



YEAR IN
HIGHLIGHTS
2022



Photographs: Courtesy of host parliaments, ParlAmericas and partner organizations.

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ABOUT PARLAMERICAS



ParlAmericas is the institution that promotes **PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY** in the **INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM**



ParlAmericas is composed of the **35 NATIONAL LEGISLATURES** of the countries of North, Central and South America and the Caribbean



ParlAmericas facilitates the exchange of parliamentary **GOOD PRACTICES** and promotes **COOPERATIVE POLITICAL DIALOGUE** in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals



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 organizes consultations and builds **MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS** with young leaders and civil society organizations



ParlAmericas is headquartered in **OTTAWA, CANADA**



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF PARLAMERICAS



Dear colleagues,

It is a pleasure to share a brief overview of some of the highlights of our work at ParlAmericas throughout the year.

As you will see in the pages that follow, 2022 was a particularly productive year as we held a wide variety of regional, hemispheric, and global activities that brought together hundreds of parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, specialists, and representatives from multilateral and civil society organizations in the Americas and the Caribbean. Through our three thematic parliamentary networks, we also introduced a series of tools and publications specifically developed to support the legislative work of our colleagues on a variety of issues.

In particular, I would like to highlight the 14th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality and the 19th Plenary Assembly. These events, hosted in Bogota by the Congress of the Republic of Colombia, were our first in-person gatherings following the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It was truly a pleasure to meet again and share a few days together in Bogota.

The year 2022 marked a significant milestone in the positioning of ParlAmericas—the hemisphere's only inter-parliamentary organization composed of the 35 national legislatures of North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean—as the inter-parliamentary institution of the inter-American system par excellence.

Rooted in the recognition of the value of parliamentary diplomacy as a mechanism for promoting consensus and fostering cooperative political dialogue, this distinction is evident, for example, in the mandate adopted at the IX Summit of the Americas by the respective heads of state and of government of the Americas and the Caribbean in the Inter-American Plan of Action on Democratic Governance, which establishes the promotion of parliamentary participation as an essential part of the Summits of the Americas process through ParlAmericas.

On the one hand, this acknowledgement unequivocally demonstrates the importance that the most significant multilateral spaces in the region place on parliamentary diplomacy in the context of hemispheric international relations. On the other hand, it shows recognition of the institutional trajectory of ParlAmericas, which for the past twenty years has been convening parliamentarians from the Americas and the Caribbean to work towards the common goal of better representing the interests of the hemisphere's inhabitants.

In the coming year, we hope to continue collaboratively advancing on the fundamental goal of facilitating and promoting the meaningful participation of parliamentarians from the Americas and the Caribbean in various multilateral forums of the inter-American system in order to represent the interests of our constituents and offer parliamentary perspectives in discussions on issues of hemispheric importance, guided by the objectives of strengthening cooperative political dialogue, regional integration, and consensus-building.

I invite you to review and share this edition of the Year in Highlights, where you will find detailed information on the results of our work, the activities developed by our three thematic networks, and the publications and tools we have prepared for you.

Sincerely,

Blanca Ovelar

Senator, Paraguay

President of ParlAmericas

 FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER @OVELAR_BLANCA

OPERATIONS AND FINANCES

ParlAmericas' operations and activities in the 2022 fiscal year were financed through the support of our member parliaments, our partners and the generous contributions of the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada. ParlAmericas wishes to acknowledge with sincere appreciation the invaluable support, expertise and time contributed by member parliaments, individual parliamentarians and partners to ensure the successful implementation of ParlAmericas' programming throughout the year.

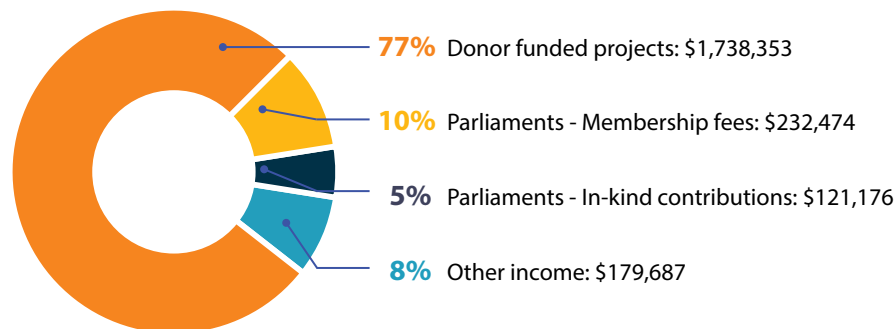
Note: The in-kind contributions included in ParlAmericas' financial statements are recorded when fair values can be reasonably estimated and supporting documentation is provided by the member parliament. We recognize that the amount shown is a fraction of the overall value of in-kind support provided by member parliaments and partners in the normal course of ParlAmericas' operations. ParlAmericas therefore also tracks and records an indicative value of the total contributions to ParlAmericas' programming.

Carbon Neutral Travel: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the majority of ParlAmericas activities were delivered virtually and therefore no travel carbon offsets were purchased this year. For more information about the Carbon Neutral initiative and ways that parliaments can reduce their carbon footprint, we invite you to read the [ParlAmericas Guide on Green Parliaments: Actions to Promote Sustainable Practices within Parliaments](#).

Source: ParlAmericas' audited financial statements as of September 30, 2022, and the corresponding annual financial report prepared for the ParlAmericas Board of Directors and member parliaments

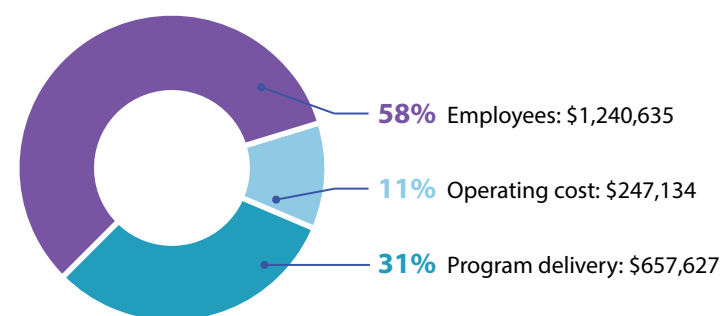
CONTRIBUTIONS

\$2,271,690



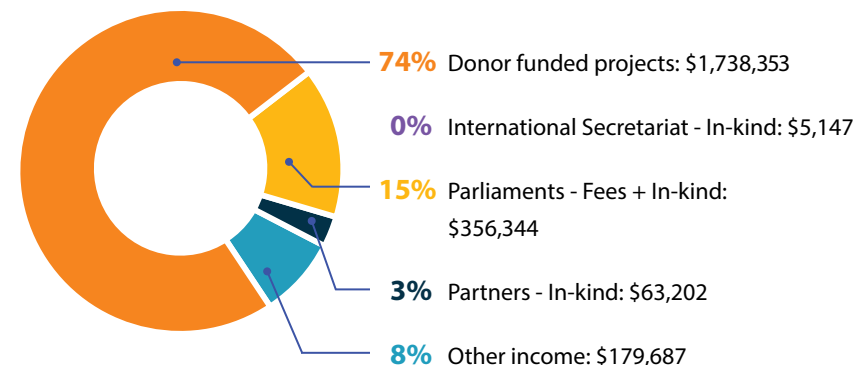
EXPENDITURES

\$2,145,396



INDICATIVE VALUE OF TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

\$2,342,734



NATIONAL LEGISLATURES REPRESENTED ON OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee of the Board of Directors

(December 2022 - December 2024):

Blanca Ovelar, President

Senator, Paraguay

The Honourable Bridgid Annisette-George, Vice-President

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Trinidad and Tobago

Verónica Noemí Camino Farjat, 2nd Vice-President and President of the

Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality

Senator, Mexico

Javier Macaya, 2nd Vice-President and President of the Open Parliament Network

Senator, Chile

The Honourable Rosa Galvez, 2nd Vice-President and President of the Parliamentary

Network on Climate Change

Senator, Canada

ParlAmericas is run by parliamentarians for parliamentarians, with a Board of Directors composed of 21 seats which represent countries from North, South, Central America and the Caribbean. In addition, the Board has ex-officio representation from the Plenary Host, the ParlAmericas Immediate Past President, the Directors of the ParlAmericas Corporation, the ParlAmericas International Secretariat, and the OAS General Secretariat. Each Network is governed by an elected Executive Committee, composed of one President and sub-regional Vice-Presidents representing North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean.

For more information on our Board of Directors and Executive Committees please consult the ParlAmericas website: <https://www.parlAmericas.org/board-of-directors/>



PARTNERS



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



Collaboration mechanisms



The **Inter-American Task Force on Women's Empowerment and Leadership** serves as

a coordination mechanism that reinforces

commitments and strategies to advance women's empowerment and leadership. The Task Force is composed of key inter-American and international institutions working across sectors and at multiple levels.



The Open Parliament e-Network (OPeN) provides a platform for legislators who champion legislative openness through serving on the network's Parliamentary Leadership Council. OPeN builds on the work of the OGP Legislative Openness Working Group by bringing together leading international organizations that are committed to the openness agenda in parliaments.



The **UNFCCC Parliamentary Group** supports parliamentary engagement at COP. ParlAmericas, as a founding member of the UNFCCC Parliamentary Group, facilitates the participation of parliamentarians in the COP process and UNFCCC meetings with the support of GLOBE international, the Focal Point for the Parliamentary Group.



The **Circular Economy Coalition for Latin America and the Caribbean** is a regional

platform that works to increase understanding of the circular economy, improve cooperation

among stakeholders, and provide technical assistance for the development of public policies for the circular economy, sustainable consumption and production.



The **Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean** is a network

of more than 400 legislators in the hemisphere working to make food and agriculture national priorities for sustainable development. Both organizations signed a Memorandum of Understanding that establishes the guidelines to join efforts in the fight against hunger and malnutrition and to strengthen food sovereignty in the Americas and the Caribbean.

2022 ACTIVITIES

January

28

4th meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament

February

2

Participation in a regular session of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS)

3

Sensitization meeting in preparation for the 66th session of the Commission of the Status of Women (CSW66) organized with CARICOM and UN Women Caribbean

March

9, 15, and 22

6th Gathering of the Open Parliament Network, "Integrity Matters: Building Stronger Democracies", organized with the Chamber of Senators of Paraguay

22

Parallel event "Youth Advocacy in Parliaments for Climate Action with a Gender Perspective," organized in the framework of the NGO CSW66 Forum

April

6

Meeting "Towards a Circular Economy: A Workshop for Parliamentarians and Parliamentary Staff of Trinidad and Tobago" organized with the Parliament of of Trinidad and Tobago

20

Participation in the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Escazú Agreement organized by ECLAC in Santiago de Chile

24 and 25

Participation in the workshop "Leadership for Good Governance and Social Transformation in the Caribbean" hosted by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Caribbean Women in Leadership, and UN Women Caribbean in Bridgetown, Barbados

May	19 and 20	Participation in the international conference “Legistech: The Americas” organized by Bússola Tech
	24	2 nd meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Gender Equality
	May 12 through June 9	Training sessions as part of the Young Women in Leadership – Saint Lucia (YWiL SLU) program, organized with the Caribbean Women in Leadership (CIWiL) Regional Secretariat and Saint Lucia Chapter and the Parliament of Saint Lucia
	27	Participation in the Open Government Week organized by the Open Government Partnership
	30	Virtual Exchange on Women’s Parliamentary Caucuses organized with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and UN Women Caribbean
June	1	High-level dialogue “Promoting Multilateralism through Parliamentary Diplomacy” organized in advance of the IX Summit of the Americas
	6 and 7	Participation in the “Parliamentary Gathering on the Occasion of the IX Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles”, organized by the House Democracy Partnership (HDP) of the U.S. House of Representatives
	June 23 and July 5	6 th Gathering of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change, “Realizing Our Green Future: The Road to Low Emissions” organized with the House of Assembly of Dominica and the Congress of Guatemala
	25	Participation in the international specialization program “Political Leadership of Women Parliamentarians” organized by the Congress of the Republic of Peru and the Ricardo Palma University
	27	Simulated parliamentary sitting as part of the Young Women in Leadership – Saint Lucia (YWiL SLU) programme organized with the Caribbean Women in Leadership (CIWiL) Regional Secretariat and Saint Lucia Chapter, and the Parliament of Saint Lucia
	28	Participation in the “Regional seminar on climate change for parliaments of Latin America and the Caribbean” organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Uruguay
	29	Participation in the launch of the UNFCCC Academy for Global Youth Leadership Empowerment in Latin America
	29 and 30	Participation in the “Gathering on new social contracts and partnerships for more resilient and inclusive societies” organized by EUROsocial+ in Brussels, Belgium
July	15	Launch of the publication “Addressing the commitments made in the environmental mandates adopted at the IX Summit of the Americas”
	19	Side events during the Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week 2022 organized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Government of the Dominican Republic, in Santo Domingo
August	24 and 25	Participation in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference, in Halifax, Canada

September

- 9** Virtual training session on effective engagement in parliamentary processes for women's organizations in the Caribbean organized with UN Women Caribbean and Equality Fund
- 12** 3rd meeting of the Parliamentary Staff Network for Gender Equality
- 14** Session on strategies for youth empowerment and participation in the framework of the National Assembly of Panama's Youth Assembly organized by the National Assembly of Panama and ParlAmericas with support from the Espacio Cívico Foundation and the National Forum of Women in Political Parties (FONAMUPP)
- 15** Working meeting on digital transformation organized with Bússola Tech within the margins of the Legistech Forum 2022
- 28** Inter-parliamentary meeting "Promoting Legislative Openness in the Region" organized with the Chamber of Deputies of the Dominican Republic in the framework of the Open Americas Regional Conference in Santo Domingo

October

- 4** Participation in the roundtable discussion with parliamentarians on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction organized by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and supported by the Climate Vulnerable Forum Global Parliamentary Group and GLOBE International
- 5, 7** Participation in the 52nd General Assembly of the Organisation of American States (OAS) in Lima, Peru
- 6** High-level parliamentary dialogue on women's political participation organized with the Congress of Peru in the framework of the 52nd General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), in Lima, Peru
- Oct 10 through Nov 14** Training sessions as part of the program "Strengthening the Political Leadership of Young Women in Honduras" organized with the National Congress and the Forum of Women Politicians of Honduras
- 20** Global inter-parliamentary exchange "Women parliamentarians on the agendas of defence, security, and peace" organized with Parliamentary Centre

October	31	Meeting of Women Caribbean Presiding Officers on Gender Equality
November	7 - 11	Participation in the XV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean organized by ECLAC and UN Women in Buenos Aires, Argentina
	8 -13	Participation in the 27 th Conference of the Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt
	18 and 19	Caucus formation retreat for women parliamentarians of The Bahamas organized with CIWiL Bahamas, UN Women Caribbean, and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, in The Bahamas
	22	Meeting between parliamentary committees on transparency, anti-corruption, and ethics in Latin America to explore standards for legislative openness in committee work
	Nov 30 and Dec 1	14 th Gathering of the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality “Legislative Perspectives for Inclusive Economic Growth: Investing in the Care Economy” organized with the Congress of the Republic of Colombia, in Bogota
December	2	19 th Plenary Assembly “Parliamentary diplomacy: Making multilateralism work for the people” organized with the Congress of the Republic of Colombia, in Bogota
	3 and 4	Training retreat for women parliamentarians of Jamaica to promote gender equality in legislative work, organized with UN Women Caribbean, the Bureau of Gender Affairs in the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, and the Houses of Parliament of Jamaica, in Ocho Rios, Jamaica
	8 and 9	In-person workshop as part of the program “Strengthening the Political Leadership of Young Women in Honduras” organized with the National Congress and the Forum of Women Politicians of Honduras
	14	1 st meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Climate Change

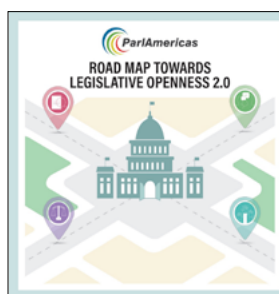
RESOURCES AND PUBLICATIONS

ParlAmericas creates specialized resources for parliamentarians and parliamentary stakeholders that align with hemispheric priority issues being addressed by legislatures, and with the themes of focus of ParlAmericas' networks.

A selection of the key resources utilized in this year's activities are featured below. These and many other materials can also be found on our [website](#).



What We Heard: Survey of Women's Organisations on their Engagement with Parliaments



Road Map Towards Legislative Openness 2.0



Primer on Development Finance in Latin America and the Caribbean



Subscribe to the ParlAmericas Podcast on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Google Podcasts](#), or [Spotify](#), where you can listen to sessions from ParlAmericas activities.



Subscribe to the [ParlAmericas Channel](#), where you can access video content of our ParlAmericas activities.



#ParlAmericas2022

TITLE: Parliamentary Diplomacy: Making Multilateralism Work for the People

THEMES: Parliamentary diplomacy, multilateralism, Inter-American system

DATES: December 2, 2022

LOCATION: Bogota, Colombia

PARTICIPANTS: More than 85 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, specialists and representatives of civil society organizations from more than 18 countries of the Americas and the Caribbean.

HOST: Congress of the Republic of Colombia



This activity is aligned with SDGs 10, 16, & 17.



19th ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly

The 19th ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly was dedicated to parliamentary diplomacy, its relevance in the complex economic, social, and political situation and the role of ParlAmericas as the hemispheric body mandated to promote parliamentary participation in the inter-American system.

Parliamentarians had the opportunity to participate in a dialogue session to share their perspectives on parliamentary diplomacy through ParlAmericas and their views on enriching an institutional vision for strengthening and solidifying parliamentary participation in the inter-American system.

The dialogue drew attention to how phenomena such as multilateralism, regional integration, globalization, and the promotion of human rights and democracy in international relations require an increasingly active engagement of parliamentarians, as representatives of the will of the people, in international affairs.



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Opening remarks:

- Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President of ParlAmericas

Parliamentary dialogue moderator:

- Member of the National Assembly **Wilma Andrade** (Ecuador), Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

Keynote speaker:

- **Epsy Campbell Barr**, former Vice-President of the Republic of Costa Rica

Presentation of annual reports by the ParlAmericas parliamentary networks:

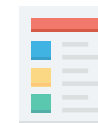
- Senator **Verónica Camino** (Mexico), President of the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality
- Senator **Bertha Caraveo** (Mexico), Vice-President for North America of the Open Parliament Network
- The Honourable Senator **Rosa Galvez** (Canada), President of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change

Reading of the Declaration on Parliamentary Engagement in the Inter-American System through ParlAmericas:

- Senator **Antares Vázquez** (Mexico), ParlAmericas Board Member

Closing remarks:

- Honourable Representative **Jezmi Barraza** (Colombia), Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality



[AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



[RESOURCES](#)



[VIDEO RECORDING](#)

Declaration

During the Plenary Assembly, parliamentarians adopted the [Declaration on Parliamentary Engagement in the Inter-American System through ParlAmericas](#), which includes, among others, a commitment to:

- Actively participate, through ParlAmericas, in the various multilateral spaces of the inter-American system to offer, as representatives of the interests of our constituents, parliamentary perspectives to the discussion of issues of hemispheric importance, such as climate change, gender equality and women's rights, migration, the strengthening of democratic governance, the fight against corruption, the consolidation of the rule of law, the defence of human rights, and the reduction of poverty and social inequalities, among others.
- Exercise parliamentary oversight on the implementation of the commitments and agreements adopted by our governments under the framework of the inter-American system, and promote the principles of accountability and transparency in the organizations that compose the inter-American system.
- Inform the development of the ParlAmericas Strategic Plan 2023–2030 which includes a vision for strengthening parliamentary diplomacy and parliamentary engagement in the inter-American system in line with shared democratic principles.



KEY FINDINGS

Session introduction

In her remarks, Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President of ParlAmericas, contextualized parliamentary diplomacy, outlining some of its main historical milestones, its importance in the context of international relations, and its advantages as an indispensable instrument for facilitating dialogue between States, promoting consensus-building, and addressing and resolving complex issues that cannot be directly addressed by governments under certain circumstances.

Senator Ovelar shared a brief summary of the history of ParlAmericas—the only inter-parliamentary organization in the hemisphere composed of the 35 National Legislatures from North, Central and South America and the Caribbean—highlighting its role as an organization mandated to promote parliamentary participation in the inter-American system and contribute to inter-parliamentary dialogue on issues of hemispheric importance.

Inter-parliamentary dialogue

The parliamentary dialogue session covered a series of guiding questions that allowed parliamentarians to share their views on the value of parliamentary diplomacy and the role of ParlAmericas in promoting and facilitating parliamentary participation in the various decision-making forums of the inter-American system.

During the session, parliamentarians identified some of the main topics for inclusion in the ParlAmericas agenda concerning parliamentary diplomacy in the Americas and the Caribbean, informing with their contributions the development of the ParlAmericas Strategic Plan 2023–2030, particularly with regard to the institutional vision for alignment with the inter-American system and other hemispheric multilateral spaces.

Some of the priority issues identified by parliamentarians for inclusion in an agenda for parliamentary diplomacy in the hemisphere included, among others:

- **Migration:** One of the most complex transnational challenges for both origin and destination countries. The dialogue underscored the need to address migration from a human rights perspective, using an intersectional approach that recognizes its inherent risks and opportunities, as well as its relationship with phenomena such as climate change and inequality.
- **Disinformation and false news:** The threat posed to democracy and good governance by the proliferation of disinformation campaigns and computational propaganda was noted. Emphasis was placed on the need for coordinated action to address the disruptive nature of digital communication and its pernicious effects on democratic systems.
- **Climate change:** Identified as one of the great challenges of our time, and particularly critical for the well-being of the inhabitants of Latin America and the Caribbean, parliamentarians stressed the need to enhance the ambition of climate action and reach agreements on loss and damage that reflect the historical responsibilities of industrialized countries through concerted parliamentary diplomacy.



Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay),
President of ParlAmericas

"The adoption of mandates during both the IX Summit of the Americas and the 52nd OAS Plenary Assembly to promote parliamentary participation in decision-making spaces through ParlAmericas unequivocally demonstrates, on one hand, the unanimous recognition in the most significant multilateral forums in the region of the importance of parliamentary diplomacy as a fundamental tool for international relations in the hemisphere; and on the other hand, the distinction of ParlAmericas as the quintessential entity for parliamentarians of the Americas and the Caribbean to participate in the inter-American system."



Member of the National Assembly **Wilma Andrade** (Ecuador),
Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas Open
Parliament Network

"Our own experiences in ParlAmericas—through dialogues to promote the adoption of open parliament initiatives, our commitment to promote bold actions on climate change, our participation in electoral observation missions, and our unwavering defense of democracy and good governance in the hemisphere—confirm the need to promote spaces to practice parliamentary diplomacy in the Americas and the Caribbean."



Epsy Campbell Barr, former Vice-President of the Republic of Costa Rica and
Keynote Speaker of the 19th ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly

"We have to promote—from our respective spaces—a people-centered humanism, human dignity, peace, and care; a humanism that inspires, and in turn, a multilateralism where we can put major issues related to human survival and the common good on the table; a multilateralism that must be equitable, multicultural and multiethnic."



ELECTION RESULTS FOR THE PARLAMERICAS BOARD 2022–2024

ParlAmericas is run by parliamentarians for parliamentarians, with a Board of Directors composed of 21 seats which represent countries from North, South, Central America and the Caribbean. In addition, the Board has *ex-officio* representation from the Plenary Host, the ParlAmericas Immediate Past President, the Directors of the ParlAmericas Corporation, the ParlAmericas International Secretariat, and the OAS General Secretariat. Board Members are elected to a two-year term by the member parliaments of ParlAmericas during the Annual Plenary Assembly.

Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay) and the Honourable **Bridgid Annisette-George** (Trinidad and Tobago), Speaker of the House of Representatives, were re-elected by acclamation as President and Vice-President of ParlAmericas, respectively.

In addition, the following sub-regional representatives were re-elected to the ParlAmericas Board:

Representatives for North America:

- Canada
- Mexico

Representatives for Central America:

- Costa Rica
- Nicaragua

Representatives for South America:

- Colombia
- Suriname
- Guyana

Representatives for the Caribbean:

- Barbados
- Jamaica

Additionally, Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Daniella Cicardini** (Chile), announced that the National Congress of Chile would host the 7th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network to be held in 2023.



ParlAmericas and the IX Summit of the Americas

Building a sustainable, resilient, and equitable future

The Summit of the Americas gathers Heads of State and Government from across the Americas and the Caribbean to discuss matters of hemispheric relevance, reaffirm shared values, and agree on actions to address common challenges. This year, the IX Summit of the Americas took place in Los Angeles, United States of America, from June 6 to 10, 2022, around the theme of "Building a sustainable, resilient, and equitable future."

Since our creation in 2001 to coincide with the III Summit of the Americas, held in the city of Québec, Canada, ParlAmericas has led the participation of parliaments in the Summits of the Americas processes in accordance with the organization's mission to promote parliamentary participation in the Inter-American System and contribute to interparliamentary dialogue on matters of hemispheric importance.

The following is a brief summary of a series of activities carried out on the occasion of the IX Summit, including pre-Summit meetings, the Summit parliamentary gathering and parallel events held during the Summit in which parliamentarians from the Americas and the Caribbean participated.



#ParlAmericas #SummitAmericas

 **THEME:** IX Summit of the Americas

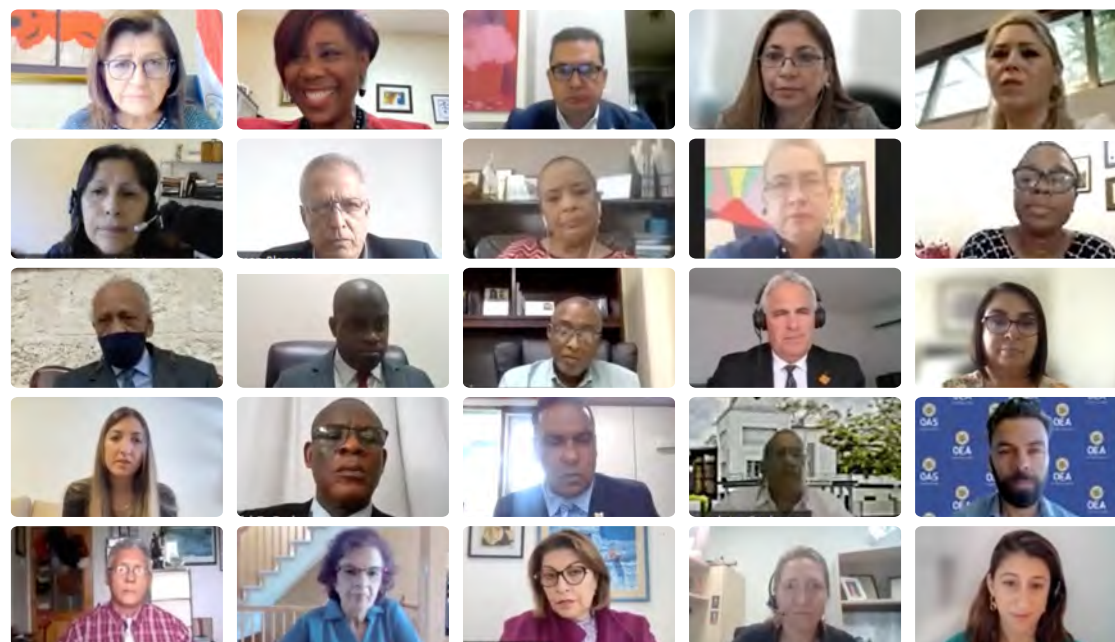
 **DATE:** May 17, 2022

 **LOCATION:** Virtual

 **PARTICIPANTS:** 22 parliamentarians from 15 countries of the Americas and the Caribbean



This activity aligned with SDGs 16 and 17.



Briefing with high-ranking OAS officials in advance of the IX Summit of the Americas


As the members designated by the national parliaments of the Americas and the Caribbean to the governing bodies of ParlAmericas, the members of the ParlAmericas Board of Directors and the executive committees of the organization's thematic networks received a briefing from senior OAS officials in advance of the IX Summit of the Americas.

The OAS Secretary for Strengthening Democracy **Francisco Guerrero** presented an overview of the political climate in the region, and the Director of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat **María Celina Conte** shared a summary of the Summit of the Americas process and the various official forums and stakeholders involved.




[PRESS RELEASE](#)

#ParlAmericas #SummitAmericas

 **THEMES:** IX Summit of the Americas, parliamentary diplomacy, multilateralism

 **DATE:** June 1, 2022

 **LOCATION:** Virtual

 **PARTICIPANTS:** 43 parliamentarians from 18 countries of the Americas and the Caribbean.



This activity aligned with SDGs 16 and 17.



Promoting Multilateralism through Parliamentary Diplomacy

High-level dialogue on the occasion of the IX Summit of the Americas

In advance of the IX Summit of the Americas, ParlAmericas convened this high-level space to discuss multilateralism, parliamentary diplomacy, and the role of the parliaments of the hemisphere in implementing the agreements and commitments reached at the Summits.

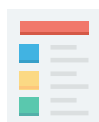
The meeting also offered participants an opportunity to learn more about the Summit process and stakeholders' forums through a panel titled "Multi-stakeholder perspectives in the Summit of the Americas process," which included representatives of three official forums of the IX Summit: The Civil Society Forum, the Young Americas Forum and the CEO Summit. The panellists presented their expectations and priorities for the Summit.

The meeting also included the presentation of the publication [Contributions to the Implementation of the Lima Commitment](#), which summarizes the work carried out through ParlAmericas to support the implementation of the [Lima Commitment: Democratic Governance Against Corruption](#), adopted at the VIII Summit of the Americas in Lima, Peru.



Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President of ParlAmericas

"The participation of the legislative branch in international affairs has become increasingly relevant, not only to the collaboration and coordination between governments needed to ensure the achievement of the State's aims and tasks, but also in acknowledging a complex political, social, and economic climate that demands international cooperation of the highest order."


[AGENDA](#)

[PRESS RELEASE](#)

[VIDEO](#)



#ParlAmericas #SummitAmericas

THEMES: democratic governance, health and resilience, our green future, energy transition, and digital transformation

DATES: June 6 and 7, 2022

LOCATION: Los Angeles, California, United States of America

PARTICIPANTS: 46 parliamentarians from 22 countries of the Americas and the Caribbean

HOSTS: House Democracy Partnership (HDP) of the United States House of Representatives, National Democratic Institute (NDI), International Republican Institute (IRI)



This activity aligned with SDGs 3, 5, 7, 13, and 16.



Parliamentary gathering on the occasion of the IX Summit of the Americas

Undertaken in collaboration with the House Democracy Partnership of the United States House of Representatives, the National Democratic Institute, and the International Republican Institute, the parliamentary gathering convened legislators from the Americas and the Caribbean in Los Angeles California on the occasion of the IX Summit of the Americas.

Thematic panels

During the event, participants had an opportunity to engage with colleagues from across the hemisphere and share experiences and legislative good practices through thematic panels that addressed the Summit's five thematic areas: democratic governance, a green future, energy transition, health and resilience, and digital transformation. The following is a summary of the key takeaways from each panel.

Panel: “Strengthening Democratic Resilience to Combat Corruption”

- Corruption, a complex and multidimensional phenomenon, continues to be one of the most serious problems in the hemisphere, as it affects the adequate investment of public resources, increases economic and social inequality, undermines trust in institutions and creates social discontent and political polarization.
- A robust anti-corruption agenda should contemplate the strengthening of practices favouring public integrity, transparency, and accountability, with a special focus on mechanisms allowing for meaningful participation by civil society organizations within those spheres. Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff can make important contributions by adopting or updating legislation, policies, and codes of ethics and conduct.

Panel: “Trends in Digital Transformation to Promote Transparency and Counter Disinformation”

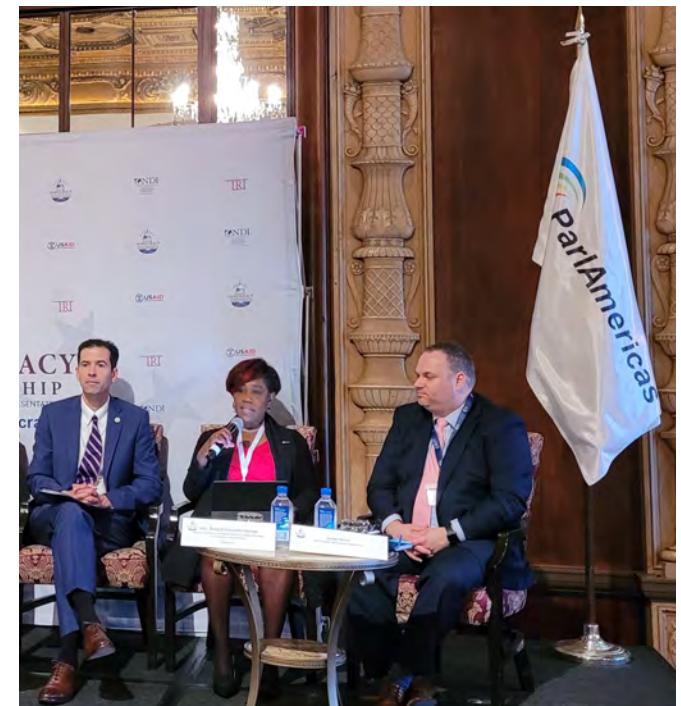
- One of the main challenges is to build increasingly open States and increasingly democratic societies and governments. This implies a cultural transformation in public governance around issues such as access to public information, accountability, and citizen participation as transversal pillars of public administration.
- It is important to promote hemispheric collaboration, especially among the region's legislatures, in order to foster the principles of transparency and proactive dissemination of institutional information, and to develop coordinated responses that feature the most recent developments in cybersecurity and data protection.

Panel: “Application of Democratic Principles to Improve Green Energy Commitments”

- Advancing towards green energy involves, among other measures, a progressive reduction in the use of fossil fuels and an increase in renewable energy investments within the framework of broader initiatives to strengthen ambition for inclusive climate action and to step-up efforts to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement. These decisions have deep socioeconomic implications for various countries across the hemisphere, which requires that conditions be established to guarantee a fair, democratic, and inclusive energy transition.
- Recognizing that the impacts of climate change have disproportionately affected the most vulnerable communities and systems, it is essential that gender and intersectional perspectives be mainstreamed across the development, review, and implementation of policies, laws, and programs for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Panel: “Building Consensus to Support Inclusive Democratic Engagement”

- Building democratic consensus in the region will involve strengthening international governance, multilateralism, and coordinated efforts among the countries in the hemisphere in areas such as the defense of democracy, the promotion of human rights and gender equality, and the fight against climate change.
- It is necessary to strengthen and update participation mechanisms so that citizen involvement — especially by historically marginalized groups — in public affairs can be meaningful and effective, ensuring that people can exercise their rights in the context of inclusive and participatory democracies. This requires institutional and cultural transformations to achieve more agile, flexible, efficient, and transparent administration.



Panel: “Democratic Resilience During Health Crises”

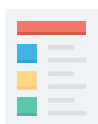
- The public health crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic exposed the pressing need to strengthen healthcare systems in the hemisphere. To this end, it is essential that countries expand equitable access to comprehensive, quality healthcare centred on people and communities, boost investment in preventative healthcare models, and improve primary care in order to advance toward universal healthcare.
- Strengthening cooperation on public healthcare among the countries of the hemisphere is an important way to help bridge gaps in basic capacities, facilitate access to products needed in the health sector, and promote coordination between national epidemiological monitoring systems.

Panel: “Empowering and Enhancing Women’s Inclusion in Parliament”

- There remains an urgent need in the region to strengthen the levels of participation by women candidates in electoral processes, under conditions of equality. Among other measures, this requires promoting young women’s leadership within political parties, avoiding the relegation of women candidates to the last positions on party lists, and creating mechanisms to prevent and protect against gender-based political violence.
- Additionally, some concrete measures that can be taken by parliaments with regard to gender equality are: establishing daycare facilities in parliament, developing codes of conduct on workplace violence and sexual harassment, fostering solidarity among women parliamentarians, adjusting parliamentary session and committee schedules to consider parliamentarians’ care obligations, and promoting a culture in which men parliamentarians proactively promote gender equality efforts.

Dialogue with the OAS Secretary General

Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the Organization of American States, participated in a dialogue moderated by former US Senator, the Honourable **Christopher Dodd**, Special Advisor for the IX Summit of the Americas. The conversation addressed issues such as the importance of the Summit themes, the main challenges facing democratic governance in the hemisphere, the role of parliaments in the multilateral spaces created by the Inter-American System, and other matters of regional relevance.



[AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



YEAR IN HIGHLIGHTS 2022



The Honourable **Bridgid Annisette-George**, Speaker of the House of Representatives (Trinidad and Tobago), Vice-President of ParlAmericas

"In our deliberations over the next days, I invite us to really centre the concerns of women, and of all other persons who lack equal access to power. Their perspectives are too often marginal to political decision making. It is our duty as parliamentarians to represent them and guarantee their rights; it is clear that our countries cannot afford to diminish their agency and talents."



The Honourable **Carolyn Trench-Sandiford**, President of the Senate (Belize)

"Those most severely impacted by the resource scarcity caused by climate change and environmental degradation are the same groups commonly excluded from political decision making – individuals living in poverty, rural women, minorities, Indigenous groups and young people. Ensuring that we uphold the principles of climate governance by equitably including everyone in the political processes and that decision makers listen to their political voices is critical."



Luis Almagro, Secretary General, OAS

"Parliamentary work is essentially democratic and deliberative in nature. That is why we need a forum like ParlAmericas that can gather parliamentarians of various ideological backgrounds and political leanings to engage in dialogue and find solutions to shared problems."



Senator **Natalie Campbell-Rodriques** (Jamaica)

"As one of the most climatically, ecologically, and biologically diverse regions in the world, it is important that we understand the varied impacts of climate change as well as our opportunities for emission reduction specific to our national context."



Senator **Verónica Noemí Camino Farjat** (Mexico)

"Some populations differently experience the risks of climate change due to social, economic, cultural, ethnic, and gender inequalities that are unfortunately deeply rooted in our societies. That complex relationship between social inequalities and discrimination that unfolds on different levels needs to be addressed by climate policy."



The Honourable Senator **Rosa Galvez** (Canada)

"The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has advocated for reducing subsidies for the oil and gas sector and that those subsidies should be directed to renewable energy instead. This transition must be orderly and coordinated: we cannot afford a chaotic transition as it produces significant undesirable impacts both social and economic."



Senator **Javier Macaya** (Chile)

"The prestige of democracy as a way of channeling the ambitions of a society and its politics, as a way of settling differences, seems to have waned as the amount of information available has grown and the relationship between representatives and their constituents has become more horizontal. I think that is the great challenge we have to face: understanding how to make that relationship more synergistic."

Commitment for parliamentary engagement in the Summit of the Americas process

At the IX Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas and the Caribbean adopted a mandate in the [Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance](#) to promote parliamentary engagement, through ParlAmericas, as an integral part of the Summit of the Americas process.

In response to this strengthened mandate for ParlAmericas' engagement within future Summits of the Americas, the ParlAmericas Board, comprising parliamentarians from the Americas and the Caribbean designated by their national legislatures, adopted a [Commitment for Parliamentary Engagement in the Summits of the Americas Process](#) reaffirming ParlAmericas' determination to promote the meaningful participation of parliamentarians of the hemisphere in the Summit of the Americas processes.

Parallel events in the framework of the IX Summit of the Americas

Members of the ParlAmericas parliamentary delegation were invited to participate in some of the parallel events held during the IX Summit of the Americas.

IV Young Americas Forum. Organized by Young American Business Trust. The Forum provided a space for youth representatives to offer recommendations to the Summit based on the [5 C's](#) of Youth Development: (1) climate change, (2) COVID-19, (3) collaborating with youth, (4) combating corruption and (5) connectivity and digital transformation.

Panel: "Democratic institutionalism and rising authoritarianisms in the region." Organized by the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (REDLAD) and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). The presentations and dialogues analyzed the concerning democratic retreat seen in some of the countries in the region and the importance of legislatures in defending and promoting equity, rights, and human dignity. Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Vlado Mirosevic** (Chile) participated on behalf of ParlAmericas.

Corruption and governance, presentation of results by the Citizen Corruption Observatory. Organized by the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (REDLAD), Creer en Plural, the Citizen Forum of the Americas, and the Citizen Corruption Observatory. During the event, participants discussed the state of corruption in the hemisphere and its impacts on human rights. Additionally, the Citizen Corruption Observatory presented a report on progress made in implementing the Lima Commitment. Member of the National Assembly **Wilma Andrade** (Ecuador) participated on behalf of ParlAmericas.

High-level panel: "Women's leadership: Advancing gender equality and democracy in the Americas." Organized by the Government of Canada, the Summits Secretariat, the Inter-American Commission of Women, and the Inter-American Task Force on Women's Leadership, of which ParlAmericas is a member. The event addressed the progress made and obstacles encountered in women's full and effective participation in public life. Director General **Alisha Todd** participated on behalf of ParlAmericas.





MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLAMERICAS PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK FOR GENDER EQUALITY



Dear colleagues,

I begin this brief overview by highlighting our participation in high-level hemispheric forums dedicated to addressing gender-related issues—a commitment undertaken by the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality

(PNGE) in recognition of the need to contribute parliamentary perspectives in hemispheric spaces dedicated to gender equality.

I would like to underscore our participation in the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women where I had the privilege of participating in a side event organized by the PNGE that explored strategies for Latin American youth to promote feminist climate action in parliaments.

In July, within the framework of the 52nd OAS General Assembly held in Lima, we co-organized a high-level dialogue with the Congress of the Republic of Peru, hosting current and former women members of Congress from Peru and representatives of international organizations to explore strategies for strengthening women's political participation in the hemisphere.

This theme, along with promoting the political leadership of young women in the Americas and the Caribbean, has been one of our priorities and the common thread that has guided our work throughout the year.

In this regard, I wish to mention the Young Women in Leadership program—an initiative that ParlAmericas, in partnership with the Caribbean Institute for Women in Leadership, has been carrying out in collaboration with parliaments in the region.

The program supports young women in their political leadership development by offering training sessions based on sorority and transformational leadership approaches that recognize their capabilities and talents.

This year, the program convened more than 35 women leaders from Saint Lucia. The next iteration of the program will be held in Jamaica.

In the same spirit, we developed the Youth Legislative Impact program in Honduras, with support from the National Congress of Honduras and national women's organizations. This initiative convened more than 50 young Honduran women for training in political leadership.

These programs reflect a long-standing institutional decision that demonstrates the commitment of ParlAmericas to the political empowerment of women in the hemisphere.

I would also like to highlight the technical support we have been providing to establish multi-party women's caucuses in the parliaments of Belize, Jamaica, the Bahamas, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Finally, we closed the year with the 14th Gathering of the PNGE in Bogota, with the support of the Congress of Colombia.

Over the course of the event, entitled "Legislative perspectives for inclusive economic growth: investing in the care economy," parliamentarians and specialists from more than 20 countries in the Americas and the Caribbean exchanged experiences and good practices for legislative action related to care work and the economy.

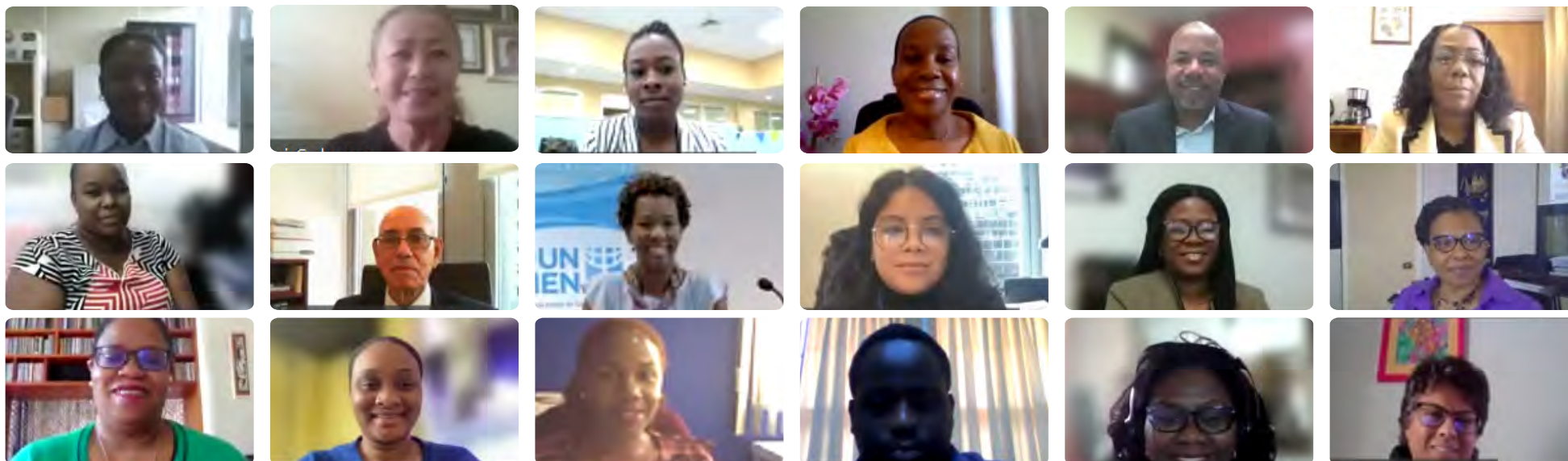
In the coming year, we look forward to continuing on this path in favour of the rights of women and girls in the hemisphere.

Sincerely,


Verónica Noemí Camino Farjat


Senator, Mexico
President of the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality

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#ParlAmericasGEN #CSW66Caribbean

 **THEMES:** CSW, women's empowerment, gender-responsive climate action, disaster risk management

 **DATES:** February 3, 2022

 **LOCATION:** Virtual

 **PARTICIPANTS:** More than 110 parliamentarians, ministers, representatives from multilateral and civil society organizations, and national gender machinery from 21 countries and 2 territories

 **ORGANIZING PARTNER:** CARICOM Secretariat, UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean



This activity aligned with SDGs 5 and 17.



Caribbean Preparatory Meeting ahead of CSW66

This sensitization meeting convened ministers with responsibility for gender affairs, parliamentarians, heads of national gender machinery, and representatives from multilateral organizations, civil society and academia in preparation for the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66), taking place at UN Headquarters in New York, from March 14 to 25, 2022. The dialogue focused on identifying the Caribbean region's priorities and needs with a view to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of vulnerability to climate and disasters.



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome remarks by:

- Dr. **Hilary Brown**, Programme manager, Culture and Community Development, CARICOM Secretariat
- Ms. **Tonni Brodber**, Representative, UN Women MCO Caribbean

Technical Presentation "Framing the CSW negotiation":

- Ms. **Rahel Steinbach**, Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Programme Specialist, UN Women
- Ms. **Carla Kraft**, Policy Specialist - Sustainable Development, UN Women
- Ms. **Branwen Millar**, Gender Advisor, UNDRR
- The Honourable **Chester Humphrey**, President of the Senate (Grenada) and Vice-President for the Caribbean

Key Note:

- Dr. **Asha Kambon**, disaster risk management and gender equality expert Panel "**Strategies to enhance adaptive capacity for inclusive, gender responsive Disaster Risk Management in Caribbean SIDS**":
- Member of Congress **Cornelio García** (Guatemala)
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Anabel Beloso** (El Salvador)

Panellists:

- Hon. **Carolyn Trench-Sandiford** (Belize), President of the Senate and Member of the ParlAmericas Board of Directors
- Ms. **Elizabeth Riley**, Executive Director, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
- Ms. **Joanna Edghill**, Co-founder and Director, Megapower Limited
- Ms. **Sarah Bailey**, Head of Programme - UN World Food Programme MCO Caribbean

Moderator:

- Ms. **Isiuwa Iyehen**, Programme Specialist - Economic Empowerment and Statistics, UN Women MCO Caribbean

The session promoted discussions that contributed to a unified subregional voice and advocacy positions, and it informed the development of a CARICOM statement ahead of CSW66, which for 2022 had the theme of "**Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental, and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.**" Meeting participants were further invited to reflect on strategies to amplify Caribbean women's leadership and experiences in international negotiating spaces on these topics.

The meeting's presentations and panels provided technical groundings in CSW proceedings and the linkages between climate change and disaster risk resilience and gender equality. In addition, there was a robust discussion on practices and policies to enhance adaptive capacity for inclusive, gender-responsive disaster risk management in the Caribbean Small Island Developing States.



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



[STATEMENT](#)



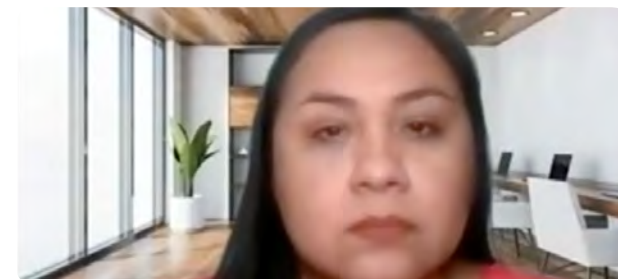
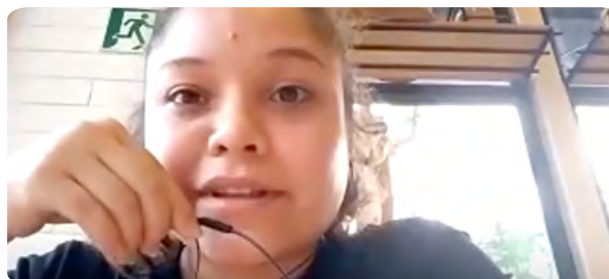
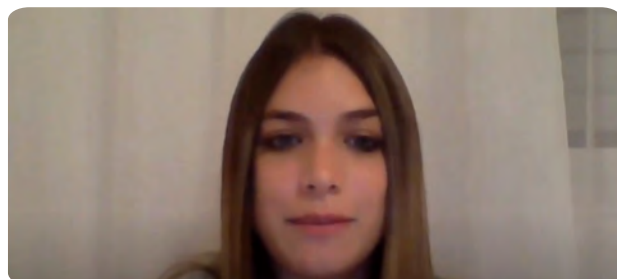
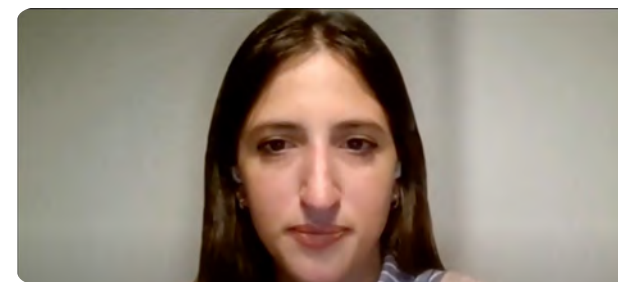
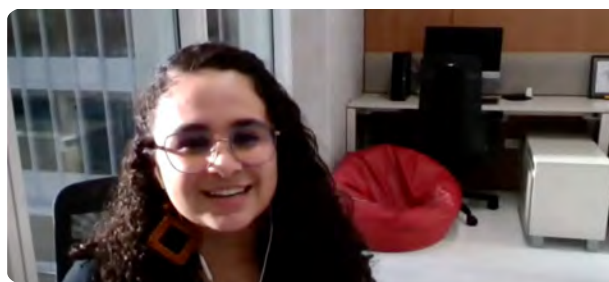
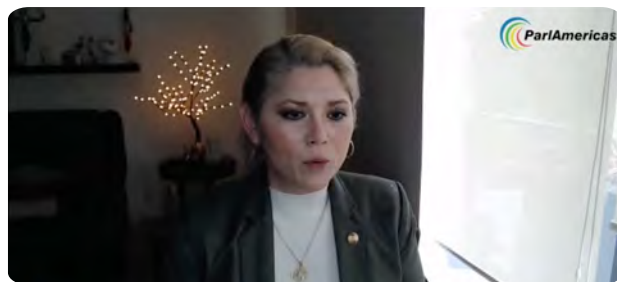
KEY OUTCOMES

The following are some of the priority areas included in the CARICOM Statement that was informed by this meeting:

- Address gender imbalances while promoting prudent policy changes to encourage the reduction and management of climatic and disaster risks, which will also help advance general socio-economic growth.
- Promote gender-responsive action to climatic and disaster risk management and consider violence against women and children a major barrier that violates, impairs or nullifies the full enjoyment of their human rights, especially during times of disaster.
- Promote education and job opportunities for girls and women in technical fields and leadership roles, recognizing that women should be primary decision-makers in local, national and regional water boards and committees.
- Strengthen the capacity of national statistics offices and other relevant government institutions, NGOs, and women-led organizations to collect, analyse and disseminate regional comparable data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and other characteristics relevant to the design and implementation of strategies and policies aimed at improving women's full and effective participation in decision-making spaces.
- Include rural, Indigenous, and tribal women and girls in decision-making in terms of climate action and disaster risk management, providing opportunities to lead climate management, monitoring and research positions at community and national levels.
- Allocate resources to promote gender-responsive social protection in emergency situations, including accessible healthcare facilities and services, comprehensive care systems that support universal access to childcare and the provision of cash transfers, to rural women and their communities.

The following are key resources on themes of women's leadership and gender-responsive climate change and disaster risk management in the region:

- [Gender-Responsive Resilience Building in the Caribbean: Understanding the Role of Knowledge, Attitudes, Behaviours, and Practices in Coordination Mechanisms for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction](#) (UN Women & IISD, 2021)
- [Gender-Responsive Disaster Preparedness and Recovery in the Caribbean: Desk Review](#) (World Bank & GFDRR, 2021)
- [Primer on Gender-Responsive Disaster and Crisis Planning for the Caribbean](#) (ParlAmericas, 2021)
- [Parliamentary Protocol for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation](#) (ParlAmericas, 2019)



#ParlAmericasGEN #CSW66

THEMES: Citizenship participation, youth empowerment and advocacy, gender equality, climate action

DATES: March 22, 2022

LOCATION: Virtual

PARTICIPANTS: More than 60 civil society and youth representatives, parliamentary staff, and parliamentarians from 15 countries

HOST: NGO CSW66 Forum



This activity aligned with SDGs 4, 5, 10, 13, and 17.



Youth Advocacy in Parliaments for Climate Action with a Gender Perspective

This interactive session was held as part of the NGO CSW66 Forum, and it had the objective of exploring the strategies and methods that can be used by young activists to promote feminist climate action in legislative decision-making spaces. It brought together stakeholders from across the Latin American region who are working towards common advocacy goals from within and outside of the parliamentary precinct.



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Opening remarks and introduction by:

- Senator **Verónica Camino Farjat** (Mexico), President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality

Roundtable "Perspectives, Experiences, and Recommendations for Promoting Feminist and Ambitious Climate Agendas"

Moderator:

- Ms. **Andrea Chacón** (Costa Rica), advisor to Member of the Legislative Assembly Paola Vega

Panellists:

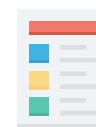
- Senator **Verónica Camino Farjat** (Mexico), President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality
- Ms. **Martina Gómez** (Argentina), Youth for the Climate
- Ms. **Marinés Tapiero**, activist and "Youth Legislative Impact" program participant (Panama)

Closing remarks by:

- Ms. **Michelle Volpin**, International Secretariat of ParlAmericas

Among the references and materials exchanged were:

- [CSW66 Global Youth Recommendations: Youth, Gender, and Climate](#)
- [Motion to declare a climate emergency](#) (Argentina)
- [Citizen bill on inclusive and sustainable ecotourism](#) (Panama)



[FULL AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



[VIDEO RECORDING](#)



[PODCAST EPISODE](#)

The session opened with introductory remarks that recalled the functions of the legislative branch of government and different parliamentary mechanisms that can facilitate the active participation of youth and other civil society voices in its processes. Such mechanisms may be related to the development of bills or reforms, the oversight of government spending, or the fulfillment of international obligations under conventions such as CEDAW and the Paris Agreement, among other relevant frameworks.

The session then turned to a roundtable conversation that explored in greater depth various techniques and opportunities for youth activists to use political spaces to call for meaningful, gender-responsive climate action in their countries. The panellists shared their learnings as well as reflections on the importance of collaboration between parliamentary actors and local communities. In particular, the speakers highlighted suggestions for relaying key messages to decision-makers and communicating in ways that are attuned to necessary considerations in the local political environment.

Draft Agreed Conclusions of CSW66

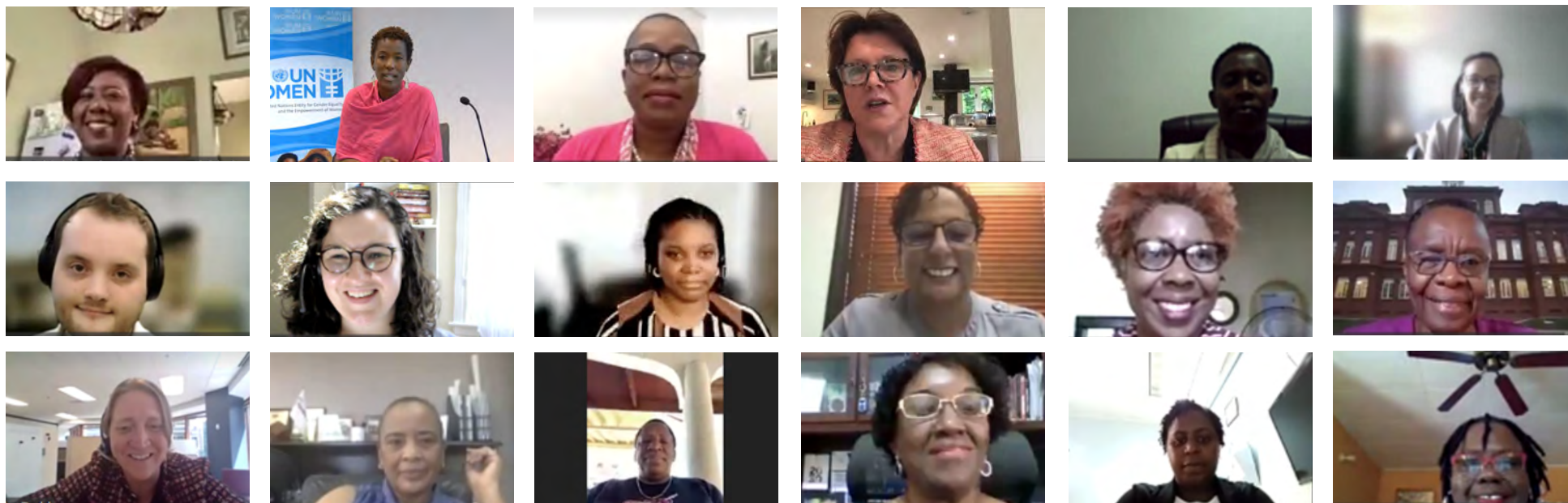
At the time of this event, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women had released the [Zero Draft](#) of the conclusions for CSW66. These emphasized the role of parliamentarians in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, and in the implementation of effective environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes (Point 7).

"The Commission recognizes the need to take an all-of-government approach, based on the coordination and capacity-building of parliamentarians, national gender equality mechanisms, mayors and municipalities and the institutions responsible for climate change, environment and disaster risk reduction and their financing, to enable gender responsive climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes."



KEY SUGGESTIONS SHARED IN THE ROUNDTABLE DIALOGUE

- Ensure clarity in your vision and in your communications with political decision-makers on your 'asks'; support these with firsthand knowledge and research.
- When distributing individual responsibilities in a group, carefully assign roles that take advantage of everyone's unique talents and educational / professional backgrounds in order to optimize impact.
- Utilize a variety of public spaces to share your messages, data, and viewpoints: from social media, to the streets, to the halls of parliament.
- When building support for your cause among critical stakeholders, ensure that the full scope of likely benefits of a given solution are as clearly articulated as the problem -- for instance, the tangible development outcomes that will result from increasing women's agency or environmental protections.



#ParlAmericasGEN #CSW66Caribbean

THEMES: Women's empowerment, women's caucuses, women's leadership, political participation of women

DATES: May 30, 2022

LOCATION: Virtual

PARTICIPANTS: More than 35 parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from 12 countries

ORGANIZING PARTNER: Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean



This activity aligned with SDGs 5, 10, 16, and 17.



Subregional Exchange on Establishing Parliamentary Women's Caucuses

Recognizing the importance and strength of parliamentary women's caucuses in achieving gender equality, this subregional exchange was convened to provide support to the parliaments in the Caribbean region who are currently in the process of - or have an interest in - establishing a women's parliamentary caucus.

The participants learned from representatives of existing women's caucuses about processes and good practices for ensuring a caucus' successful creation and its ongoing effective and sustainable functioning.



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome remarks by:

- The Hon. **Bridgid Annisette-George** (Trinidad and Tobago), Speaker of the House of Representatives and Vice-President of ParlAmericas
- **Tonni Brodber**, Representative, UN Women MCO Caribbean

Panel discussion: Experiences establishing and sustaining women's caucuses

- The Hon. **Alicia Williams Grant** (Antigua and Barbuda), President of the Senate and representative of the Antigua and Barbuda Network of Women Parliamentarians
- The Right Hon. **Maria Miller** (United Kingdom), Member of Parliament and representative of the UK Parliament's All Party Parliamentary Group on Women in Parliament
- The Hon. **Justine Mukowba** (Rwanda), Member of the Chamber of Deputies and Secretary General of the Rwanda Women Parliamentary Forum

Moderator:

- **Lisane Thirsk**, Deputy Director - Gender Equality and Communications, ParlAmericas

Responses by regional organisations and opportunities for support:

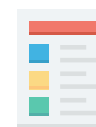
- **James Pinell**, Deputy Head of Programmes - Multilateral Engagements, CPA
- **Eilish Elliott**, Project Manager - Gender Equality, ParlAmericas
- **Isiwa Iyahan**, Deputy Representative, UN Women Caribbean

Closing remarks by:

- The Hon. **Valerie Woods** (Belize), Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Steering Committee Member for the CPA Caribbean, Americas, and Atlantic Region.

MAIN TAKEAWAYS FROM THE SESSION:

- Globally, women are disproportionately underrepresented in parliaments. Parliamentary women's caucuses serve as important forums and spaces for women in parliament to come together to address, advocate for, and advance issues related to women's rights and gender equality.
- There is no single method for developing a parliamentary women's caucus and the effectiveness of a caucus is linked to consensus amongst members on its organisational structure and objectives.
- Caucuses require networking, resources, education and training, and allyship with men parliamentary colleagues and other stakeholders to effect and advance change. Support from parliamentary staff or other actors for administrative assistance is also invaluable.
- Multipartisanship can be facilitated in parliamentary women's caucuses by pursuing objectives that members assess to be of common interest, fostering collective responsibility.



[FULL AGENDA](#)



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Components of the YWiLSLU programme:

- A series of foundational training sessions on the programme's core themes
- A workshop to further enhance participants' understanding, skills, and ability to engage in different forms of leadership through the sharing of good practices with other women leaders
- Simulated parliamentary debates in the House of Assembly and the Senate

#YWiLSLU



Young women in leadership Saint Lucia

In May and June 2022, 35 young women leaders from across Saint Lucia took part in Young Women in Leadership – Saint Lucia (YWiLSLU), an in-depth training programme on transformational leadership, inclusive decision-making, and parliamentary procedure convened by [ParlAmericas](#), the [Caribbean Women in Leadership](#) (CIWiL) Regional Secretariat and Saint Lucia chapter, and the Parliament of Saint Lucia.

YWiLSLU was the third in a series of national-level initiatives implemented in the Caribbean through a joint [ParlAmericas and CIWiL project](#), funded by the Government of Canada, focused on strengthening women's political leadership. A flagship component of the project, the YWiL programme is designed to support these leaders in building knowledge, skills, and networks necessary for their work as current and future changemakers. The first YWiL was hosted in [Trinidad and Tobago](#) in February-March 2020 and the second in [Antigua and Barbuda](#) in October-November 2020 in partnership with the national legislatures in those countries. An additional YWiL was also hosted in [Trinidad and Tobago in November 2021](#), led by the CIWiL Trinidad and Tobago chapter.

YWiL SITTING

On June 27, the Parliament of Saint Lucia hosted debates in both the House of Assembly and the Senate as part of the YWiL Parliamentary Sitting, representing the first all-women sitting in the country's history. YWiL participants served as parliamentarians and officers of the parliament in both chambers for debates on a motion to be moved by the Minister for Finance, Economic Development, and the Youth Economy related to women and the changing economy.

The simulated motion proposed the development of an action plan that prioritises gender equality and women's empowerment within efforts to promote economic development and adapting to a changing economy, with focused attention on three key areas:

- *Creating an enabling environment* for women's economic empowerment, including pursuing measures to promote balance in care work and investing in infrastructure to foster the growth of new and emerging industries, sectors, and ways of work
- *Providing education*, including training women and girls in the skills necessary for high-demand and emerging fields, as well as implementing public awareness campaigns to challenge gender stereotypes in the world of work (for example, that women are only suited to specific jobs)
- *Increasing direct support* to women workers, by providing access to needed resources and providing incentives to employers in in-demand fields to hire women



Watch the [House of Assembly Sitting](#) and the [Senate Sitting](#) on the Saint Lucia Government YouTube page.



The OECD defines **economic empowerment** as “the capacity of women and men to participate in, contribute to and benefit from growth processes in ways that recognise the value of their contributions, respect their dignity and make it possible to negotiate a fairer distribution of the benefits of growth.”

UN Women identifies the benefits of economic empowerment for women as the following:


- “Women's economic empowerment is central to realizing women's rights and gender equality
- Empowering women in the economic and closing gender gaps in the world of work are key to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- When more women work, economies grow
- Increasing women's and girls' educational attainment contributes to women's economic empowerment and more inclusive growth
- Women's economic equality is good for business”

Sources:

[Women's Economic Empowerment](#) (OECD Issues Paper 2011, pg. 6);
[Facts and Figures: Economic Empowerment](#) (UN Women 2018).



#ParlAmericasGEN

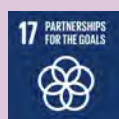
 **THEMES:** Gender equality, roles of CSOs, public participation, social transformation

 **DATE:** September 9, 2022

 **LOCATION:** Virtual

 **PARTICIPANTS:** 94 representatives from civil society organisations from 16 countries and 2 overseas territories

 **ORGANIZING PARTNERS:** ParlAmericas, UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean, and Equality Fund



This activity aligned with SDGs 5, 16 and 17.



Effective Engagement in Parliamentary Processes

This interactive training session was the first to be held as part of a series of virtual workshops for Caribbean women's organisations on effective engagement in parliamentary processes. Recognising the pivotal role women's organisations play in influencing legislative and policy change, this workshop focused on providing introductions to legislative and parliamentary processes inclusive of the branches of governments and their roles and functions, formal mechanisms for public participation in parliaments, and effective strategies for engagement with individual parliamentarians. The session also incorporated a presentation on ParlAmericas' [What We Heard](#) report, which details the key findings of a survey of Caribbean women's organisations on their engagement with parliaments. The results of this survey also informed the design of this workshop and the others still to come in the series.



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Opening remarks by:

- Ms. **Tonni Brodber**, Representative, UN Women Multi-Country Office - Caribbean
- Ms. **Tamara Huggins**, Director - Women's Voice and Leadership - Caribbean, Equality Fund

Session facilitator and presentation "Why engage with parliaments?":

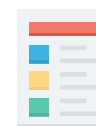
- Ms. **Lisane Thirsk**, Deputy Director - Gender Equality & Communications, ParlAmericas International Secretariat

Presentation "Overview of the legislative process and formal opportunities for participation":

- Ms. **Chantal La Roche**, Senior Legal Officer, Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago

Feature address:

- Member of Parliament **Marsha K. Caddle**, Barbados



[FULL AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



KEY RESOURCES

The following are key resources on themes of citizen participation in legislative processes:

- [Roadmap Towards Legislative Openness 2.0](#) (ParlAmericas)
- [Toolkit: Citizen Participation in the Legislative Process](#) (ParlAmericas)
- [How Laws are Made](#) (National Assembly of Belize)
- [The Legislative Process and Advocacy](#) (Citizens for Public Justice)
- [A Toolkit for Gender Advocacy](#) (Joanna Richards)
- [Y Advocacy? An Intersectional Feminist Toolkit](#) (YMCA Australia)
- [How To Participate in Parliamentary Processes: An Advocacy Guide](#) (Australian Women Against Violence Alliance)
- [Legislative Tracker](#) (Jamaica Accountability Meter Portal)

The following are some of the key learning points and recommendations from the session:

On the importance of public participation

- Citizen participation in parliamentary processes is crucial as it can result in greater equality in policy outcomes, strengthened social cohesion, broader influence on parliament's agenda, the incorporation of gender and intersectional considerations in legislative discussions, and a more inclusive, accountable, transparent and representative parliament.
- The advancement of gender equality is a human right pursuit that requires a multi-sectoral and multi-level approach.

On avenues for parliamentary engagement

- When seeking to engage in parliamentary processes, it is important to first understand the legislative cycle in order to select the best engagement strategy. This may differ across the Caribbean region based on the parliamentary system and specific institutional procedures.
- The parliament acts as the legislative arm of government with the responsibility of law making whereas the executive arm of government holds the responsibility of policy-making. It is therefore imperative to understand the roles and functions of different branches of government to determine the advocacy entry point and most effective engagement strategy.
- Formal mechanisms for engagement in parliamentary processes include: participating in the parliamentary committee system, attending parliament sittings, analysing the parliament website and social media pages, submission of stakeholder comments, meeting with a member of parliament during their constituency clinics/ surgeries/office days, and writing petitions on a particular call or issue.
- Other methods for strategic advocacy can include communications with women's caucuses, opposition parliamentarians, constituency office staff, back benchers, and parliamentary staff such as a committee secretary. Marches and protests are also popular methods used to communicate urgency or garner attention on an issue

On advocating directly to parliamentarians and policy makers

- Advocacy messages should be evidence-based and data-driven.
- The ideal strategy for engaging a parliamentarian will be determined by the desired change to be effected. This will also influence where the change is likely to be enacted. In some instances, your ask will require legislative change, but in others, rather than influencing the parliamentary process, your goal will be to affect policy practice, policy guidance, or the way an institution or state may function.
- Shared action and shared responsibility can be a constructive strategy to present a proposed change on an issue of importance. To demonstrate shared responsibility, an organisation could both present its ask of the parliamentarian and outline the ways in which they are taking action themselves and mobilising resources so this can be a form of leverage for the decision maker to bring the idea forward in other spaces.
- Acknowledge the competing priorities and ideas in the government space in your research. This will aid parliamentarians and policy makers in similarly addressing those competing ideas in their own efforts.
- Build alliances with policy makers which can allow room for conversations and solutions to be explored collaboratively.
- Acknowledge that policy decisions will also be guided by the ideological base of a political party. Therefore, conversing, sharing research, or emailing the general secretary of a political party can be useful in influencing policy development.
- Host advocacy events in a public space to gain broader public commentary on areas of interest. This strategy allows politicians to observe and hear different perspectives.
- Present the advantages of the desired action or intervention for improving gender equality. When making national or policy decisions, it may appear to be more expensive to take an inclusive approach. When the financial costs and negative consequences of not making inclusive judgments are considered, the cost of inaction outweighs the cost of action.



ILJ Honduras consisted of three stages:

- A series of virtual training sessions with the objective of providing an overview of the central tools and themes of the program and promoting interaction between specialists, community leaders, and parliamentarians involved in national and regional politics.
- An in-person meeting of young Honduran women leaders together with national and regional women politicians and parliamentarians, which included discussions, exchange of experiences, and working groups on the challenges and opportunities for women's political participation to achieve gender equity.
- An in-person event at the National Congress of Honduras, which involved the presentation of a shared statement drafted by the young participants as well as a tool to promote an intersectional approach to legislative work in Honduras, which they also developed collaboratively.

Youth legislative impact program - Honduras

Between October and December 2022, 50 young Honduran women participated in the Youth Legislative Impact (ILJ, by its Spanish acronym) program *Strengthening the political leadership of young Honduran women* — an intensive training series on gender equity, women's political rights, legislative work, transformational leadership, political advocacy, and inclusive decision-making, organized by [ParlAmericas](#), the [National Congress of Honduras](#), and the [Honduran Women's Political Forum](#) (FMPPH, by its Spanish acronym).

ILJ Honduras was the second Latin American experience of its kind in a series of national-level initiatives implemented to strengthen women's political leadership in the Americas and the Caribbean through joint projects between ParlAmericas and women's political forums, funded by the Government of Canada. The first ILJ was held in [Panama](#) between June and September 2021, in collaboration with the National Forum of Women in Political Parties of Panama and the National Assembly of Panama. ILJ is designed to support young women leaders in developing the knowledge, skills, and networks needed to advance their potential as current and future agents of change in Latin America.

IN-PERSON MEETING

Meeting of young Honduran women in Tegucigalpa with women politicians from the region

On December 8, 2022, the young Honduran participants from departments across the country met in Tegucigalpa, where they had the opportunity to interact with national and regional women politicians and parliamentarians. This meeting included various activities that facilitated discussion, exchange of experiences, and analysis of perspectives on leadership and political advocacy. In addition, working groups were organized around the theme of *Gender equity as a transformative engine of politics in Latin America*, with the participation of Senator Verónica Camino Farjat (Mexico), President of the PNGE, the Honourable Member of the National Assembly Kayra Harding Bart (Panama), First Vice-President of the National Assembly and Vice-President of the PNGE, Members of Congress Silvia Ayala (Honduras) and Kathia Cribelli (Honduras), and expert Ana Pineda, together with representatives from the FMPPH.



YOUTH LEGISLATIVE IMPACT PROGRAM: THE HONDURAN EXPERIENCE

In-person event at the National Congress of Honduras

The closing event of the program, *ILJ: The Honduran experience*, was held on December 9, 2022. President of the National Congress Luis Redondo (Honduras), delivered the welcoming remarks, together with Senator Véronica Camino Farjat (Mexico), President of the PNGE, and Ivonne Pinto, member of the FMPPH. During the keynote address, the Honourable Member of the National Assembly Kayra Harding Bart (Panama), First Vice-President of the National Assembly and Vice-President of the PNGE, shared her perspectives on inclusive political leadership and multi-party dialogue for consensus-building in the parliamentary arena. Similarly, Member of Congress Scherly Arriaga (Honduras), Chair of the Committee on Gender Equity of the National Congress, addressed the importance of preventing, penalizing, and eradicating gender-based violence and promoting greater participation of women in electoral and decision-making processes.

During the event, a panel entitled *Women in Honduran politics: Strategies for integrating the gender perspective across different issues* was moderated by Senator Verónica Camino Farjat (Mexico), with the participation of Member of Congress Silvia Ayala (Honduras), Chair of the Committee on Sports and Social Welfare of the National Congress, Member of Congress Angélica Smith Mejía (Honduras), Secretary of the Board of Directors of the National Congress, and Delmy Ordoñez, member of the FMPPH.

ILJ participants read their prepared [statement](#) entitled *A shared vision to promote the participation and leadership of young Honduran women* and presented their [collaboratively developed tool](#): *A brief guide to promoting an intersectional approach to legislative work in Honduras*.

The closing event concluded with the presentation of diplomas to the young ILJ participants by members of Congress, officials of the National Congress, ParlAmericas, members of the FMPPH, and representatives of the Canadian Embassy in Honduras.



[STATEMENT](#)



[VIDEO
RECORDING](#)



[TOOLKIT](#)





#ParlAmericasGEN

TITLE: Legislative Perspectives for Inclusive Economic Growth: Investing in the Care Economy

THEMES: Gender equality, care work, economic value of care work

DATES: November 30, 2022 & December 1, 2022

LOCATION: Bogota, Colombia

PARTICIPANTS: More than 85 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, specialists and representatives of civil society organizations from more than 18 countries of the Americas and the Caribbean.

HOST: Congress of the Republic of Colombia



This activity aligned with SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 11 and 17.



14th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality

The 14th Gathering of the PNGE explored good legislative practices to recognize, redistribute and regulate [care work](#), with a gender, intersectionality, intercultural and human rights perspective. Parliamentarians discussed the economic dimensions of care and the importance of data as a key to legislative action. Moreover, the [Inter-American Model Law on Care](#) and the Care Blocks initiative of the City of Bogota were presented. Within the framework of the Gathering, a [Memorandum of Understanding was signed between ParlAmericas and the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger](#) (FPH). In order to reflect the importance of inclusive approaches to these issues, the methodology of the various sessions of the Gathering was enriched with contributions from women's organizations and specialists in the field.



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Opening remarks:

- Honourable representative **David Racero** (Colombia), president of the House of Representatives
- The Honourable **Bridgid Annisette-George** (Trinidad and Tobago), Speaker of the House of Representatives and Vice-President of ParlAmericas
- Senator **Verónica Camino Farjat** (Mexico), President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality
- Honourable Representative **Jezmi Barraza** (Colombia), Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality
- Senator **Germán Blanco** (Colombia), member of the ParlAmericas Board
- Ms. **Gabriela Serrano**, Director of Programs, IRI Colombia
- Mr. **Marcos Rodríguez Fazzone**, Senior Specialist of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Colombia

Specialists:

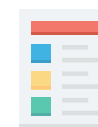
- Ms. **Cecilia López** (Colombia), Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Ms. **Ana Gúezmes**, directora de la división de asuntos de género, CEPAL
- Ms. **Helen Royer**, directora de desarrollo humano, Secretaría de la CARICOM
- Ms. **Julieth Solano**, Technical Director of the Directorate of Statistical Regulation, Planning and Standardization, National Administrative Department of Statistics (Colombia)
- Ms. **Isiuwa Iyehen**, Deputy Representative, UN Women Multi Country Office – Caribbean
- Ms. **Alejandra Mora Mora**, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM, by its Spanish initials)
- Ms. **Bibiana Aído**, Representative, UN Women Colombia
- Ms. **Natalia Moreno Salamanca**, Director of the Care System, Secretariat for Women's Affairs, City of Bogota

Sessions moderated by:

- Honourable representative **Juan Carlos Losada** (Colombia)
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Christian Tapia** (Chile)
- Senator Dr. **Saphire Longmore** (Jamaica), member of the ParlAmericas Board

Reading of the declaration on the care economy:

- The Honourable **Dessima Williams** (Grenada), president of the Senate
- Member of the Congress **Silvia Ayala** (Honduras)



[FULL AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



[PRESENTATIONS](#)



[VIDEO RECORDING](#)



[PODCAST EPISODE](#)



DECLARATION ON THE CARE ECONOMY

During the Gathering, parliamentarians adopted a [declaration](#) that includes, among other commitments, the following:

- Adopt an approach in our lawmaking and oversight functions that acknowledges that care work, caregiving, and investing in the care economy should be priorities for government action, essential to the advancement of social and economic development and gender equality commitments.
- Introduce legislation, table motions, or conduct oversight to require our governments to improve the collection of disaggregated data through periodic time-use surveys and economic analyses in order to gain a more complete and nuanced understanding of care work and the care economy.
- Advocate for the public and private sector to adopt measures that lessen the burden of care work and foster the social co-responsibility of care via economic incentives, education, flexible working arrangements that do not compromise labour and social rights, extended paid family and sick leave, and programmes that provide compensation or accommodations during closures of care services like schools or daycare centres.
- Promote the implementation of gender-responsive counter-cyclical fiscal policies, in order to mitigate the impact of economic crises and recessions on all women's lives and promote regulatory frameworks and policies to galvanize the economy in sectors key to the sustainability of life, including the care economy (Paragraph 28, [Buenos Aires Commitment](#)).
- Introduce legislative reforms, table motions, or conduct oversight to expand protections for all care workers and recipients of care, with a special focus on migrant workers and other traditionally marginalized groups.
- Consider the elements developed in the Inter-American Model Law on Care of the CIM/OAS as a reference tool for the development of legal frameworks on the recognition, regulation, redistribution, provision, and promotion of care work.
- Call on our governments to take into account the current situation of unpaid care work in the development of the [Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas](#) to be implemented by 2030, as part of the larger strategy to expand equitable access to comprehensive, high-quality, and people-centred health services accounting for the sociocultural, economic, and structural challenges facing the hemisphere, as agreed by the Heads of State and Government during the IX Summit of the Americas.
- Advocate for the development and strengthening of health programmes that prioritize mental health and encompass prevention and early intervention through services, treatments, and supports that offer those living with mental illness the opportunity to experience significant improvements in their quality of life. In this regard, we will take note of the recommendations to be issued in the final report of the High-Level Commission on Mental Health and COVID-19 of the Pan-American Health Organization.
- Introduce legislation or motions, and undertake the oversight required to provide tax and financial incentives to businesses and industries that adopt inclusive care work practices and further provide social protection service infrastructure, including by supporting access to care services for the sick, disabled, the elderly, and children.
- Promote public programmes and campaigns that help to reshape the norms and stereotypes surrounding care work with the objective of achieving more gender-equal households, workplaces, economies, and societies.



Senator **Verónica Noemí Camino Farjat** (Mexico),
President of the PNGE

"Caregiving is an inherent necessity of life and a matter of gender inequality, because it has historically been performed by women in unpaid forms, without social benefits or labor rights. This sexual division of labor and time is rarely addressed as one of the determinants of the prevailing inequality in the region. Despite the increase in women's participation in the labor market, a considerable percentage do not have their own income, not because they do not work, but because they do so without remuneration or real recognition of the value of care and its contribution to the economy."



Honourable Representative **Jezmi Barraza** (Colombia),
Vice-President for South America of the PNGE

"The care economy from a gender perspective is a fundamental issue in the legislative agenda of each of our countries. This gathering is the platform to make visible the efforts and good practices as well as to share the pending challenges to legislate on care and build better opportunities for all, based on equity policies."



The Honourable **Bridgid Annisette-George** (Trinidad and Tobago), Speaker of the House of Representatives and Vice-President of ParlAmericas

"The care agenda represents a historical debt for all people, especially for women and girls, who have had to face many forms of discrimination. We have the opportunity to address care from a human rights approach, starting with the appropriate design of care policies, a shared responsibility of the State, Parliament and the private sector."



Senator **Germán Blanco** (Colombia), member of the ParlAmericas Board

"We have an important responsibility as parliamentarians to make women and men equal through legislative efforts."



The Honourable **David Racero** (Colombia), president of the House of Representatives

"It is claimed, recognized and meaningful that a State in its public policy focuses on the care economy, with a cross-cutting approach to gender and diversities [...] Care work in Colombia represents about 20% of GDP. If we generated adequate policies regarding the care economy we could create more than 2.5 million jobs in the country."

WOMEN'S POLITICAL LEADERSHIP PROJECT

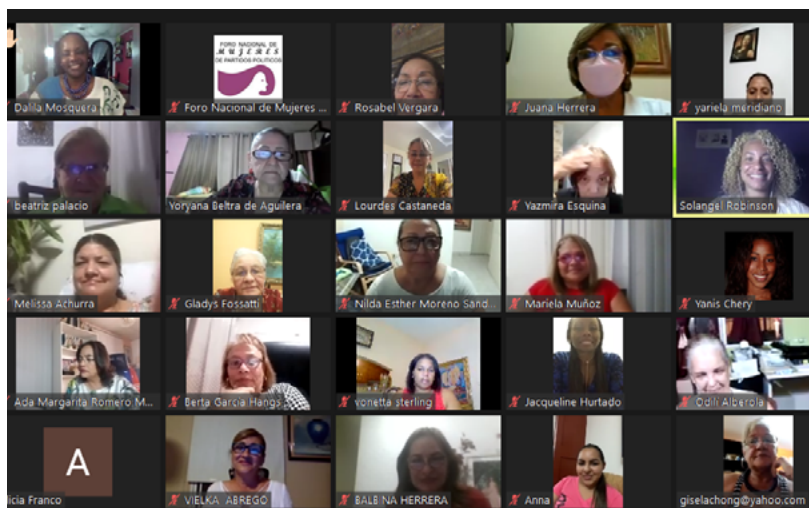


In 2018, ParlAmericas launched a project to promote women's political leadership in Latin America and the Caribbean. The project supports multi-partisan women's organizations in their delivery of programming that builds environments which enables women's leadership in politics and other sectors where they are underrepresented. The project's activities also strengthen the institutional capacities of these organizations as they fulfill their work in collaboration with national parliaments, gender bureaux, multilaterals, and other regional and local civil society organizations.

Through this project, ParlAmericas has been accompanying [Caribbean Women in Leadership](#) (CIWiL) and the [National Forum of Women in Political Parties](#) (FONAMUPP) in Panama. The joint initiatives carried out with these organizations build on the successes of ParlAmericas' work on gender mainstreaming and civil society engagement.

In 2022, project activities included:

- virtual and in-person training sessions to encourage and support electoral candidacies by women;
- training initiatives to promote gender-responsive youth leadership;
- the strengthening of and undertaking of activities by local chapters of the partner organizations;
- national and regional knowledge exchanges on gender equality and women's leadership held virtually and in-person; and
- the creation of resources, publications, and communications and advocacy materials.





Caribbean Women in Leadership

Caribbean Women in Leadership (CIWIL) is a flagship networking organisation committed to advancing transformational leadership and to increasing the numbers of women in leadership and decision-making in political and civic life, proportionate to the female population in Caribbean countries. CIWIL is a non-political, non-partisan, and independent institution and a leading advocate to increase the participation of women in leadership and decision-making within the Caribbean.

CIWIL works with activists, women parliamentarians, development professionals, and national gender machineries to train and support women across the region as they seek elected office or assume other positions of leadership. The vision of CIWIL is to promote the sustainable development of Caribbean societies embracing transformational leadership principles including gender equality, equity, economic and social justice and environmental sustainability.

Key details on 2022 activities

- 8 training sessions held to support women's leadership and political participation
- 4 regional webinars hosted to foster dialogue on priority gender equality themes
- 8 activities by national chapters funded through a project support mechanism
- 361 women beneficiaries of project activities





FORO NACIONAL DE
M U J E R E S
DE PARTIDOS POLÍTICOS



The Forum of Women in Political Parties (FONAMUPP) of Panama is a non-governmental, non-profit organization with the objective of promoting the political participation of Panamanian women with equal opportunities and conditions. FONAMUPP has been active for 25 years and has played a strong role in advocating for electoral reforms in favour of parity.

Key details on 2022 activities

- 19 training and awareness-raising sessions held on the importance of women's leadership
- 10 chapter strengthening training sessions held
- 171 youth reached through programs to promote gender-responsive leadership
- 936 women beneficiaries of project activities





MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLAMERICAS OPEN PARLIAMENT NETWORK



Dear colleagues,

The year 2022 was decisive for the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network (OPN) in our efforts to continue consolidating legislative openness as an institutional policy across all parliaments of the Americas and the Caribbean.

Throughout the year, we organized and participated in regional, hemispheric, and global open parliament events and activities that brought together more than 100 parliamentarians from the Americas and the Caribbean, as well as over 120 parliamentary staff from the parliaments of the hemisphere.

Through these forums, commitments, action plans, and initiatives to promote transparency and access to information, accountability, citizen participation, and ethics and probity, we are making progress towards our central objective: to mainstream legislative openness in parliamentary affairs and procedures.

One of our main activities was the 6th Gathering of the OPN, entitled “Integrity Matters: Building Stronger Democracies,” hosted by the Chamber of Senators of Paraguay. On that occasion, more than 180 representatives of parliaments, international and civil society organizations, and youth from 19 countries gathered virtually to identify good practices that foster a culture of integrity across society and public institutions, including in parliaments.

During the gathering we presented the Road Map towards Legislative Openness 2.0. This updated version was enriched by the experiences of parliaments in the region in recent years and the results of co-creation processes undertaken by parliaments and civil society organizations.

I invite you to consult and share this document, where you will find tips and good practices to guide legislative openness efforts at both the individual and institutional levels.

This year we also implemented regional activities. For instance, we convened the presiding officers of Caribbean parliaments to offer them a working forum to address their specific needs in terms of legislative openness.

On a separate note, I would like to highlight the participation of parliamentarians in hemispheric and global spaces dedicated to legislative openness. As an example, I would like to share our contributions to the Memorandum on Parliamentary Engagement of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), presented at the OGP Global Summit, where we also organized the Parliamentary Day.

I would like to conclude this brief overview by thanking the work of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament—a space that recognizes the critical role of parliamentary staff in the advancement and success of the legislative openness agenda in the region.

In light of the new challenges ahead of us, it is increasingly crucial to ensure that our parliaments are committed to an agenda of transparency and integrity that is inclusive and effectively represents the demands of our fellow citizens.

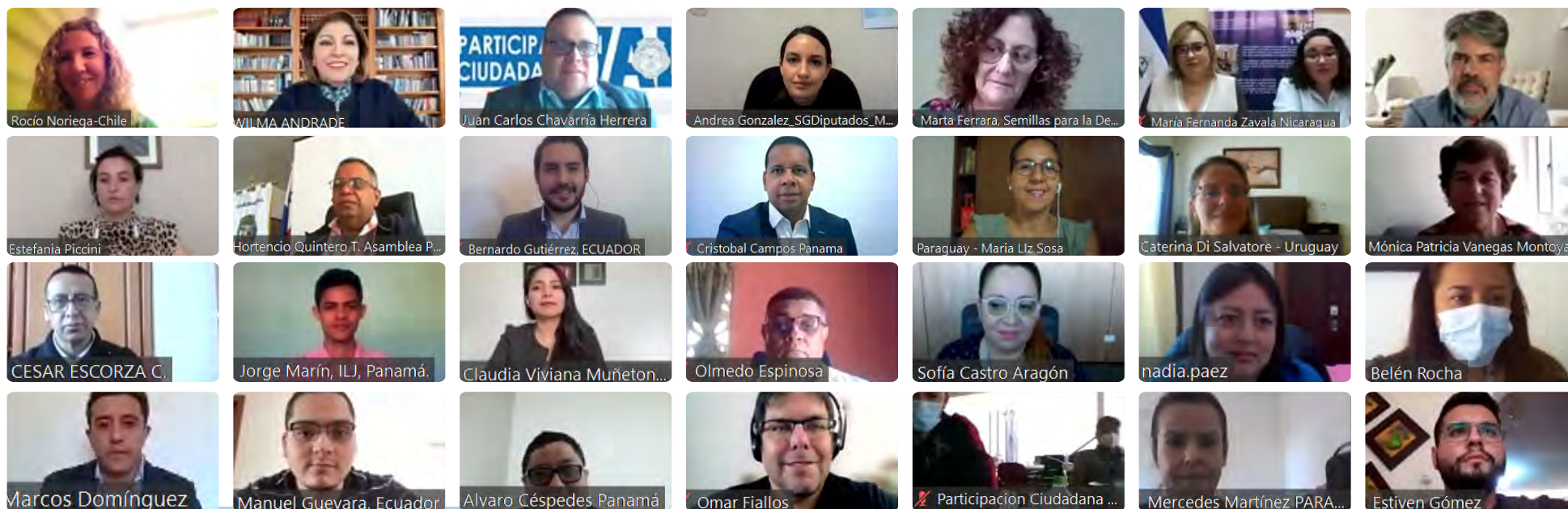
We look forward to your continued support next year.

Sincerely,


Javier Macaya Damián


Senator, Chile
President of the Open Parliament Network

.....
 FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER @JAVIER MACAYA




#ParlAmericasOPN #OpenParliament

 **THEMES:** Open parliament

 **DATES:** January 28, 2022

 **LOCATION:** Virtual

 **PARTICIPANTS:** Parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, and representatives of civil society organizations from 14 Latin American countries

 **HOST:** The National Assembly of Ecuador



This activity aligned with SDG 16.



4th Meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament

The fourth meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament (PSNOP) brought together parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, and representatives of civil society organizations from Latin America to reflect on regional progress on legislative openness through the exchange of experiences and lessons learned, as well as to discuss the impact and results of this agenda from the public's perspective.



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Opening remarks:

- Member of the National Assembly **Wilma Andrade** (Ecuador), Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas OPN

Dialogue moderators:

- **Bernardo Gutiérrez**, Advisor, Thematic Parliamentary Group on Open Parliament, National Assembly of Ecuador, and Regional Coordinator for South America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament
- **Nelly González**, Legal Advisor to the President, National Assembly of Panama, and Regional Coordinator for Central America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament
- **Juan Carlos Chavarría**, Director of the Citizen Participation Department, Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica, and Regional Coordinator for Central America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament
- **Fredy Erazo**, General Coordinator of the Transparency Unit, Senate of Mexico, and Regional Coordinator for North America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament

Presenters:

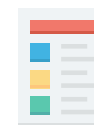
- **María Liz Sosa**, Director General, General Directorate of Institutional Development and External Cooperation, Chamber of Senators of Paraguay
- **Mónica Vanegas**, Head of the Citizen Services Office, Congress of the Republic of Colombia
- **Álvaro Céspedes**, Advisor to the President, National Assembly of Panama
- **Juan Manuel Cheppi**, Secretary General, Chamber of Deputies of Argentina
- **Claudia Muñeton**, Advisor to the President on the Action Plan, Chamber of Representatives of Colombia
- **Caterina Di Salvatore**, General Directorate, Chamber of Senators of Uruguay
- **Rocío Noriega**, Advisor to the Bicameral Transparency Group, National Congress of Chile
- **Luisa Pazmiño**, Citizen Participation Specialist, National Assembly of Ecuador
- **Andrea González**, Advisor to the General Secretariat, Chamber of Deputies of Mexico

Panellists:

- **Marta Ferrara**, Executive Director, *Semillas para la Democracia*
- **Jorge Marín**, participant in the Youth Legislative Impact program
- **Fabio Almeida Lopes**, Legislative Analyst, Chamber of Deputies of Brazil, and Director of Public Policy, Bússola Tech

Closing remarks:

- **Luis Rojas**, Deputy Secretary, Chamber of Deputies of Chile, and General Coordinator of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament



[FULL AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



[PRESENTATIONS](#)



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Working groups

Open parliament advances: From co-creation to implementation

The working groups provided participants with an opportunity to exchange good legislative practices related to open parliament that have been successfully implemented in several of the region's parliaments.

The dialogues also addressed some of the challenges and opportunities arising from co-creation processes, highlighting, among other issues, the difficulties created by the pandemic and the adjustments to parliamentary work resulting from the health restrictions, the need to institutionalize open parliament initiatives in legislatures, and the importance of maintaining open communication with civil society organizations engaged in co-creation processes.



Panel on the impacts of legislative openness from the public's perspective

Considering the resolute progress made in the implementation of open parliament models and initiatives in the different legislatures of the hemisphere, it is relevant to assess their results for society.

The panellists thus shared their thoughts on the main impacts of the implementation of open parliament initiatives, providing insight on central issues such as the progress made in building trust between parliaments and civil society organizations, the importance of establishing broad and democratic co-creation processes, and achievements in terms of expanding mechanisms and spaces for citizen participation in parliamentary work.



KEY FINDINGS

Main conclusions of the working groups:

- The participation of parliamentary staff has been essential to ensuring the ownership and sustainability of legislative openness processes, especially considering the changes in executive groups, committees, etc. The active engagement of actors such as general secretariats, planning departments, and information and communication technology departments is therefore vitally important to ensure that these efforts do not become isolated and are instead part of the institutional policy of the parliament.
- In complement to the point above, staff members have highlighted the need to establish training programs on legislative openness for parliamentary staff that involve a broad spectrum of individuals and departments.
- Co-creation processes with civil society organizations are seen as stronger when they create inclusive spaces for and mainstream the participation of historically marginalized social groups. Some good practices demonstrate the importance of gender mainstreaming in co-creation plans and engaging women's organizations (Chamber of Deputies of Argentina). Similarly, the experience of engaging Afro-descendant populations in collective construction exercises has been valuable (Chamber of Representatives of Colombia).
- Although the restrictions resulting from the health measures implemented to contain the effects of the pandemic initially posed a challenge to parliamentary work, they eventually served as catalysts for many of the ongoing digitization processes in parliaments (virtual sessions, digitized signatures, strengthening of cybersecurity, among others), which, ultimately, have contributed to legislative openness co-creation and implementation processes.

Resources

- [Road Map towards Legislative Openness](#). ParlAmericas, 2016.
- [Guide to Develop Open Parliament Action Plans, Executive Summary](#). ParlAmericas, 2019.

Presentations

- [Reflections on the Progress made towards Legislative Openness by the Senate of the Republic of Colombia](#), presented by Mónica Vanegas, Head of the Citizen Services Office, Congress of the Republic of Colombia (in Spanish)
- [New Website of the Chamber of Deputies of Mexico](#), presented by Andrea González, Advisor to the General Secretariat, Chamber of Deputies of Mexico (in Spanish)
- [New Internal Regulations of the Chamber of Deputies of Brazil](#), presented by Fabio Almeida Lopes, Legislative Analyst, Chamber of Deputies of Brazil, and Director of Public Policy, Bússola Tech (in Spanish)



#ParlAmericasOPN

TITLE: Integrity Matters: Building Stronger Democracies

THEMES: public integrity, legislative openness

DATES: March 9, 15 and 22, 2022

LOCATION: Will either be Virtual, or City, Country

PARTICIPANTS: More than 180 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and representatives of civil society and youth organizations from 19 countries of the Americas and the Caribbean.

HOST: Chamber of Senators of Paraguay



This activity aligned with SDG 16.



6th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

The 6th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network (OPN) brought together parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and representatives of youth and civil society organizations from the Americas and the Caribbean to discuss public integrity, recognizing its importance not only in preventing and fighting corruption, but as one of the fundamental pillars of democratic governance.



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Opening remarks:

- Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President of ParlAmericas
- Senator **Hermelinda Alvarenga de Ortega** (Paraguay), Second Vice-President of the Chamber of Senators
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Ana Lucía Delgado** (Costa Rica), First Vice-President for Central America of the OPN
- Member of the National Assembly **Wilma Andrade** (Ecuador), Vice-President for South America of the OPN

Keynote Speakers:

- **Delia Ferreira**, Chair, Transparency International
- **Daniel Ortega Nieto**, Senior Governance Specialist, World Bank
- **René Fernández Bobadilla**, Minister Executive Secretary of the National Anticorruption Secretariat, Paraguay
- **Julio Bacio Terracino**, Head of Division, Public Sector Integrity, OECD
- **Radivoje Grujic**, Democratic Governance, OSCE

Dialogues moderated by:

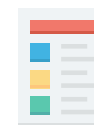
- The Hon. **René Cormier** (Canada), Senator and Second Vice-President for North America of the OPN
- The Hon. **Bridgid Annisette-George** (Trinidad and Tobago), Speaker of the House of Representatives and Vice-President of ParlAmericas
- Member of Parliament **Robert Nesta Morgan** (Jamaica), Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for information
- Senator **Amado Florentín Cabral** (Paraguay)
- The Hon. **Joseph Isaac** (Dominica), Speaker of the House of Assembly and member of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas
- His Honour **Reginald Farley** (Barbados), President of the Senate

Panellists:

- Senator **Jorge Querey Rojas** (Paraguay)
- The Hon. **Juan Edghill** (Guyana), Minister of Public Works
- **Karina Kalpschtrej**, Director of Institutional Strengthening, Poder Ciudadano
- **Svenja Bonnecke**, Chile Transparente
- **Elvis Acosta**, representative of the Leading with Integrity Program, Espacio Cívico
- **David Salmon**, member of the Youth Parliament of Jamaica
- **Luís Kimaid**, Executive Director, Bússola Tech
- Member of the National Assembly **Corina Cano Córdoba** (Panama), Second Vice-President for Central America of the OPN
- Senator **Juan Antonio Coloma** (Chile)
- Member of the National Assembly **Wilma Andrade** (Ecuador), Vice-President for South America of the OPN

Closing remarks:

- Senator **Javier Macaya** (Chile), President of the OPN
- The Hon. **Carolyn Trench-Sandiford** (Belize), President of the Senate and ParlAmericas Board Member



[FULL AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



[VIDEO RECORDING](#)



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout the three sessions of the event, participants, panellists, and subject-matter experts addressed, among other topics, the main considerations that should be included in a robust public integrity strategy, according to some of the most recognized international standards and instruments in this field, and explored mechanisms for promoting civil society participation in the processes needed to foster an inclusive culture of integrity.

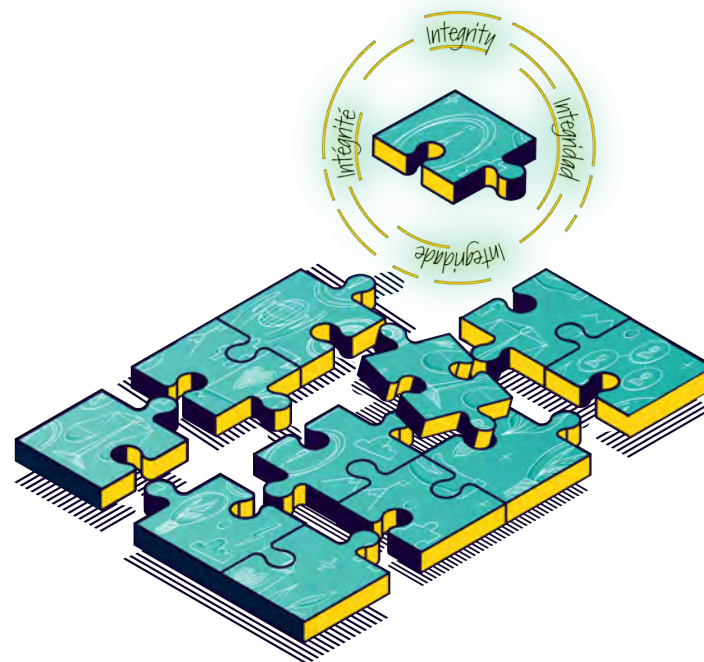
In addition, the meeting provided a space for the exchange of good legislative practices related to public integrity and the discussion of new challenges and trends in strengthening integrity both in parliament and in different public agencies, especially considering conflict of interest management and public integrity systems, while taking into account the post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery processes.



KEY RESOURCES

The Road Map towards Legislative Openness 2.0 was officially launched during the gathering, and documents and materials related to public integrity were shared. They are available at the following links:

- [Road Map towards Legislative Openness 2.0](#), ParlAmericas (2022)
- [Corruption Perceptions Index](#), Transparency International (2021)
- [Public Integrity in Latin America and the Caribbean 2018-2019](#), OECD (2019)
- [Behavioural Insights for Public Integrity](#), OECD (2018)
- [Recommendation of the OECD Council on Public Integrity](#), OECD (2017)



Parliamentary Dialogue with Civil Society and Youth Representatives (March 9)

Main reflections during the session:

- Fostering a culture of integrity is an aim that should involve not only the branches of the state but society as a whole, collaborating to ensure that interactions between the public and private sectors, civil society and natural persons are mediated by the highest legal and ethical standards and always prioritize the public interest.
- The state needs to promote spaces for dialogue and consultation to ensure the substantive participation of a broad and diverse spectrum of social actors in the processes of building a culture of inclusive integrity, with the incorporation of gender and intersectional perspectives.
- As acknowledged by multilateral organizations such as the World Bank, substantive civil society participation in efforts to promote public integrity and safeguard the public interest requires that competent institutions collect and publish data disaggregated by gender and other variables that reflect the differential impacts of corruption, particularly on historically marginalized groups.
- The socioeconomic effects of corruption are especially severe among these historically marginalized groups, perpetuating inequality and poverty and posing a barrier to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Inter-Parliamentary Dialogue (March 15)

Main reflections during the session:

- Public integrity systems based on preventive and corrective mechanisms for promoting ethical behaviour and probity among public authorities and officials are essential to the fight against corruption and, by extension, to ensuring good governance.
- International trends and standards related to public integrity recommend that corruption be addressed not through isolated and unconnected cases, but with a comprehensive approach based on three main pillars: a consistent and complete integrity system, a culture of public integrity, and effective accountability mechanisms.
- Public integrity systems should incorporate mechanisms and instruments ensuring that decision-making processes are carried out under the highest ethical standards. With regard to parliaments, it is relevant to adopt or strengthen binding and consensual codes of ethics and conduct for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff that address the prevention of misconduct, establishing investigation processes and mechanisms, including channels for requesting information and filing reports, and setting forth sanctions.
- Codes of conduct, ethics committees, conflict of interest regulations, and updated regulations on the regime of incompatible activities are some of the instruments and good practices that can be implemented by parliament to reduce the risks associated with corrupt practices and strengthen integrity in the legislative branch.

Plenary Session (March 22)

During the session, the following parliamentary delegations presented some of the legislative initiatives that they have been undertaking in different areas to continue to promote legislative openness: Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, Saint Lucia.



Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President of ParlAmericas

"Fostering a culture of integrity is an essential condition, not only for fighting corruption—a complex phenomenon that is unfortunately prevalent and has profound effects—but also for strengthening good governance, creating more productive economies and promoting more inclusive societies."



Senator **Hermelinda Alvarenga de Ortega** (Paraguay), Second Vice-President of the Chamber of Senators

"National integrity systems must be part of broader political and social strategies that foster a culture of integrity in society. The success of the legal framework for fighting corruption depends, to a significant extent, on social ownership of the values and principles of integrity."



Delia Ferreira, Chair, Transparency International

"Parliaments play a central role in providing the public sector in general with all the necessary tools to guarantee a culture of integrity (...) parliaments must approve and update regulations on transparency, access to public information, public contracting, public ethics, and procedural laws against impunity for corruption."



Senator **Javier Macaya** (Chile), President of the OPN

"As identified by the Recommendation of the OECD Council on Public Integrity, strengthening public integrity is an objective that should involve not only the branches of the state but society as a whole, in order to build a culture of integrity in which interactions between the public and private sectors, civil society and natural persons are mediated by the highest legal and ethical standards."



The Honourable **Joseph Isaac** (Dominica), Speaker of the House of Assembly and member of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas

"As parliamentarians, we are called upon to exercise oversight to limit opportunities for corruption in all government decision-making processes, as well as to discuss and pass legislation to promote public integrity. We are also responsible for ensuring the development of good practices and codes of conduct in parliament and in the performance of our duties, leading by example and in accordance with the highest ethical standards."



ELECTIONS RESULTS AND DECLARATION

The Executive Committee of the OPN thus includes the following members:

President

Javier Macaya Danús, Senator (Chile)

First Vice-President - North America

Bertha Alicia Caraveo Camarena, Senator (Mexico)

Second Vice-President - North America

René Cormier, Senator (Canada)

First Vice-President - Central America

Ana Lucía Delgado Orozco, Member of the Legislative Assembly (Costa Rica)

Second Vice-President - Central America

Corina Cano Córdoba, Member of the National Assembly (Panama)

Vice-President - South America

Wilma Andrade Muñoz, Member of the National Assembly (Ecuador)

Vice-President - The Caribbean

His Honour **Reginald Farley**, President of the Senate (Barbados)

Results of the Elections for the Open Parliament Network's Executive Committee 2022-2024

His Honour **Reginald Farley** (Barbados), President of the Senate, was elected by acclamation to serve as Vice-President for the Caribbean, the only position for which an election was held during the gathering.

Declaration

The 6th Gathering of the Open Parliament Network concluded with the reading of the [declaration](#). The commitments made by the participating parliamentary delegations included the following:

- Foster the adoption and improvement of codes of conduct for public servants in the entire state apparatus, in accordance with the highest standards of ethics, probity, and transparency, pursuant to the [Lima Commitment](#) and the [Inter-American Convention against Corruption](#) of the Organization of American States, the [United Nations Convention against Corruption](#), and the [OECD Recommendation on Public Integrity](#).
- Promote among competent authorities the importance of developing continuous training programs for public authorities and officials to support the correct, honourable, and appropriate performance of their functions that also take into account the relationship between public integrity, human rights, and gender equality as well as promote a better understanding of the risks of corruption inherent in the performance of their duties.
- Promote the participation of the private sector and civil society, academia, community-based movements and grassroots organizations, specialists, and other social actors in the development, regular updating, and implementation of national public integrity strategies, especially focusing on the inclusion of women and historically marginalized groups to ensure that their experiences are taken into account at every stage of the process.
- Advocate for horizontal and vertical cooperation among public officials, entities, and agencies at all levels of public administration to avoid duplication and exchange lessons learned and good practices in the fight against corruption and the strengthening of public integrity.
- Advocate for the strengthening of mechanisms established for whistleblower protection and bolster existing national legislation to encourage both citizens and public officials to report acts that violate public integrity standards and affect the public interest.



#ParlAmericas #OpenParliament
#OpenAmericas

THEMES: Legislative openness, transparency, accountability, citizen participation, ethics and probity

DATES: September 28, 2022

LOCATION: Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

PARTICIPANTS: More than 75 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, youth, and representatives of civil society and international organizations from 11 countries in the region attended the event

CO-ORGANIZER: Chamber of Deputies of the Dominican Republic



This activity is aligned with SDG 16.



Inter-Parliamentary Meeting: Promoting Legislative Openness in the Region

During the Open Americas regional conference, ParlAmericas and the Chamber of Deputies of the Dominican Republic organized an inter-parliamentary meeting with the objective of promoting strengthened parliaments in the region through legislative openness. Parliamentarians and representatives of international organizations and civil society participated in a panel and working groups, outlining progress on open parliament efforts in the region, including good practices during co-creation processes and initiatives related to transparency, accountability, citizen participation, and ethics. The importance of continuing to advance this agenda, while incorporating a gender perspective and initiatives to expand the participation of women in these processes, was highlighted throughout this forum.



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Opening:

- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Alfredo Pacheco Osoria** (Dominican Republic), President of the Chamber of Deputies
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Nelsa Shoraya Suárez Ariza** (Dominican Republic), Secretary of the Board of Directors and Host of the Inter-Parliamentary Meeting
- Senator **Bertha Caraveo** (Mexico), Vice-President for North America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network (OPN)

Panellists:

- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Carolina Delgado** (Costa Rica), ParlAmericas Board Member
- **María Barón**, Global Executive Director, Directorio Legislativo
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Vlado Mirosevic** (Chile), ParlAmericas Board Member
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Elíaz Báez de los Santos** (Dominican Republic)
- Member of the National Assembly **Nathalie Arias** (Ecuador)
- **María Liz Sosa**, Director General, Directorate of Institutional Development and External Cooperation, Chamber of Senators of Paraguay
- **Rosario Pavese**, Regional Lead for South America, Senior Parliamentary Advisor (Global), Open Government Partnership

Working group leads:

- Senator **Bertha Caraveo** (Mexico), Vice-President for North America of the ParlAmericas OPN
- Member of Congress **Karina Paz** (Guatemala)

Moderators:

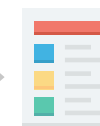
- **Guadalupe Valdez** (Dominican Republic)
- **Rocío Noriega**, Advisor to the Bicameral Group on Transparency, National Congress of Chile

Closing:

- Member of the National Assembly **Corina Cano** (Panama), Vice-President for Central America of the ParlAmericas OPN
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Nelsa Shoraya Suárez Ariza** (Dominican Republic), Secretary of the Board of Directors and Host of the Inter-Parliamentary Meeting

KEY CONCLUSIONS FROM THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY DIALOGUE.

- Strengthening transparency and access to information, accountability, citizen participation, and ethics and probity is an urgent need and a commitment for those who recognize legislative openness as an essential principle of good governance.
- Broadening participatory spaces as well as strengthening the availability of virtual mechanisms for participation would enable citizens to meaningfully engage in public affairs and parliamentary decision-making processes.
- Public integrity should be an objective not only for the branches of government, but for society as a whole in order to build a culture of integrity based on the highest legal and ethical standards for all interactions between the public and private sectors, civil society, and individuals.
- Although several countries in the region have a legal framework for citizen participation, there is still much work to be done in terms of citizen ownership and their participation through these mechanisms.



[FULL AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLAMERICAS PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE



Dear colleagues,

It was a particularly active year for the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change (PNCC) as we continued to offer parliamentarians from the Americas and

the Caribbean spaces to promote increased ambition on climate actions and exchange good legislative practices to confront the critical environmental issues. We also had the privilege of launching our Parliamentary Staff Network on Climate Change to recognize and foster the crucial role of parliamentary staff in advancing environmental policy.

I would like to highlight the work related to sectoral decarbonization and the need to meet the central goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C. The 6th Gathering of the Network brought together more than 160 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, specialists, and representatives of youth and civil society organizations from more than 25 countries of the Americas and the Caribbean to explore legislative measures for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the region's highest emitting sectors: energy, transportation, and agriculture, forestry, and other land uses.

The Gathering concluded with the adoption of a declaration that established a series of commitments that favour a multisectoral, systemic, and just transition towards a low-emissions world. These commitments echoed the mandates of Accelerating the Clean, Sustainable, Renewable, and Just Energy Transition and Our Sustainable Green Future adopted at the IX Summit of the Americas.

As a Network we also collaborated with other organizations working on environmental issues, as highlighted in our participation in the Latin American and the Caribbean Climate Week organized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the government of the Dominican

Republic. We carried out a session that explored legislative strategies for promoting the empowerment and participation of rural women in building sustainable food systems by implementing climate-smart and gender-sensitive agricultural models to improve food security, restore degraded land and soil, and build sustainable economies underpinned by support for women's access to land ownership. Many of these issues will continue to shape our agenda in the coming year as we continue to explore the relationships between climate change and gender.

Lastly, I had the opportunity to attend the UNFCCC COP27 which led to the adoption of the loss and damage fund, a fundamental achievement for all the Global South. I also participated in COP15 for the Convention on Biological Diversity, which led to the agreement of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Through the PNCC and the UNFCCC Parliamentary Group we will continue to monitor developments on these initiatives and facilitate the participation of parliamentarians in related decision-making spaces.

From the PNCC, we look forward to continue generating forums and tools to support your commitment to ensuring a sustainable future for people and the planet.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Rosa Galvez

Senator, Canada
President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change

.....
 FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER @SENROSAGALVEZ




#ParlAmericasCC #CircularEconomy

 **THEMES:** Circular economy

 **DATES:** April 6, 2022

 **LOCATION:** Virtual

 **PARTICIPANTS:** More than 40 parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from Trinidad and Tobago accompanied by experts representing academia, the private sector, and regional organizations

 **ORGANIZING PARTNER:** The Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago



This activity aligned with SDGs 5, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14 y 15.



Towards a Circular Economy: A Workshop for Parliamentarians and Parliamentary Staff of Trinidad and Tobago

Recognizing that parliaments can play a key role in supporting the integration of circular economic models through their legislative functions, this national level workshop, in follow-up to the 17th ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly: Towards a Circular Economy, discussed legislative strategies to support a national transition to circularity, such as the review of fiscal incentives or the creation of legal frameworks to promote a green growth, ensuring they respond to the needs of women and marginalized communities. As a framework that decouples economic activity from environmental degradation, a circular economy helps to support green post COVID-19 economic recovery efforts and improve human wellbeing.



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Opening remarks by:

- The Honourable **Bridgid Annisette-George** (Trinidad and Tobago), Speaker of the House of Representatives and Vice-President of ParlAmericas

Panellists:

- Ms. **Vanessa Esslinger**, Circular Economy Specialist & Coordination of the Circular Economy Coalition for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Mr. **David Oswald**, Founder and President, DE Design + Environment Inc., Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographic Society, and Associate Faculty, Royal Roads University
- Dr. **Sherwyn Millette**, Sustainability Consultant at the College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago
- Ms. **Sian Cuffy-Young**, Waste management Educator, Trainer and Founder of Siel Environmental Services Limited

Dialogues moderated by:

- Senator **Anthony Vieira** (Trinidad and Tobago), Vice-President for the Caribbean of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change

Facilitators of SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, and Threats) Analysis:

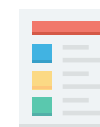
- Ms. **Terriann Baker**, Graduate Research Assistant
- Mr. **Johnson Greenidge**, Procedural Clerk Assistant

Closing remarks by:

- The Honourable **Christine Kangaloo** (Trinidad and Tobago), President of the Senate

MAIN TAKEAWAYS OF THE WORKSHOP

- Transitioning to a circular economy requires examination of the production and consumption models for goods and services across all sectors
- Parliament can advocate for an overarching national strategy on circular economy utilizing incentive mechanisms and standards
- The empowerment and substantive participation of communities, and especially of youth and women, supports behaviour change and can help to ensure that programs and policies are accessible to all
- Regional collaboration strengthens innovation and the opening of the circular economy value chain, which helps to address the challenges faced by small economies in the Caribbean



[FULL AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



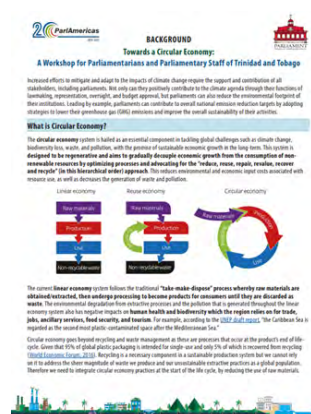
[PRESENTATIONS](#)



[VIDEO RECORDING](#)



[FOLLOW-UP EVENT:
ART EXIBITION](#)



[Background on Circular Economy](#)



#ParlAmericasCC

TITLE: Realizing our Green Future: The Road to Low Emissions

THEMES: Climate change, energy transition, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, transportation, land use

DATES: June 23 & July 5, 2022

LOCATION: Virtual

PARTICIPANTS: More than 160 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, specialists, and representatives of youth and civil society organizations from over 25 countries in the Americas and the Caribbean.

HOST: House of Assembly of Dominica and the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala



This activity is aligned with SDGs 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 15.



6th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Climate Change Network

[The 6th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change \(PNCC\)](#) explored the various legislative initiatives needed to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions within the highest emitting sectors of the region: energy, transportation, and agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU). The event started with an inter-parliamentary dialogue held on June 23, in which participants addressed socially inclusive initiatives needed to promote decarbonization in the transportation and energy sectors. On July 5, the gathering held a plenary session devoted to analyzing strategies needed to improve land use practices, reduce emissions associated with this sector, and foster sustainable agricultural practices that incorporate gender-sensitive approaches. To ensure the Gathering would reflect the importance of inclusive approaches to these themes and incorporate gender and intersectional perspectives, the methodology employed at each session was enriched by contributions from women's organizations, youth movements, and specialists in the field.



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Opening remarks:

- The Honourable **Joseph Isaac** (Dominica), President of the House of Assembly, ParlAmericas Board Member
- Member of Congress **Erick Martínez Hernández** (Guatemala), President of the Committee on Environment, Ecology, and Natural Resources
- Member of Congress **Julio César Longo Maldonado** (Guatemala), Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Congress
- Senator **Raúl Bolaños-Cacho Cué** (México), President of the committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change and Vice-President of the ParlAmericas PNCC

Specialists:

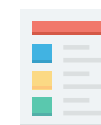
- **Andrea Palma**, GIZ technical advisor for the EuroClima+ Programme
- Dr. **Devon Gardner**, Head of Technical Programmes at the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
- The Honourable **Kerrie D. Symmonds** (Barbados), Minister of Energy and Business Development
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Óscar Izquierdo Sandí** (Costa Rica)
- **Denell Florius**, Youth entrepreneur and Cofounder and COO of EcoCarib
- **Laura Serna**, Escazú youth champion for Colombia
- **Dr. Lake Sagaris**, Researcher and Adjunct Associate Professor at the Institute for Sustainable Development of the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile
- Dr. **Mercedes Bustamante**, Professor at the Department of Ecology at the University of Brasilia and lead author of the IPCC's 6th Assessment Report
- Dr. **Osana Bonilla-Findji**, Science Officer for the CGIAR Program
- The Honourable **Matthew Samuda** (Jamaica), Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation and Co-Chair of the NDC Partnership

Dialogues moderated by:

- Senator **Verónica Camino Farjat** (Mexico), President of the ParlAmericas PNGE
- The Honourable Senator **Rosa Galvez** (Canada), President of the ParlAmericas PNCC
- Member of Congress **Fátima Mena Baide** (Honduras)

Closing remarks:

- Member of the National Assembly **Radjendreckoemar Debie** (Suriname), Vice-President of the ParlAmericas PNCC



[AGENDA JUNE 23](#)

[AGENDA JUNE 5](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



[PRESENTATIONS](#)



[RECORDING](#)



[PODCAST EPISODE](#)

ParlAmericas publication

In accordance with the mandate adopted by Heads of State and Government at the IX Summit of the Americas to promote parliamentary participation as an integral part of the Summit of the Americas process through ParlAmericas, and in response to the PNCC's aim of fostering the exchange of legislative good practices in relation to climate change, ParlAmericas presents the following document detailing how the 6th Gathering of the PNCC integrated the commitments established by the mandates into its themes and declaration: [Accelerating the Clean, Sustainable, Renewable and Just Energy Transition](#) and [Our Sustainable Green Future, adopted at the Summit](#).



[Addressing the commitments made in the environmental mandates adopted at the IX Summit of the Americas](#)



KEY FINDINGS

Inter-Parliamentary Dialogue (June 23)

- It is important that policies designed within the context of the energy transition contemplate actions needed to foster energy independence and empower the citizenry – especially local communities – so that they may autonomously manage energy production, distribution, and consumption more efficiently and in accordance with their ecological, social, economic, and cultural circumstances. Developing and adopting renewable energy sources should leverage processes to make the citizenry an active agent in the energy transition.
- Given that Latin America and the Caribbean have one of the world's highest growth rates in vehicle ownership, it is urgent that we move toward national policies and programmes promoting sustainable urban mobility and modes of active transport. These should draw on gender and intersectional analysis, as mobility and transport use are shaped by social norms and socioeconomic factors that will be experienced differently by women and men. For instance, women are more likely to rely on public transit in the first place due to wage inequalities, and their patterns of use are more likely to be based around care responsibilities. Women are well placed to provide expertise on the design and planning of safe, accessible, and sustainable transport systems.
- Sustainable urban mobility plans should not only stipulate strategies for the electrification of public transport and incentives for zero-emission light, medium, and heavy vehicles, but also contemplate complementary multimodal and interconnected transport strategies that incorporate bicycle use (both traditional and electric) and improve safety conditions for active mobility (pedestrian roads and paths). This systematic approach facilitates mobility for various social groups, regardless of their income, gender, age and skills, so that they can commute easily, affordably and safely.

Plenary Session (July 5)

- The AFOLU sector generates 22% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. However, the sector also has significant potential to reduce emissions on a large scale while benefiting biodiversity and ecosystems, facilitating climate change adaptation, and improving food security.
- The combination of intensified agricultural production processes and indiscriminate logging in forests and other agricultural lands has caused progressive environmental deterioration and is contributing significantly to the climate crisis. This makes it necessary to explore alternative production models like Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA), a comprehensive approach that sustainably boosts productivity, resilience, and adaptation to climate change. If implemented in combination with gender and intersectional perspectives, this model could significantly contribute to the improvement of land use and living conditions in rural communities.
- Despite being key players in world agri-food systems, female producers and entrepreneurs often face structural obstacles that restrict their autonomy and empowerment, impacting their ability to make strategic decisions in the AFOLU sector. This is why it is imperative that we incorporate cross-cutting gender perspectives in the development, review and implementation of policies, legislation, and programmes related, among other things, to women's access to agricultural technology, technical assistance, productive resources, and security in support of land ownership and management.



The Honourable **Joseph Isaac** (Dominica), President of the House of Assembly

"In the case of Small Island Developing States like Dominica, climate change is real: it is evident in the frequency and severity of hurricanes, flooding, droughts and other disasters as a result of natural hazards, so this topic is most relevant and therefore, positive outcomes from our discussion today will add meaningful value that all of us can use in the implementation of bold climate action."



Senator The Honourable **Rosa Galvez** (Canada), President of the PNCC

"The decision to dedicate this gathering to addressing the pressing need to accelerate the energy transition is not a coincidence: as noted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, despite significant progress on climate action the current levels of climate ambition will not be sufficient to limit the global average temperature to well below 2°C, which is one of the key objectives of the Paris Agreement."



Senator **Raúl Bolaños-Cacho Cué** (Mexico), President of the committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change and Vice-President for North America of the ParlAmericas PNCC

"It is essential that we ensure women equal access to agricultural technology, technical assistance, productive resources and security in land ownership and management. Ensuring that women can access land would generate countless benefits, such as substantial improvements to their living conditions, better nutrition within their communities and greater economic independence."



Member of Congress **Erick Martínez Hernández** (Guatemala), President of the Committee on Environment, Ecology, and Natural Resources and President of the Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change

"Despite generating only 0.06% of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide, Guatemala has been gravely impacted by the effects of climate change. That is why the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala has been prioritizing environmental efforts, including two working groups: one addressing decarbonization and another in charge of the Water Law."



Member of the National Assembly **Radjendrekoeemar Debie** (Suriname), Second Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas PNCC

"As one of the most climatically, ecologically, and biologically diverse regions in the world, it is important that we understand the varied impacts of climate change as well as our opportunities for emission reduction specific to our national context."



ELECTION RESULTS AND DECLARATION

Election results for the Executive Committee of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change, 2022-2024

Member of the Legislative Assembly **Oscar Izquierdo Sandí** (Costa Rica) was elected by acclamation to the position of Vice-President for Central America.

The new Executive Committee of the PNCC is as follows:

President

- Senator **Rosa Galvez** (Canada)

Vice-President - North America

- Senator **Raúl Bolaños-Cacho Cué** (Mexico)

Vice-President - Central America

- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Óscar Izquierdo Sandí** (Costa Rica)

First Vice-President - South America

- Member of the National Assembly **Luis Bruno Segovia Mejía** (Ecuador)

Second Vice-President - South America

- Member of the National Assembly **Radjendrekoeemar Debie** (Suriname)

Vice-President - The Caribbean

- Senator **Anthony Vieira** (Trinidad and Tobago)


Declaration


During the Gathering, parliamentarians adopted a [declaration](#) that, among other policies, commits to:

- Promote the adoption of policies that favour a just transition to low-emission energy systems, through measures aimed at strengthening clean energy generation, promoting energy efficiency, bolstering efforts to gradually phasedown the unabated coal power and phase-out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, re-directing investment efforts to inclusive approaches that ensure the provision of clean energy services to vulnerable populations that have historically suffered from deficiencies in access to electricity grids, in accordance with the [Glasgow Climate Pact](#).
- Increase and facilitate the representation of women in decent, quality jobs in the renewable energy sector through measures that include, among others, the strengthening of parental leave models, the improvement of women's access to public transport systems, the promotion of the education of women and girls in STEM careers and in capacity building programs that include scholarships.
- Promote the incorporation of gender and intersectional approaches in the budgeting and financing of climate action and the energy transition in a way that responds to principles of equity and sustainability and considers the particularities related to energy use and demand, means of transport and technology, as well as consumption patterns.
- Implement measures to reduce the environmental footprint of our parliaments taking as a reference [ParlAmericas' Guide on Green Parliaments](#), which includes actions such as establishing an inventory of parliamentary emissions, reducing waste created by parliament, reducing energy and water consumption, and promoting more sustainable forms of transport, among other actions.




#ParlAmericasCC #ClimateWeekLAC

 **THEMES:** Empowerment of rural women, sustainable agriculture, food security

 **DATES:** July 19, 2022

 **LOCATION:** Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

 **PARTICIPANTS:** More than 30 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, youth leaders, and representatives of civil society and multilateral organizations

 **ORGANIZING PARTNER:** Parliamentary Front against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean



This activity is aligned with SDGs 2, 5, 8, 12 and 15.



Towards a Sustainable and Equitable Agri-Food System: The Role of Parliaments

During Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week 2022, a session was organized on legislative strategies to promote the empowerment and involvement of rural women in building sustainable food systems. The various leaders highlighted the role of women and youth in rural work, the obstacles they face in implementing sustainable agricultural practices, and how parliaments can ensure legislation on this theme incorporates their perspectives. Within the framework of the Climate Week, ParlAmericas also presented in the high-level panel, "[Unleashing opportunities of circular economy towards 1.5 degrees temperature goal](#)," on July 20.



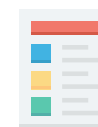
AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Panelists:

- Senator **Verónica Camino Farjat** (Mexico), President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Soraya Suarez** (Dominican Republic), Country Coordinator of the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger
- **Elsa Sánchez** (Dominican Republic), Federación de Caficultores del Sur (Federation of Coffee Growers of the Southern Region) - Articulación Nacional Campesina (National Rural Worker Articulation)
- **Sara Cognuck González** (Costa Rica), UNICEF consultant and co-founder of the Youth and Climate Change Network

Moderator:

- **Guadalupe Valdez**, FAO Special Goodwill Ambassador for Zero Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean



[FULL AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)




[PRESENTATION](#)


KEY CONSIDERATIONS OF THE PARALLEL SESSION:

- Ecological farming in rural communities can incentivize a reduced use of natural resources, increase community resilience, and produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions.
- In most cases, public policies are developed without consulting rural and Indigenous women, concentrating more on urban contexts. In this sense, there is a clear need to significantly improve their involvement. Parliaments can be key actors, by including these women in the debate and approval of laws, the review of bills, and seeking their inclusion in budgets to achieve real participation in state projects to finance the sector.
- Public agendas need to recognize the demands of rural women, guarantee their rights and contemplate inclusive approaches and strategies within the framework of programs and policies to ensure the economic, social and political empowerment of rural women.
- Promoting the political participation of rural women and youth, through the creation of leadership capacities, negotiation and consensus building, is a fundamental step in encouraging them to reach decision-making positions and ensures that rural perspectives are properly represented in parliamentary discussions.




#ParlAmericasCC #COP27

 **THEMES:** Together for Implementation

 **DATES:** November 6-18, 2022

 **LOCATION:** Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

 **HOST:** Government of Egypt



This activity is aligned with SDGs 5, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, & 15.



Parliamentary delegation to COP27

ParlAmericas participated at the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) with Senator the Honourable Rosa Galvez (Canada), President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change (PNCC) and Senator Raúl Bolaños-Cacho Cué (Mexico), Vice-President for North America of the PNCC who also participated in their official country delegations. ParlAmericas, as part of the UNFCCC parliamentary group, organized an in-person meeting for Latin American parliamentarians at COP27. In the margins of COP27, the delegates participated as panellists and moderators in the Interparliamentary Union COP27 Parliamentary Meeting and in the GLOBE COP27 Legislators Summit, respectively.



KEY OUTCOMES & PARLIAMENTARY ACTION POINTS AFTER COP27

OUTCOMES:

COP27 concluded with the [Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan](#), which for the first time mentions food security, nature-based solutions, tipping points, the right to a healthy environment, and a transformation of the financial system and its structures and processes. Countries reaffirmed their commitment to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C by the end of the century. However, according to a [UNFCCC report](#), the fulfilment of current climate pledges will result in a 2.5°C increase. With these projections in mind, governments were requested through the Implementation Plan to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their national climate plans by the end of 2023.

Other [initiatives](#) and [decisions](#) include the breakthrough agreement on a new “[loss and damage](#)” fund for vulnerable countries; adopting a [four-year Action for Climate Empowerment action plan](#) under the Glasgow work programme; the [implementation of the gender action plan](#); the [Debt Coalition Initiative](#); the [launch of the Early Warnings for All Action Plan](#), among others. For more outcomes, read IISD’s Summary [report](#) for COP27.

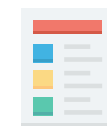
ACTION POINTS:

Through their oversight and other legislative responsibilities, **parliamentarians can play pivotal roles in holding the executive branch accountable to the climate commitments made at COP27, and to other multilateral environmental agreements – like the [Convention of Biodiversity](#)**, ensuring that words become action.

- Examine if your country has or plans to strengthen their [Nationally Determined Contribution](#) and whether it has, or is working on, developing a [Long-Term Climate Strategy](#).
- Assess whether the national climate commitments and plans of your country are compatible with the goals of the [Paris Agreement](#), including the 1.5°C temperature limit, and how they contribute to meeting national development priorities, including gender equality.
- Identify if your country has/is developing a gender and climate change national plan detailing how different sectors and plans are considering both these issues holistically.
- Request that your country’s government officials, national negotiation team, and/or parliamentary delegation to COP27 present the national commitments made at COP27 to the committee(s) responsible for environmental protection and climate action and/or in the plenary.
- Request progress reports on the environmental and climate commitments made at COP27, through one or more committees assigned responsibility to monitor the implementation of commitments.
- Examine how the commitments made at COP27 and national climate commitments can be promoted and implemented through existing or new legislation and adequate budget allocation.



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



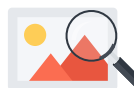
[AGENDA: In person meeting for legislators of Latin America in the Framework of COP27](#)



[COP27 1st COMMUNICATION: Supporting parliamentary participation](#)



[PUBLICATION: Parliaments and the Paris Agreement](#)



[FLICKR](#)

Thank you

for being part of ParlAmericas in 2022.

We look forward to building on these successes with your continued support!

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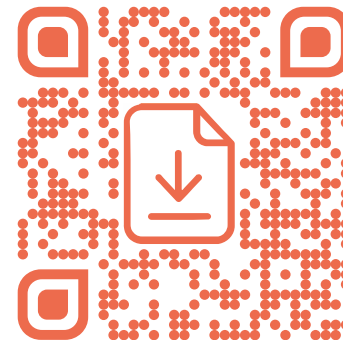
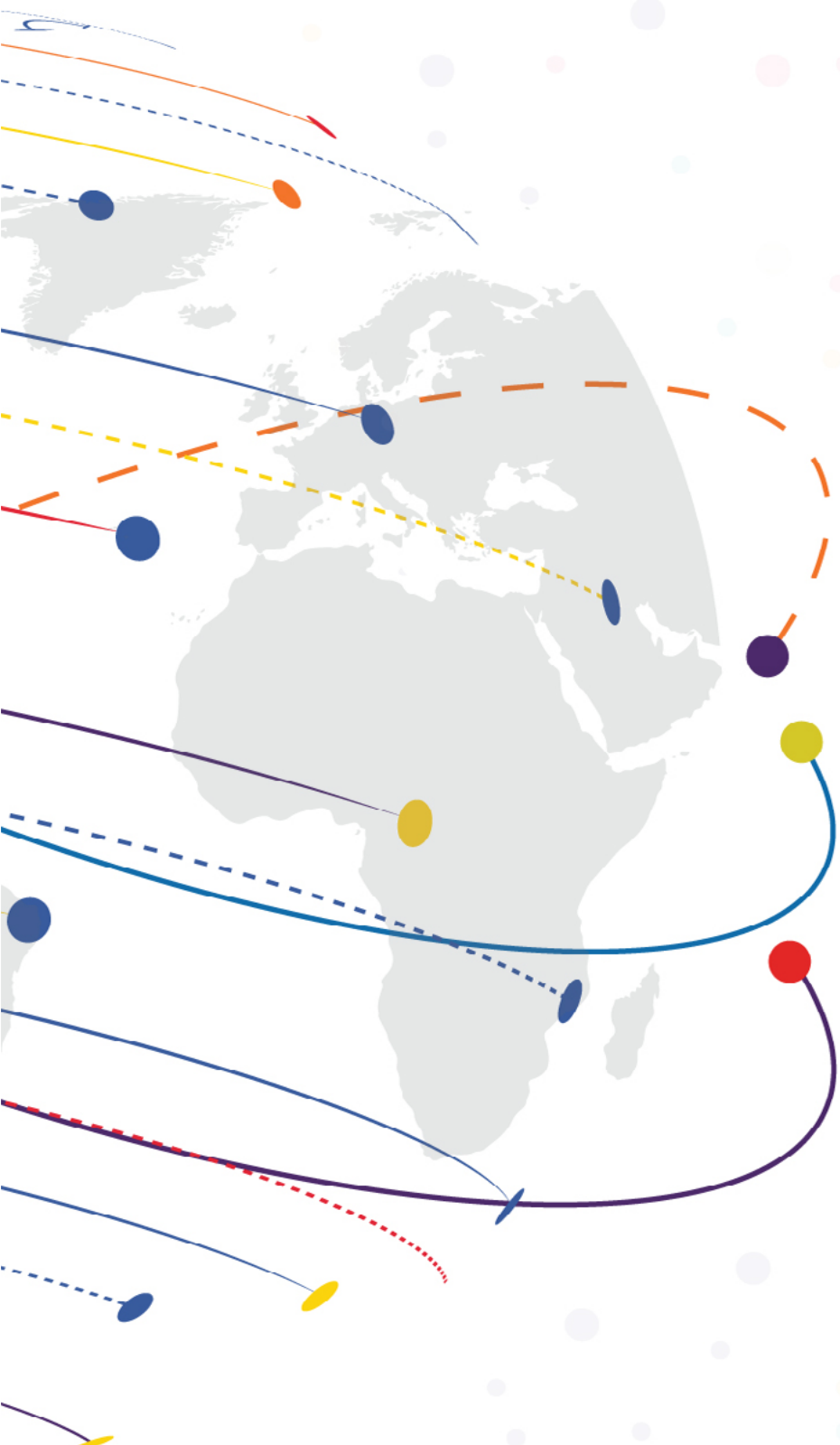
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