



YEAR IN  
HIGHLIGHTS  
**2024**

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,

As we look back on the impactful work carried out in 2024, it is my privilege to share highlights of ParlAmericas' achievements this past year and extend my gratitude for your commitment to strengthening parliamentary diplomacy

across our hemisphere. This year, through its challenges and opportunities, reaffirmed ParlAmericas as a key platform for fostering parliamentary dialogue, collaboration and innovation.

In 2024, ParlAmericas consolidated its role as a bridge between national parliaments in the hemisphere and the inter-American system. In March, a parliamentary delegation visited Washington, D.C., to engage with key Organization of the Americas States (OAS) committees and executive secretariats. During these meetings, we presented a proposal to institutionalize parliamentary engagement in the OAS, underscoring ParlAmericas' commitment to fostering multilateral dialogue and addressing shared regional priorities. This work culminated in the adoption of a resolution at the 54th OAS General Assembly, which highlighted the value of interparliamentary dialogue and established mechanisms for deeper collaboration between ParlAmericas and the OAS.

Additionally, the Chamber of Senators of Paraguay had the honour of welcoming parliamentary colleagues and friends to my beloved Asunción for the 20th ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly and the 8th Gathering of the Open Parliament Network. This joint event reflected ParlAmericas' collaborative spirit, reaffirming the critical role of parliaments in promoting human rights, gender equality and citizen participation.

ParlAmericas has broadened its areas of work to address some of the hemisphere's most pressing priorities, such as security, migration, climate change and digital transformation. In the face of new challenges, it is crucial to adopt an approach grounded in regional cooperation to create coordinated responses. Through meaningful parliamentary exchanges of experiences and good practices, we can shape effective and forward-thinking legislative solutions.

ParlAmericas has demonstrated its capacity to collaborate with key regional and international partners, establishing impactful partnerships. In November

2024, I represented ParlAmericas at the G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20) in Brazil, where I shared insights on advancing gender equality and sustainable development, emphasizing the vital role of parliamentary diplomacy. ParlAmericas' participation in these initiatives reflects our dedication to positioning parliaments as indispensable actors in regional and international efforts. We look forward to continuing to expand and deepen these collaborations.

Looking ahead, ParlAmericas is poised to actively engage in the Summits of the Americas process, guided by the Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance, which includes a mandate to promote parliamentary engagement through ParlAmericas as an integral part of the Summits process. Honouring that recognition, in 2025 we will advance activities to meaningfully involve parliamentarians in discussions tied to the agenda of the X Summit to be held in the Dominican Republic, ensuring that legislators contribute effectively to the process.

I invite you to review and share this document, which details the results of our collective efforts, the tools and publications developed to support legislative work, and the dialogues that have been held.


In closing, I wish to emphasize the importance of continued solidarity and multilateral cooperation in addressing the pressing challenges of our region. Together, through our shared commitment to democracy, we will continue to build a more equitable and prosperous future for the Americas and the Caribbean.

Thank you for your dedication, invaluable contributions and unwavering support.

Sincerely,

*Blanca Ovelar*

**Senator, Paraguay**  
**President of ParlAmericas**

 FOLLOW ME ON X @OVELAR\_BLANCA

# MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENTS OF THE PARLAMERICAS NETWORKS

## THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK FOR GENDER EQUALITY



Dear colleagues,

In 2024, ParlAmericas strengthened its leadership in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the region's highest-priority legislative agendas. Our parliamentary exchanges have addressed issues such as migration governance, sustainable development and the use of emerging technologies, always applying an intersectional and human rights-based approach.

Throughout the year, the PNGE consolidated key partnerships with forums of women politicians in the region, promoting women's political participation in conditions of equality and free of violence. We also redoubled our efforts in the development of legislative programs focused on youth, strengthening the capacities of emerging women political leaders and encouraging their participation in decision-making.

We launched innovative tools, such as the [Parliamentary Practices for Gender Equality Dashboard](#), which allows viewers to explore parliaments' progress in adopting institutional measures related to gender equality. This achievement was possible thanks to the valuable technical support of the Parliamentary Staff Network for Gender Equality.

Thank you for your commitment. Let us continue to build a more prosperous future for all people in our hemisphere.

Sincerely,

*Verónica Naemi Camino Farjat*

**Senator, Mexico**

**President of the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality**

FOLLOW ME ON X @VERONICACAMINO

## THE OPEN PARLIAMENT NETWORK



Dear colleagues,

2024 was a year of significant progress for the OPN in its commitment to strengthening democratic governance and promoting human rights across the Americas and the Caribbean. Through initiatives such as the OPN annual gathering and our participation in the Open Americas regional conference, we have expanded the reach and relevance of the open parliament model, while examining the impact of technological advancements in addressing both the challenges and opportunities faced by our countries. We have also worked closely with Caribbean parliaments to explore the potential of the digital economy and advance technological transformation in the region.

In this context, the Digital Caucus has played a key role creating spaces for analysis on digital transformation and the impact of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI). Similarly, the Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament has explored how AI can enhance parliamentary processes, creating

new opportunities to improve efficiency, transparency, citizen participation, and accountability.

As part of these efforts, this year we organized a meeting on regional security strategies, featuring important discussions on cybersecurity and digital threats in our countries. Technological transformation is crucial, and as legislators, it is our responsibility to ensure regulatory frameworks that protect the data and privacy of those we represent.

With optimism, we look ahead to 2025, confident that these advancements will open new opportunities to strengthen our democracies.

Sincerely,

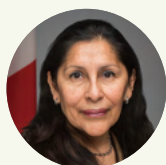
*Javier Macaya Danús*

**Senator, Chile**

**President of the Open Parliament Network**

FOLLOW ME ON X @JAVIER MACAYA

# MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENTS OF THE PARLAMERICAS NETWORKS



Dear colleagues,

In 2024, the PNCCS oriented its discussions around critical issues shaping our region's collective climate action, such as advancing environmental governance through the Escazú Agreement, unlocking the economic and social benefits of renewable energy investments, addressing climate-induced human mobility, and bolstering disaster prevention and response amid escalating climate-related risks.

This year, PNCCS members played active roles in high-level international and regional forums, including UNCCD COP16, UNFCCC COP29, CBD COP16, the SIDS Conference, and the INC-4. Through these engagements, they amplified the parliamentary voice in multilateral spaces, highlighting the essential role of legislatures in driving climate action, advancing environmental governance, and ensuring the effective translation of international agreements into national policies.

Additionally, a new partnership with the International Science Council allowed us to launch a pilot program connecting parliamentarians with leading

## THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY

scientists to promote evidence-based legislation and enhance parliamentary capacity to address complex climate challenges.


Looking ahead to 2025, the UNFCCC COP30 in Brazil presents a defining opportunity for the Americas and the Caribbean to demonstrate leadership in climate action. Parliaments will be instrumental in providing oversight and ensuring that updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) align with ambitious climate mitigation and adaptation commitments.

The PNCCS remains committed to fostering inclusive, cross-sector collaboration towards a greener, more sustainable hemisphere that keeps alive the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement.

Sincerely,

*Rosa Galvez*

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

 FOLLOW ME ON X @SENROSAGALVEZ

## OPERATIONS AND FINANCES

ParlAmericas' operations and activities in the 2024 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.

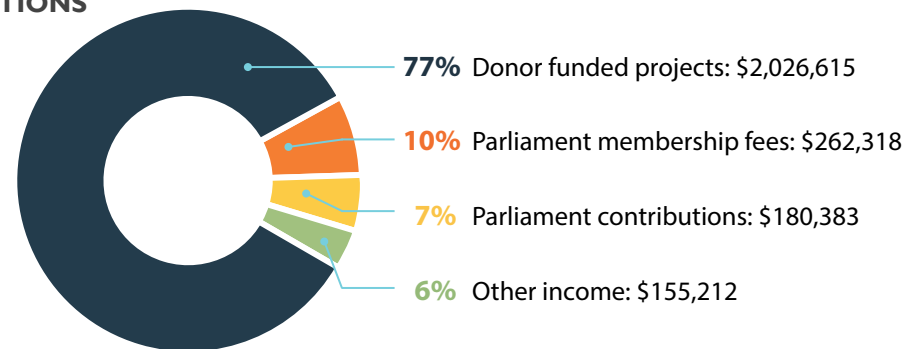
**Note:** The in-kind contributions included in ParlAmericas' financial statements are recorded when fair values can be reasonably estimated and supporting documentation is provided by the member parliament. We recognize that the amount shown is a fraction of the overall value of in-kind support provided 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.

\* A small amount of other income captured in ParlAmericas' financial statements is derived from partner cash contributions and has been reclassified accordingly.

**Source:** ParlAmericas' audited financial statements as of September 17, 2024, and the corresponding annual financial report prepared for the ParlAmericas Board of Directors and member parliaments.

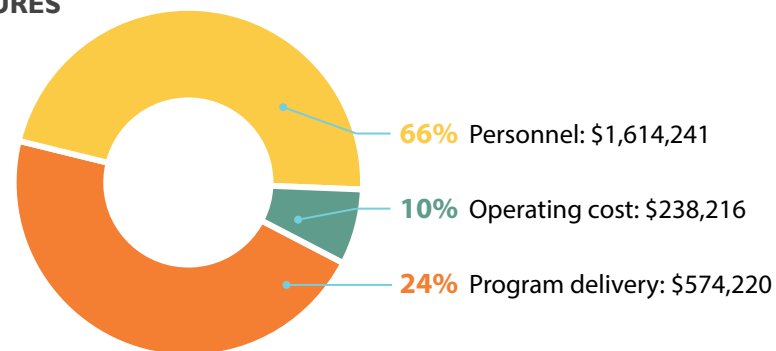
### CONTRIBUTIONS

\$2,624,528



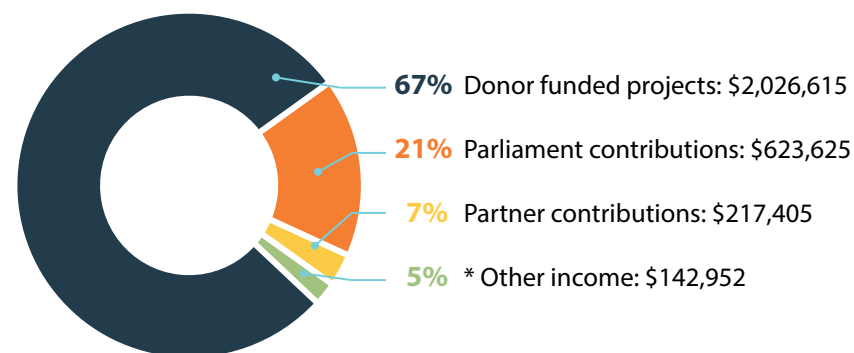
### EXPENDITURES

\$2,426,677



### INDICATIVE VALUE OF TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

\$3,010,597





# 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**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President and President of the

Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality

Senator, Mexico

**Javier Macaya**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President and President of the Open Parliament Network

Senator, Chile

**The Honourable Rosa Galvez**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President and President of the Parliamentary

Network on Climate Change and Sustainability

Senator, Canada

ParlAmericas is run by parliamentarians for parliamentarians, with a Board of Directors representing 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

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# 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.



## COLLABORATION MECHANISMS



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.



The **Expert Group on Parliaments and Digital Policy**, hosted by IPU and UNDP, is a global space convening parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, academics and representatives from international organizations to exchange information, good practices and materials to support parliaments in their work related to digital policy, digital transformation and AI, among other topics.

## 2024 ACTIVITIES

January

24 - 25

Participation in the virtual 2024 Caribbean Clerks Programme organized by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch

March

5

Virtual regional meeting of the Forums of Women in Political Parties "Building More Equal Democracies: Women's Political Participation and Leadership"

6

Virtual meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament

12 - 14

ParlAmericas Parliamentary Delegation to Washington, D.C., United States

13

Virtual meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Climate Change and Sustainability

22

Virtual dialogue "The Future of Work and Labour Rights: Challenges and Opportunities of Artificial Intelligence" organized by the ParlAmericas Digital Caucus

April

24 - 26

Participation in the #FoodFirst Ibero-American Political-Academic Dialogue organized by the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger of Latin America and the Caribbean and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Antigua, Guatemala

May

8 - 10

20<sup>th</sup> ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly and 8<sup>th</sup> Gathering of Open Parliament Network "Building Partnerships to Strengthen Democracy and Promote Human Rights" organized with the Chamber of Senators of the Congress of the Republic of Paraguay

16 - 17

Participation in advisory group on the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) Inter-American Model Law on Parity in Public and Political Life

25 - 27

Participation in the Gender Equality Forum and 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Saint John's, Antigua and Barbuda

29

Participation in the Young Women Empowered to Serve (YES!) Leadership Programme organized by the Women Parliamentarians of Trinidad and Tobago (WPTT) caucus

June

12 - 14

Participation in the second edition of LegisTech "Artificial Intelligence in Parliaments" organized by the Chamber of Deputies of Chile and Bússola Tech in Valparaiso, Chile

25

National-level meeting for parliamentary staff on open, inclusive and sustainable parliaments organized with the Chamber of Deputies of Paraguay; and for women parliamentarians on parity organized with the Chamber of Senators of Paraguay and the CIM

25 - 27

Participation in the OAS General Assembly in Asunción, Paraguay

26 - 28

Participation in the First International Congress on Open State and Governance organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Open Government Academic Network (RAGA), and the National University of Costa Rica (UNA)

July	10 - 11	Interparliamentary meeting "Beyond Borders: Regional Security Strategies" organized with the Congress of the Republic of Peru
	15	Simulated parliamentary sessions of the Young Women in Leadership (YWiL) – Grenada program organized with Caribbean Women in Leadership (CIWiL), the CIWiL Grenada National Chapter, and the Houses of Parliament of Grenada
August	8	Virtual meeting "Tying the Threads Together: Parliamentary Actions to Advance International Agreements on the SIDS and Gender Equality" organized with the UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean, and CIWiL
	13	Virtual meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament
	13 - 14	Participation in international summit "Artificial Intelligence: Technological Challenges to Development" in Lima, Peru
	28	Virtual meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Climate Change and Sustainability
	30	Virtual meeting "Legislative Strategies to Strengthen Digital Identity Governance" organized by the ParlAmericas Digital Caucus

## September

- 7 - 8** Interparliamentary meeting "The Role of Parliaments in Transforming Digital Economies in the Caribbean" organized with the U.S. Congress House Democracy Partnership (HDP) and the support of the National Democratic Institute (NDI), International Republican Institute (IRI), USAID, CARICOM, and Florida International University
- 24** Virtual meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network for Gender Equality
- 25** Virtual meeting "Parliamentary Action for Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness in the Caribbean" organized with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean, UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean, and the World Food Programme (WFP) Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean
- 26** National-level meeting on AI and its impact on parliamentary transparency organized with NDI Colombia and the Transparency Directorate of the Chamber of Deputies of Argentina

## October

- 2** National-level meeting for women parliamentarians on political participation; and for parliamentary staff on inclusive citizen participation organized with the Congress of Guatemala
- 3 - 4** Participation in IDEA International regional dialogue "How to Prevent Democratic Backsliding in Latin America? Experiences and Initiatives to Strengthen Institutions and Democratic Resilience" in Antigua, Guatemala
- 18** Participation in IPU/UNDP expert consultation on parliamentary engagement in digital policy
- 23 - 25** 8<sup>th</sup> Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and Sustainability and 16<sup>th</sup> Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality "Migration in the Context of Socio-Environmental Challenges" organized with the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica and the Forum of Presidents of Legislative Bodies of Central America and the Caribbean (FOPREL)



October	<b>October 23 to Nov 1</b>	Participation in the 16 <sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP16) of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Cali, Colombia
	<b>25</b>	Participation in and partnership on the meeting "Promoting Women's Political Participation in Conditions of Equality and Free from Violence" organized by the Costa Rica Forum of Women in Political Parties and the Costa Rica Electoral Tribunal
	<b>30 - 31</b>	Participation in the XVI Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in Bridgetown, Barbados
	<b>30 - 31</b>	Participation in regional gathering of parliamentarians from Latin America and the Caribbean "Towards an Inclusive, Just, Sustainable and Parity Democracy" in Panama City, Panama
November	<b>6 - 8 and 15</b>	Participation in 10 <sup>th</sup> Summit of Presidents of G20 Parliaments (P20) and G20 Social Summit in Brasilia, Brazil
	<b>12 - 18</b>	Participation in 29 <sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Baku, Azerbaijan
	<b>18 - 19</b>	Participation in and partnership on the first Caribbean edition of the "Course for Electoral Candidates" organized by the CIM/OAS with CIWiL and the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

## November

- 20** Virtual meeting "AI Tools for Parliaments" organized with HDP and POPVOX Foundation
- 22** National-level meeting "Building Safe, Inclusive, and Violence-Free Digital Spaces" organized with the National Assembly of Panama and the Ministry of Women of the Republic of Panama in collaboration with the Forum of Women of Political Parties of Panama (FONAMUPP), the Association of Women Parliamentarians and Former Parliamentarians of Panama (APARLESPA), and IRI
- 27** Participation in Misión 1.5 program for Costa Rican young women leaders "Young Women's Parliament for the Climate"
- 28** Participation in the legislative forum "Peace and Security in the Era of Artificial Intelligence" organized by the Chamber of Representatives of Colombia

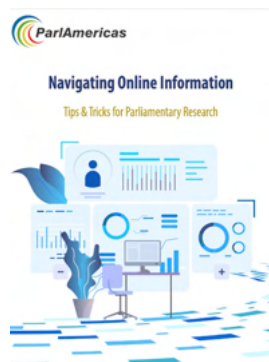
## December

- 3 - 5** Participation in the Open Americas Regional Conference and co-organization of Open Parliament Day "Open Parliament and Innovations for the Future" with the Chamber of Deputies of Brazil and the Open Parliament Global Network (OPeN) in Brasilia, Brazil
- 4 - 6** Parliamentary meeting "Making the Work of Parliaments Responsive to the Needs of Women and Men" organized with the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, UN Women Caribbean, and CPA
- 11 - 12** Participation in high-level meeting celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Summit of the Americas in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
- 12 - 13** Participation in OAS VII Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology (VII REMCYT) in Washington, D.C., United States

# 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](#).



Navigating Online Information:  
Tips & Tricks for  
Parliamentary Research



Inclusive Migration  
Governance in the Americas  
and Caribbean:  
A Primer for  
Parliamentarians



Making the Case: Key Gender  
Considerations for Addressing  
Development Challenges in  
Caribbean SIDS



Policy Brief for Legislating  
on Sexual Violence with a  
Consent-based Approach



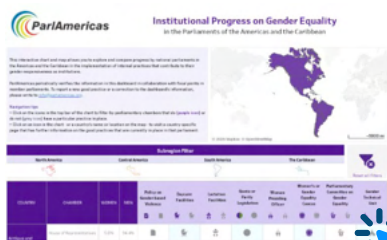
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Subscribe to the [ParlAmericas Channel](#), where you can access video content of our ParlAmericas activities.

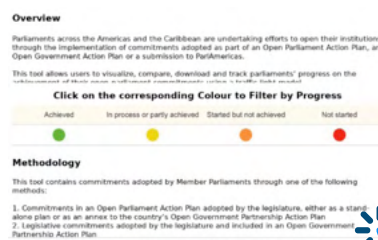
# PARLAMERICAS DASHBOARDS

ParlAmericas continues to expand and enhance its suite of dashboards designed to showcase and track progress on key legislative initiatives. These tools allow parliamentarians and other stakeholders to explore and compare country-level data on priority themes.



## Parliamentary Practices for Gender Equality Dashboard

Explore the gender-responsive practices that have been adopted by national parliaments across the Americas and the Caribbean with this interactive dashboard. Users can navigate data through a dynamic map and charts and access detailed information on the good practices and policies currently in place.



## Open Parliament Commitment Tool

Track and compare progress on the open parliament commitments made by legislatures in the Americas and the Caribbean. This dashboard features downloadable data and intuitive visual indicators related to the status of commitments under the pillars of the ParlAmericas Road Map Towards Legislative Openness 2.0.



## Mapping Environmental Strategies and Sustainability Initiatives

Consult details on the environmental and climate strategies and plans adopted by the Governments of the Americas and the Caribbean. This one-stop resource systematizes information related to biodiversity, desertification, the circular economy, women's representation in climate negotiation spaces, and more.

## CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Over the last few years, ParlAmericas has collaborated with member parliaments and civil society organizations to publish children's books which parliamentarians can use in their outreach activities to connect with young people about what it means to serve their community.

In 2024, ParlAmericas partnered with the General Direction of Institutional Development and External Cooperation of the Senate of Paraguay to produce *Yeruti and the Superheroes for the Planet*, a story available in [Spanish](#) and [Guaraní](#) that introduces how parliament works and concepts about climate change and leadership in a way that is accessible for children.

Visit the ParlAmericas [website](#) to read this and other books and to access complementary materials like learning guides.





# ACTIVITY REPORTS





**EVENT:** 20th ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly and 8th Gathering of the Open Parliament Network

**THEMES:** Democracy, human rights, inclusive digital governance, parliamentary diplomacy, open parliament

**DATES:** May 8, 9 and 10, 2024

**LOCATION:** Asunción, Paraguay

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 90 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, representatives of international and civil society organizations and academia from 22 countries in the Americas and the Caribbean

**HOST:** Chamber of Senators of Paraguay



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



## Building Partnerships to Strengthen Democracy and Promote Human Rights

This meeting provided a space for exchanging actions and strategies related to democracy and human rights. It considered challenges and future opportunities, parliamentary mechanisms for promoting human rights, media pluralism, and the impact of new technologies on digital governance. Additionally, the meeting fostered dialogue on democratic and inclusive participation and explored strategies to strengthen regional cooperation, reaffirming the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in consensus-building based on shared democratic principles.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening remarks:

- Senator **Silvio Ovelar** (Paraguay), President of the National Congress
- Hon. Representative **Catherine Juvinao** (Colombia), Vice-President for South America of ParlAmericas' Open Parliament Network
- Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President of ParlAmericas

### Dialogues moderated by:

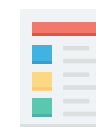
- Hon. Senator **Rene Cormier** (Canada), Vice-President for North America of the Open Parliament Network
- Senator **Esperanza Martínez** (Paraguay)
- Member of the Chamber of Representatives **Rodrigo Goñi** (Uruguay), President of the Committee on the Future
- Senator **Osbert Frederick** (Antigua and Barbuda), Vice-President of the Senate
- Hon. **Julie Lashell Adderley** (The Bahamas), President of the Senate
- His Honour **Arthur E. Holder** (Barbados), Speaker of the House of Assembly and ParlAmericas Board Member
- Member of Parliament **Nathalie Sinclair-Desgagné** (Canada)
- Hon. **Carolyn Trench-Sandiford** (Belize), President of the Senate and ParlAmericas Board Member

### Specialists:

- **Marta Lagos**, Director and Founder, Corporación Latinobarómetro
- Dr. **Rosina Wiltshire**, International development and human rights specialist
- Dr. **María Fernanda Boidi**, Director of Fieldwork and Regional Partnerships, LAPOP Lab at Vanderbilt University, United States
- **Renee Atwell**, Founder & Executive Director, Girls of Impact
- **Francisco Samaniego**, Executive Project Coordinator, Center for Information and Resources for Development (CIRD by its Spanish acronym)
- **Ernesto Fernández Polcuch**, Regional Director and UNESCO Representative to Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay
- **Lorena Zapata**, News Director, Esfera Pública
- **Lika Døhl Diouf**, Associate Programme Management Officer, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean - ECLAC
- **Jorge Srur**, South Regional Manager, CAF - Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean
- **Valentina Muñoz Rabanal**, Founder, Young Women for Ideas Association
- **María Celina Conte**, Director, Summits of the Americas Secretariat, Organization of American States - OAS
- **Jimena Arias Feijóo**, Social Affairs Officer of the Secretariat of the Commission, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean - ECLAC

### Closing remarks:

Senator **Derlis Maidana** (Paraguay), Member of the Special Committee on Open Parliament



[AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



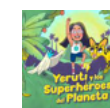
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Senator **Silvio Ovelar** (Paraguay), President of the National Congress

*"Our unity not only strengthens democracy and dialogue between nations but also enables us to share experiences and find joint solutions to the challenges we face as a region."*



Hon. Representative **Catherine Juvinao** (Colombia), Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

*"There are many challenges before us, and in this meeting, by sharing our experiences, knowledge, and legislative agendas, we will return to our congresses, parliaments, and countries with clear ideas and pathways to address the crises of democracy and human rights."*



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

*"As representatives of our fellow citizens, we feel compelled to join forces in the defense and promotion of democracy, its institutions, its achievements, and its gains. [...] Democracy remains the best model for ensuring the framework of freedoms under which societies can achieve peace, prosperity, equality, inclusive development, and security."*



Dr. **Rosina Wiltshire**, specialist in international development and human rights

*"UN Women research shows that when women are in power, overlooked policy issues, which are central to human rights, democracy, and peace, tend to be given higher priority. So we have a better chance of addressing the challenges if more women are in leadership."*



Hon. **Julie Lashell Adderley** (The Bahamas), President of the Senate

*"To ensure inclusive and democratic political and social debate, it is essential to advocate for media pluralism, broad civic space, and the limiting of misinformation and hate speech, as the latter issue also has the potential to influence democratic processes."*



Hon. Senator **René Cormier** (Canada), Second Vice-President for North America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

*"As parliamentarians, we have the critical responsibility and important opportunity to work, through the different angles and functions of our roles, towards democratic strengthening and the promotion and protection of human rights."*



**María Celina Conte**, Director, Summits of the Americas Secretariat, Organization of American States - OAS

*"It is through the Summit process that parliamentarians have a crucial opportunity not only to influence the preparation and identification of priorities that the States turn into consensual mandates for the region but, most importantly, to concretely convert and transfer those mandates and commitments into public policy or to promote legislation during the implementation phase."*



Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Duda Salabert** (Brazil)

*"If we want to deepen the defense of democracy, that means fostering greater diversity in parliament. Without democracy, there will be no forests. Without democracy, there are no human rights. Without democracy, there is no diversity. Without democracy, there is no sustainable development."*



**Valentina Muñoz Rabanal**, Founder, Young Women for Ideas Association, Chile

*"When we talk about digital governance, we always end up discussing dilemmas of authority and power as well. That is why it is so important and necessary to focus on groups that have been historically marginalized and vulnerable around the world, such as children, adolescents, and women. What happens when it comes to young women? There is double discrimination: we face both adultism and gender stereotypes."*



## ELECTIONS RESULTS

During the gathering, new members were elected for the vacant positions on the ParlAmericas Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the Open Parliament Network.

### The following parliaments were elected to be part of the ParlAmericas Board of Directors:

Representatives of the Caribbean

- Dominica
- Saint Lucia

Representatives of Central America

- Belize
- Guatemala
- Panama

Representatives of South America

- Chile
- Peru

### The Executive Committee of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network is composed as follows:

President

- Senator **Javier Macaya Danús** (Chile)

First Vice-President – North America

- Senator **Bertha Alicia Caraveo Camarena** (Mexico)

Second Vice-President – North America

- Hon. Senator **René Cormier** (Canada)

First Vice-President – Central America

- Member of the National Assembly **Luz Mary Alpízar** (Costa Rica)

Second Vice-President – Central America

- Member of the National Assembly **Corina Cano** (Panama)

First Vice-President – South America

- The Hon. Representative **Catherine Juvinao** (Colombia)

Second Vice-President – South America

- Member of the National Assembly **Luzmila Abad Morocho** (Ecuador)

Vice-President - Caribbean

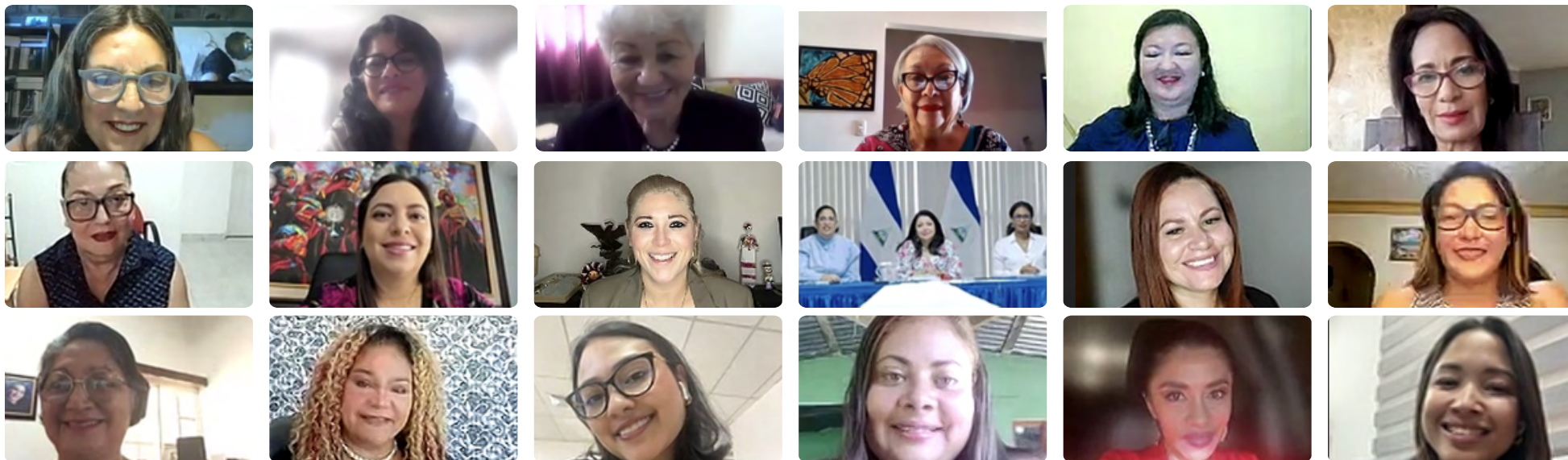
- The Hon. **Leo Cato** (Grenada), Speaker of the House of Representatives




## DECLARATION

During the gathering, parliamentarians adopted a [declaration](#) that, among its commitments, includes:

- Unequivocally safeguard democracy, human rights, gender equality and the rule of law through our legislative work, guided by our convictions grounded in cooperative political dialogue, consensus building, the peaceful resolution of differences and the maintenance of peace and security.
- Coalesce our efforts to face the growing challenges to democracy and human rights around the world by rejecting authoritarianism, corruption and attempts to undermine the rule of law, and by participating in cooperative and inclusive political dialogue.
- Strengthen and update electoral and political party laws using as a guide the principles of impartiality, neutrality, inclusiveness, representation, transparency and equality, taking into account the recommendations issued by election observation missions and civil society organizations.
- Develop legal reforms in support of women's political rights that promote parity and include provisions for financing women's candidacies; and strengthen political oversight to ensure compliance with existing regulations guaranteeing conditions for women's political participation to be equal and free from violence
- Strengthen and expand civic space and mechanisms for citizen participation, particularly in parliamentary work, so that decision making processes incorporate the views and contributions of citizens, and especially those of population groups historically marginalized from public affairs, such as women, youth, Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant people, people with disabilities, and older persons, among others.
- Actively participate through ParlAmericas in the different multilateral spaces of the Inter-American System to, through the exercise of parliamentary diplomacy, influence international decisions that impact the well-being of our citizens, exchange good legislative practices to contribute to actions that address common problems and support consensus building under shared democratic principles.



 **THEMES:** Women's leadership and political participation, gender-based political violence, parity

 **DATE:** March 5, 2024

 **LOCATION:** Virtual

 **PARTICIPANTS:** More than 70 women parliamentarians, former parliamentarians and representatives of political parties women's organizations from Central America and the Dominican Republic



*This activity is aligned with SDGs 5, 16 and 17.*



## Building More Equal Democracies: Women's Political Participation and Leadership

In the framework of International Women's Day, and as a follow-up to the [First Regional Gathering of the Forums of Women in Political Parties](#), this session presented inter-American standards for preventing and eradicating gender-based political violence. It also covered strategies to achieve parity in political representation, addressing the current challenges and opportunities for women's participation.

The Forums of Women in Political Parties also shared experiences and good practices to strengthen their role as key organizations for the advancement of gender equality in the region.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Welcoming Remarks:

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

### Panellists:

- **Luz Patricia Mejía**, Technical Secretary of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI) of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS)
- Former Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Marcela Durrieu** (Argentina) and Founder of *Ojo Paritario*

### Moderators:

- Member of Congress **Andrea Villagrán** (Guatemala), Vice-President for Central America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Carolina Delgado** (Costa Rica), President of the Special Permanent Committee for Women, President of the Costa Rica Forum of Women in Political Parties, and ParlAmericas Board Member

### Closing Remarks:

- Member of the National Assembly **Karla Nuñez** (Nicaragua)
- Member of the National Assembly **Shaira Natasha Downs Morgan** (Nicaragua)

### KEY CONCLUSIONS FROM THE MEETING:

- Addressing gender-based political violence and promoting parity in representation are critical avenues for protecting and promoting women's political rights.
- **Key strategies** to guarantee **the right to exercise political activity free of violence and discrimination** include identifying violence against women in public roles, recognizing its various forms (such as ridicule, humiliation, masculinization, sexualization, invisibilization and dehumanization), dismantling gender stereotypes in public discourse, fostering commitment within political parties (based on this [model protocol](#), in Spanish), building networks that promote women's political leadership, and being able to count on men as allies.
- States have an obligation to create regulations that guarantee women a life free of violence and that promote their active participation in debates and electoral processes. Regional standards like the [Inter-American Model Law on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women in Political Life](#) are tools to guide this work.
- **Quota laws** are an affirmative action that can support in overcoming inequality in women's access to public office; they are temporary measures to accelerate political participation. **Parity**, on the other hand, is a permanent organizing principle for political activity, which strives for equal participation that is free from gender discrimination.
- **Forums of Women in Political Parties** can serve as safe spaces in which to share experiences and good practices that can be applied in partisan spheres, with the aim of institutionalizing mechanisms to promote equality and respect women's political rights and achieve significant changes within parties.



[AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)





[VIDEO RECORDING](#)





[PODCAST  
EPISODE](#)



 **THEMES:** Parliamentary Diplomacy, Organization of American States, Inter-American System

 **DATES:** March 12 to 14, 2024

 **LOCATION:** Washington D.C., United States of America

 **PARTICIPANTS:** Parliamentary delegation of 22 parliamentarians representing 17 parliaments from the Americas and the Caribbean



*This activity aligned with SDGs 16.*



## ParlAmericas Parliamentary Delegation to Washington, D.C.

ParlAmericas organized a parliamentary delegation to Washington D.C. to further strengthen its institutional collaboration ties with the Organization of American States (OAS) and engage in high-level discussions with members of the US Congress and representatives of other partner organizations.

The delegation's agenda also included participation in a special joint session of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs and the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities on legislative cooperation. During the session, ParlAmericas presented a proposal to continue improving parliamentary participation in the OAS, which was well-received by Member States.



## BRIEFING SESSIONS WITH SECRETARIATS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

(March 12, 13 and 14)

The delegation held a series of discussions with representatives of different OAS Secretariats to learn in greater detail about the work they are carrying out and exchange perspectives on central issues on the regional agenda, such as the fight against transnational crime, the strengthening of democracy and the rule of law, the advancement of gender equality, the promotion of human rights, climate action and sustainable economic development.

### Dialogue with the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy

- **Francisco Guerrero**, Secretary for Strengthening Democracy and *ex officio* member of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas

### Dialogue with the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

- **Gastón Schulmeister**, Director of the Department against Transnational Organized Crime

### Dialogue with the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development

- **Cesar Parga**, Chief of the Competitiveness, Innovation and Technology Section
- **Jesús Giacoman**, Director of the Department of Human Development, Education and Employment

### Dialogue with the Secretariat for Hemispheric Affairs

- **María Fernanda Trigo**, Director of the Department for Effective Public Management

### Dialogue with the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)

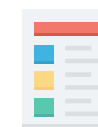
- **Marta Martínez**, Specialist at the Executive Secretariat of the CIM
- **Beatriz Piñeres**, Specialist at the Executive Secretariat of the CIM
- **Yasmin Solitahe Odlum**, Specialist and Coordinator for the Caribbean of the Executive Secretariat of the CIM

### Dialogue with the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)

- **María Claudia Pulido**, Assistant Executive Secretary for Monitoring, Promotion and Technical Cooperation
- **María Clara Nazar**, Specialist in the Technical Cooperation and Public Policy Section

### Dialogue with the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE)

- **Maricarmen Plata**, Secretary for Access to Rights and Equity



[AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



[PHOTO GALLERY](#)





## BRIEFING SESSIONS WITH SECRETARIATS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

(March 12, 13 and 14)





## VISIT TO THE CAPITOL (March 12)

### Meeting with US Senators Ben Cardin and Roger Wicker

The meeting with Senator **Ben Cardin** (Democrat - state of Maryland), Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee, and Senator **Roger Wicker** (Republican - state of Mississippi), ranking member of the Armed Services Committee, was held in follow up to previous exchanges between the senators and ParlAmericas representatives about the need to strengthen parliamentary participation in the OAS.

Building on those discussions and with this common goal, the US senators and delegation members exchanged perspectives on ParlAmericas' role as a coordinating body for parliamentary participation in the OAS.

The ParlAmericas delegation reiterated its willingness to work with the US Congress on concerted solutions to the critical issues affecting the hemisphere.

### Visit to Congress organized in collaboration with the House Democracy Partnership of the United States House of Representatives

The House Democracy Partnership of the United States House of Representatives organized a visit to the US Congress that included a meeting with Representative **Sydney Kamlager-Dove** (Democrat – state of California). During the meeting with Representative Kamlager-Dove, participants addressed issues such as the role of the United States in the region, priorities on the political agenda in the hemisphere and the importance of parliamentary involvement in regional multilateral bodies.

As part of its visit to the US Congress, the delegation also had the opportunity to take a guided tour of the Capitol.





## DIALOGUE SESSIONS (March 12)

### Roundtable with the House Democracy Partnership of the United States House of Representatives, the National Democratic Institute, and the International Republican Institute

The roundtable, dedicated to analyzing the role of parliamentary diplomacy as a safeguard for democracy, was hosted by Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President of ParlAmericas, and **Thomas Hastings**, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Permanent Mission of the United States to the OAS.

The dialogue featured participation by the Honourable **Ileana Ros-Lehtinen**, former US Congresswoman, former Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the US House of Representatives and member of the Board of Directors of the International Republican Institute; the Honourable **Hattie Babbitt**, former Ambassador of the United States to the OAS and member of the Board of Directors of the National Democratic Institute; Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Margarita Stolbizer** (Argentina); and the Honourable **Joseph T. Isaac**, Speaker of the House of Assembly (Dominica).

In their interventions, panellists emphasized the importance of parliamentary diplomacy as a tool for strengthening democracy and regional integration in the hemisphere, promoting and protecting human rights and jointly addressing global phenomena such as climate change, political violence against women and the effects of artificial intelligence on democratic governance.

Closing remarks were offered by Member of Congress **Andrea Villagrán Antón** (Guatemala), Second Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality.





## DIALOGUE SESSIONS (March 12)

### Dialogue on the 10th Summit of the Americas

Looking ahead to the 10th Summit of the Americas, to be held in the Dominican Republic in 2025, the delegation had the opportunity to speak with Ambassador **James Lambert**, Secretary for Hemispheric Affairs of the OAS; Ambassador **Mayerlyn Cordero Díaz**, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the OAS; and the Senator **Ricardo de los Santos Polanco**, President of the Senate (Dominican Republic).

During the session, participants discussed the Dominican Republic's expectations for the 10th Summit, as well as the importance of the Summits of the Americas as the highest political forum of the hemisphere and the role of parliamentarians in implementing and monitoring adopted commitments.

In addition, Senator **Ricardo de los Santos Polanco**, announced that his parliament is working with ParlAmericas on coordinating the parliamentary gathering in the framework of the 10th Summit. It is important to note that ParlAmericas has a [mandate](#) to promote parliamentary participation as an integral part of the Summits of the Americas Process.





## MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAS, LUIS ALMAGRO (March 13)

In his intervention, the Secretary General emphasized that parliamentary diplomacy is a crucial instrument for strengthening dialogue and cooperation to address common issues and challenges that require timely and appropriate legislative responses. In this context, he highlighted that ParlAmericas, as a parliamentary organization established under an OAS resolution, is an indispensable body in the architecture of the Inter-American System and reiterated the need to further strengthen cooperation between the two organizations.

To close, he reaffirmed his willingness to continue expanding spaces for collaboration between the OAS and ParlAmericas. After his remarks, an open discussion was held regarding hemispheric challenges such as the state of democracy, climate change, the regional security situation and the complex situation in Haiti.





## SPECIAL JOINT SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND THE COMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN SUMMITS MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN OAS ACTIVITIES (March 14)

The special joint session on legislative cooperation, held in follow-up to the provisions of an OAS General Assembly resolution, provided Member States and the delegation with the opportunity to discuss the [proposal presented by ParlAmericas](#) for improving parliamentary participation in the OAS.

The proposal, which was presented by Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), provides a road map for regularizing and strengthening parliamentary involvement in the OAS through ParlAmericas. The document was well-received by all Member States. The agenda also included interventions by the Honourable **Bridgid Annisette-George** (Trinidad and Tobago), Speaker of the House of Representatives and Vice-President of ParlAmericas; the Honourable Senator **Ricardo de los Santos Polanco** (Dominican Republic), President of the Senate; and the Honourable Senator **Peter Boehm** (Canada), Chair of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

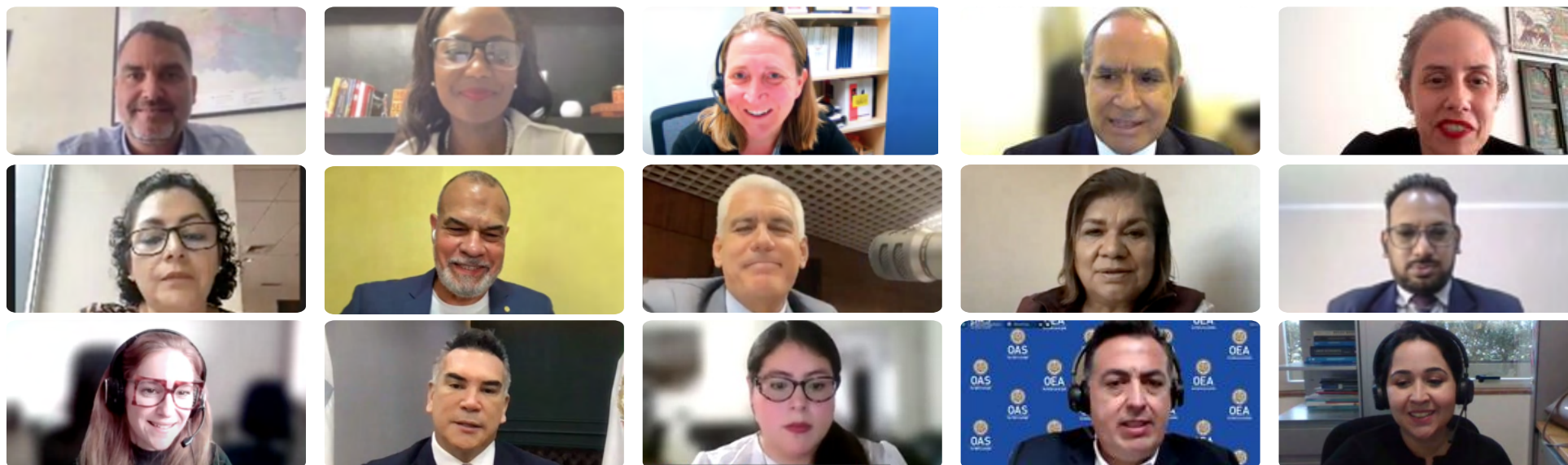
It should also be noted that, prior to the session, Senator **Ben Cardin** and Senator **Roger Wicker** submitted [a letter](#) in which they expressed their approval of ParlAmericas' proposal as a basis for advancing parliamentary participation in the OAS in the immediate future and called on the OAS and its Member States to provide the necessary financial resources to support greater institutional integration with ParlAmericas.





## MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION

- Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President of ParlAmericas
- The Honourable **Bridgid Annette-George** (Trinidad and Tobago), Speaker of the House of Representatives and Vice-President of ParlAmericas
- Senator **Verónica Noemí Camino Farjat** (Mexico), Second Vice-President of ParlAmericas
- Senator **Javier Macaya Danús** (Chile), Second Vice-President of ParlAmericas
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Margarita Stolbizer** (Argentina)
- His Honour **Arthur E. Holder** (Barbados), Speaker of the House of Assembly
- The Honourable **Carolyn Trench Sandiford** (Belize), President of the Senate
- Senator **Peter Boehm** (Canada)
- Member of Parliament **Anthony Rota** (Canada)
- Senator **Germán Blanco Álvarez** (Colombia)
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Carolina Delgado Ramírez** (Costa Rica)
- The Honourable **Joseph T. Isaac** (Dominica), Speaker of the House of Assembly
- Senator **Ricardo de los Santos Polanco** (Dominican Republic), President of the Senate
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Nelsa Shoraya Suárez Ariza** (Dominican Republic)
- Senator **Carlos Manuel Gómez Ureña** (Dominican Republic)
- Senator **José del Castillo Saviñon** (Dominican Republic)
- **Henry Kronfle** (Ecuador), Speaker of the National Assembly
- Member of Congress **Andrea Villagrán Antón** (Guatemala)
- Member of Congress **Yessica Rosselli Amuruz Dulanto** (Peru)
- The Honourable **Alvina Reynolds** (Saint Lucia), President of the Senate
- The Honourable **Marinus Bee** (Suriname), Speaker of the National Assembly



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**THEMES:** Artificial intelligence, labour rights, inclusive digital governance, work

**DATES:** March 22, 2024

**LOCATION:** Virtual

**PARTICIPANTS:** 69 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, and representatives of international organizations and academia from 22 countries in the Americas and the Caribbean.



*This activity aligned with SDGs 5, 8, and 9.*



## The Future of Work and Labour Rights: Challenges and Opportunities of Artificial Intelligence

This virtual meeting addressed labour market changes that are emerging as a result of the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and automation, with consideration to differentiated impacts on the population based on variables such as income level, education, gender, inhabiting rural areas, or belonging to Indigenous communities, among others. In this space for inter-parliamentary exchange, participants highlighted the crucial role of parliaments in promoting inclusive regulatory frameworks and policies that ensure respect for human rights in the development and use of AI.

This activity is part of a series of dialogues being carried out by the ParlAmericas Digital Caucus.





## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening round table:

- Senator **Javier Macaya** (Chile), President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
- Senator **Lisa Jawahir** (Saint Lucia), Vice-President for the Caribbean of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality

### Meeting chair:

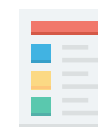
- Senator **Kenneth Pugh** (Chile), Co-Chair of the Digital Caucus of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

### Panellists:

- **Ana Virginia Moreira Gomes**, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Labour Organization (ILO)
- **Livia Gouvêa Gomes**, specialist in the Labor Markets Division of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in Brazil

### KEY CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING:

- Parliaments have a key role to play in proactively developing guidelines for the integration of AI in the labour market. To this end, spaces for ongoing multilateral exchange are important for creating compatible regulatory frameworks given that technologies do not obey borders.
- Establishing multisectoral governance spaces—with active participation from representatives of various sectors in decision-making processes on this issue—contributes to building consensus on public policies and laws that guarantee the application of a comprehensive approach.
- Mainstreaming an intersectional gender perspective in the AI legislative process contributes to reducing existing gaps in the labour market and promoting inclusive and sustainable policies.
- Given the rapid development and innovation that is characteristic of AI, it is essential to establish ethical and legal guidelines that safeguard the protection of personal data, copyright, privacy, and transparency.
- If regulatory guidelines are created in a timely manner, incorporating AI into the labour market will create new jobs and demand for new technical skills in workers, resulting in greater opportunities for complementarity rather than job destruction.



[AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



[PRESENTATIONS](#)



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### YWiL Grenada consisted of three parts:

- 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 Representatives and the Senate

Hear from YWiL Grenada participants on the importance of young women's leadership [in this video](#).

#YWiL



## Young Women In Leadership Grenada

From May 2024 to July 2024, 31 young women leaders from across Grenada took part in Young Women In Leadership – Grenada (YWiL), an in-depth training program on transformational leadership, inclusive decision-making, and parliamentary procedure organised by ParlAmericas and Caribbean Women In Leadership (CIWiL) in partnership with the CIWiL Grenada National Chapter and the Grenada Houses of Parliament. The YWiL program is designed to support participants in building knowledge, skills, and networks necessary for their work as current and future changemakers.

YWiL Grenada was the fifth in a series of national-level initiatives implemented in the Caribbean by ParlAmericas and CIWiL to strengthen women's political leadership. YWiL programs have previously been hosted in partnership with the national legislatures of [Trinidad and Tobago](#) (February-March 2020); [Antigua and Barbuda](#) (October-November 2020); [Saint Lucia](#) (May-June 2022); and [Jamaica](#) (December 2022-February 2023). An additional YWiL was also hosted in [Trinidad and Tobago](#) in November 2021, led by the CIWiL Trinidad and Tobago chapter.

## YWiL SITTINGS

On July 15, the Parliament of Grenada hosted the YWiL Parliamentary Sittings in the Houses of Parliament, representing the first all-women sittings in the country's history. YWiL participants served as parliamentarians and officers of the parliament for a debate on a motion related to women and the economy.

The simulated motion proposed the development of a national action plan that prioritises gender equality and women's economic empowerment, with focused attention on three key areas:

- Strengthening needed infrastructure and the creation of opportunities to foster women's economic participation in new and emerging industries and sectors such as the green economy (sustainable economic activities in relation to the environment; i.e. land management, waste management, renewable energy, clean transportation), the blue economy (sustainable marine, ocean and freshwater economic activities) and the orange economy (the creative industry);
- Developing services, public policies, and campaigns that support better redistribution of the share of care responsibilities in Grenadian households, informed by time use data drawn from the measurement of Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 5.4.1 in Grenada Using the Labour Force Survey, as well as in community volunteer work; and
- Enacting gender-transformative legislative, policy, and program responses that support economic sectors in building resilience to climate change and other shocks.



Watch the Sitting of the [YWiL House of Representatives](#) and [Senate](#) on the Grenada Houses of Parliament Facebook 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.
- Promoting women's economic justice and rights in the economy 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, environmentally sustainable economic 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 2024).



The Honourable **Leo Cato**, Speaker of the House of Representatives

"You have been given a chance to start a special journey in life. I said to you at the beginning that it's not about how you start, it is about how you finish... wherever life happens to take you, be prepared to display and demonstrate the training you have received, the qualities you have developed and your capacity to be agents of change."



The Honourable Dr. **Dessima Williams**, President of the Senate

"This being the very first all women's youth parliament in Grenada, I again repeat how proud I am of all you. Indeed it is truly a historic moment, it is a moment that some of us never had. It is a trial run for roles that you may play in the public sector, in government, in other leadership spheres. So I want to thank you for your courageous contributions that have sparked this dialogue and opened up new pathways for you, for your families, to think about and talk about and for the community that sent you to us to continue to see you as a beacon."



The Honourable Dr. **Clarice Modeste-Curwen**, Deputy Speaker of the House and Chair of the Grenada Women's Parliamentary Caucus

"Parliament is the highest decision-making entity in any country. And therefore, if you want to influence change, if you want to transform the way we do things and you want to get better outcomes, you need to be there... I want to encourage all of you young women to start thinking, 'How can I make that difference' and 'Where is the best place to make that difference?' And I want to assure you that it's in the Parliament of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique."



## PARTICIPANTS' NEXT STEPS

Inspired by their participation in YWiL Grenada, the young women leaders planned next steps for taking positive action in their communities, sharing their learning, and continuing their leadership development. Some of the commitments adopted included:

- Applying knowledge and skills gained through the program across work in school, professional, and community settings
- Advocating on women's leadership and gender-responsive approaches to national development issues, including on social media, in discussions with decision makers, and in their everyday lives
- Becoming a member of community groups and initiatives and taking on additional leadership roles and responsibilities in these spaces
- Launching new community initiatives, groups, or advocacy campaigns on issues of importance
- Joining political parties and youth parliament programs
- Seeking out mentors and offering mentorship to other women leaders
- Continuing learning on gender equality themes and developing personal leadership skills and capacities
- Sharing knowledge and strategies learned through the program through public sessions and in personal conversations to support others in applying a gender lens and strengthening their leadership

Participants' collective positive impact is already being felt. Following Hurricane Beryl's devastating impacts in Grenada, the YWiL Grenada cohort came together in partnership with the CIWiL Grenada Chapter to organize a relief drive, focusing on gathering items to meet the specific needs of women, children, and the elderly. The items collected were donated through community organisations to families in Carriacou.



- For the full report, please visit: [Young Women in Leadership Grenada](#)





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**THEMES:** Security, citizen security, cyber-violence, cyber-security, transnational organised crime, regional cooperation, human rights

**DATES:** July 10 and 11, 2024

**LOCATION:** Lima, Peru

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 60 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, specialists, representatives of international organisations, and civil society from 13 Latin American countries

**HOST:** Congress of the Republic of Peru



*This activity is aligned with SDGs 5, 16, and 17.*



## Beyond Borders: Regional Security Strategies

This meeting provided a space to review the complex security situation in the region and foster the exchange of good legislative practices on multidimensional, holistic, and human rights-centred models of security governance. The dialogues highlighted the need to strengthen the rule of law and institutions, reduce inequalities, and promote inclusion and sustainable development as necessary conditions to address crime comprehensively.

The sessions focused on the topics of citizen security, transnational organised crime, cybersecurity, as well as cyber-violence and its disproportionate impact on girls, youth and women.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening round table:

- Member of Congress **Yessica Rosselli Amuruz** (Peru), Third Vice-President of the Congress of the Republic, ParlAmericas Board Member, and host of the event
- Senator **Germán Blanco** (Colombia), ParlAmericas Board Member

### Keynote speakers:

- Dr. **Bettina Woll de Montenach**, Resident Representative in Peru, UNDP
- **José Elice**, Executive Director, Proética and former Minister of the Interior of Peru

### Dialogues moderated by:

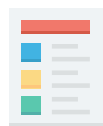
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Cristián Araya** (Chile)
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Brenda Ogando** (Dominican Republic)
- **Nadia Ramos**, Coordinator, William J. Perry Center for Peace, Security and Defence Alumnae Network

### Panellists:

- Senator **Carmen Gloria Aravena Acuña** (Chile), First Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Sergio Capozzi** (Argentina)
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Margarita Stolbizer** (Argentina), Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and Sustainability
- Senator **Derlis Maidana** (Paraguay)
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Carlos D'Alessandro** (Argentina)
- Representative **Rodrigo Goñi** (Uruguay)
- Colonel **Lourdes Barriga Abarca**, Academic Coordinator, Center for Higher National Studies
- **Noam López Villanes**, Advisor and researcher, Institute of Social Analytics and Strategic Intelligence PULSO, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru

- Senator **Iván Flores** (Chile)
- Member of Congress **Carmen Patricia Juárez Gallegos** (Peru)
- Member of Congress **Mauricio Rivera** (Honduras)

- **Carlos Charme Fuentes**, Public Security expert, Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean - CAF
- **Percy Medina**, Head of Mission for Peru, International IDEA
- **Anne Ramírez**, Coordinator, AMASSURU Peru
- **María Angélica Castillo Ríos**, Cybersecurity specialist
- **Luz Patricia Mejía**, Technical Secretary, Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention - MESECVI
- **Elaine Ford**, Founding Director, Digital Democracy
- **Javier Montaña**, Head of Programme Office, Peru, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime - UNODC



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## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Closing remarks:

- His Excellency **Louis Marcotte**, Ambassador of Canada to Peru and Bolivia
- Member of Congress **Yessica Rosselli Amuruz** (Peru), Third Vice-President of the Congress of the Republic, ParlAmericas Board Member, and host of the event

### KEY CONCLUSIONS FROM THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY DIALOGUE

- The fight against transnational organised crime in the region requires cooperation between countries, particularly in articulating harmonised legal frameworks, implementing joint operations, and strengthening initiatives to generate and share data on the dynamics and trends of crime.
- Parliaments play a crucial role in overseeing the protection of human rights in the context of addressing insecurity. This includes legislation and political oversight to ensure the rule of law and adherence to international human rights commitments.
- It is essential for parliaments to advocate for the implementation of comprehensive and coordinated policies that address all dimensions of security, including crime prevention, criminal justice, rehabilitation, and social reintegration. Such efforts should be carried out in close collaboration with communities, the government at its various levels, and relevant security agencies, ensuring the professionalisation of the police force and the appropriate allocation of resources while maintaining a human rights-centred approach.
- Comprehensive security policies must incorporate gender and intersectional lenses, ensuring an effective response to the specific vulnerabilities of different segments of the population, promoting equality, and improving the resilience of communities. This includes training security personnel on gender issues and increasing women's participation in leadership spaces in the defense and security sector.
- Citizen security is a multilayered challenge that must be addressed with comprehensive approaches that recognise the underlying causes of crime, such as poverty, social inequality, and exclusion, to prevent crime and violence. New security governance models should promote the use of quality data for decision-making and the empowerment of local leadership.

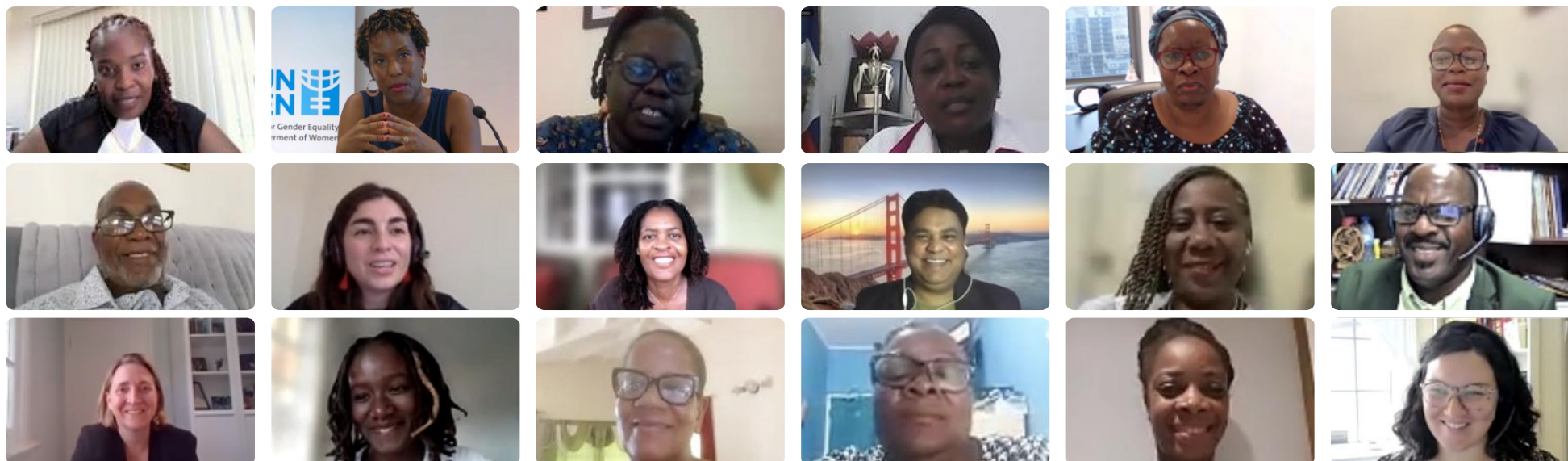
### **Member of Congress Yessica Rosselli Amuruz (Peru), Third Vice-President of the Congress of the Republic, ParlAmericas Board Member, and host of the event**

*"From our role as parliamentarians, we not only have the responsibility to address security at the national level through our legislative, budgetary, and oversight functions, but we also have the opportunity to work collaboratively on the international stage, as we have done in this meeting through parliamentary diplomacy, to exchange experiences, share best practices, and design strategies, since security challenges extend beyond our national borders."*

### **Senator Germán Blanco (Colombia), ParlAmericas Board Member**

*"It is imperative to rethink strategies to combat organised crime by emphasising the need to continue building comprehensive and systemic security governance models, addressing issues such as crime and violence prevention and control, institutional strengthening, justice application, reduction of inequalities, and social reintegration."*





-  **THEMES:** Sustainable development, gender equality
-  **DATE:** August 8, 2024
-  **LOCATION:** Virtual
-  **PARTICIPANTS:** More than 40 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, governmental staff, and representatives of civil society and multilateral organizations
-  **ORGANIZING PARTNER:** UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean and Caribbean Women in Leadership (CIWiL)



*This activity aligned with SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 10, 13, 16, and 17.*



## Tying the Threads Together: Parliamentary Actions to Advance International Agreements on the SIDS and Gender Equality

This virtual meeting brought together parliamentarians and other stakeholders from the Caribbean in follow up to the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States and its [Gender Equality Forum](#), recognizing the critical role of parliamentarians in implementing the international agreements adopted by their countries and ensuring that the commitments made translate into tangible benefits for their populations. Discussions focused on concrete actions parliamentarians can take to support the achievement of select gender equality and sustainable development frameworks: the [SIDS agenda](#), the [Bridgetown Initiative 3.0](#), and the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#). The importance of collaboration between parliamentarians and civil society to advance gender equality and sustainable development goals and strategies to support peace and sustainability across the region were further areas of focus.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening remarks:

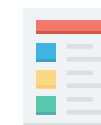
- The Honourable Senator Dr. **Joyelle Clarke** (Saint Kitts and Nevis), Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Climate Action and Constituency Empowerment

### Speakers:

- **Tonni Brodber**, Representative of the UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean
- **Hazel Brandy-Williams**, Vice-President of CIWiL
- **Dieudonne Luma Etienne** (Haiti), Former Senator
- **Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda**, Deputy Executive Director of UN Women

### Moderator:

- The Honourable **Alincia Williams Grant** (Antigua and Barbuda), President of the Senate
- **Alisha Todd**, Director General of ParlAmericas



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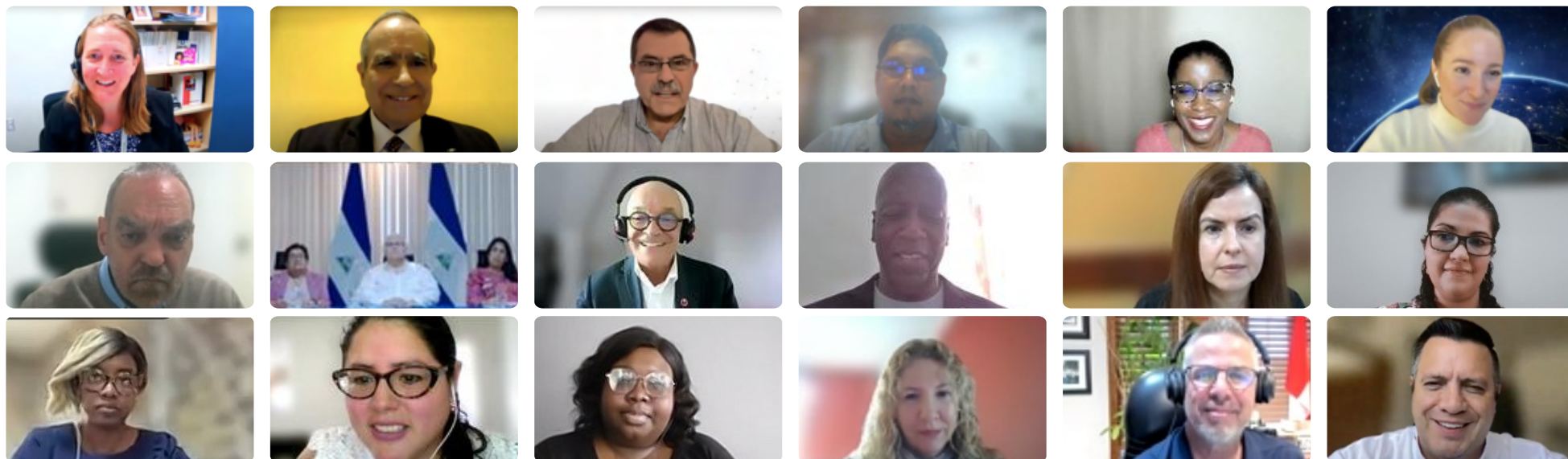
• [PUBLICATION](#)

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### KEY CONSIDERATIONS FROM THE MEETING:

- *International human rights treaties* (like [CEDAW](#)) are binding agreements that create obligations State parties must fulfill. *Political declarations* (like the Beijing Declaration and SIDS Agreements) are not binding but signal the signatories' prioritization of the issue.
- International agreements focused on the SIDS and climate change have evolved over time. A current focus is on strengthening their considerations for *people* in addition to the *planet*. Further information on people-centred dimensions of sustainable development can be drawn from international frameworks that address these topics more comprehensively.
  - For example, as the [Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS \(ABAS\)](#) recognizes in paragraph 10 that gender equality and women's empowerment play a transformative role in economic growth, the [Beijing Declaration](#) can be looked to for information on advancing women's rights and promoting gender equality in order to realize that transformative impact.
- Specific areas for parliamentary attention include: providing oversight to government action on gender equality and sustainable development, raising the gender dimensions of issues when reviewing and debating laws and policies, advocating for laws and programs that facilitate everyone's ability to thrive (e.g. [parental leave](#) and [child care](#)), and ensuring that national budgets invest in these initiatives.
- A critical first step is appreciating the interconnections between gender equality and sustainable development. In practice, this means assessing how proposed actions on [development issues will differently impact women, men, girls and boys](#) and how they will contribute to climate resilience, and then making decisions accordingly.
- Parliamentary engagement with constituents, youth and civil society organizations strengthen efforts to advance gender equality and sustainable development. Carrying out consultations, clear and transparent communications, and strategic use of social media can all support these goals.

This meeting was rescheduled from its original date due to the passage of Hurricane Beryl. Presenters offered their thoughts to the populations impacted and highlighted that the context of increasing, stronger, and more unpredictable hurricane seasons further amplified the necessity of action to bolster sustainability and resilience in the region.



**THEMES:** Digital identity, digital transformation, inclusive digital governance

**DATE:** August 30, 2024

**LOCATION:** Virtual

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 65 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, representatives of civil society, international organizations, and government representatives from 21 countries in the Americas and the Caribbean



*This activity is aligned with SDGs 5, 9 and 16.*



## Legislative Strategies to Strengthen Digital Identity Governance

Given the vital role of parliaments in promoting secure and inclusive digital spaces, this virtual meeting examined legislative strategies to protect digital identities in an evolving landscape. Discussions explored the need to rethink digital governance strategies as digital identity transforms interactions and transactions once limited to in-person settings. Participants dialogued on harmonizing regulatory frameworks, improving interoperability, and ensuring that digital identities are accessible, affordable, and user-friendly. Participants also addressed the importance of preventing fraud and misuse.

This activity was part of a series of dialogues being carried out by the ParlAmericas Digital Caucus.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening Remarks:

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

### Moderator and Meeting Chair:

- Senator **Kenneth Pugh** (Chile), Co-Chair of the Digital Caucus of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

### Specialists:

- **Gustavo Giorgetti**, Professor at the University of San Andrés, Argentina
- **Michele Marius**, Director at ICT Pulse
- **Cecilia Danesi**, Researcher at the Institute of European Studies and Human Rights and Special Advisor to ParlAmericas' Digital Caucus

### Interparliamentary dialogue conclusions:

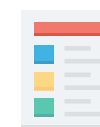
- Member of the Chamber of Representatives **Rodrigo Goñi** (Uruguay), President of the Committee on the Future

### Closing Remarks:

- The Honourable **Leo Cato** (Grenada), Speaker of the House of Representatives and Vice-President for the Caribbean of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

### KEY CONSIDERATION FROM THE MEETING:

- Digital identity has become essential for accessing services and exercising citizenship in today's world. Its governance should therefore reflect the diverse contexts and needs of people, ensuring accessibility and security for all.
- Digital skills promote the development and appropriate use of digital identities. Ensuring that education systems and policies prioritize digital literacy skills, particularly for girls, women, and traditionally marginalized groups, will help bridge the digital divide and create more equitable opportunities in the digital sphere.
- Ensuring interoperability among digital identity systems, especially in countries with decentralized operations, strengthens resilience, enhances security and prevents vulnerabilities.
- Effective digital transformation and data protection laws come from bipartisan cooperation and active engagement with stakeholders, ensuring more comprehensive and durable solutions.
- Parliamentarians should prioritize citizens' privacy and digital rights by promoting robust digital identity systems and legal frameworks, while urging the executive branch to secure resources and support capacity-building for digital transformation processes.



[AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



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**THEMES:** Digital economy, digital infrastructure, inclusive digital governance, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity

**DATES:** September 7-8, 2024

**LOCATION:** Miami, United States

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 40 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, and representatives of civil society and international organizations and academia from 12 countries

**ORGANIZING PARTNER:** HDP, NDI, IRI, USAID, CARICOM, FIU



*This activity aligned with SDGs 5, 8, 9, 10, 13 and 17*



## The Role of Parliaments in Transforming Digital Economies in the Caribbean

This two-day forum brought together parliamentarians from CARICOM countries and the United States alongside technical experts to explore strategies to enhance digital transformations in the Caribbean through the sharing of global good practices on digital economy legislation and policies using a gender and inclusion lens.

The sessions focused on topics related to digital transformation, bridging the digital divide, e-governance, climate resilience in the digital age, empowering women, youth, and traditionally marginalized groups in the digital economy, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and financial technology.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening remarks:

- **Derek Luyten**, Executive Director, House Democracy Partnership
- **Alisha Todd**, Director General, ParlAmericas
- **Shlomi Dinar**, Dean, Florida International University, Green School of International and Public Affairs

### Panellists:

- Hon. **Barbara Lee** (United States), Member of the House of Representatives
- Hon. **Hannes Astok**, Executive Director, e-Governance Academy
- **John Paul Farmer**, President, WeLink Cities
- **Irma Gonzalez**, Senior Project Manager for Digital Governance, TecMilenio University
- **Marci Harris**, CEO and co-founder, POPVOX
- **Cleveland Thomas**, International Telecommunication Union Area Representative, Caribbean Countries
- **Jennifer Britton**, Deputy Programme Manager of Information and Communication Technology for Development, CARICOM Secretariat
- **Tonni Brodber**, Representative, UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean
- **Bridget Boakye**, Senior Policy Advisor for Artificial Intelligence, Tony Blair Institute for Change
- **Luis Marrero**, Country Leader for the Caribbean, Amazon Web Services
- **Antonio Garrastazu**, Senior Director, IRI Latin America & Caribbean Division

### Discussants:

- Hon. **Marsha Caddle** (Barbados), MP, Minister of Industry, Innovation, Science and Technology
- Hon. **Carolyn Ann Trench-Sandiford** (Belize), President of the Senate
- Hon. **Fenella Wenham** (Dominica), Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Planning, Vocational Training and National Excellence
- Hon. **Leo Cato** (Grenada), Speaker of the House of Representatives
- Hon. **Kwame Mc Coy** (Guyana), MP, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister
- **Dwight Sibblies** (Jamaica), Member of Parliament
- Senator **Lisa Jawahir** (Saint Lucia), Vice-President for the Caribbean of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality
- Senator **Laurence Hislop** (Trinidad and Tobago)
- Hon. **Wayne R. Munroe** (The Bahamas), MP, Minister of National Security



[AGENDA](#)



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## KEY CONCLUSIONS

- Digital infrastructure has to be considered with a view to accessibility, both at a systems and an individual level. Governments across the region are implementing initiatives to this end with the goal of enabling greater digital access to remote communities and marginalized population groups.
- AI was acknowledged as a powerful tool for boosting worker productivity, however it must be employed with an intersectional gender perspective and upskilling of the labour force to mitigate the risks of bias and job displacement.
- Building public trust for digital tools is crucial for driving the growth of the digital economy. Maintaining certain paper-based systems can support inclusivity for certain population groups, such as older adults.
- Education reform and education bonds are key strategies to drive cultural changes, accelerate digital transformation, and encourage youth - particularly young women - to pursue careers in STEM.
- A coordinated Caribbean approach to digital transformation can maximize efforts. By leveraging existing mechanisms for cooperation, such as through CARICOM, the Organization of American States (OAS), and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the region can harmonize policies, combine resources, and foster collaborative solutions to shared challenges.





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**THEMES:** Building resilience, MHEWS, social protection, investing in inclusive disaster risk reduction, resilient infrastructure

**DATE:** September 25, 2024

**LOCATION:** Virtual

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 25 parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from the Caribbean region, and multilateral organizations

**ORGANIZING PARTNER:** United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, UN Women Multi Country Office - Caribbean, World Food Programme



*This activity aligned with SDGs 5, 9, 11, 13, and 17.*



## Parliamentary Action for Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness in the Caribbean

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) and preparedness are priority areas for action in the Caribbean, and emphasis on this agenda is continuing to grow due to the increasing intensity and frequency of natural hazards, spurred by the impacts of climate change. In response to this interest, this meeting enabled parliamentarians to engage with and receive focused guidance from a diverse group of experts specializing in multi-hazard early warning systems, gender-responsive disaster risk reduction, shock-responsive social protection and disaster risk financing, and resilient infrastructure.





## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening remarks:

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

### Panellists:

- **Jair Torres**, Programme Management Officer, UNDRR
- **Tonni Brodber**, Representative, UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean
- **Nicholas Gainger**, Programme Policy Officer - Disaster Risk Management, World Food Programme
- **Cristobal Lopez Maciel**, Programme Officer, UNDRR

### Moderator:

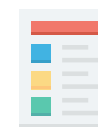
- Senator The Honourable Dr. **Erecia Hepburn Forbes** (The Bahamas)

### Closing remarks:

- Member of the National Assembly **Radjendrekoeemar Debie** (Suriname), Second Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and Sustainability

### KEY ACTION POINTS FROM THE MEETING:

- Advocate for governments to transition from an event-centered response and recovery approach to a **proactive strategy that reduces the risk of hazards becoming disasters** by, for example, ensuring the country has Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS).
- **Review and amend existing sectoral legislation** to ensure it effectively integrates MHEWS and disaster risk reduction (DRR), incorporating the latest knowledge and remaining adaptable to evolving requirements. Ensure this integration extends to national development, security, and climate adaptation plans to promote comprehensive, multi-sector action.
- Promote an inclusive, all-of-society approach that ensures **citizen engagement in disaster risk policies**, MHEWS, and post-disaster plans, emphasizing multi-sector consultation and coordination that actively consults with women's organizations, National Gender Machineries and civil society groups.
- Support the **allocation of budgets for infrastructure resilience, national social protection systems, and gender-responsive relief efforts** before disasters strike, and monitor and scrutinize government spending during the relief phase, recognizing that investing USD 6 billion annually in DRR can generate risk reduction benefits worth USD 360 billion.
- **Consider how plans will manage the invisible tolls that a disaster creates**, affecting supply chains, productivity, physical and mental health, safety of women and girls, and education.
- **Improve data management and close data gaps** by investing in and enhancing the collection, analysis, and application of gender-disaggregated disaster impact data. Develop plans to coordinate the sharing of information with other government sectors, national and international agencies, and countries with similar hazard and geographic profiles to inform MHEWS and DRR frameworks and strategies.



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 **THEMES:** Digital transformation, citizen participation, inclusion

 **DATE:** October 2, 2024

 **LOCATION:** Guatemala City, Guatemala

 **PARTICIPANTS:** More than 75 parliamentary staff and representatives of multilateral organizations in Guatemala

 **HOST:** Congress of the Republic of Guatemala



*This activity aligned with SDGs 5, 9 and 16.*



## Inclusive Citizen Participation: Exploring the Opportunities of Digital Transformation

In this session, parliamentary staff from the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala examined how citizen participation can enhance parliamentary work, considering the opportunities presented by new digital technologies. Various strategies—both traditional and digital—were examined, with contributions from subject matter experts and a representative from Ecuador, who shared their experience in institutionalizing citizen participation in their parliament. The strategies discussed aim to foster interaction between citizens and parliament, thereby strengthening legislative transparency and promoting inclusion in decision-making processes in Guatemala.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening remarks:

- Member of Congress **Nery Rodas** (Guatemala), Third Vice-President of the Congress and member of ParlAmericas' Board of Directors
- **Anabella Zavagno**, Deputy Director General of ParlAmericas

### Speakers:

- **Marcela Ríos Tobar**, Regional Director of International IDEA
- **Jaroslav Alburez García** (Guatemala), Director of Protocol and Citizen Services of the Congress of the Republic
- **Marjorie Chávez** (Ecuador), Secretary of International and Interinstitutional Relations of the National Assembly
- **Eduardo Núñez**, Resident Director of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in Guatemala
- **Jorge Ceballos**, Regional Program Director for Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras of the International Republican Institute (IRI)
- **Anneliza Tobar Estrada**, Acting Director of the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy in Guatemala (NIMD)

### KEY CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING:

- Digital transformation is key to developing open and modern parliaments. This process not only optimizes efficiency, but it can also strengthen transparency and foster greater citizen inclusion in legislative processes.
- Guatemala aims to turn the digital transformation process into a national project, making it essential to involve all public sectors, private institutions, and citizens.
- The Parliamentary Forum on Digital Transformation of Guatemala promotes laws for the development of digital infrastructure, citizen inclusion, cybersecurity, and the regulation of artificial intelligence and protection against cybercrimes.
- In Latin America and the Caribbean, research by IDEA International indicates a deficit in the rule of law and the full exercise of rights. However, the region also shows strong citizen interest in public and electoral participation, with voter turnout rates exceeding 60%, above the global average.
- The institutionalization of participatory processes that genuinely influence parliamentary decisions is key to ensuring that citizens have an active and ongoing role in legislative work. This helps build a relationship of trust and legitimacy between parliamentarians and the citizens they represent, strengthening the democratic bond and ensuring that the voices of the population are heard and effectively incorporated into decision-making on an ongoing basis.



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60

**THEMES:** Women's political participation and leadership, parity democracy, addressing political violence

**DATE:** October 2, 2024

**LOCATION:** Guatemala City, Guatemala

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 50 parliamentarians, parliamentary staffers and representatives of international organizations

**HOST:** Congress of the Republic of Guatemala



*This activity aligned with SDGs 5, 9 and 16.*



## Towards Women's Full Political Participation in Guatemala

In this space for exchange, parliamentarians and parliamentary staff explored the challenges and opportunities for strengthening Guatemalan women's political participation and leadership.

With the support of international specialists and dialogue on the Costa Rican experience, the participants discussed good parliamentary practices and legislative strategies for advancing gender equality objectives at the national level.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening remarks:

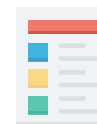
- Member of the Congress **Nery Rodas** (Guatemala), Third Vice-President of the Congress of the Republic and ParlAmericas Board Member

### Speakers:

- Alejandra Mora Mora**, Executive Secretary, Inter-American Commission of Women, OAS [*video participation*]
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Carolina Delgado** (Costa Rica), ParlAmericas Board Member
- Ana Isabel Garita V.**, Policy Advisor, Governance and Participation Representation, UN Women Office in Guatemala
- Member of the Congress **Karina Paz**, First Secretary of the Congress' Board of Directors
- Member of the Congress **Carolina Orellana**, President of the Women's Committee
- Member of the Congress **Sonia Gutiérrez**, Fifth Secretary of the Congress' Board of Directors
- Member of the Congress **Olga Villalta**
- Member of the Congress **Lucrecia Marroquin de Palomo**
- Member of the Congress **Laura Marroquín**
- Member of the Congress **Evelyn Morataya**
- Member of the Congress **Andrea Villagrán Antón**, Vice-President for Central America of the PNGE
- H.E. **Olivier Jacques**, Canadian Ambassador to Guatemala

### KEY CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING:

- Women's effective participation in the spheres of power is essential to strengthen our democracy and advancements towards sustainable development. However, there are still structural, political, social, economic and cultural barriers that limit their access.
- Parity** is a **measure of distributive justice** based on the equal participation of women as an essential component of democracy. It implies **equal participation in decision-making positions** in the public and private sectors, from the international to the local level; the **exercise of political and economic power under conditions of equality**: free from discrimination and gender-based violence; and the mainstreaming of the **gender equality agenda** in public policy with an [intersectional](#), intergenerational, intercultural and human rights perspective.
- To move towards parity, it is necessary to outline a parliamentary agenda that prioritizes electoral and political party reforms. Key factors in this process include: inter-party articulation; alliances with civil society organizations, activists, international agencies, academia and other stakeholders; the support and advocacy of the feminist movement; and the involvement of men as allies in the promotion of gender equality.
- Legal reforms to strengthen women's political participation and leadership have proven to be a powerful tool for the promotion of gender equality.



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[PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICES FOR GENDER EQUALITY DASHBOARD](#)



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**EVENT:** 16th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality (PNGE) and 8th Gathering of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and Sustainability (PNCCS)

**DATES:** October 23-25, 2024

**LOCATION:** San Jose, Costa Rica

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 100 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, women's organizations, youth leaders, and representatives of civil society and multilateral organizations

**CO-ORGANIZERS:** Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica; Forum of Presidents of the Legislative Bodies of Central America and the Caribbean (FOPREL)



*This activity aligned with SDGs 1, 5, 8, 10 and 13.*



## Migration in the Context of Socio-Environmental Challenges

This joint Gathering of the PNGE and PNCCS – which additionally marked the occasion of a meeting of FOPREL's commission on women's rights and gender equity – brought together stakeholders from 18 countries and two territories to explore various angles of the issue of migration in the hemisphere.

Topics of discussion included the economic growth opportunities of migration, legislative good practices related to its governance, climate-induced migration, migration data collection, differential impacts of migration based on gender, and social protection and integration of migrants in host communities.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening remarks

- **Rodrigo Arias** (Costa Rica), President of the Legislative Assembly; President pro tempore, FOPREL
- Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President, ParlAmericas
- **Ariel J. Alvarado Urbina**, Executive Secretary, FOPREL
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Carolina Delgado** (Costa Rica), Chair, FOPREL Interparliamentary Commission on Women's Rights and Gender Equity; Member, Board of Directors of ParlAmericas; Host of the Gathering

### Spotlight Session - Responsible Migration Governance in a World of Environmental and Social Uncertainty

- **Ana Durán**, Deputy Regional Director for the Americas, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Dr. **Natasha Kay Mortley**, Research Fellow, IGDS, University of the West Indies

### Interview - The Migrant Perspective

- **Vlada Krasova Torres Colomer**, activist
- **María Faría**, Director, *Talento Importado*

### Presentation of Tools for Legislative Work

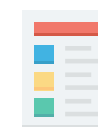
- [Inclusive Migration Governance in the Americas and Caribbean: A Primer for Parliamentarians](#), ParlAmericas and CELADE
- [Regional Framework Law on the Management of Migration for Climate and Environmental Reasons with a Human Rights Approach](#) (in Spanish), FOPREL and IOM
- [Regional Framework Law on Migration with a Human Rights Approach](#) (in Spanish), FOPREL and IOM
- [Policy Brief for Legislating on Sexual Violence with a Consent-Based Approach](#), ParlAmericas and Equality Now

### Presentations and Thematic Tables - International Instruments on Migration

- **Lindsay Jenkins**, Senior Advisor for Migration, U.S. Department of State
- **Erica Guevara Reyes**, National Project Officer, Western Hemisphere Program, IOM
- Participation in the thematic tables by young women climate advocates who are delegates of the youth parliament program run by the organization *Misión 1.5*

### Reflections from ParlAmericas' Parliamentary Networks

- Senator **Carmen Gloria Aravena** (Chile), Vice-President for South America of the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality
- Member of the National Assembly **Radjendrekoeemar Debie** (Suriname), Vice-President for South America of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and Sustainability



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**Rodrigo Arias** (Costa Rica), President of the Legislative Assembly; President pro tempore, FOPREL

*"Today, more than ever, migration challenges us as legislators to formulate policies that not only guarantee the protection of human rights but also promote the empowerment of the most vulnerable populations, with a special focus on women, who face particular challenges in their pursuit of a dignified life."*



**Ariel J. Alvarado Urbina**, Executive Secretary, FOPREL

*"The current context presents significant new challenges, making the collective action of parliaments vital. It is essential that we continue strengthening partnerships within the various organizations we are working with and promote the exchange of experiences and good practices."*



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

*"Only through a framework grounded in regional cooperation will it be possible to respond in a coordinated manner to the migration challenges we face and to build migration governance models that promote safe, orderly, and regular migration."*



Member of the Legislative Assembly **Carolina Delgado** (Costa Rica); Chair, FOPREL Interparliamentary Commission on Women's Rights and Gender Equity; Member, Board of Directors of ParlAmericas; Host of the Gathering

*"Having up-to-date and disaggregated information will allow us to design more effective migration policies ... That is why, from our parliaments, we must ensure that data drives our actions and translates into laws that truly address the reality of migration."*



Member of the National Assembly **Radjendrekoeemar Debie** (Suriname), Vice-President for South America of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and Sustainability

*"Parliaments can play an important role in closing the legal gaps so that environmental and climate migration are recognized as legitimate reasons to move and are included in our national adaptation, development and security plans. Addressing the root causes of forced displacement by mitigating and adapting to climate change must be at the top of our agendas."*



Senator **Carmen Gloria Aravena** (Chile), Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality

*"As legislators, we have the responsibility to work towards a model of safe, orderly, and regular migration based on the human rights of migrants, one that values their ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and religious diversity and recognizes migrants' contributions to host communities."*





**Ana Durán**, Deputy Regional Director for the Americas, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

*"It is essential to promote a discourse based on facts and reliable evidence to counter myths and misinformation about migration. We must highlight the positive contributions of migrants and foster an education from childhood that emphasizes the economic, cultural, and social benefits of migration. Promoting inclusive policies, supporting regularization, encouraging civic participation, and ensuring access to basic services are essential steps to build more integrated and cohesive societies."*



**Dr. Natasha Kay Mortley**, Research Fellow, Institute for Gender and Development Studies, University of the West Indies

*"The Caribbean, traditionally known for international migration, is now grappling with evolving migration trends, particularly with displacement driven by environmental issues such as storms, hurricanes, and other natural hazards which have led to increased intra-regional movement. This shift brings complex dynamics, including significant gender disparities and growing concerns around discrimination and xenophobia, demanding urgent attention and action."*

## DECLARATION

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

- Promote the economic, social and cultural benefits derived from safe, orderly and regular migration, while also addressing the challenges and concerns that migration can pose for countries and communities of origin, transit, destination and return.
- Call for the relevant authorities to improve processes for the collection, analysis and dissemination of information, statistics and disaggregated data on the migrant population, including on demographics, socioeconomic and cultural characteristics, motivations, migration status and risks, among other qualitative and quantitative variables, while complying with the highest standards of data protection and confidentiality.
- Promote the legal recognition of climate migrants as rights holders and ensure their protection in migration governance policies.
- Redouble our efforts to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the target in the Paris Agreement, to prevent the worsening of climate impacts, and prioritizing climate adaptation and disaster risk management to contribute to reducing climate and environmental migration.
- Ensure that legislation on migration responds to the differentiated experiences of women, youth and child migrants, low-skilled labour migrants, and people with disabilities, including measures on assistance, healthcare, psychological services and access to justice, seeking to prevent gender-based discrimination, abusive labour conditions, and violence in all its forms and modalities.



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**THEMES:** Technology-facilitated gender-based violence, safe digital spaces, gender equality, women's political participation

**DATE:** November 22, 2024

**LOCATION:** Panama City, Panama

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 90 parliamentarians, parliamentary and government staff, representatives of political parties and civil society, and specialists from international organizations

**CCO-ORGANIZERS:** National Assembly of Panama, the Ministry of Women of the Republic of Panama, IRI, FONAMUPP and APARLEXPA



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



## Building Safe, Inclusive, and Violence-Free Digital Spaces

This meeting, held in observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the 30th anniversary of the Belém do Pará Convention, aimed to empower women in politics in the digital space. The event explored both the challenges and opportunities of cyberspace, highlighting the dual role of technology as a catalyst for political participation and as a medium that facilitates gender-based digital violence. Additionally, strategies were developed to foster a safe, inclusive, and discrimination-free digital environment within political parties.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening remarks:

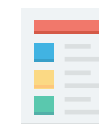
- Member of the National Assembly **Yuzaida Marín** (Panama), president of the Committee on Women, Children, Youth, and Family of the National Assembly and Second Vice-President for Central America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality
- Her Excellency **Patricia Atkinson**, Ambassador-designate of Canada to Panama
- Her Excellency **Niurka Del Carmen Palacio U.**, Minister of Women of the Republic of Panama and President of the Inter-American Commission of Women

### Speakers:

- **Marcela Ríos Tobar**, Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of International IDEA
- **Gloria Camacho**, President of the Committee of Experts (CEVI) of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM-OAS)
- Honourable Representative **Catherine Juvinao Clavijo** (Colombia), First Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Brenda Ogando Campos** (Dominican Republic), President of the Permanent Committee on Gender Equality of the Chamber of Deputies
- **Arelys González**, National President of the Women's Front of *Partido Revolucionario Democrático*
- Former Member of the National Assembly **Ana Giselle Rosas**, Secretary for Women of *Partido Cambio Democrático*
- **Cecilia Caballero**, Representative of the Secretary for Women of *Partido Realizando Metas*
- **Berta García Hangs**, Secretary for Women of *Partido Popular*
- **Linda Loo**, Secretary for Women of *Movimiento Otro Camino*
- **Mireya Montemayor**, Secretary for Women of *Partido Panameñista*
- **Marieta de Paredes**, Deputy Secretary for Women of *Partido Molirena*

### Moderators:

- Member of the National Assembly **Grace Hernández** (Panama), Secretary of the Committee on Women, Children, Youth, and Family of the National Assembly
- **Vonetta Sterling**, President of the National Forum of Women of Political Parties (FONAMUPP)
- Former Member of the National Assembly **Corina Cano**, President of the Association of Women Parliamentarians and Former Women Parliamentarians of Panama (APARLEXPAN)



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## ORGANIZING PARTNERS



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





## KEY CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING

- Digital violence against women, girls, and adolescents in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly cyberbullying, verbal abuse, the non-consensual sharing of intimate material, the spread of false information, and other forms of online abuse, has been on the rise in recent years. This violence disproportionately impacts women politicians and journalists and is a significant barrier to both development and human dignity.
- MESECVI is creating an Inter-American Model Law to combat technology-facilitated gender-based violence, with a comprehensive approach covering prevention, support, protection, investigation, prosecution, and redress for acts of violence. The law is being developed with input from experts and various other stakeholders and is expected to serve as a key reference for the region, promoting a coordinated response between States, the private sector, and civil society.
- The vulnerability of women to technology-facilitated political gender-based violence stems from deeply ingrained prejudices and the double standards by which men and women are evaluated in the public sphere. Stereotypes and unequal expectations, reinforced by social norms, amplify scrutiny and harassment of women in leadership positions, limiting their participation and perpetuating structural inequalities. Tackling these prejudices is crucial to creating more inclusive public spaces.
- According to a report by International IDEA, digital gender-based political violence in Latin America is a complex issue that requires the collaboration of State institutions, political parties, media, tech companies, academia, and civil society. Preventing and addressing it requires education, effective legal frameworks, and safe platforms to protect women and promote inclusive political participation.
- Effectively addressing technology-facilitated gender-based violence requires a human rights and gender-based approach focused on data privacy, digital security, and access to justice. Civic education, international cooperation, and collaboration with digital platforms are essential to prevent, report, and address this issue, ensuring a comprehensive and proactive response.



**THEMES:** Parliamentary innovation, inclusive citizen participation, open parliament

**DATES:** December 3 and 4, 2024

**LOCATION:** Brasilia, Brazil

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 50 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, civil society and international organization representatives

**ORGANIZING PARTNER:** Open Parliament e-Network (OPeN), represented by ParlAmericas, NDI, Directorio Legislativo and the Latin American Network for Legislative Transparency (RLTL)

**HOST:** Chamber of Deputies of Brazil



*This activity aligned with SDGs 9, 16, and 17.*



## Open Parliament Day and Parliamentary Participation in the Open America Regional Conference

The Open Parliament Day event “Open Parliament and Innovations for the Future,” co-organized by ParlAmericas, OPeN, and the Chamber of Deputies of Brazil, was held on December 3. It fostered dialogue on how innovative technologies and practices can strengthen interactions between parliaments and the public, reduce barriers to participation, and promote social equality, women’s empowerment, and trust in institutions. On December 4, members of the ParlAmericas Board of Directors and parliamentary networks participated in key Open America sessions addressing topics such as inclusive participation, parliamentary collaboration, strengthening of civic spaces, and participatory digital governance, highlighting the role of parliaments in promoting openness, inclusion, and the protection of rights in the region.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### OPEN PARLIAMENT DAY

#### Opening remarks:

- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Jack Rocha** (Brazil), Chair of the Special Subcommittee on Women in Industry of the Chamber of Deputies
- **Kristen Sample**, Director of Democratic Governance, NDI, representative of OPeN
- Senator **Javier Macaya** (Chile), President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

#### Presentations:

- **Cristiane Brum Bernardes**, Technical Advisor of the Observatory of Women in Politics, Chamber of Deputies of Brazil
- **Rocío Noriega**, Advisor to the Bicameral Transparency Group of the National Congress of Chile
- Member of Congress **Eduardo Castillo** (Peru), Vice-President of the Committee on Decentralization, Regionalization, Local Governments, and Modernization of State Management
- **María Fernanda Avendaño**, President of ACCESA, a member of the Latin American Network for Legislative Transparency
- **Gustavo Pérez Ara**, Member Services Lead, Open Government Partnership

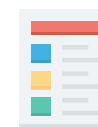
#### Closing remarks:

- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Benedita da Silva** (Brazil), General Coordinator of Women's Rights, Secretary for Women of the Chamber of Deputies
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Jilmar Totto** (Brazil), Secretary of Social Communication, Chamber of Deputies
- Member of the National Assembly **Luzmila Abad** (Ecuador), Second Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

### SESSION: OPEN PARLIAMENTS: STRENGTHENING INCLUSIVE AND COLLABORATIVE PARTICIPATION

#### Presentations:

- Member of Congress **Andrea Villagrán** (Guatemala), First Vice-President for Central America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality
- **María Liz Sosa**, Director for Open Parliament, Chamber of Senators of Paraguay
- **Juan Francisco Krahl**, Coordinator of Citizenship and Government Institutions, *Directorio Legislativo*



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## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### PARLIAMENTARY PARTICIPATION IN OPEN AMERICA

- Senator **Javier Macaya** (Chile), President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
  - *Session: High-Level Roundtable: The Future of Open Government*
- Member of the National Assembly **Luzmila Abad** (Ecuador), Second Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
  - *Session: Strengthening the Civic Space for Open Government*
- Member of the National Assembly **Roberto Zúñiga** (Panama)
  - *Session: Ensuring Participatory Digital Governance in the Americas*



## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Ensure universal access to information and communication technologies, particularly for historically marginalized populations, to reduce social disparities and promote inclusion.
- Using the "[Virtual Congress](#)" tool, the Parliament of Chile has facilitated digital citizen participation in the legislative process. It is currently taking steps towards expanding and diversifying public participation through AI tools to simplify legislative information and improve how comments from the public are recorded, allowing for greater understanding and inclusion.
- Using information and communication technologies can strengthen and raise awareness about citizen rights, particularly those achieved through the women's efforts, such as political participation and progress towards equality in decision-making spaces.
- The [National Observatory of Women in Politics](#) of the Chamber of Deputies of Brazil has raised awareness about women's political activities and strengthened their political role. In addition, it has a monitoring system that publishes information on women's participation in parliament.
- As part of an effort to strengthen inclusion, the Congress of Peru has adapted the [Digital Archive of Peruvian Legislation](#) to make it accessible in Quechua and for persons with visual and hearing disabilities. In addition, the Open Doors Congress project facilitates public participation, promoting more equitable access.
- Sovereign clouds represent a key strategy for countries to securely host public information, protecting the public from leaks and malicious cyber-attacks.



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**THEMES:** Gender equality, parliamentary oversight, budgeting, parliamentary representation, constituency engagement, gender responsive legislation

**DATES:** December 4, 2024 to December 6, 2024

**LOCATION:** Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 60 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, and representatives of international organizations and academia from 11 countries in the Caribbean



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



## Making the Work of Parliaments Responsive to the Needs of Women and Men

This three-day workshop brought together parliamentarians, civil society representatives, and experts from Caribbean countries to enhance parliamentarians' capacity to adopt an inclusive and gender-responsive approach to their legislative responsibilities.

Participants took part in interactive exercises, policy dialogues and thematic working sessions on applying a gender lens to parliamentary oversight, legislative processes, workplace practices and constituency engagement. The workshop also laid the groundwork for a gender equality guide for Caribbean parliamentarians that will provide practical strategies and references to ensure that diverse experiences, particularly of those most marginalized, are meaningfully considered across all aspects of parliamentary work.





## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening remarks:

- **Tonni Brodber**, Representative, UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean
- **Stephen Twigg**, Secretary-General, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)
- Hon. **Bridgid Annisette-George** (Trinidad and Tobago), Speaker of the House of Representatives and Vice-President of ParlAmericas

### Facilitators:

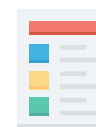
- Dr. **Rosina Wiltshire**, gender and development specialist
- **Alisha Todd**, Director General, ParlAmericas

### Panellists and moderators:

- Hon. Dr. **Dessima Williams** (Grenada), President of the Senate and ParlAmericas Board member
- Hon. **Bridgid Annisette-George** (Trinidad and Tobago), Speaker of the House of Representatives and Vice-President of ParlAmericas
- Hon. **Pennelope Beckles-Robinson** (Trinidad and Tobago), Minister of Planning and Development
- Hon. Justice **Peter Jamadar**, Caribbean Court of Justice
- **Bénite Dibateza**, Programmes Manager and Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Network Coordinator, CPA
- **Monique Long**, Planning and Coordination Specialist, UN Women Caribbean
- **Terry Ince**, Founder and Convenor, CEDAW Committee of Trinidad and Tobago
- **Dara Healy**, Founder, Idakeda Group & Indigenous Creative Arts Network
- **Renee Atwell**, Attorney at Law, Founder of Girls of Impact
- **Amilcar Sanatan**, Interdisciplinary Caribbean Artist, Educator and Activist
- **Leah Thompson**, Chapter Liaison, Caribbean Women in Leadership (CIWIL)
- **Kevin Liverpool**, Men and masculinities practitioner
- **Chantal La Roche**, Clerk of the Senate (Ag.), Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago
- **Chrisette Benjamin**, Program Officer - Gender Equality, ParlAmericas

### Closing remarks:

- **Stuart Shaw**, Political and Public Affairs Counselor, High Commission of Canada in Trinidad and Tobago
- Senator the Hon. **Nigel de Freitas** (Trinidad and Tobago), President of the Senate



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## KEY CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING

- Gender identity contributes to narrow societal expectations of all individuals, including their interests, careers, household responsibilities, ability to express emotion and other traits. These expectations are the product of historical experiences and patterns that have reinforced the roles of women and men and manifested in the inequalities that continue to exist. Gender inequality is also [at the core of various developmental challenges](#), including the prevalence of gender-based violence and unequal participation in education and workforce settings, resulting in harms to society and the economy writ large.
- Addressing gender inequality requires evidence-based, gender-responsive approaches that consider class, income, and other intersecting factors, as well as specific attention on the root causes of inequality, including the education and socialisation of boys and girls.
- Legislation alone cannot shift entrenched gender norms, but developing gender-responsive laws, aligning parliamentary efforts with international conventions, creating mechanisms to track progress and fostering public awareness of legislative measures are critical to fostering social transformation and advancing gender equality.
- [Gender-sensitive parliaments](#) are characterized by equality across parliamentary participation, infrastructure, culture and policy. Achieving this requires acknowledging gender barriers, championing equality and conducting self-assessments. Specific initiatives to promote equality in parliaments as workplaces can include care facilities, gender equality training, cybersecurity measures, sexual harassment policies and establishing codes of conduct.
- Parliamentary engagement with the public is another key avenue to promote gender equality, challenge gender stereotypes and create safe spaces for dialogue. Multi-party women's caucuses, youth-focused initiatives, mentorship programs, engaging men as allies, stakeholder outreach and collaboration with NGOs, CSOs and communities are all avenues that can contribute to these objectives.



# Thank you

for being part of ParlAmericas in 2024.

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

## THE PARLAMERICAS TEAM

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