cooperation among States – based on the principle of common and shared responsibility and undertaken through established legal and institutional frameworks – including through the exchange of information, mutual legal assistance, coordinated investigations, and other forms of judicial, police, and technical cooperation;
13. That efforts to prevent and combat transnational organized crime must be carried out in accordance with international law, with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, and in a manner consistent with the sovereignty of States, territorial integrity, and the principles of non-intervention and non-aggression;
14. That the legitimacy and effectiveness of public security institutions depend on transparency, accountability, effective judicial and institutional oversight, respect for due process, and mechanisms that ensure the responsible exercise of public authority;
15. That an effective criminal justice system is an essential component of public security, requiring judicial independence, appropriate legal frameworks, specialized capacities, adequate human and technical resources, effective inter-institutional coordination, and operational capabilities necessary to prevent, investigate, and prosecute increasingly complex forms of crime and violence;
16. That prison systems are a central component of public security and criminal justice, and that excessive reliance on incarceration, prison overcrowding, criminal control within places of detention, and barriers to rehabilitation and social reintegration can weaken their effectiveness, undermine the administration of justice and broader public security objectives, and compromise respect for human dignity and human rights;

17. That technological change is reshaping the public security landscape, creating new opportunities to strengthen prevention, investigation, information-sharing, and cooperation, while also enabling criminal actors to expand their reach, conceal activities and proceeds, exploit vulnerabilities, and adapt their methods; it further presents new challenges for ensuring that the use of technology and investigative tools by public authorities is lawful, transparent, subject to accountability, and respects human rights;
18. That increasingly sophisticated forms of crime require effective intelligence and specialized investigative capacities, supported by appropriate technologies and conducted within up-to-date legal frameworks with appropriate safeguards and oversight;
19. That existing international and inter-American instruments and commitments³ provide a common framework for coordinated action across jurisdictions to prevent and combat crime and violence, strengthen judicial and police cooperation, and advance shared public security objectives in accordance with the rule of law and respect for human rights;
20. That parliaments play a central role in ensuring that public security policies evolve in response to changing security challenges while remaining democratically grounded, accountable to the public, and responsive to the needs and rights of people and communities.

We commit to:

1. Champion a people-centred and comprehensive approach to public security, in both physical and digital spaces, that protects the rights, dignity, and well-being of individuals and communities, combines effective responses to crime and violence with prevention and access to justice, and promotes coordinated, sustainable, and evidence-informed policies grounded in the rule of law, international law, and respect for human rights;
2. Advocate for prevention as a central pillar of public security policy by prioritizing sustained measures that address the root causes and risk factors of violence, insecurity, and criminal activity, including through greater social inclusion, the reduction of inequalities, expanded opportunities, strengthened climate resilience in vulnerable communities, and a more effective presence of the State, including justice system institutions, in territories disproportionately affected by violence and organized crime, among other actions;

³ Including, inter alia, the [United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols](#); the [Abu Dhabi Declaration of the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice](#); the [Declaration on Security in the Americas](#); the [Commitment to Public Security in the Americas](#); the [Declaration of San Salvador on Citizen Security in the Americas](#); the [Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime](#); the [Hemispheric Strategy against Transnational Organized Crime](#); and [Resolution 1/26 of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Organized Crime and Human Rights in the Americas](#).

3. Call on the relevant authorities to incorporate risks associated with disasters and extreme climate events into public security policies, strengthening prevention, preparedness, and response capacities to maintain the continuity of essential services, reduce vulnerabilities, and prevent their impacts from aggravating conditions of insecurity;
4. Promote public security approaches that recognize and respond to the differentiated impacts of crime, physical and digital violence, and organized criminal activity on people and communities, and that strengthen protection and access to justice for those disproportionately affected;
5. Create and strengthen mechanisms for the meaningful participation of youth, affected communities, civil society, and other relevant stakeholders in parliamentary deliberations, legislative processes, and the oversight and evaluation of public security policies and responses to crime and violence;
6. Ensure that the democratic governance of public security remains responsive to evolving security and cybersecurity challenges through the continuous adaptation of legal and institutional frameworks and resource allocation, and through robust parliamentary oversight of public security policies, their implementation and outcomes, and of the exercise of authority by public security and intelligence institutions;
7. Strengthen the capacity, independence, and integrity of justice systems to respond effectively to increasingly complex forms of crime while ensuring access to justice and due process, through enhanced investigative and prosecutorial capacities, effective inter-institutional coordination, adequate human and technical resources, protection for judicial actors, and strengthened mechanisms to prevent and investigate corruption, criminal co-optation, and institutional, financial, logistical, or political support structures that sustain the operations of criminal organizations;
8. Promote the continued modernization of police institutions to respond effectively to changing dynamics of crime and violence through updated specialized investigative capacities, the provision of adequate human and technical resources, and the strengthening of transparency, accountability, and mechanisms for internal and external oversight;
9. Advance reforms to prison systems as an integral component of public security by strengthening prison management and improving conditions in places of detention, exploring alternative measures to incarceration in accordance with national legislation, addressing prison overcrowding, preventing criminal control of detention facilities and the operation of organized criminal networks from within them, and strengthening rehabilitation and social reintegration as essential to reducing recidivism;
10. Strengthen legal and institutional frameworks for the collection, analysis, and exchange of information and intelligence related to transnational organized crime, including to identify and

disrupt criminal networks, illicit markets, and their operational and logistical structures, while ensuring clear mandates, appropriate safeguards, and effective oversight;

11. Call on the relevant national authorities to develop and maintain robust statistical and data systems on crime, cybercrime, violence, and public security, including the collection and analysis of reliable, timely, and disaggregated data to identify trends and differentiated impacts, support evidence-informed policy development, implementation, and evaluation, and strengthen transparency and accountability, in accordance with applicable legal and data protection standards;
12. Establish and strengthen legal and regulatory frameworks for the development, deployment, and use of artificial intelligence and data-driven technologies in public security, ensuring that their application is transparent, subject to accountability and meaningful human oversight, and accompanied by safeguards against arbitrary or unlawful surveillance, including robust protections for privacy and personal data, consistent with applicable human rights obligations;
13. Advance legislative measures and cooperation mechanisms to prevent, investigate, and sanction the different forms of disappearance that may occur in contexts of organized crime, ensuring diligent investigations that allow for establishing the facts and determining corresponding responsibilities, strengthening search and identification systems, and guaranteeing the rights of victims and their family members to truth, justice, comprehensive reparation, and guarantees of non-repetition;
14. Advance comprehensive legislative and policy responses to trafficking in persons, consistent with the [Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#) and relevant inter-American commitments,⁴ through strengthened prevention, investigation, and prosecution; improved victim protection and assistance; and enhanced cooperation among national authorities and across jurisdictions;
15. Promote legislative reforms to ensure that legal frameworks on cybercrime and other forms of technology-facilitated criminal activity remain up-to-date in the face of evolving technologies and criminal methods, aligning with relevant international instruments like the [United Nations Convention against Cybercrime](#) and ensuring the inclusion of clear due process safeguards;
16. Advance legislative and regulatory measures to prevent, combat, and ultimately eradicate the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials, consistent with the objectives of the [Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials \(CIFTA\)](#), by strengthening marking and tracing systems, appropriate controls on import,

⁴ Including the [OAS Third Work Plan for a Comprehensive Response to Trafficking in Persons in the Western Hemisphere \(2023–2028\)](#).

export, and transit, and measures to prevent diversion into illicit channels, while promoting information exchange and regional cooperation;

17. Update legal and regulatory frameworks to more effectively detect and disrupt the financial and economic structures that sustain transnational organized crime by strengthening financial intelligence and anti-money-laundering controls, promoting the systematic investigation and tracing of criminal proceeds and financial flows, including those involving cryptoassets, and reinforcing mechanisms for their freezing, seizure, confiscation, and recovery;
18. Promote greater coherence and compatibility among legal and regulatory frameworks across jurisdictions, where appropriate, to facilitate the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of transnational organized crime, and to address gaps that can be exploited by criminal networks or impede effective cooperation;
19. Advocate for more effective international and cross-border cooperation against transnational organized crime and related illicit activities, in a spirit of common and shared responsibility and in accordance with international law, with full respect for national sovereignty, human rights, and due process, through information exchange, mutual legal assistance, coordinated and joint investigations, and judicial, police, customs, financial, and technical cooperation;
20. Promote the effective implementation of relevant international and inter-American instruments and commitments⁵ on public security, transnational organized crime, and justice by advancing appropriate legislative measures and, where applicable, adapting domestic legal frameworks, while maintaining parliamentary oversight and follow-up on their national implementation;
21. Strengthen inter-parliamentary cooperation through the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Security to advance a human security approach centred on the protection and well-being of people and communities, sustain political dialogue, exchange legislative experiences and good practices, and support coordinated parliamentary responses to shared and evolving public security challenges across the Americas and the Caribbean.

Adopted in Valparaíso, Chile, on October 23, 2026

⁵ Including, inter alia, the [United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols](#); the [Abu Dhabi Declaration of the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice](#); the [Declaration on Security in the Americas](#); the [Commitment to Public Security in the Americas](#); the [Declaration of San Salvador on Citizen Security in the Americas](#); the [Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime](#); the [Hemispheric Strategy against Transnational Organized Crime](#); and [Resolution 1/26 of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, *Organized Crime and Human Rights in the Americas*](#).