



# 15<sup>th</sup> PARLAMERICAS PLENARY ASSEMBLY

## PROMOTING INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### DATE

September 10-12, 2018

### LOCATION

Victoria, Canada

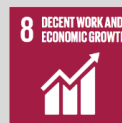
### PARTICIPANTS

More than 100 parliamentarians and civil society representatives from 26 countries

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.

"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."

**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



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





The Plenary Assembly opened with a welcome from Counselor **Gary Sam**, Songhees Nation in Canada, introduced by Member of Parliament **Robert Falcon-Ouelette** (Canada). The inauguration followed 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), Vice-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 was introduced by Senator the Hon. **Rosa Galvez** (Canada) and provided the keynote address.

Members of Parliament **Julie Dzerowicz** (Canada) and **Randy Boissonnault** (Canada), Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network for North America, performed the role of Master of Ceremonies throughout the Plenary Assembly.



## OPENING PLENARY SESSION

As the Annual General Meeting of its members, the Plenary Assembly included a session devoted to statutory business. The Hon. **Robert Nault** (Canada), Vice-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. These reports were delivered by Member of the Legislative Assembly **Norma Cristina Cornejo** (El Salvador), Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality for Central America; Member of Parliament **Dan Ruimy** (Canada), Vice-President of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change for North America; and **Randy Boissonnault** (Canada), Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network for North America. As part of ongoing measures to ensure accessibility of information and accountability to parliaments, **Alisha Todd**, ParlAmericas Director General, also provided an update on ParlAmericas'

operations and the contributions of donors and parliaments to the organization's activities.

The session concluded with a tribute to **Marcela Guerra** (Mexico), outgoing President of ParlAmericas. Ms. Guerra reflected on 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.

*"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 **Norma Cristina Cornejo** (El Salvador), Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality for Central America

*"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), Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network for North America



Member of Parliament **Dan Ruimy** (Canada), Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change for North America

*"Through [...] strategic partnerships, ParlAmericas is channeling the work that we do together through our Climate Change Network, to influence policymakers and lend support to the global effort to increase ambition to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement."*



**Marcela Guerra**, President of ParlAmericas (2014-2018)

*"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."*







## BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS RESULTS

# 2018-2020

(all positions were filled by acclamation)

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### President

The Hon. Robert Nault (Canada)

#### Vice-President

The Hon. Elizabeth Cabezas (Ecuador),  
President of the National Assembly

### SUB-REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

#### Caribbean

Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago

#### Central America

Costa Rica, Nicaragua

#### North America

Canada

#### South America

Chile, Ecuador, Peru

"I believe that there is no doubt that a strong democracy is key to our future prosperity – key to protecting our freedoms, and key to our collective security. I also believe that democracy is – by far – the best form of government in the world today, and in my view, it will continue to thrive and expand. And while there will always be challenges, we as parliamentarians play an integral role in preserving and protecting our democratic values – now and into the future. "



Member of Parliament the  
Hon. **Robert Nault** (Canada),  
President of ParlAmericas



The Hon. **Elizabeth Cabezas**  
(Ecuador), President of the  
National Assembly and  
Vice-President of ParlAmericas

"We feel very honoured to be a part of ParlAmericas, as the issues undertaken are topical and of importance to many of our countries. These are topics that we hold in common but also require our dedicated work."

ParlAmericas is run by parliamentarians for parliamentarians, with a Board of Directors composed of 22 legislators, representing 19 countries from North, South, Central America and the Caribbean. Board Members are elected to a two year term by the member parliaments of ParlAmericas during the Annual Plenary Assembly





## SESSION 1: ECONOMIC INCLUSION – ACCESSIBLE AND EQUITABLE LABOUR MARKETS

The first working session, “Economic Inclusion – Accessible and Equitable Labour Markets”, was moderated by Member of Parliament **Stephanie Kusie** (Canada). It considered strategies and laws adopted by parliaments in the Americas and the Caribbean to strengthen equity and access of traditionally marginalized populations to labour market opportunities.

Panelist **Michael Prince**, Professor, Faculty of Human and Social Development, University of Victoria, Canada ([presentation](#)) discussed the policy solutions that the Government of Canada has put in place to improve equitable access to the labour force with a focus on groups that are

underrepresented, such as Indigenous peoples, youth and newcomers. These public policy measures address income insecurity / adequacy, work incentives, employability, work and life experiences, working conditions and employment standards and community capacities. Examples include the [Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy](#), the [Apprenticeship Incentive Grant for Women](#), and the [Youth Employment Strategy](#). **Shirley Pryce**, Founder and Chair, Caribbean Domestic Workers’ Network, Jamaica described the challenges facing domestic workers, the largest female occupation across the world. Domestic workers are among the most exploited and abused workers often with long work hours, overloaded job descriptions, low wages, limited access to social security, and they often face sexual, emotional and physical abuse, and have limited opportunities for education and professional development.

## HUB SPACE

During the Plenary Assembly, a drop-by booth was available for delegates to pick up copies of specialized publications as well as access information about ParlAmericas’ online communities for parliamentarians.

Newly launched resources that were featured at the Hub Space included:

⇒ [Parltools.org](#), an interactive learning portal for parliamentarians in the Americas and the Caribbean on Open Parliament

# ParlTools

⇒ [ParlAmericas Podcast](#), a series of audio recordings from select ParlAmericas activities that can be downloaded on applications like iTunes and Google Play

 **ParlAmericas**  
**Podcast**

Interested in this topic? Watch the full video of this session on our [ParlAmericas YouTube Channel](#).







She called for changes to national labour legislation as well as for the ratification of [Convention C189, Domestic Workers Convention \(2011\)](#) to recognize domestic workers and ensure they are awarded the same social protections as other workers. **Joshua Mittroti**, Former Director General, Agency for the Reincorporation and Normalization (ARN), Colombia ([presentation](#)) discussed the Agency's programming which are part of a larger national holistic approach administered across government departments to disarm and demobilize armed groups (with collective and individual approaches), re-establish rights (with approaches for minors and adults)

and reintegrate former combatants and victims in society, politics, and the economy following the start of the peace process in Colombia. The ARN's programs focus on supporting vulnerable individuals (including former combatants and victims of the crisis) at various levels across all provinces and municipalities: personal, education, workforce, community, health and security, to end the cycle of violence and promote the effective reintegration to society. Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Paulina Núñez** (Chile) discussed the efforts that have been undertaken in her country to foster equitable access to labour markets, particularly for women, youth and

newcomers. This year, Chile adopted a [Labour Inclusion Law](#) which mandates public organizations and companies with more than 100 workers to allocate 1% of their workforce to employees with disabilities, creates a National Job Bank, and an [Equal Salary Law](#) which eliminates wage discriminations. In recent years, Chile has also adopted a [Domestic Workers Law](#), which provides domestic workers the same rights as other workers. Finally, a new bill is being drafted to improve youth working conditions and a temporary work visa category has been created to allow newcomers an opportunity to enter the labour market.





## SESSION 2: POLITICAL INCLUSION – ADVANCING INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

In the second working session, “Political Inclusion – Advancing Indigenous Women’s Leadership”, panellists discussed the role of parliaments in adopting laws, and applying consultative practices that respect and protect Indigenous political, cultural, economic and social rights and institutions to combat violence and poverty to building more inclusive societies and strengthen the representation of Indigenous women’s perspectives in the work of parliaments. The session was moderated by the Hon. **Bridgid Annisette-George** (Trinidad and Tobago), Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Panellist **Eva Clayton**, President of the Nisga’a Nation, Canada discussed the importance of having inclusive representation in the political bodies that make decisions that affect our quality of life, especially for the sake of children who are the future. She shared the cultural and societal challenges she overcame as the first woman in this role within the Nisga’a Nation, and the efforts undertaken under her term to ensure she won’t be the last, such as capacity-building focused on children and youth. Senator **Máxima Apaza** (Bolivia) discussed the historical context that determined and restricted women’s role in Bolivian society and how this role has been able to evolve by prioritizing women’s empowerment, particularly Indigenous women, in the political sphere. This has been reflected in the Plurinational Legislative Assembly of Bolivia where half of the seats in both chambers are now held by women.



*Interested in this topic? Watch the full video of this session on our [ParlAmericas YouTube Channel](#).*





Senator Apaza stressed the importance of representation from the 36 original nations of Bolivia as well, as great benefit can be drawn by their ancestral knowledge. She raised the issue of violence against women and the importance of legislation on preventing political harassment. Member of the National Assembly **Florence Levy Wilson** (Nicaragua) discussed the challenges she has faced personally as both an afro-descendant and Indigenous woman and the importance of considering [intersectionality](#) in policy-making. She emphasized the importance of providing women and girls access to education as a step to promote their independence but also to lead academic research on issues that affect them and provide evidence to influence policy-making. Finally, she stressed the importance of language as a tool for inclusiveness.

The session closed with a series of interventions and questions from the delegates, drawing upon the experiences from their respective countries and personal reflections.



*"As Indigenous women parliamentarians we now have an assigned space in Parliament. Before we could not participate; we didn't have the right to vote or to be elected. We were excluded [...] but now, what the people and our nations mandate can be heard in Parliament through our voices."*



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

*"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."*



The Hon. **Chester Humphrey** (Grenada),  
President of the Senate and Vice-President of  
the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality  
for the Caribbean





### SESSION 3: SOCIAL INCLUSION – CASE STUDIES ON MIGRATION, FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND INTEGRATION

The third working session, “Social Inclusion – Case Studies on Migration, Forced Displacement and Integration”, addressed civil society and expert perspectives on effective practices to integrate refugees and migrants in the context of evolving trends in regional and in-country movement of people. The session was facilitated by **Diego Beltrand**, Regional Director for South America, International Organization for Migration who provided an overview of migration patterns across the world, and more specifically the hemisphere, and discussed challenges they entail.

The first panelist, Member of Parliament **Marc Serré** (Canada) ([presentation](#)) discussed Canada’s immigration trends and projections, and presented immigration as an important aspect of Canadian pluralistic society. He discussed the policies in place for social inclusion and long-term integration of newcomers in Canada. The Hon. **Elizabeth Cabezas** (Ecuador), President of the National

Assembly ([presentation](#)) discussed human mobility rights guaranteed through the [Constitution of Ecuador](#) and the [Law on Mobility](#). She then addressed the recent mass migration of Venezuelans in the region, the efforts undertaken by Ecuador to engage with neighbouring countries to support a regional response, and the policies being implemented to improve migration conditions. The Hon. **Alincia Williams-Grant** (Antigua and Barbuda), President of the Senate ([presentation](#)) discussed the impact of recent hurricanes that caused significant displacement in her country along with others in the Caribbean, and the measures that were undertaken to help resettlement. She called on colleagues to work towards the reduction of harmful emissions and tackle climate change, for which the impact is directly felt by citizens in the Caribbean. Member of Congress **José Arturo Martínez Dell** (Guatemala), ([presentation](#)) discussed the current migration situation in Guatemala and the work of the [National Migrant Support Council of Guatemala \(CONAMIGUA\)](#), a government entity that coordinates, defines, monitors, and oversees actions by State bodies in benefit of Guatemalan migrants.

### ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSIONS

The panel session was followed by round-table discussion groups where participants exchanged with colleagues, and invited migration specialists, at their respective tables on measures that parliaments and governments can undertake to promote human rights and assist different types of migrants, as well as address relevant challenges. Discussions focused on various migrant groups including: women and migrant domestic workers; mixed migration and asylum seekers; violence induced displacement; economic migration; and climate induced migration; concluding with a report-back session in plenary.



Interested in this topic?  
Watch the full video of this session on our [ParlaAmericas YouTube Channel](#) and consult our [handout on Concepts Most Commonly Used to Describe Different Types of Migration](#).







Member of the  
Chamber of Deputies  
**Juana Mercedes  
Vicente Moronta**  
(Dominican Republic)

"We should adopt legislation to regulate the traffic of immigrants across borders, strengthen migration statistics, allocate regional contingency funds, increase investigations into human trafficking, and coordinate policies regionally on internal migrants to avoid migration from remote areas to cities, which is greatly affecting our countries."

"We need to temporarily legalize refugees to have the correct and necessary information to address their needs and welcome them with dignity. The intention is to, first, be aware of them entering the country, and by giving them a legal status, allowing them to work and be remunerated in accordance with national laws, access health services, education and the same other services required by human beings in the country that is welcoming them."



Member of  
Congress **José  
Arturo Martínez  
Dell** (Guatemala)

"What we can do as parliaments and governments to make sure that climate-induced migrants and refugees are able to receive protection and services is to start a campaign to get them recognized internationally. Nationally, these protections can only be achieved by including climate migrants in climate legislation and disaster programs. Regionally, we can strengthen and improve existing mechanisms like [Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency \(CDEMA\)](#) so that they can coordinate actions to ensure that climate refugees are assisted in a safe and timely manner, and where necessary create new mechanisms for concrete and immediate disasters in the region."



The Hon. **Jennifer Simons** (Suriname),  
President of the National Assembly  
and Vice-President of the  
ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network  
on Climate Change





## DECLARATION

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. It 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



*"Parliaments and governments can promote human rights and access to social protection for women domestic workers through their ministries of labour and gender affairs, who can encourage awareness campaigns, educate domestic workers on their rights and promote legislation in accordance with the established treaties that the countries have signed on to, particularly the Skill-Free Movement in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) which includes domestic workers."*



The Hon. **Jeannine Giraudy-McIntyre**  
(Saint Lucia), President  
of the Senate





# TRAINING SESSION: PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET CONSULTATIONS

## DATE

September 10, 2018

## LOCATION

Victoria, Canada

## PARTICIPANTS

More than 55  
parliamentarians  
from 25 countries



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 ([presentation](#)) and **Juan Pablo Guerrero**, Network Director of the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency (GIFT) ([presentation](#)) on the margins of the 15th Plenary Assembly. The training session provided participants with an overview of parliament's role in the national budget cycle and all the actors involved in this process, along with good



## ParlTools

ParlAmericas launched its [Open Parliament Portal](#), a new initiative providing tools tailored to parliamentarians from the Americas and the Caribbean for education, participation, networking. Explore the portal, review the material presented during this session and contribute your own practices.





During the English/French session, a panel of experts provided a more in depth look at methodologies that can be applied to enable public participation in the budget process. It started with a presentation by Member of Parliament **Nicole Olivierre** (Trinidad and Tobago), Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries ([presentation](#)) who discussed the efforts undertaken in her country to foster accountability, transparency and dissemination of information throughout the budget process – a precursor to effective citizen engagement. The Honourable Member of Parliament **Wayne Easter** (Canada), Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance ([presentation](#)),

discussed the process followed by his committee to undertake pre-budget consultations to inform the development of the budget proposal by the Executive as well as inform the committee's views to improve its ability to scrutinize the budget proposal and oversee its execution. **Kate Ryan-Lloyd**, Deputy Clerk and Clerk of Committees of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia ([presentation](#)) closed the panel with a presentation on the role of the Finance Committee from her legislature as the only body undertaking consultations with the public to inform the development of the Executive's budget proposal.



## OPEN BUDGET SURVEY

The [Open Budget Survey](#) is the world's only independent, comparative assessment of the three pillars of public budget accountability: transparency, oversight and public participation. Consult your country's results and engage with its author, the [International Budget Partnership](#), to find out more and contribute your feedback.



## CITIZEN BUDGET

Empower citizens and the legislators who represent them with a new online tool called [Citizen Budget](#), created by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and Democracy (IFSD) at the University of Ottawa. This tool is multilingual, easy-to-use, and customizable, allows citizens to have their say about the budget and creates [powerful analytics](#) for the administrators.





*"It is important to identify themes that truly matter to people, businesses and communities so that they can engage around that topic to bring focus to the committee meetings, and to select themes that allow both individuals and organizations to identify with it."*



The Hon. **Wayne Easter** (Canada), Member of Parliament and Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance



**Nicole Olivier** (Trinidad and Tobago), Member of Parliament and Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries

*"The work of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee is critical to the budget process and happens during the implementation phase. It conducts public hearings which are broadcasted live and viewers can submit questions through social media, so it gives real time feedback"*

*"As part of consultations, committee members will also carry out selected site visits to learn more about the communities they are in, including the industries and natural resources sector jobs that support British Colombia's regional economy."*



**Kate Ryan-Lloyd**, Deputy Clerk and Clerk of Committees of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia



*"Budgets are very complicated and most people only hear snippets through the media and don't have the time to analyze the information and fully understand it, so what I try to do is refer information back to my riding [...] I went through the budget and took out ten items that I thought connected with my riding and then I made ten one minute videos on each specific one and I posted it on social media [...] it was well received and my constituents understood how the budget would impact them."*



Member of Parliament **Dan Ruimy** (Canada), Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change for North America





During the Spanish session, a panel of parliamentarians provided a more in depth look at methodologies that can be applied to enable public participation in the budget process. It started with a presentation by Member of the National Assembly **Karina Arteaga** (Ecuador), Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality for South America ([presentation](#) in Spanish) who discussed the ways in which Ecuador has been promoting citizen participation in all sectors and levels of government so as to guarantee that the opinions and recommendations proposed by

citizens are considered in the debate on the national budget. One example shared was the receipt of recommendations by social organizations, youth and retirees to the Economic Regime Commission of the National Assembly. She also presented the program “Member of the National Assembly for a Day” where individuals can be part of a parliamentary committee and present their input. Member of Parliament **Randy Boissonnault** (Canada), Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network for North America ([presentation](#) in Spanish) presented on the process followed by the

Finance Committee of the House of Commons to undertake pre-budget consultations to inform the development of the budget proposal by the Executive, through public hearings and written submissions. Member of Congress **María Melgarejo** (Peru) ([presentation](#) in Spanish) presented on the efforts undertaken by the Congress to include citizens’ recommendations and opinions in the report prepared by the Budget and General Accounts Committee in regards to the budget proposal. This input is received through the Congress’ webpage as well as through public hearings.







"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 Chamber of Deputies **Ángela Pozo** (Dominican Republic)



Member of the National Assembly **Karina Arteaga** (Ecuador), Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality for South America

"We have started to organize legislative forums, a way to bring the Congress closer to the people [...] We went to the provinces to listen to their needs and what they wanted for their province. All the requests heard were compiled and this information was consulted by the Executive branch as they developed the budget for the following year."

"When I was a candidate to become a Member of Parliament, I wouldn't have imagined that a woman from my riding could tell me an idea and that I could then share with the Minister of Finance, and that it would lead to a new program in the 2018 budget that will not only help this woman but all women in the country. This is possible when we listen and we try to work with our citizens."

"The creation of the Fiscal Council in 2015 has helped strengthened transparency in the budget process. In addition, through decentralized public hearings, we listen to citizens' needs which inform the budget debates and the reports responding to the budget proposal, leading to the approval of priority works in each region."



Member of Congress **María Melgarejo** (Peru)



Member of Parliament **Randy Boissonnault** (Canada), Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network for North America

Interested in this topic? Watch the full video of this session on our [ParlAmericas YouTube Channel](#).





## PARLIAMENTS REPRESENTED



ANTIGUA &  
BARBUDA



ARGENTINA



BARBADOS



BOLIVIA



CANADA



CHILE



COLOMBIA



COSTA RICA



CUBA



DOMINICAN  
REPUBLIC



ECUADOR



EL SALVADOR



GRENADA



GUATEMALA



GUYANA



HONDURAS



JAMAICA



NICARAGUA



PANAMA



PARAGUAY



PERU



SAINT KITTS &  
NEVIS



SAINT LUCIA



SURINAME



TRINIDAD &  
TOBAGO



VENEZUELA

## PARTNERS



CHIRAPAQ  
Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú



IOM • OIM



UNHCR  
The UN Refugee Agency



University  
of Victoria



# Canada

The 15<sup>th</sup> ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly was made possible with the generous support of the Parliament of Canada and the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada.



In order to reduce our ecological footprint, the meeting documents, resources and publications are available at [www.parlamerica.org](http://www.parlamerica.org). For easy and direct access through your mobile phone, we invite you to download a QR reader application.





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



ParlAmericas fosters **OPEN PARLIAMENTS** by advancing the principles of transparency, accountability, citizen participation, ethics and probity



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



ParlAmericas promotes policies and legislative measures to mitigate and adapt to the effects of **CLIMATE CHANGE**



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



ParlAmericas works towards strengthening democracy and governance by accompanying **ELECTORAL PROCESSES**



ParlAmericas mainstreams **GENDER EQUALITY** by advocating for women's political empowerment and the application of a gender lens in legislative work



ParlAmericas is headquartered in **OTTAWA, CANADA**

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