



PODER LEGISLATIVO  
*Cámara de Senadores*



## **Parliamentarians from the Americas and the Caribbean to meet in Asunción, Paraguay, to discuss democracy and human rights**

Asuncion (PARAGUAY), May 7, 2024 — More than 50 parliamentarians from 21 countries of the Americas and the Caribbean will convene for the 20th ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly and 8th Gathering of the Open Parliament Network. The joint meeting, organized by ParlAmericas and the Chamber of Senators of the Congress of the Republic of Paraguay, will be held on May 8, 9, and 10, 2024, in Asunción, and will be focused on the theme [\*Building Partnerships to Strengthen Democracy and Promote Human Rights\*](#).

During the gathering, parliamentarians will discuss the state of democracy along with representatives of international organizations, civil society, academia, and youth leaders. Participants will also have the opportunity to discuss the critical role parliaments play in fostering active democracies, promoting human rights, maintaining peace, building consensus, promoting inclusive policies, and pursuing social justice.

The meeting will open with welcoming remarks from Senator **Silvio Ovelar** (Paraguay), President of the National Congress; Honourable Representative **Catherine Juvinao** (Colombia), Vice-President for South America of ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network; Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Raúl Luis Latorre** (Paraguay), President of the Chamber of Deputies; and Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President of ParlAmericas.

The main session will focus on “Human Rights and Democracy: Challenges for the Future” and feature the participation of **Marta Lagos**, Director and Founder of the Latinobarometer Corporation, and Dr. **Rosina Wiltshire**, international development and human rights specialist. This session will cover approaches to the main challenges related to democracy and human rights, considering the role of parliaments and their opportunities for action that facilitates democratic consolidation. It will set the context for the rest of the sessions that will take place over the course of the gathering.

### **Quotes**

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

*“ParlAmericas has convened parliamentarians from the Americas and the Caribbean to respond to the call of history that requires us, in the midst of a particularly complex and sensitive juncture, to assert the critical role that parliaments play in the unceasing construction of active democracies, in the defence of human rights, in the maintenance of peace, in consensus building, in the promotion of inclusive policies, and in the pursuit of social justice.”*

**Senator Javier Macaya Danús (Chile), President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network**

*“It is crucial to strengthen the role of the democratic system, especially in its respect for human rights. This not only contributes to public legitimacy but also strengthens the foundations on which individual and collective freedoms are built. In this respect, parliaments have a fundamental role to play as defenders of democratic principles and fundamental rights.”*

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**About ParlAmericas**

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 International Secretariat of ParlAmericas is headquartered in Ottawa, Canada.