



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate publication

ParlAmericas participated in the regular session of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States

Ottawa, Canada, February 22, 2023

Today, on behalf of ParlAmericas, Senator Blanca Ovelar (Paraguay), President of ParlAmericas, and the Honourable Claudius J. Francis (Saint Lucia), Speaker of the House of Assembly and member of the ParlAmericas Board of Directors, participated in the regular session of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) convened by its Chair, His Excellency Ambassador Anthony Phillips-Spencer, Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago.

On this occasion, ParlAmericas' participation had the aim of providing the Permanent Council a summary of the work carried out by ParlAmericas since the organization's previous participation in the regular session of the Council in February 2022. Senator Ovelar and the Honourable Francis additionally reported on actions undertaken in response to the mandates adopted both at the IX Summit of the Americas and at the 52nd OAS General Assembly to promote parliamentary engagement in the Inter-American System through ParlAmericas. Finally, ParlAmericas' representatives reflected on the role of inter-parliamentary diplomacy and how ParlAmericas' activities in 2023 align with OAS efforts and priorities.

In her remarks, President Ovelar stated, "Today we reaffirm before you ParlAmericas' unwavering willingness to comply with the mandates it was assigned and to contribute, at a particularly sensitive time for our hemisphere, to the search for solutions to the pressing problems facing our fellow citizens; we will do so in a concerted manner and under the democratic convictions that unite us."

In turn, the Honourable Claudius J. Francis expressed that "This year, ParlAmericas will dedicate our efforts to working on issues including migration, the fight against disinformation and computational propaganda, food sovereignty and food insecurity, and the compounding effect of the climate crises, All of these are pressing challenges within our hemisphere that form part of the political discussions and technical work here at the OAS, and which have likewise been identified as top priorities by our parliamentary membership."

ParlAmericas' participation in the most recent session of the OAS Permanent Council exemplifies the spirit of collaboration between the two organizations and reflects the importance of promoting multilateralism and cooperation at the highest level in the Inter-American System to address issues of hemispheric importance.

To learn more about ParlAmericas work, visit www.parlamericas.org and follow @ParlAmericas on social media.

ParlAmericas is the institution that promotes parliamentary diplomacy in the inter-American system. Composed of the 35 national legislatures in North, Central and South America, and the Caribbean, ParlAmericas promotes cooperative political dialogue, facilitates the exchange of good legislative practices, and produces tailored resources to support parliamentarians in their work. The headquarters of the International Secretariat is located in Ottawa, Canada. For more information, visit www.parlamericas.org or write to info@parlamericas.org.