



# YEAR IN HIGHLIGHTS 2018



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** from North, Central and South America and the Caribbean



ParlAmericas facilitates the exchange of parliamentary **GOOD PRACTICES** and promotes **COOPERATIVE POLITICAL DIALOGUE**



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 is headquartered in **OTTAWA, CANADA**



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF PARLAMERICAS



Dear colleagues,

2018 was another year of great achievement for ParlAmericas. We continue to grow as an influential institution through which parliamentarians collaborate and exchange on strategies to strengthen democratic governance in this hemisphere.

I was honoured to have been elected President of ParlAmericas during the 15<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly in September. Thank you all for the trust and confidence you have placed in me. I am committed to continuing to work alongside you and our partners to pursue solutions to the challenges that impact the daily lives of the citizens of our countries.

This year, ParlAmericas has contributed to advancing transparency, ethics and accountability in our parliaments and government institutions; it has promoted greater citizen participation in legislative work; and it has called for more inclusive policy-making informed by the full and equal participation of all members of society, particularly women and girls. We have also brought our voices and actions to raising ambition for real, lasting solutions to combat climate change.

Our three permanent networks have been instrumental in pursuing these objectives: the Open Parliament Network, the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality, and the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change. Guided by executive committees with representatives from each of the sub-regions of ParlAmericas' membership, these networks guide our programming and regional engagements.

We organized 11 inter-parliamentary activities in 2018 with the support of the Parliaments of Barbados, Canada, Chile, Jamaica, Panama, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago. Notably, among these was our most attended meeting of parliamentarians

ever, held within the framework of the VIII Summit of the Americas. We also participated in 13 meetings organized by international partners and multilateral organizations, bringing the perspective of parliamentarians into these important political and policy-making forums.

In these spaces, we have built strategic linkages with international and regional organizations, academia and civil society groups. ParlAmericas was a founding member of two important new coordination mechanisms this year: the Inter-American Task Force on Women's Empowerment and Leadership, and the global Open Parliament e-Network. Thanks to the financial support of the Government of Canada, we also announced a three-year project which will deepen our collaboration with multi-partisan organizations dedicated to women's political leadership in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In the pages that follow, you will also learn about the resources and tools we released this year, which include reports, interactive online toolkits and podcast episodes recorded at our meetings.

On behalf of ParlAmericas, I wish to recognize the invaluable engagement of over 600 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, subject matter specialists and civil society representatives who actively contributed to our work throughout the year. I encourage you to share with us the advances being made by your parliaments, and to encourage your colleagues to join ParlAmericas' upcoming activities. I know we will accomplish great things together as we channel our dedication into 2019.

Sincerely,

*The Honourable Robert Nault*

**Member of Parliament, Canada  
President of ParlAmericas**

.....  
 FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER @BOBNAULTMP

## OPERATIONS AND FINANCES

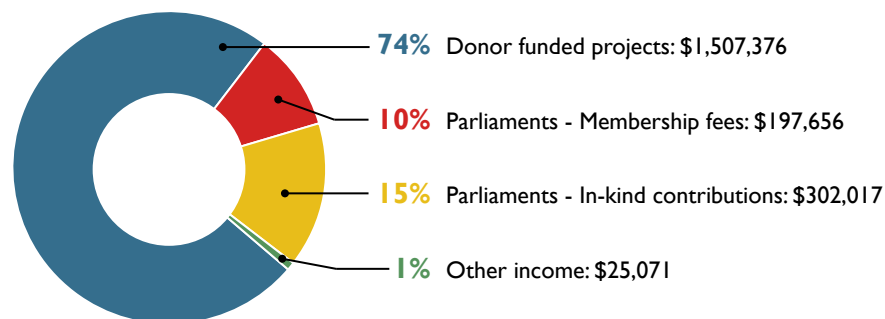
ParlAmericas' operations and activities in the 2018 fiscal year were financed through the support of our member parliaments, our partners, and the generous contributions of the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada. ParlAmericas wishes to acknowledge with sincere appreciation the invaluable support, expertise, time, and travel 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.

**Source:** The following information represents ParlAmericas' audited financial statements as of September 30, 2018, and the corresponding annual financial report prepared for the ParlAmericas Board of Directors and member parliaments.

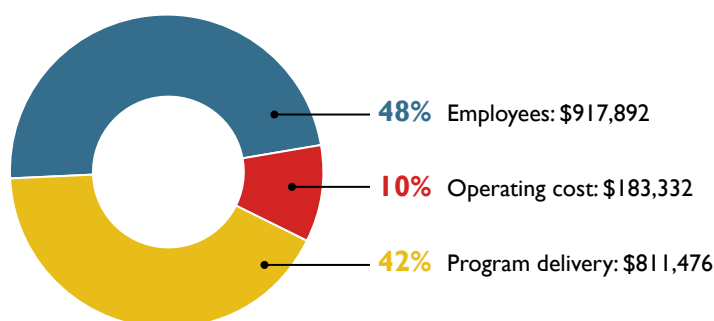
### CONTRIBUTIONS

\$2,032,120



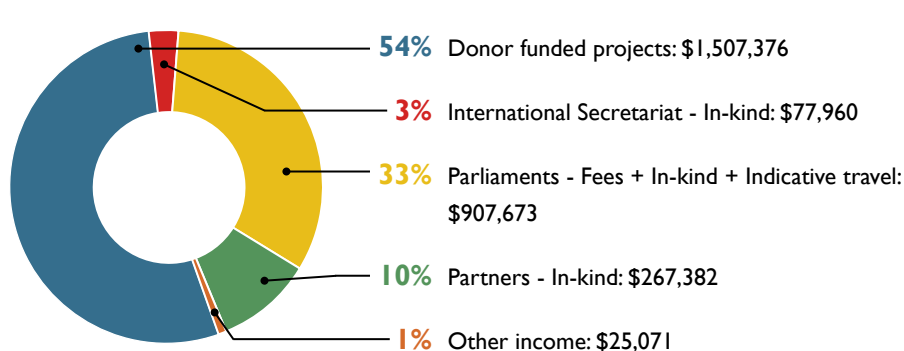
### EXPENDITURES

\$1,912,701



### INDICATIVE VALUE OF TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

\$2,785,462



# NATIONAL LEGISLATURES REPRESENTED ON OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Executive Committee of the Board of Directors

(as of September 2018, 15<sup>th</sup> ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly):

**Robert Nault**, President

Member of Parliament, Canada

**Elizabeth Cabezas**, Vice-President

President of the National Assembly, Ecuador

**Karina Banfi**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President and President of the  
Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality, Member of the  
Chamber of Deputies, Argentina

**Blanca Ovelar**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President and President of the Open  
Parliament Network, Senator, Paraguay

**Javier Ortega**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President and President of the Parliamentary  
Network on Climate Change, Member of the National Assembly, Panama

ParlAmericas is run by parliamentarians for parliamentarians, with a Board of Directors composed of 23 legislators who are selected by their peers and represent 18 countries from North, South, Central America and the Caribbean. In addition, the Board has ex-officio representation from 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.

More information on our Board of Directors and Executive Committees is available in our website: <http://parlamericas.org/en/about/board-of-directors.aspx>





## PARTNERS

In addition to our member parliaments, over the last year ParlAmericas collaborated with multilateral and civil society organizations with a view to maximizing impacts through complementary programming efforts. We are grateful for their contributions of subject-matter expertise and resources to our project activities, and look forward to building on these collaborations in support of strengthened democracy, legislative openness, gender equality, and sustainable development in the Americas and the Caribbean.

**ParlAmericas signed memorandums of understanding with the National Forum of Women in Political Parties (Foro Nacional de Mujeres de Partidos Políticos – FONAMUPP in Spanish) and the Caribbean Institute for Women in Leadership (CIWiL) in anticipation of the launch a new three-year project to support women's political leadership in Latin America and the Caribbean.**





## In 2018 ParlAmericas supported, as a founding member, the creation of two important strategic collaboration coordination mechanisms



The **Inter-American Task Force on Women's Empowerment and Leadership** was announced at the 8<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Americas (Peru, April 2018). With the objective of contributing to

regional progress towards SDG 5 (gender equality), the Task Force 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.

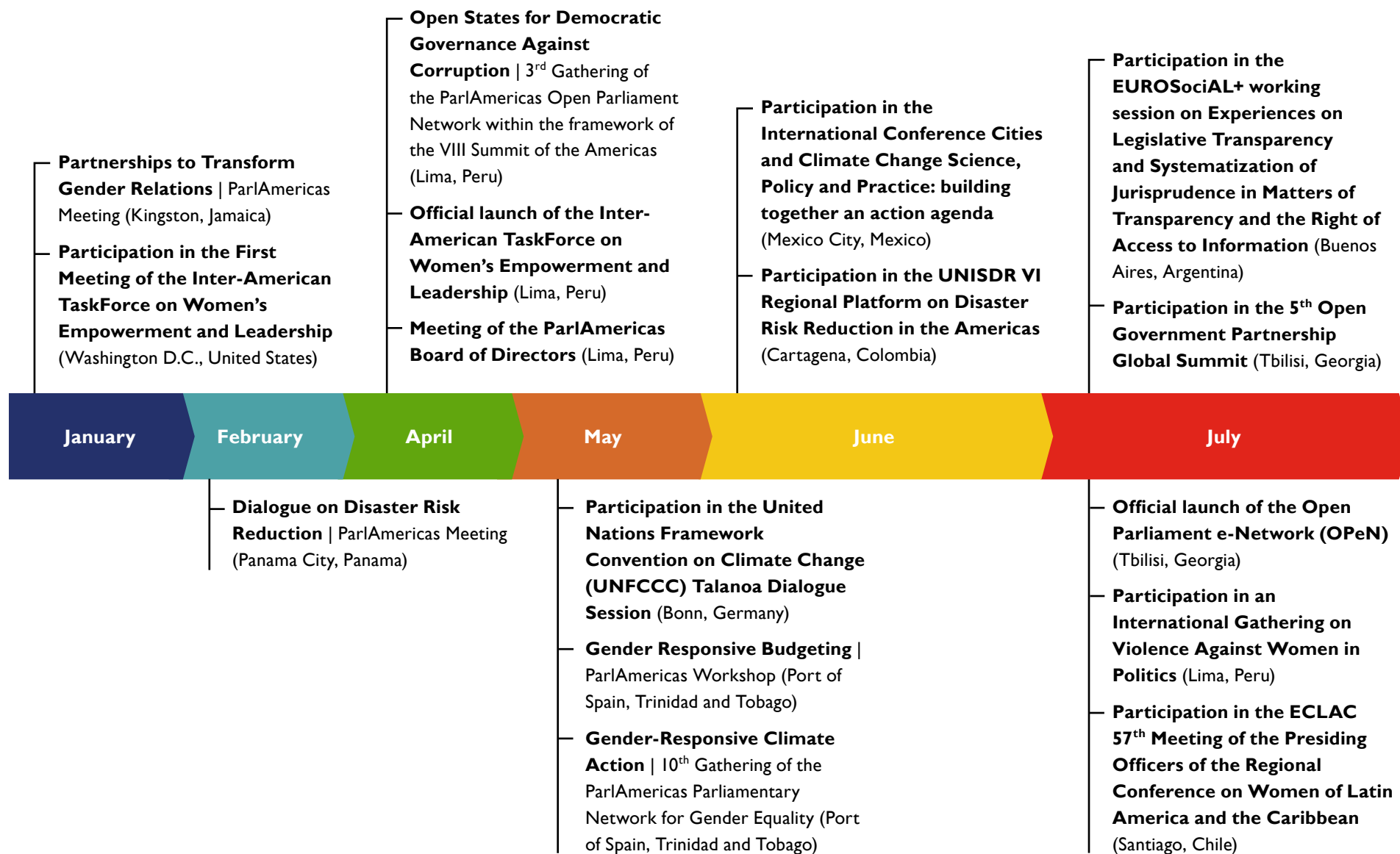


The **Open Parliament e-Network (OPeN)** was announced at the 5<sup>th</sup> Open Government Partnership (OGP) Global Summit (Georgia, July 2018). With the objective of contributing to global progress towards

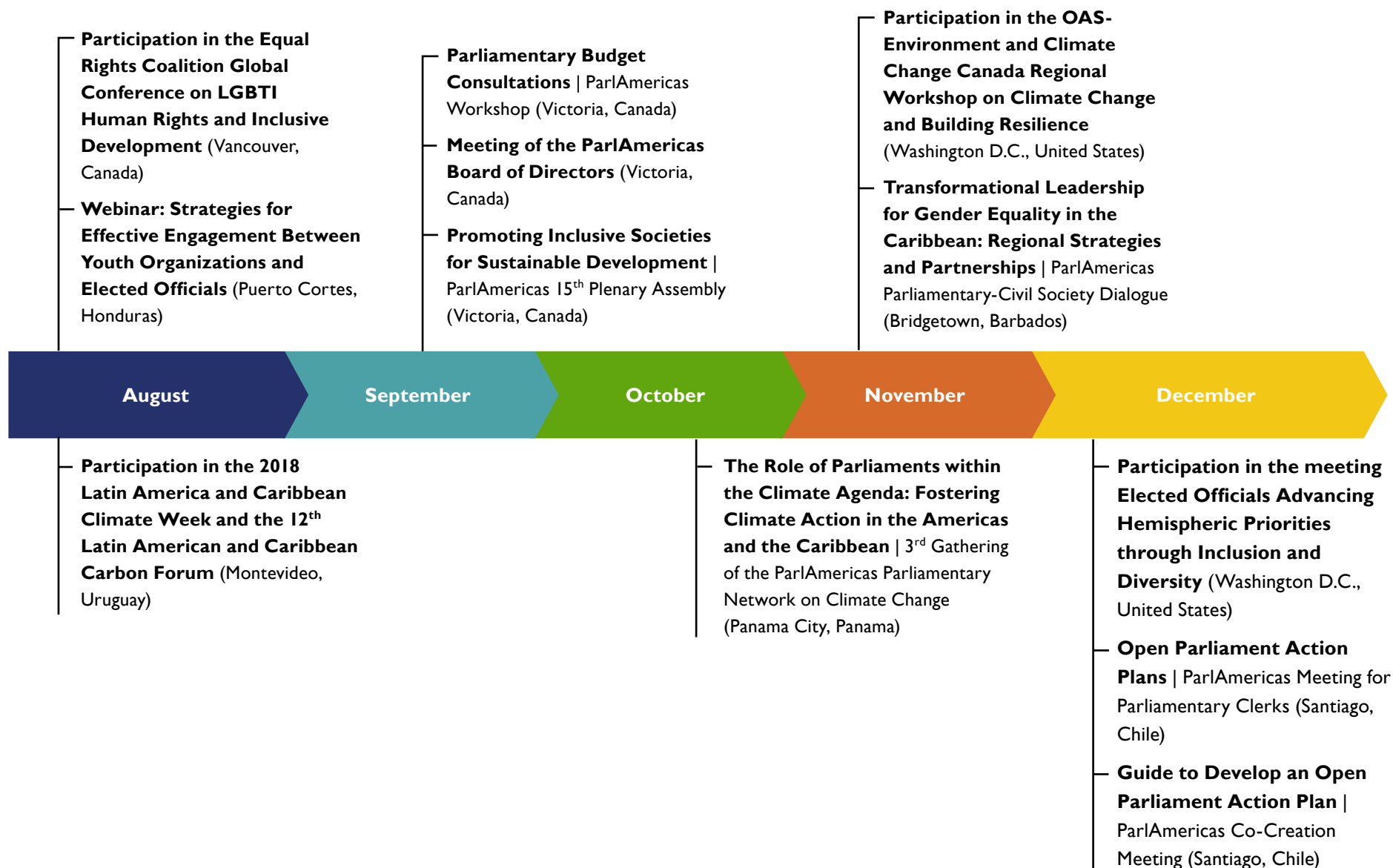
SDG 16 (strong institutions), OPeN provides a platform for legislators who champion the issue of legislative openness through serving on the network's Parliamentary Leadership Council. OPeN builds upon the work of the OGP Legislative Openness Working Group by bringing together leading international organizations that are committed to legislative openness.



# 2018 AT A GLANCE



For detailed individual activity reports as well as our publications please visit the [ParlAmericas](#) website.

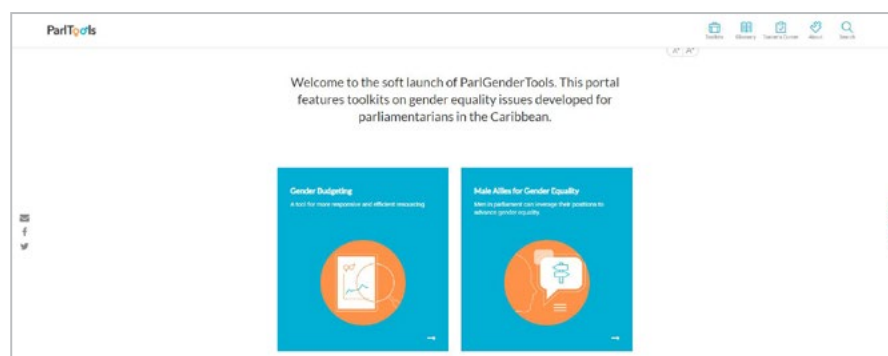


## INTERACTIVE TOOLS

**ParlAmericas has a number of new and enhanced online tools for parliamentarians to access specialized information and resources.**

### ParlGenderTools

ParlGenderTools is an online, interactive space for self-guided learning that features toolkits on gender equality issues tailored for parliamentarians in the English-speaking Caribbean. Each toolkit includes specialized resources, data, videos, and linkages to relevant international and regional frameworks in order to support parliamentarians in their advocacy and legislative action on prominent gender and development topics. The portal also allows for parliamentarians to share effective practices being applied in their parliament related to toolkit topics, facilitating knowledge exchange across the region. Current toolkits focus on gender-responsive budgeting and male allies for gender equality, and additional toolkits will continue to be added over time in response to priority issues identified by parliamentarians. The portal is a collaboration with the UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean. [www.parlgendertools.org](http://www.parlgendertools.org)



### ParlAmericas Podcasts

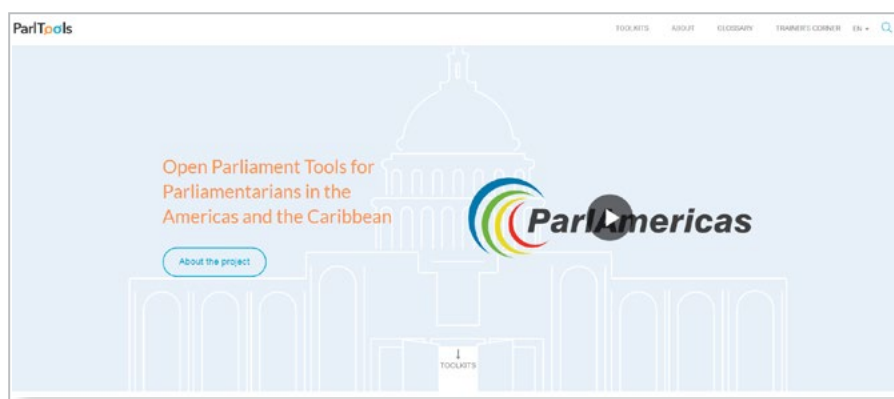
Find ParlAmericas on [iTunes](#) and [Google Play](#) to listen to podcasts of presentations and panels from past Gatherings and meetings held across the hemisphere. Our podcasts are also available in ParlAmericas website [www.parlAmericas.org/en/resources/podcasts.aspx](http://www.parlAmericas.org/en/resources/podcasts.aspx)

Our podcast episodes feature presentations by world-renowned experts and prominent political figures, including former President **Michelle Bachelet** (Chile) and Prime Minister **Mia Mottley** (Barbados), on key hemispheric issues like gender equality, climate change, migration, inclusion, transparency and accountability.



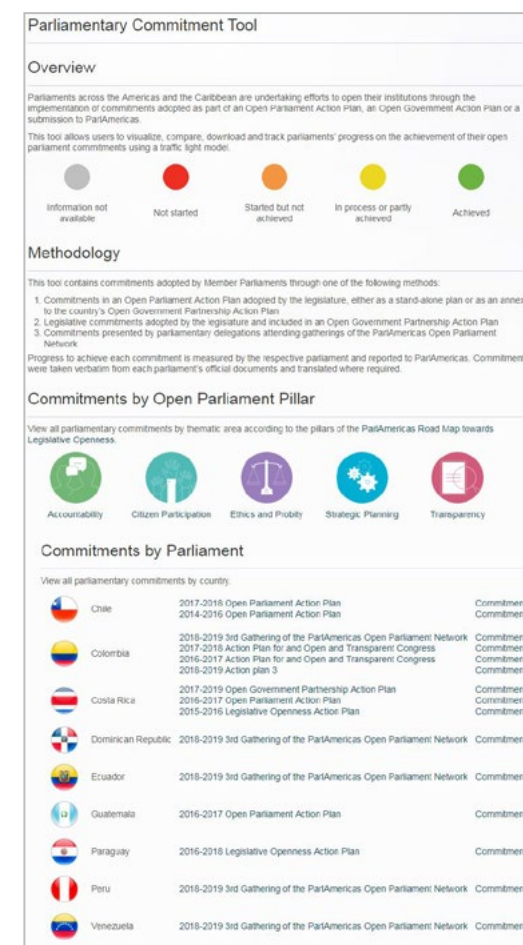
## Open Parliament Portal

The Open Parliament Portal is an online platform designed for parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and parliamentary strengthening practitioners in the Americas and the Caribbean. It provides information on legislative openness and a space to exchange knowledge and experiences from the hemisphere through videos, infographics, presentations and external resources. This portal will include several toolkits developed by ParlAmericas to support the implementation of open parliament principles, organized in accordance with the pillars of ParlAmericas' Road Map towards Legislative Openness: transparency and access to public information, accountability, ethics, and public participation, the first of the toolkits currently available online. It provides useful resources for anyone looking for inspiration or guidance to develop and implement an Open Parliament Action Plan or specific openness initiatives. Features also enable users to share openness practices and mechanisms currently in place within the region as well as consult a glossary defining important concepts. The Open Parliament Portal is currently available in English, Spanish and French, and will be launched in Portuguese in 2019. [www.parltools.org](http://www.parltools.org)



## Parliamentary Commitment Tool

The Parliamentary Commitment Tool is an online space that allows users to visualize, compare, download and track parliaments' progress towards the achievement of their open parliament commitments. It includes commitments presented by parliamentary delegations at the annual Gatherings of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network as well as those included in Open Parliament Action Plans and legislative commitments in Open Government Action Plans presented to the Open Government Partnership. Commitments can be explored by countries and by open parliament pillars: transparency and access to information, accountability, public participation and ethics. Progress towards each commitment is reported by parliaments and displayed through a traffic light system, along with a description of the actions that have been completed to date and links to additional information. This tool showcases the significant efforts undertaken by parliaments across our hemisphere to strengthen their institutions, encourages the adoption of new commitments to promote openness and serves as guidance by providing examples and ideas of new initiatives. The Parliamentary Commitment Tool is available in Spanish, English, French and Portuguese. [www.parlAmericas.org/en/open-parliament/parl-comm-tracker](http://www.parlAmericas.org/en/open-parliament/parl-comm-tracker)



# RESOURCES AND PUBLICATIONS

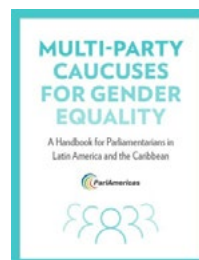
ParlAmericas creates specialized resources for parliamentarians that align with topics addressed by each of its networks and its activities. These materials are made available at our meetings and through our website.

## GENDER

### Promoting Women's Candidacies



### Multi-Party Caucuses for Gender Equality



### Intersectionality



## OPEN PARLIAMENT

### Road Map Towards Legislative Openness



### The Open Government Partnership: An Overview for Parliamentarians in the Americas and the Caribbean



### Citizen Participation in the Legislative Process



## CLIMATE CHANGE

### Primer on Carbon Pricing



### A Comparative Overview of the Rights Based Approach in the Americas



### A Comparative Overview of Legislative and Executive Responses in the Americas







## MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF PARLAMERICAS



Dear colleagues,

Since September 2018, I have had the honour of serving as Vice-President of ParlAmericas; a responsibility bestowed upon me following my nomination during the 15<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly and through which Ecuador reaffirms its active commitment to ParlAmericas. I assume this responsibility with much enthusiasm, knowing that it will allow me to contribute to developing actions to encourage integration policies and the strengthening of parliamentary diplomacy among all parliaments on the American continent. It is a pleasure for me to be a part of an organization that is so well-regarded and important for the democracy of our hemisphere.

In 2018, ParlAmericas promoted significant actions on topics of shared relevance for all of our countries. Our parliaments had the opportunity to participate actively in the various meetings organized by the International Secretariat, with the support of the host parliaments, on a wide variety of subjects of high hemispheric importance. These meetings facilitated the exchange of parliamentary good practices and promoted cooperative political dialogue. They also supported parliamentary efforts to advance legislative actions on gender equality, parliamentary openness and transparency, and climate change.

This year, our institution has contributed to building and strengthening dynamics, principles, and relationships between our parliaments and with civil society. This has been achieved while recognizing that each country is unique and thus faces different challenges that must be addressed through different approaches and strategies.

I would like to highlight the work undertaken in 2018 by the Executive Committees that govern each of the organization's three thematic networks. These Committees are led by legislative colleagues who represent different countries in the Americas and the Caribbean. During the 15<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly, which was held in Victoria, Canada, and focused on promoting inclusive societies for sustainable development, we had the opportunity to hear a full report on the actions carried out by each of the three networks. Each has taken actions of vital importance to the promotion of good practices and has coordinated the production of invaluable specialized resources that will be extremely useful for our parliamentary work.

I would also like to share with all of you my commitment to supporting collective efforts to fight corruption and foster citizen participation in legislative actions, to promote legislative actions that apply a gender perspective and advocate for women's political leadership, and to combat climate change and achieve sustainable development.

I hope that the information and resources contained within these pages will prove to be very useful for you. I thank you for your continued participation in the many activities organized by ParlAmericas and for your commitment to our shared objectives. Finally, I would like to invite you to join us in the activities being organized for next year, and to continue to contribute your perspectives and actions.

Sincerely,

*The Honorable Elizabeth Cabezas*

**President of the National Assembly, Ecuador  
Vice-President of ParlAmericas**

 FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER @ELIZCABEZAS



## 15<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY ASSEMBLY: Promoting Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development

### #ParlAmericas2018

**THEME:** Promoting Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development

**DATE:** September 10-12, 2018

**LOCATION:** Victoria, Canada

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 100 parliamentarians and civil society representatives from 26 countries



*This activity is aligned with SDGs 1, 5, 8, 10, 16 and 17*

The 15<sup>th</sup> ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly, hosted by the Parliament of Canada, brought together parliamentarians and civil society representatives to discuss good practices and initiatives that can be applied to promote inclusive economic, social and political conditions for sustainable development – with an emphasis on promoting accessible and equitable labour markets, empowerment of Indigenous people, especially women, and social integration of migrant communities and victims of forced displacement.

The Plenary Assembly opened with remarks from the Hon. **George J. Furey** (Canada), Speaker of the Senate, the Hon. **Geoff Regan** (Canada), Speaker of the House of Commons, and Member of Parliament the Hon. **Robert Nault** (Canada), newly elected President of ParlAmericas. **Tarcila Rivera Zea**, Executive Director of the Center for Indigenous Cultures of Peru, Founder of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas and the International Indigenous Women's Forum provided the keynote address.

As the Annual General Meeting of its members, the Plenary Assembly included a session devoted to statutory business. The Hon. **Robert Nault** (Canada), newly elected President of ParlAmericas,

chaired the session and provided an overview of governance decisions that have been adopted by the ParlAmericas Board of Directors.

This session also provided an opportunity to update parliamentary delegations on successes that have been achieved under each ParlAmericas stream of work. Representatives from each thematic network highlighted key working sessions and Gatherings, as well as related knowledge resources and online community spaces that have been developed over the past year to assist parliamentarians and to strengthen good practices in the hemisphere.

The Opening Plenary session was then followed by a series of working sessions where delegates heard from expert panellists and discussed strategies and the role of parliaments in adopting laws and





promoting practices to advance economic inclusion through accessible and equitable labour markets; political inclusion through indigenous women's leadership; and social inclusion through the consideration of case studies on migration, forced displacement and integration. This culminated in a Final Plenary Session with the adoption of the meeting Declaration, followed by closing remarks made by the newly elected President and Vice-President of ParlAmericas, the Hon. **Robert Nault** and the Hon. **Elizabeth Cabezas**.

A [detailed report about this meeting](#) can be accessed on the ParlAmericas website.

*“Indigenous women in our societies have two layers of exploitation: first the national oppression by virtue of being a nation within a nation and facing discrimination, and then anthropologically within the culture, the dominance of the male. It is a similar experience that Africans would have had in a society where racism was a dominant feature of the ideological superstructure that existed then... There might be opportunities to leverage the connection between the people of African descent in Nicaragua and the people of the Anglophone Caribbean to exchange experiences and learn from each other.”*



President of the Senate  
The Hon. **Chester Humphrey**  
(Grenada)





*“Independently of whether or not it is possible to guarantee direct representation of Indigenous peoples and women in national parliaments, all parliamentarians – Indigenous and non-Indigenous – by virtue of being elected to represent the people, have a duty to promote and protect the rights of its population, including Indigenous peoples.”*

Executive Director of the Center  
for Indigenous Cultures of Peru  
**Tarcila Rivera Zea**



## DECLARATION HIGHLIGHTS

The Plenary Assembly concluded with the reading of the Declaration by Member of the National Assembly **Gladys Mercedes López Bejerano** (Cuba), ParlAmericas Board Member, which was adopted by the delegations of each parliament represented and recognized that inclusive societies are those where all people can enjoy human rights and fully participate in social, cultural and political life, and where public authorities, institutions and norms foster democracy, diversity, pluralism, acceptance, non-discrimination, non-violence, equality of opportunity, dignity, solidarity and security. The Declaration included the following commitments:

- Adopting legislation, regulatory frameworks and practices that foster the conditions for effective economic, social and political inclusion of all members of our societies, including women, Indigenous peoples, youth, migrants, forcibly displaced people and other underrepresented or marginalized groups.
- Fostering democracy and a political environment that recognizes and values diversity, pluralism, solidarity and equality of opportunity for all people, and that welcomes the contributions of migrants and forcibly displaced populations to the economy and culture of host countries.
- Cooperating with our governments, international organizations and civil society, as well as with other parliaments, in the development of effective practices and coordinated regional responses, through legislation and public policies aimed at achieving social inclusion and integration of refugees and migrants, taking into consideration the specific experiences, needs and strengths of migrants and refugees, and addressing these through empathetic and evidence-based policymaking.

## TRAINING SESSION: PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET CONSULTATIONS

Two training sessions, one in English/French and one in Spanish were facilitated concurrently by Dr. **Helaina Gaspard**, Director of Governance and Institutions at the Institute for Fiscal Studies and Democracy (IFSD) at the University of Ottawa and **Juan Pablo Guerrero**, Network Director of the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency (GIFT) on the margins of the 15<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly. The training session provided participants with an overview of parliament's role in the national budget cycle and all the actors involved, along with good practices that can be applied to enable public participation in the budget process.

The sessions included presentations on current practices from the Parliament of Canada, the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, the National Assembly of Ecuador and the Congress of Peru; and benefited from an active discussion and exchange of experiences from participating delegates.



*“Parliamentarians through their unique roles can contribute to the progress and sustainability of open government initiatives in their respective countries, and promote these same [openness] principles in their own parliaments through actions and initiatives that strengthen the engagement of civil society and public participation [in legislative work], as we have been fostering through the Open Parliament Network.”*



Member of Parliament  
**Randy Boissonnault** (Canada)



## MARCELA GUERRA PRESIDENT OF PARLAMERICAS 2014-2018

The Opening Plenary Session included a tribute to **Marcela Guerra** (Mexico), outgoing President of ParlAmericas. Over the course of the 2 days during different moments of public address, delegates reflected on the leadership of Ms. Guerra which contributed to the accelerated growth of the organization's activities over the past four years and how this has resulted in ParlAmericas' positioning as a key interlocutor in the inter-American system and in the advancement of hemispheric efforts to combat climate change, strengthen gender equality, and promote transparency, accountability and ethics in the legislative sphere. Ms. Guerra offered remarks to conclude the Open Plenary Session: "It has been an honour for me to lead ParlAmericas during these last few years and I am certain that there are many more successes to come. I encourage you all to keep working from the trenches to continue strengthening democratic institutions and contribute to the well-being of our peoples."



*“The most important part of the budget proposal is citizen participation. The entire budget of the State of Ecuador is based on this participation which takes place in the first phase of development and continues in the National Assembly. It not only takes place in the formulation of public policies but it also extends to the whole cycle guarantee that input is provided by each of the various communities, social organizations and peoples.”*

Member of the National Assembly  
**Karina Arteaga** (Ecuador)





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



Honourable colleagues,

Women's empowerment is on the agenda and is being heard in new and critical ways in our region and around the world. The energy and determination of these demands show no signs of diminishing. I am proud that the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality (PNGE) has also increased its reach and impact in support of women's leadership and gender-responsive parliamentary politics in response to and as part of this global effort.

For the PNGE, 2018 was about partnerships and alliance-building towards the shared goal of removing all barriers to women's social, political, and economic equality. The Parliaments of Jamaica and Barbados both hosted sessions that brought together parliamentarians and other stakeholders to emphasize the importance of these connections. The PNGE also participated in a number of meetings organized by partner organizations in Canada, Chile, Peru, and Uruguay.

As a founding member of the Inter-American Task Force on Women's Empowerment and Leadership, ParlAmericas participated in the launch of this important high-level coordinating mechanism on the margins of the Summit of the Americas in Peru. The Task Force will help to accelerate regional progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 5 to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Gender mainstreaming was another focus of the PNGE's work this year. Our 10th hemispheric Gathering, hosted by the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago and titled Gender-Responsive Climate Action, advocated for effective and equitable solutions to the serious threats associated with climate change and disasters.

Discussions highlighted that women and marginalized communities must be active participants in mitigation and adaptation decision-making in order to meet the differentiated needs of those whose lives are most impacted by climate change.

The training sessions that took place on the margins of the Gathering also demonstrated the need to apply a gender perspective in allocating resources. Gender budgeting can be a powerful tool for understanding whether and how funds are benefitting different segments of the populations of our countries and can create transformative change in the systems and processes that we engage with through our legislative responsibilities.

2019 will be an exciting year for the PNGE as we build on these efforts and begin new initiatives, including a three-year project to enhance the capacity of women's organizations working across party lines to promote favourable conditions for women's political leadership. This further builds on our commitment to working in close partnership with civil society.

I would like to thank each of the members of the PNGE Executive Committee for their leadership throughout the year, which continues to ensure the network's success.

On behalf of the PNGE, we look forward to our ongoing collaborations with member parliaments as we collectively advance gender equality initiatives that improve the lives of all people in the Americas and Caribbean.

Sincerely,

*Karina Banfi*

**Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Argentina  
President of the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality**

 FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER @KBANFI

# INTER-PARLIAMENTARY MEETING: Partnerships to Transform Gender Relations

## #ParlAmericasGEN

**DATE:** January 24-25, 2018

**LOCATION:** Kingston, Jamaica

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 60 parliamentarians, government and parliamentary staff, and representatives of international agencies and civil society organizations from 10 countries



*This activity is aligned with SDGs 5 and 16*

This activity organized by the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality was **hosted by the Parliament of Jamaica** in collaboration with the Bureau of Gender Affairs. It convened legislators from the Anglophone Caribbean and Canada along with civil society activists and practitioners, researchers, parliamentary staff, and government representatives to examine how multi-sector collaborations can foster positive cultural and legal change. ParlAmericas' Director General, **Alisha Todd**, facilitated the dialogues and working sessions of the meeting, drawing on the expertise of these diverse stakeholders to highlight good practices and strategies for building alliances that advance the gender equality agenda.

The meeting opened with welcoming remarks by Senator Dr. **Saphire Longmore** (Jamaica), member of the ParlAmericas Board of Directors; and by **Denzil Thorpe**, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport (Jamaica). The keynote address was delivered by **Sheila Roseau**, Deputy Regional Director of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The opening session was followed by a series of working sessions in which delegates heard from expert panellists, civil society representatives and parliamentarians. Different approaches to addressing gender inequality were presented and discussed.

Session I, "Comprehensive approaches to address gender inequality," drew on the concept of "metricizing" gender for state actions and interventions in the Caribbean, and outlined some of the complexities of developing frameworks around gender, and possible blueprints to guide policy development through coalitions. In the discussion that followed the presentation, participants were invited to consider the roles parliaments can play in advocating for gender equality policies and plans, and in ensuring inclusive consultations and monitoring of outcomes. Joint select committees and working across party lines were identified as powerful mechanisms for advancing these efforts.

*"I encourage you to ride the wave of energy that has come from talking about inequality in its most overt and pervasive forms. Let us work together to take off the blinders which shield all other forms of gender inequality from seeing the public light. This need not amount to mere 'naming and shaming,' but the building of ally networks, the emergence of collaborative spaces for learning and sharing, and the articulation of efforts to make our society a more just, harmonious and equitable one, where all have the opportunity to participate and live in peace and freedom."*

**Sheila Roseau**, Deputy Regional Director of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, UNFPA





*“This Gathering deliberately centres culture and social norms in the conversations about tackling gender inequalities through our legislative functions. The ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality is an important forum for knowledge sharing in these areas.”*



Senator  
**Dr. Sapphire Longmore** (Jamaica)

Session 2, “Effective strategies for engaging men,” highlighted the importance of engaging men as allies to address gender inequalities. The session revealed a spectrum of challenges and opportunities to redefine traditional masculinities, gender roles,

and power relations that uphold patriarchy. The expert presentations stimulated frank conversations and new ways of thinking about normative gender relations and privileges. Participants contributed perspectives on effective entry points for inspiring

men’s engagement, such as sports teams, public spaces where men congregate, and male-only Gatherings facilitated by gender equality specialists.

Session 3, “Media and cultural agents,” explored examples of the use of creative projects and campaigns undertaken by civil society organisations to raise awareness on the root causes of gender inequality and specific legal reforms.

Day two was opened with a presentation of legal measures to address sexual harassment, with examples of clauses that can strengthen protection for victims, such as third party reporting and class action cases; and emphasized the importance of “intersectionality,” which prompts consideration of



the ways racism and classism can lead to overlapping social vulnerabilities for some women and men. This was followed by a session on legislative reforms for the workplace, with case study examples shared from Jamaica, Canada, and a Caribbean regional program called IMPACT. Participants discussed appropriate legal responses and how diverse actors can come together to achieve the necessary changes.

The meeting ended with a final session “Mobilizing partnerships: Building a gender equality campaign”, using a World Café exercise in which participants brainstormed and exchanged ideas on the

key considerations for developing an effective International Women’s Day campaign, namely:

- 1) the underlying gender norms that should be challenged;
- 2) strategic partners to engage;
- 3) links to the national parliament and legislative agenda;
- 4) public dissemination approaches for different target audiences; and
- 5) promoting sustainable, transformative impacts.

A [detailed report about this meeting](#) can be accessed on the ParlAmericas website.

*“It’s not just legislation that makes a difference: from the Prime Minister’s signals right down to recognitions of wrong and public commitment to correct it, that’s also powerful. But legislation has a special role because that embeds some of these concepts in our legal structure.”*



Member of the Parliament  
**Joyce Murray** (Canada)

## ABOUT THE PNGE

The [ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality \(PNGE\)](#) promotes women’s political leadership and gender mainstreaming in the agendas and operations of the national legislatures of the Americas and the Caribbean.

Since its creation in 2003, the Network (formerly known as the Group of Women Parliamentarians) has carried out activities and initiatives that bring together legislators from across the hemisphere for the exchange of knowledge and good practices to advance women’s rights and gender equality. Through its inter-parliamentary Gatherings, the Network has addressed topics of shared importance such as women’s economic empowerment, ending gender-based political violence, electoral reforms to promote women’s candidacies, gender-sensitive media and communications, and parliamentary caucuses for gender equality, among others. The outcomes of these activities also inform the development of specialized resources and online communities for parliamentarians.

The Network for Gender Equality is committed to creating diverse and inclusive working spaces, encouraging the participation of male allies, and collaborating with women’s organizations and social movements towards shared objectives.

The Network is governed by an elected Executive Committee, composed of the President (who also serves as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President on ParlAmericas’ Board of Directors) and sub-regional Vice-Presidencies representing North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean.

For more information related to the work of the PNGE, visit the Gender Equality section of the ParlAmericas website or contact the ParlAmericas Gender Equality Program at [parlamericasgen@paramericas.org](mailto:parlamericasgen@paramericas.org).



# 10<sup>TH</sup> GATHERING OF THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK FOR GENDER EQUALITY

## #ParlAmericasGEN

**THEME:** Gender-Responsive Climate Action

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

**DATE:** May 22-24, 2018

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 130 parliamentarians, government and parliamentary staff, and representatives of civil society and international organizations from 26 countries



*This activity is aligned with SDGs 3, 5 and 13*

The 10<sup>th</sup> Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality (PNGE) was **hosted by the Parliament of the**

**Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.** This three-day meeting brought together parliamentarians from across the Americas and Caribbean region, alongside civil society activists and other subject matter experts to examine the differential impacts of climate change and natural disasters based on socio-economic inequalities and other demographic factors. This Gathering was an opportunity to build on the interconnected work of two of ParlAmericas' program areas – Gender Equality and Climate Change – and to apply learning from recent activities on disaster risk reduction, social movements, and intersectional gender analysis.

The Gathering was opened by the Hon. **Bridgid Annisette-George**, Speaker of the House of Representatives and ParlAmericas Board Member (Trinidad and Tobago); the Hon. **Ayanna Webster-Roy**, Minister of State in the Office of

the Prime Minister (Trinidad and Tobago); the Hon. **Camille Robinson-Regis**, Minister of Planning and Development (Trinidad and Tobago); Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Karina Banfi** (Argentina), President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality, and the Hon. **Robert Nault**, Member of Parliament (Canada), Vice-President of ParlAmericas (2016-2018). **Bridget Burns**, Co-Director of Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO) provided the keynote address.

The inaugural ceremony was followed by a series of working sessions that examined the differential impacts of climate change and natural disasters based on socio-economic inequalities and other demographic factors. The presentations and dialogues evidenced the transformative role that gender analysis and budgeting can play in this regard.



The Gathering also highlighted the importance of strengthening women's participation in climate decision making and implementation, so that their knowledge and expertise is fully integrated in planning for a more resilient future. The delegates exchanged strategies and reflections on advancing towards these shared goals through parliamentary functions – particularly executive oversight and budget approval – and through partnerships with diverse stakeholders.

Day two provided an opportunity for parliamentarians to engage in smaller group discussions on the nexus between climate, gender, and health. Facilitated by ParlAmericas' Director General **Alisha Todd**, this activity grouped the delegates at roundtables, each of which examined the direct and indirect social impacts of different phenomenon related to climate change, disasters, or another form of environmental destruction. With topics including flooding, earthquakes, sea-level rise, wildfires, and water contamination, the delegates assessed potential health impacts from an intersectional gender lens. They also discussed legislative responses, taking into consideration distinctive contextual factors (cultural, environmental, political, or historical) for different countries in the region.

The Gathering concluded with the adoption of the meeting Declaration, followed by closing remarks made by the Hon. **Robert Nault** and the Hon. Speaker **Bridgid Annisette-George**.

A [detailed report about this meeting](#) can be accessed on the ParlAmericas website.

## DECLARATION HIGHLIGHTS

The Gathering's [Declaration](#) was presented and read by the Hon. **Mobina Jaffer** (Canada) and the discussion and approval process was moderated by the Hon. **Bridgid Annisette-George**, Speaker of the House of Representatives (Trinidad and Tobago) and ParlAmericas Board Member. Among the commitments made in the Declaration by the parliamentary delegations were:

- Promoting gender mainstreaming in parliamentary work on climate action, and the development of national budgetary tools and policies to consider the different impacts of spending and taxation on women, men, and traditionally marginalized groups as relevant to national contexts.
- Fostering a political environment that is conducive to gender responsive implementation of international climate change agreements and action plans, supported by national-level policy frameworks and transparent and inclusive consultation processes.
- Encouraging our governments and legislatures to conduct gender-sensitive national and subnational assessments on health risks associated with climate change to strengthen public sector responses to the specific vulnerabilities of different population groups.

*“The engagement and leadership of both men and women, equally, are needed to make our response to climate change fully effective. One size does not fit all; gender neutrality – even if there were in reality such a thing – in the context of climate change and sustainable development will not only be inappropriate but is, and shall be, ineffective, inefficient and result in a wastage of resources. And of course, it shall leave, if not half, very large segments of our populations behind. We as legislators have long recognized that gender is a cross-cutting theme, and therefore it is incumbent upon us in this discharge of our responsibilities to fashion accordingly our policies of mitigation and risk reduction, preparation response and rehabilitation, and resilience and adaptation.”*



Speaker of the House of Representatives  
The Hon. **Bridgid Annisette-George**  
(Trinidad and Tobago)



Senator  
The Hon. **Mobina Jaffer** (Canada)

*“Building peaceful and just societies requires that we combat violence in all of its forms, including gender-based violence. Understanding how violence and conflict affect different individuals and including diverse perspectives in developing solutions will ensure that everyone’s differentiated needs are met.”*

*“The presentations and discussions [on topics addressed by the Network this year] demonstrated the transformational role that gender analysis and gender-responsive budgeting can play.”*



Member of the Legislative Assembly  
**Cristina Cornejo** (El Salvador)

*“It is imperative that at the legislative level, nations protect the rights of women and girls as we strive to eradicate violence and discrimination. In Chile, we have established a gender equality committee within the Chamber of Deputies, allowing us to take action on issues more effectively.”*



Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
**Marcela Sabat** (Chile)

## TRAINING SESSION

Training sessions on gender-responsive budgeting were offered in collaboration with UN Women and provided an introduction to the key concepts and analytical tools for different phases of the budget cycle, highlighting opportunities to promote or engage with gender budgeting initiatives through legislative work, such as advocating for the availability and use of disaggregated data in these efforts. The session in English and French was facilitated by **Isiwa Iyehen**, Programme Specialist in Economic Empowerment and Statistics at the UN Women Multi-Country Office – Caribbean, with opening reflections by the Hon. **Bridgid Annisette-George**, Speaker of the House of Representatives and ParlAmericas Board Member (Trinidad and Tobago), and by the Hon. **Mobina Jaffer**, Senator (Canada) and Vice-President of the PNGE for North America. This session additionally featured a presentation by economist **Armine Yalnizyan**, who outlined the many social and economic benefits of gender budgeting with examples from Canada, where the most recent federal budget underwent an intersectional gender-based analysis (GBA+). The session in Spanish was delivered by **Lorena Barba**, Analyst for Planning and Gender Budgeting at UN Women - Ecuador. It began with welcoming remarks by Member of the Legislative Assembly **Cristina Cornejo** (El Salvador) on behalf of ParlAmericas’ Board of Directors.





## PARLIAMENTARY CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE: Transformational Leadership for Gender Equality in the Caribbean: Regional Strategies and Partnerships

### #ParlAmericasGEN

**LOCATION:** Bridgetown, Barbados

**DATE:** November 19-20, 2018

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 60 parliamentarians, government and parliamentary staff, and representatives of civil society and international organizations from 13 countries across the two days of activities.



*This activity is aligned with SDGs 5 and 17*

The Parliamentary-Civil Society Dialogue on Transformational Leadership for Gender Equality in the Caribbean convened parliamentarians, ministers, representatives from multilaterals, national gender machinery, civil society organisations, and other relevant stakeholders to exchange on current initiatives in the region to advance women's leadership and gender equality, and to develop strategies to mainstream this focus in national sustainable development efforts. Through a series of working sessions, the delegates forged strengthened partnerships, coordinated agendas, and contributed to these efforts at the regional level by providing input on a Draft CARICOM Regional Gender Equality Strategy.

The meeting opened with welcoming remarks by **Alison McLean**, Representative, UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean; **Lady Anande Trotman-Joseph**, Chair of the CIWiL Board of Directors; the Hon. **Robert Nault**, Member of Parliament (Canada) and President of ParlAmericas; the Hon. **Arthur E. Holder**, Speaker of the House of Assembly (Barbados) and member of the ParlAmericas Board of Directors. The feature address was delivered by the Hon. **Mia Mottley**, Prime Minister of Barbados.

In a high-level dialogue, participants discussed strategies for the promotion of gender-transformative leadership to meet national development priorities. Special remarks were offered by Ambassador H.E. Dame **Billie Miller**, CIWiL Patron, and the dialogue that followed was moderated by Lady **Anande Trotman-Joseph**, Chair of the CIWiL Board of Directors.

Day two was an interactive session, "Briefings and knowledge-exchange with regional stakeholders," where partner organizations presented on new





studies and projects they are undertaking to promote women's political empowerment and gender equality. Participants posed questions and exchanged with the panellists on opportunities for partnerships and collaboration on themes ranging from promoting women's leadership in political parties; to raising awareness about cyber bullying; to anti-discrimination community outreach initiatives.

A [detailed report about this meeting](#) can be accessed on the ParlAmericas website.

*“The Parliament of Barbados is most pleased to support this meeting, which brings together many of our neighbours from the hemisphere. It is an opportunity to exchange on the parliamentary actions that can assist in the advancement of women's rights and political leadership, for a future based on equality and prosperity for all.”*



Speaker of the House of Assembly  
The Hon. **Arthur Holder** (Barbados)



### PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTATION TO INFORM CARICOM'S FORTHCOMING REGIONAL GENDER EQUALITY STRATEGY

In a working session, parliamentarians and other stakeholders exchanged on priority themes to be included in a Regional Gender Equality Strategy being developed by CARICOM.

Following presentations by **Tonni Brodber** (UN Women) and **Ann-Marie Williams** (CARICOM), participants rotated through discussion tables that explored gender-responsive approaches to 1) Good governance and political participation, 2) Freedom from Violence, 3) Access to Health Services, 4) Social Protection and Inclusion, 5) Economic Empowerment, and 6) Climate Resilience. They shared key challenges, good practices in their countries, relevant legislative frameworks and other parliamentary actions that could be taken, as well as the resources needed to implement effective solutions.

The working session was facilitated by **Lebrechtta Nana Oye Hesse-Bayne** (CIWiL) and **Alisha Todd** (ParlAmericas). Table discussions were hosted by members of the **CIWiL Board of Directors** and **National Gender Machinery representatives** from across the Caribbean.





**Tonni Brobder**, Deputy Representative  
UN Women Multi-Office - Caribbean

*“Women’s leadership and women’s rights are critical to sustainable development; not just because it is a human right, but also because it is economically the best and most strategic thing to do.”*

## ACTION POINTS

Over the course of the meeting, the following points of action surfaced in conversations:

1. Explore within political parties how to better recruit and support women candidates.
2. Mentor aspiring politicians and foster their interest in gender equality and respectful political dialogue.
3. Connect with local women’s organisations and other civil society actors to create partnerships in support of each other’s work.
4. Advocate for national implementation of international gender equality commitments, including CEDAW, the SDGs, and the forthcoming CARICOM Regional Gender Equality Strategy.
5. Apply a gender lens in examining and debating all legislative issues, recognising that all issues are women’s issues.





## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLAMERICAS OPEN PARLIAMENT NETWORK



**Dear Colleagues,**

In 2018, the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network has focused on facilitating spaces and resources that promote the implementation of the pillars of our Road Map towards

Legislative Openness: transparency, accountability, citizen participation and ethics, as well as linking these efforts with that of other organizations, activities and initiatives within this hemisphere and internationally.

The year started with our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Gathering which focused on democratic governance against corruption, and served as the official parliamentary Gathering of the VIII Summit of the Americas in Peru. It brought together more than 100 legislators of the Americas and Caribbean, who exchanged experiences and practices related to parliamentary openness and its importance in the elaboration of anticorruption policies. Two workshops were then conducted within the framework of ParlAmericas' 15<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly in Canada, where delegations discussed public participation in the national budget process. The year ended with two meetings held in Chile that facilitated exchanges between legislators, parliamentary clerks and civil society representatives, to contribute to a Guide to Develop Open Parliament Action Plans which will be launched next year. Our network also coordinated a panel discussion at the XVI Gathering for the Network on Transparency and Access to Information.

ParlAmericas became a founding member of the Open Parliament e-Network (OPeN), a consortium of international organizations committed to advancing parliamentary openness at a global level, which launched during the Open Government Partnership Global Summit in Georgia.

We published a Toolkit on Citizen Participation in the Legislative Process, which contains practices and mechanisms that parliaments of the hemisphere have developed in order to involve civil society in their work. We also launched our Open Parliament Portal, an online platform to facilitate an exchange of knowledge and experiences across the continent. Finally, we developed a Parliamentary Commitment Tool which allows users to visualize commitments made by parliaments to further open their institutions.

Next year, we will continue to promote and support the adoption of open parliament action plans and initiatives, as well as to explore opportunities to apply co-creation processes in other thematic areas by linking our agenda more closely with efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals, through a focus on climate change, and mainstreaming gender equality.

I am deeply grateful for the support and participation of parliamentary delegations at our activities throughout the years, and I look forward to continue working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

*Blanca Ovelar*

**Senator, Paraguay  
President of the Open Parliament Network**

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## 3<sup>RD</sup> GATHERING OF THE PARLAMERICAS OPEN PARLIAMENT NETWORK

### #ParlAmericasOPN

**THEME:** Open States for Democratic Governance  
Against Corruption

**VENUE:** Lima, Peru

**DATES:** April 11-12, 2018

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 100 parliamentarians and  
parliamentary staff from 25 countries



*This activity is aligned with SDG 16*

In collaboration with the **Congress of the Republic of Peru**, ParlAmericas held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Gathering of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network: Open States for Democratic Governance Against Corruption, an official Gathering in the framework of the **VIII Summit of the Americas**, during which experts and parliamentarians exchanged best practices and ideas on how to face corruption while taking into account open parliament principles, as well as recognizing the importance of a cross-sectional approach to this challenge that will involve all governmental branches and institutions, as well as civil society.

The Gathering started with welcoming remarks from the Hon. **Robert Nault** Member of Parliament (Canada) and Vice-President of ParlAmericas (2016-2018), Member of the Legislative Assembly **Karla Prendas** (Costa Rica), Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network – Central America (2017 – 2018), and Member of Congress **Luis Galarreta** (Peru), President of the Congress of the Republic (2017-2018) and the host of the Gathering. The keynote address was delivered by **Martin Kreutner**, Dean and Executive Secretary of the International Anti-Corruption Academy.

The opening ceremony was followed by a series of working sessions that examined whether corruption is worsening or if transparency measures have increased its visibility and how the promotion of ethics and probity – through the application of ethical standards, conflict of interest regulations, and gender-sensitive practices in public service play a crucial role in strengthening the integrity of parliament.

Through the discussions, participants acknowledged challenges in order to identify the obstacles parliaments face in the fight against corruption; they explored the role of women in the anti-corruption agenda as well as multi-partisan and

non-partisan mechanisms such as gender caucuses; and they discussed ways in which parliaments can contribute to promoting more open and transparent institutions, and in particular more Open Parliaments.

Day two participants heard examples from the parliaments of Colombia and Paraguay about the co-creation processes used in the formation of their Open Parliament action plans – which led into a round table working session where delegates worked in small groups to review, discuss, and inform draft *Guidelines for Developing Open Parliament Action Plans*.

In the final session parliamentarians from Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Honduras, Peru and Suriname offered insight on new modernization and legislative openness tools and mechanisms their parliaments have developed in order to advance the modernization and openness agenda.

The Gathering concluded with the adoption of the meeting Declaration, followed by closing remarks from the Hon. **Robert Nault** (Canada), Vice-President of ParlAmericas (2016-2018) and the Hon. **Luis Galarreta** (Peru), President of the Congress of the Republic (2017-2018).

A [detailed report about this meeting](#) can be accessed on the ParlAmericas website.





## ABOUT THE OPN

The ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network (OPN) promotes legislative openness through efforts to increase transparency and access to public information, strengthen the accountability of democratic institutions, promote the participation of citizens in legislative decision-making, and ensure a culture of ethical behaviour and probity in the national legislatures of the Americas and the Caribbean.

Since its integration in ParlAmericas in 2015, the Network (formerly known as Inter-American Parliamentary Network on Transparency, Access to Public Information, and Probity), provides workshops, facilitates peer to peer exchanges and produces tools for legislators with the ultimate objective of combating corruption, enhancing public trust and strengthening our democratic institutions, to build peaceful and inclusive societies that provide access to justice for all and boast of effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, in support of Sustainable Development Goal 16. The outcomes of these activities also inform the development of specialized resources and online communities for parliamentarians.

The Network is governed by an elected Executive Committee, composed of the President (who also serves as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President on ParlAmericas' Board of Directors) and sub-regional Vice-Presidencies representing North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean.

For more information related to the work of the OPN, visit the Open Parliament Section of the ParlAmericas website or contact the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Program at [parlamericasopn@parlAmericas.org](mailto:parlamericasopn@parlAmericas.org).

## DECLARATION HIGHLIGHTS

The Gathering's Declaration that was read by Member of Congress **Ana María Choquehuanca** (Peru) and the discussion and approval process was moderated by the Hon. **Robert Nault** Member of Parliament (Canada). Some of the commitments adopted by parliamentarians in the Declaration are:

- Adopting legislation, regulatory frameworks, and practices that can be effectively applied and that promote transparency, accountability, citizen participation, and the highest ethical standards in the governance of our institutions.
- Promoting a gender and intercultural perspective in all legislative reforms or measures against corruption, taking into account that this disproportionately affects women, and that it is therefore necessary to consider the impacts and effects that all legislative initiatives that address this problem could have on this population group; and through this contributing to the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Strengthening inter-institutional relations in order to establish comprehensive legislative responses that curb corruption, promoting the principles and values of the Open Government Partnership, and taking action directed at advancing the open government agenda from the parliament.
- Encouraging the creation and implementation of national open government action plans, including open parliament action plans and other mechanisms developed in collaboration with civil society; and exercising our oversight role over the fulfillment of the commitments made in these plans.



*“With respect to the independence of ethics committees, I have no doubt that they will work if parliamentarians disclose and are accountable for their actions. This oversight is more efficient if there is a balance, for example if the person chairing the committee is a parliamentarian not belonging to the party enjoying a majority in the Chamber of Deputies.”*



Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
**Javier Macaya** (Chile)

*“Integrity, transparency and accountability are the three pillars that should be promoted by the Government, as well as by us, fellow parliamentarians. There should be a certain amount of pressure from amongst ourselves to set an example by enforcing integrity and transparency at the highest levels of government.”*



Senator  
The Hon. **Rosa Gálvez** (Canada)



## PARLAMERICAS AND THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

The Summits of the Americas are institutionalized Gatherings of state leaders and the foremost Inter-American forum to define a common agenda for addressing urgent challenges through commitments to concerted regional and national actions at the highest political level.

ParlAmericas has contributed to Summits of the Americas since its establishment in 2001. This coincided with the III Summit of the Americas in Quebec City, whose plan of action formally recognized the importance of parliamentary exchanges and cooperation undertaken through ParlAmericas for the advancement of transparency and good governance in the hemisphere.

In its role as the institution promoting parliamentary democracy in the Inter-American system, ParlAmericas has regularly convened meetings of parliamentarians during the Summits of the Americas. The participation of parliamentarians in this forum is of utmost importance in consideration of the critical role of parliaments for the effective advancement of agreements and undertakings entered into by countries through the Summits of the Americas. For example, parliaments are responsible for developing legislative frameworks and approving allocations of budget resources to enable follow-through on commitments made by national governments in the Summits of the Americas.

The most recent VIII Summit of the Americas in Lima Peru on April 13-14, 2018 addressed the theme of “Democratic Governance against Corruption.” The 3<sup>rd</sup> Gathering of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network served as the official Gathering of parliamentarians in the framework of this process. The Open Parliament Network also made recommendations that were noted in the outcome document of the VIII Summit of the Americas, known as the Lima Commitment.



*“The people of Ecuador voiced their opinion in a referendum in favor of a true Social Control and Citizen Participation Council. [...] We have thus created a fifth power of the State, and also seek, through these reforms, to promote gender equality [...] We have regulations whereby Council members are not appointed by the President or certain political players at will, but rather by popular election, simultaneously guaranteeing gender equality, so that there may be three lists: one with men, one with women, and a third including Indigenous Peoples, African descendants, and migrants. This is true citizen participation.”*



Member of the National Assembly  
**Ana Belén Marín** (Ecuador)





*“The best way to focus on replicating this co-creation process consists in enforcing accountability, then having in place an excellent oversight mechanism that is not bound by the leadership of the internal board of the Congress, and, finally, always keeping the doors open to civil society, in addition to undertaking other creative and innovative initiatives intended to voluntarily invite civil society participation and motivate legislators to take part in and advance these processes, which are so important for open and transparent parliaments.”*

Senator  
**Andrés García Zuccardi** (Colombia)





## MEETING FOR PARLIAMENTARY CLERKS: Open Parliament Action Plans

### #ParlAmericasOPN

**THEME:** Open Parliament Action Plans

**LOCATION:** Santiago, Chile

**DATE:** December 5, 2018

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 20 parliamentary clerks from 9 countries



*This activity is aligned with SDG 16*

In collaboration with the **Congress of Chile**, ParlAmericas hosted the Meeting for Parliamentary Clerks: Open Parliament Action Plans, the first ever ParlAmericas activity dedicated exclusively to working with parliamentary clerks responsible for openness initiatives within their parliaments. Recognizing the importance of their role and expertise in the coordination, implementation and sustainability of these initiatives, this activity aimed to build ties at an institutional level to facilitate peer exchanges and strengthen open parliament practices.

After welcoming remarks were offered by **Miguel Landeros** (Chile), Secretary General of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile, and an introduction by **Rocío Noriega**, adviser to the Bicameral Group for Transparency, National Congress of Chile, the

meeting provided an opportunity for participants from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Paraguay and Peru to present a report on their parliament's advances towards building open parliaments through action plans and other initiatives.

This was followed by two working sessions to address the strategic planning of open parliament action plans and initiatives. Session one focused on the development of monitoring and evaluation frameworks to allow parliaments to better measure and demonstrate the impact of these initiatives on citizens. Session two discussed public innovation and effective communication strategies for the adoption of open parliament initiatives.

The meeting ended with an open dialogue and reflections by officials who expressed their wish for a more formal mechanism to be established to facilitate the participation of parliamentary clerks within the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network, through both in-person and online means, and in both activities exclusive to clerks as well as in meetings with parliamentarians and civil society. This discussion was followed by concluding remarks from **Luis Rojas** (Chile), Deputy Secretary General of the Chamber of Deputies.

A [detailed report about this meeting](#) can be accessed on the ParlAmericas website.



*“It is essential to share and inform the deputies and authorities about the open parliamentary agenda in order to institutionalize it and advance its consolidation.”*



**Dolores Martínez**, Director of the Modernization Program, Chamber of Deputies (Argentina)

## ACTION POINTS

The following points of action were highlighted in conversations during the meeting:

1. Encourage the use of a multidisciplinary approach in parliamentary clerks' work to facilitate the adoption of new mechanisms and practices.
2. Encourage annual meetings and frequent in-person and online activities, such as webinars on specific issues, to support open parliament processes.
3. Share experiences among parliaments from across Latin America and from other regions, such as Europe and Africa.
4. Engage parliamentary staff working on information technology in legislative openness efforts.
5. Explore opportunities for support from international organizations in order to strengthen these activities and benefit from different experts' contributions.
6. Promote progressive advances towards the open parliament pillars – transparency, accountability, public participation and ethics – in order to achieve concrete results.
7. Encourage the continuous engagement of more parliamentarians in open parliament processes, as they are the actors who provide support for these processes.



**Juan Carlos Chavarría**, Director,  
Department of Citizen Participation,  
Legislative Assembly (Costa Rica)

*“Spaces that allow us to share experiences about the work we do in our parliaments, help us without a doubt in our work and make it easier for us to replicate good practices that are developed in other countries.”*



# CO-CREATION MEETING:

## Guide to Develop an Open Parliament Action Plan

### #ParlAmericasOPN

**THEME:** Open Parliament Action Plans

**LOCATION:** Santiago, Chile

**DATES:** December 6 and 7, 2018

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 50 parliamentarians, parliamentary clerks and civil society representatives from 11 countries



*This activity is aligned with SDG 16*

In collaboration with the **Congress of Chile**, ParlAmericas hosted the Co-Creation Meeting: Guide to Develop an Open Parliament Action Plan which gathered the three main actors involved in this process: parliamentarians, parliamentary clerks and civil society representatives, to develop a clear and practical step by step guide that can be tailored to any national context and support the Open Parliament Action Plan process. A working document was developed by ParlAmericas, in collaboration with the Open Parliament e-Network, and was distributed to participants to guide the discussions in the meeting.

The meeting opened with welcoming remarks by the Honourable **Maya Fernández Allende** (Chile), President of the Chamber of Deputies and

ParlAmericas Board Member; the Honourable **Carlos Montes** (Chile), President of the Senate; **Paulina Núñez** (Chile), Member of the Chamber of Deputies and President of the Bicameral Group on Transparency; Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network; and **Marcela Ríos**, Assistant Resident Representative of UNDP Chile.

The welcoming remarks were followed by a series of working sessions that were held throughout the first day. The first session provided an overview of the process to formulate an Open Parliament Action Plan, considering the roles and the importance of collaboration between parliamentarians, parliamentary clerks and civil society representatives, as distributed in the meeting's working document. This included round-table work which addressed each of the formulation stages of Open Parliament Action Plans, to identify best practices, challenges and solutions that can be applied in throughout these stages of the process. The second session discussed the application of open parliament principles in other thematic areas, to explore how such initiatives can help demonstrate the impact of open parliament reforms. The final session of the day explored opportunities for collaboration among the actors involved in Open Parliament Action Plans to maximize its impacts. Participants were invited to work with their peers to

identify their strengths and areas where other actors could provide support in order to explore strategies for a more effective collaboration.

Day two began with a discussion about the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Open Parliament Actions Plans. Parliaments were able to present their respective experiences and through round-table work identify the main challenges they have or anticipate facing in the implementation of open parliament initiatives along with possible solutions. The final session focused on how the participation and inclusion of traditionally marginalized groups, including women and indigenous people can be mainstreamed in Open Parliament Action Plans.

*“Reforms in favour of more open parliaments contribute to the democratic system as they foster spaces that allow citizens and civil society organisations to contribute to parliamentary work, as well as to be our partners in the building of better societies where we all participate in impactful decision-making.”*



President of the Chamber of Deputies, **Maya Fernández Allende** (Chile)



This included discussions on the new sexual harassment policy passed by the Chamber of Deputies (Chile) and the initiatives adopted by the National Assembly (Ecuador) to enable indigenous peoples' participation in the legislative process.

Closing remarks were offered by Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network, and **Luis Rojas** (Chile), Deputy Secretary General of the Chamber of Deputies.

A [detailed report about this meeting](#) can be accessed on the ParlAmericas website.



## ACTION POINTS

During the discussion that occurred during the co-creation meetings, the following action points were highlighted:

1. Encourage the participation of citizens in civil society organizations involved in co-creation processes for open parliament plans of action.
2. Establish channels of communication that would allow the dissemination of information of the action plans and open parliament initiatives, with clear and inclusive language.
3. Foster and strengthen collaboration between civil society organizations and parliamentary clerks of the region.
4. Involve the media throughout the process of the parliament's open parliament action plans, especially journalists specializing in covering open parliament topics.
5. Foster collaboration between parliamentarians, parliamentary clerks, and civil society organizations to identify transparency standards, in order to have legislative information respond to the needs of the citizens.
6. Promote a mechanism within the parliament that includes legislators, parliamentary clerks, and civil society representatives in the co-creation process of the action plans, in order to have this space institutionalized.

**Open Parliament Action Plans** have been internationally recognized as an effective and innovative tool to foster collaboration between parliaments and civil society to achieve openness reforms. Therefore, ParlAmericas, in collaboration with the organizations that are part of OPeN<sup>1</sup>, will develop a practical guide to promote the adoption of such action plans in the parliaments of the Americas and the Caribbean within the framework of the Open Government Partnership. The guide will include an overview of the necessary steps for the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of open parliament commitments, while providing practical information based on the experiences of a wide array of actors who have participated in and supported Open Parliament Action Plans. The publication will be launched at the 6<sup>th</sup> Open Government Partnership Global Summit, which will take place in Ottawa, Canada in 2019.

<sup>1</sup> The Open Parliament e-Network (OPeN) is a consortium of international and civil society organizations composed of ParlAmericas, National Democratic Institute, Latin American Legislative Transparency Network, Westminster Foundation for Democracy, Directorio Legislativo, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).





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



Dear Colleagues,

It is a pleasure to share with you the achievements that the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change (PNCC) has achieved for 2018. Earlier in the year,

in partnership with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), we held a Dialogue on Disaster Risk Reduction with the objective to explore good parliamentary practices in promoting risk-informed decision making for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation. This dialogue included a field visit organized with experts from the National Civil Protection System of Panama (SINAPROC) which allowed us to observe the different dimensions of climate risk in an urban coastal community sites.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Gathering of the PNCC, Fostering Climate Action in the Americas and the Caribbean: The Role of Parliaments within the Climate Agenda allowed parliamentarians to identify the obstacles and the opportunities they face in supporting and expanding climate ambition within the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in their own legislatures, thereby contributing to limiting global warming to 1.5°C. The topics discussed during this gathering included international climate action, the transition to sustainable and resilient societies, loss and damage and carbon pricing mechanisms. I want to highlight that as a product of the gathering a Parliamentary Contribution to the Talanoa Dialogue was created and shared with the official Talanoa Dialogue Platform which formed part of the political phase of the Dialogue and COP24 in Poland. This contribution was similarly presented in the Climate Vulnerable Forum as part of the Virtual Leader's Climate Summit.

Furthermore, delegates of the PNCC have participated this year in other important climate events such as the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas in Colombia, the Latin America & Caribbean Climate Week and the Carbon Forum held in Uruguay, and the Regional Workshop on Climate Change and Building Resilience in Washington, D.C. ParlAmericas also participated at the COP24 Inter-Sessional meeting in Bonn and the Conference on Cities and Climate Change Science, Policy and Practice in Mexico City. Thanks to the participation of parliamentarians in these events, the Network has been able to present and promote the importance and impact of the parliamentary voice and the benefits of including legislators in the discussions of the current and future prospects of the climate agenda.

New resources were also developed and made available for parliamentarians, including two primers: *Carbon Pricing*, and *The United Nations Climate Change Regime. A Parliamentary Protocol on Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation* is in development and will be presented in 2019. The 2018 IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C warns us about the importance of raising political ambition to prevent and mitigate the catastrophic climate impacts that could affect us. Within this context I want to thank you for your commitments and hope that you will continue to support and participate in all our activities and in advancing and accelerating climate change actions.

Sincerely,

*Javier Ortega*

**Member of the National Assembly, Panama  
President of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change**

.....  
 FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER @VOTAPATACON

# DIALOGUE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

## #ParlAmericasCC

**THEME:** Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

**LOCATION:** Panama City, Panama

**DATES:** February 22-23, 2018

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 20 parliamentarians from 16 countries, 4 international organizations specialists and 1 network of civil society organizations



*This activity is aligned with SDGs 1, 5, 8, 11 and 13*

This activity was organized by the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). It convened parliamentarians from across the Americas and the Caribbean with representatives from civil society and international organizations to exchange good practices and promote risk-informed decision-making and legislation for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

The dialogue was opened by Member of the National Assembly **Javier Ortega** (Panama), President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change; Member of the National Assembly and ParlAmericas Board Member **Mariela Vega** (Panama); **Raúl Salazar**, Head of the UNISDR Regional Office for the Americas; and **Karine Asselin**, Ambassador of Canada to Panama.

Next followed a series of dialogue sessions where participants heard from subject experts which informed discussions related to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and the linkages with Nationally Determined Contributions and Sustainable Development Goal agendas. Participants were introduced to the institutional framework, economic instruments and principal actors involved in disaster risk reduction and an overview of climate change laws in different countries across Latin America and the Caribbean. Discussions also focused on The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and its relationship with the objectives of the sustainable development agenda and climate change adaptation. Participants considered how national parliaments can support the integration of disaster risk reduction measures in consultations, legislative actions, budgets and monitoring.

Discussions included examples of efforts to strengthen community resilience to natural hazards in a changing climate by addressing gender inequality that exists in disaster situations, both in terms of impacts, and in the response and recovery of women, men, girls, and boys. The important role of civil society in the implementation of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation plans such as the Hyogo Framework and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was emphasized, and participants explored strategies through which civil society organizations can work jointly with parliamentarians to advance national agendas.

The first day of the meeting concluded with a dialogue on case studies and legislation on disaster risk reduction featuring presentations by delegates from Uruguay, Trinidad & Tobago, and Bolivia, where parliamentarians reflected on the current status of disaster risk reduction and adaptation systems in their countries.

Throughout each of the sessions, the parliamentarians in attendance contributed their questions, insights and perspectives. This sharing of good practices and lessons learned from the experiences within their respective countries anchored the concepts and issues being discussed in concrete, real-life examples. Delegates highlighted the need for parliamentarians to take an active role in communicating with citizens about climate



risk, noting that information is critical to build adaptation capacities in their communities. They emphasized the essential role of parliamentarians to advance the implementation of Paris Agreement commitments within their own countries. Delegates also acknowledged the need to promote actions at the local level, where the impacts of climate change are experienced, and where the effects of natural disasters translate into material and human losses.

To further explore the role of local and civil society organizations and promote an integral view of disaster risk reduction, day two of the meeting included a field visit and briefing activity organized with the support of the National Civil Protection System of Panama (SINAPROC). This activity provided parliamentarians with an opportunity to observe different dimensions of climate risk in an urban coastal community site and relate these to concepts discussed in the earlier sessions of the dialogue, as well as their own experiences with

disaster risk assessments in their countries. The onsite briefing and discussion focused on the diverse impacts of climate change on local communities, potential adaptation options, and the relationship between national-level legislation, urban planning regulations and disaster risk management systems. Parliamentarians reflected on different types of climate and disaster risks in their communities, and the possible impacts of climate change on coastal communities within their respective countries.

The meeting concluded with a final working session, through which parliamentarians reviewed present accounts of legislative actions that promote and facilitate the implementation of disaster risk reduction measures, and provided input for the ParlAmericas-UNISDR new Parliamentary Protocol for Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation for the hemisphere, scheduled to be released in 2019.

A [detailed report about this meeting](#) can be accessed on the ParlAmericas website



*“The knowledge that I have obtained through this conference will impact my work so that I can bring what I learned to Parliament so that we can start to implement improvements to our National disaster reduction and relief protocols.”*



Member of Parliament  
**Dan Ruimy** (Canada)





Member of the National Assembly  
**Mariela Vega** (Panama)

*“The incorporation of disaster risk management into development planning can reverse the current trend of increasing impacts of disaster events. More than two-thirds of the world’s population will live in cities before the year 2050, and if countries act decisively, lives can be saved and assets protected. However, many nations do not have the tools, experience or mechanisms to incorporate disaster risk reduction into their investment decisions. Parliaments understand the importance of supporting, through legislative work, the commitments of their governments and international organizations in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.”*

*“Not only one country suffers the effects of global warming, but several countries do, in one way or another, and we need to work without seeing the political colors, without seeing the political acronym, we need to see from the human point of view, which is important to collaborate, we are working along this line of thinking in Bolivia, within the legislature, the executive and social organizations.”*



Senator **Máxima Apaza** (Bolivia)

## SUMMARY VIDEO

A [video](#) was created to showcase the parliamentary exchange that occurred during the Dialogue on Disaster Risk Reduction. It additionally presented remarks from both experts and parliamentarians on the importance of addressing and managing disaster risk and climate adaptation within legislatures, and demonstrating how the Parliamentary Protocol for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation being developed in collaboration with UNISDR will help serve parliaments in addressing these issues. This video can be viewed in the Climate Change section of the ParlAmericas website: <http://parlAmericas.org/en/climate-change.aspx>





## 3<sup>RD</sup> GATHERING OF THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE

### #ParIAmericasCC

**THEME:** Fostering Climate Action in the Americas and the Caribbean: The Role of Parliaments within the Climate Agenda

**LOCATION:** Panama City, Panama

**DATES:** October 4-5, 2018

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 50 parliamentarians, civil society and international organizations representatives from 22 countries and autonomous territories



*This activity is aligned with SDGs 5, 10, 11 and 13*

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Gathering of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change was **co-hosted by ParlAmericas and Parlatino** in Panama City, Panama. The meeting demonstrated the importance of collaborative effort between all stakeholders to promote ambitious and effective climate action. Throughout the working sessions and interactive activities, the dialogue allowed parliamentarians and subject experts to assess the current status of international climate negotiations and the progress towards fulfilling the commitments of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). It also addressed relevant climate mitigation and adaptation issues, focusing on the socio-economic factors of

transitioning to a sustainable and resilient society, loss and damage and carbon pricing mechanisms.

The Gathering was opened by the **Rolando González Patricio**, Member of the National Assembly (Cuba) and Secretary of Commissions of Parlatino, followed by remarks from the Hon. **Robert Nault**, Member of Parliament (Canada), President of ParlAmericas and the **Javier Ortega**, Member of the National Assembly (Panama), President of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change.

The first day of the Gathering featured discussions around international climate action and the role of national parliaments, the foreseen milestones



of the climate negotiation process, such as the creation of the Paris Agreement Rulebook, the stocktaking events and the update of the NDCs in 2020. Moreover, there was an examination of the socio-economic challenges and opportunities of transitioning to a low carbon emitting and resilient society, and limiting global temperature increase to 1.5°C. A session on loss and damage presented the importance of establishing and enforcing national disaster risk reduction mechanisms and plans. The day ended with an interactive reporting session in which a roundtable exchange between parliamentarians and climate experts was conducted, to allow both stakeholders to learn and understand each other's roles in addressing the climate agenda. This session concluded with a video summary, filmed live after the end of the dialogue, reporting all the key topics discussed.

Day two examined carbon pricing mechanisms, their function and role in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, and how it can serve as a financial incentive to support the transition to clean energy and technology.

The meeting concluded with the adoption of the meeting Declaration, followed by closing remarks by the Hon. **Robert Nault**, Member of Parliament (Canada), President of ParlAmericas and the Hon. **Elías Castillo**, Member of the National Assembly (Panama), President of Parlantino.

A [detailed report about this meeting](#) can be accessed on the ParlAmericas website.

*“For PreCOP21, Saint Lucia and other Caribbean islands went on a campaign of trying to limit the increase in temperature rise to 1.5°C and part of that campaign was done through music, dance and drama. We all must be on the same plane when we call everybody to action, local climate change affects us all but the impact is different, because the greater the inequality, the greater the vulnerability which reduces the capacity for resilience.”*



President of the House of Assembly  
The Hon. **Andy Daniel** (Saint Lucia)

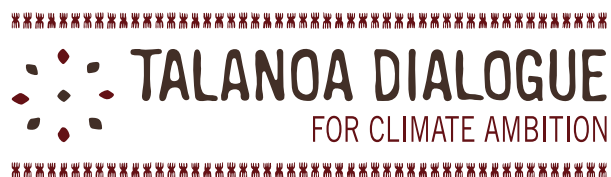
## ABOUT THE PNCC

The ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change (PNCC) was created in 2016 with the objective of promoting parliamentary diplomacy on climate action within parliaments, aligned with existing international frameworks that work towards combating climate change and achieving sustainable development. The PNCC fosters knowledge exchanges between parliamentarians, expert practitioners, civil society and other stakeholders on effective practices for climate change mitigation and adaptation through workshops, dialogues and the creation of specialized resources.

The work of the PNCC encourages cooperation between parliaments and government agencies in the development and implementation of innovative policies to combat climate change. Recent topics of focus include renewable energy, disaster risk reduction, and climate financing concepts such as loss and damage, carbon pricing and markets, as well as the importance of integrating gender into climate action and raising ambition within the Nationally Determined Contributions to meet the Paris Agreement goals and attain the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Network is governed by an elected Executive Committee, composed of the President, and sub-regional Vice-Presidencies representing North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean.

For more information related to the work of the PNCC, visit the Climate Change section of the ParlAmericas website or contact the ParlAmericas Climate Change Program at [parlAmericascc@parlAmericas.org](mailto:parlAmericascc@parlAmericas.org)



## TALANOA DIALOGUE: A POLITICAL MESSAGE FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

This final interactive session was moderated by **Patricia Chávez Noe**, Member of the Chamber of Deputies (Bolivia). It allowed parliamentarians to share their political perspective on the stocktaking questions of the Talanoa Dialogue through a [video](#) and photo statements that were submitted to the Talanoa Dialogue Online Platform, which is the main avenue for non-party members to contribute to the COP24 negotiations.



“Robust oversight mechanisms and counting systems that are necessary for carbon pricing to work on a national level or in cooperation with international partners have to be established and parliaments will definitely have a role in the process.”



Speaker of the National Assembly  
The Hon. **Jennifer Simons** (Suriname)

“Developing countries require greater support concerning availability of financial resources for climate-related issues. In the case of Haiti, marginalized communities use deforestation as a means to produce charcoal, a lucrative local commodity. Haitian women are highly vulnerable, as the profits from selling this good are needed to nourish their children. Women are faced with the having to choose between the survival of their children, and engaging in more sustainable and environmentally cleaner practices. There is a need for strategic development in smaller countries to address these challenges. Initiatives pertaining to technical training as well as access to financing could certainly benefit communities facing such dilemmas.”

Senator **Dieudonne Luma Étienne**  
(Haiti)







## DECLARATION HIGHLIGHTS

The final Declaration was presented and read by the Hon. **Maya Fernández Allende**, President of the Chamber of Deputies (Chile) and ParlAmericas Board Member. The discussion and adoption process was moderated by the Hon. Robert Nault, Member of Parliament (Canada), President of ParlAmericas. The following are some of the commitments adopted in the Declaration:

- Adopting legislation, regulatory frameworks, and practices that strengthen the efforts made to achieve the adaptation and mitigation commitments set out by our countries in the Nationally Determined Contributions and adopted in the Conference of the Parties.
- Promoting the participation of diverse groups in climate-related decision-making processes so that the particular needs of women, men, and traditionally marginalized groups are taken into consideration.
- Cooperating with subnational governments and stakeholders to promote local climate actions and commitments, ensuring that legislation enacted at the national level considers and responds to local priorities, needs, and realities.
- Reviewing, adopting, and supporting disaster-risk reduction and climate adaptation strategies and plans to reduce climate-related risks and improve resiliency.
- Promoting collaboration, dialogue, and policy action on the issues of loss and damage, specifically addressing climate-related migration and forced displacements, and the development of national adaptation plans on this matter.

*“It’s important, if we don’t defend climate change, we are against ourselves. We are not building but rather destroying. We should all come to an agreement, all the countries to change climate change, we need to work together. [As parliamentarians] we need to provide continuity and disseminate in our bases and organizations, as men and women [these themes].”*



Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
**Lidia Patty Mullisaca** (Bolivia)

*“The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is explicit in mentioning the role of parliamentarians in promoting institutional debates that allow the elaboration and incorporation of disaster risk reduction in national and local legislative frameworks. This event seeks to advance the role of parliamentarians in disaster risk reduction at the regional level while strengthening the contributions of parliamentarians of the region at the global level.”*



**Raúl Salazar**, Head of Regional Office, UNISDR Americas

# Thank you

for being part of ParlAmericas in 2018.

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

## THE PARLAMERICAS TEAM

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