

Parliamentarians from the Americas and the Caribbean Gather in San José, Costa Rica, to Discuss Migration in the Hemisphere

San José (COSTA RICA), October 22, 2024—More than 50 parliamentarians from 19 countries and 2 territories across the Americas and the Caribbean will gather in San José, Costa Rica, on October 23, 24 and 25 to participate in the hemispheric interparliamentary meeting [*Migration in the Context of Socio-Environmental Challenges*](#), organized by the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica, ParlAmericas, and the Forum of Presidents of Legislative Bodies of Central America and the Caribbean (FOPREL).

The meeting marks the occasion of the 8th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and Sustainability, the 16th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality, and the IX Meeting of the Interparliamentary Commission on Women's Rights and Gender Equity of the Forum of Presidents of the Legislative Bodies of Central America and the Caribbean (FOPREL).

The inaugural session will feature welcoming remarks from Member of the Legislative Assembly **Rodrigo Arias** (Costa Rica), President of the Legislative Assembly and President pro tempore of FOPREL; Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President of ParlAmericas; **Ariel Alvarado Urbina**, Executive Secretary of FOPREL; and Member of the Legislative Assembly **Carolina Delgado** (Costa Rica), Chair of the FOPREL Interparliamentary Commission on Women's Rights and Gender Equity, ParlAmericas Board Member of and host of the Gathering.

The Americas and the Caribbean face unprecedented migratory challenges driven by environmental, economic and social pressures, including displacement induced by climate change, disasters due to natural hazards, economic crises and sociopolitical instability. These forces drive millions of people to cross borders each year, highlighting the urgent need for responsible and human rights-centred migration governance.

The high-level dialogue opening the event, titled “Responsible Migration Governance in a World of Environmental and Social Uncertainty,” will feature **Ana Durán**, Deputy Regional Director for the Americas of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and Dr. **Natasha Kay Mortley**, Strategic Advisor to the Commission on Migration and Gender, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). This session will provide a comprehensive overview of current migratory realities in the region and consider the parliaments' role in adopting a human rights and gender equality approach to migration measures, setting the context for the rest of the sessions during the meeting.

Quotes

Member of the Legislative Assembly Carolina Delgado (Costa Rica), ParlAmericas Board Member and Chair of the FOPREL Interparliamentary Commission on Women's Rights and Gender Equity

"As parliamentarians, it is essential that we also recognize the opportunities that human mobility can offer our societies. When managed properly, migration can be a source of economic and social development, contributing to the diversification of our economies and the strengthening of our communities."

Senator Blanca Ovelar (Paraguay), ParlAmericas President

"As legislators, we have the responsibility to address the deep and structural causes of migration, while also seeking articulated solutions that ensure those who cross borders in search of safety, opportunities or a better life are treated with dignity and respect."

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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

Sobre FOPREL

FOPREL is a space for dialogue and cooperation that brings together the presidents of the legislative powers of Central America, the Caribbean, and Mexico, with the aim of promoting democracy, respect for human rights, and the strengthening of democratic institutions. Through its activities, FOPREL seeks to foster the exchange of good legislative practices, promote interparliamentary cooperation, and strengthen interinstitutional relations for the benefit of its member countries.