



ParlAmericas actively participates at PreCOP25 and COP25

#ParlAmericasCC
#TimeForAction



THEME

Time for Action

LOCATION

San José, Costa Rica
Madrid, Spain

DATES

October 8-10, 2019
December 2-13, 2019



This activity is aligned with SDG 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17

DELEGATION TO COP25

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A delegation of parliamentarians from the Executive Committee of the ParIAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change (PNCC) participated in official sessions of the UN Climate Change Conference COP-25, in Madrid, Spain, from December 2 to 13. The delegation was composed of Member of the National Assembly (Ecuador) **Ana Belén Marín**, President of the PNCC; Senator **Rosa Galvez** (Canada), Vice-President of the PNCC for North America; and Member of the Legislative Assembly **Paola Vega** (Costa Rica), Vice-President of the PNCC for Central America.

This year the chief objective of the COP was to raise overall ambition of all parties in preparation for the updating of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2020. A common call from stakeholders, including the delegation's parliamentarians, at COP25 was to make the NDCs more inclusive by creating them in consultation with diverse actors, and with consideration of human rights, gender equality and other social dimension of proposed climate solutions.

The objectives of the ParIAmericas delegation to COP25 were to:

- Promote the [Parliamentary Call for Action](#) adopted at the 4th gathering of the PNCC in Paramaribo, Suriname, and its key messages. This declaration calls on fellow parliamentarians, political leaders, civil society and multilateral



organizations, academia and all individuals in our hemisphere to urgently address climate change and to implement the Paris Agreement in line with the 2030 Agenda.

- Present the new ParIAmericas consultative [Guide on Green Parliaments](#) outlining how parliaments can lead by example and measure their current environmental footprint and undertake actions to improve their institutions' sustainability practices and environmental consciousness, thereby contributing to overall national emission reduction targets.
- Present the [Parliamentary Protocol for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation](#) developed in collaboration with UNDRR to support parliamentarians in contributing to the implementation of the Sendai Framework and to provide tools for parliaments to help strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change.

- Learn about new developments and initiatives to mitigate and adapt to climate change across the world and discuss these issues with various stakeholders to develop potential partnerships and inform the planning for upcoming PNCC activities.

To achieve these overarching objectives, the ParlAmericas delegation participated in bilateral meetings, attended and participated in panels, and contributed a legislative perspective to the various official side sessions.

Senator Galvez attended a number of high-level side sessions and bilateral meetings. She was also given a private briefing with the Chief Negotiator of the Canadian COP25 team on the country's key negotiation topics. These included carbon market and non-market mechanisms and their accompanying rules, loss and damage, climate finance, the Gender Action Plan workplan, as well as the local communities and Indigenous people's platform. Senator Galvez also attended briefings and meetings in relation to achieving a just transition, receiving insights on what labour union were calling for at COP25.

Ms. Marín represented ParlAmericas in two official side sessions. The first was an event organized by the UNFCCC Global Climate Action at the Action Hub, Voluntary Carbon Management Programs – A Contribution to Mitigation through the Carbon Markets, in which she shared information about ParlAmericas' participation in the Climate Neutral Now initiative, as well as the launch of the consultative [Guide on Green Parliaments](#). She



additionally participated in the high-level panel, Just Transition towards an Inclusive Green Economy: A Driver for Ambitious Climate Action and SDGs, organized by the International Labour Organization. In addition, Ms. Marín and James Grabert, Director of the Sustainable Development Mechanisms, formally reaffirmed the MOU between ParlAmericas and UNFCCC.

Finally, during the second week of COP25, ParlAmericas was represented by Ms. Vega at the Parliamentary Breakfast hosted by the Global Renewable Congress. She presented in an official

side session organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Grantham Research Institute, Global Trends in Climate Legislation and Litigation: Enhancing Resilience and Adaptation, where she shared the [Protocol on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation](#) that ParlAmericas developed in collaboration with UNDRR. Ms. Vega also attended the Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the COP, organized by IPU that was held at the Congress of Deputies of Spain, where she presented important work being advanced in the hemisphere on climate change and its linkages with gender equality and open parliament.

Key messages from COP25

The following were points emphasized through ParlAmericas' participation at the COP:

1. All stakeholders and diverse actors are needed to combat climate change. There are public programs to encourage greater participation, such as voluntary carbon management programs that engage the private sector.
2. Countries should prepare to update and enhance their NDCs in consultation with civil society, being mindful of the participation and needs of women and youth, Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, workers from traditionally unsustainable industries and marginalized communities.
3. Social justice, human rights and the 2030 Agenda should be outlined in the NDCs and in countries' national climate strategies. A just transition should be a focal point in these strategies to ensure that no one is left behind, as well as to allow for greater climate ambition.
4. Climate change legislation should have measures that allow for accountability and for more specificity, establishing a framework and instruments that will facilitate the achievement of the NDCs. Common instruments include the independent council to monitor progress and an expert council that provides evidence-based recommendations to the government.
5. There must be a commitment to create an enabling policy framework for renewable energy and to further accelerate the growth of renewable energy generation towards a 100% share within the coming years, and to embed this in a process built on the principles of public participation and just transition.



It is essential to promote the active and inclusive participation of national and local governments, parliaments, international agencies, private sector and citizens in climate discussions so we can all contribute to the promotion of a just transition towards decarbonization.



Member of the Legislative Assembly **Paola Vega**
(Costa Rica), Vice-President of the PNCC for
Central America



We are here representing ParlAmericas, sharing our knowledge, but [also] learning about highly relevant topics such as a just transition [...] how we can continue to build green economies and [contribute] within our parliamentary spaces, policies that strengthen carbon neutrality.



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



We were able to engage on the most pressing issues humanity faces today and focus our attention on how to transform energy, transportation, food and agricultural systems ... Legislators have unique responsibilities in helping raise the ambitions of their countries to foster the social dialogue necessary to address this urgent issue without furthering social divisions.



Senator **Rosa Galvez** (Canada), Vice-President of the PNCC for North America

Participation in Pre-COP25 in Costa Rica

ParlAmericas, in collaboration with the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica and the UNFCCC Regional Center for Latin America and the Caribbean, organized a side session on the margins of Pre-COP25, which took place in San José, Costa Rica, from October 8 to 10.

The high-level side session, “Strengthening Climate Governance as a Tool to Achieve a Just Transition towards Decarbonization,” included the participation of Member of the Legislative Assembly **Paola Vega** (Costa Rica); Senator **Verónica Camino** (Mexico), Vice-President for North America of the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality; Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Jorge Rathgeb** (Chile); **Haydée Rodríguez** (Costa Rica), Vice Minister of Water and Seas; **Ovais Sarmad**, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNFCCC; and **Andrea San Gil León** (Costa Rica), President of the Centre for Urban Sustainability.

The side event fostered a dynamic dialogue and exchange of good practices among diverse actors in relation to how effective and inclusive climate governance can contribute to achieving a just transition towards a decarbonized world. Panel discussions also emphasized the importance of having a gender perspective in the development of climate solutions that leave no one behind. The importance of including parliamentarians in national and regional climate discussions related to the transition towards a green economy was also highlighted.

PARLAMERICAS



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ParlAmericas facilitates the exchange of parliamentary **BEST PRACTICES AND** promotes **COOPERATIVE POLITICAL DIALOGUE**



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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**



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