



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, September 5, 2017

ParlAmericas Holds a Workshop on Fiscal Transparency Practices & a Co-creation Meeting on Citizen Participation

On September 6 & 7, ParlAmericas, in collaboration with the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, is organizing two activities to foster open parliament in legislative powers across the Americas and the Caribbean. The *Workshop: Strengthening Accountability through Fiscal Transparency Practices* & the *Co-creation Meeting: Citizen Participation Toolkit* will be attended by parliamentary delegations, civil society representatives and experts from 12 countries in the region.

The workshop will be facilitated by Kevin Page, President and CEO of the Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy and former Parliamentary Budget Officer of Canada, and Juan Pablo Guerrero, Network Director at the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency (GIFT). It will explore transparency and accountability practices within the parliamentary financial cycle to analyze and identify challenges and opportunities for improvement, with particular attention to the role of parliamentary budget offices and fostering public participation in fiscal policy.

The co-creation meeting, which builds on the results of a previous meeting held in Bogota, Colombia, will provide a space for reflection on strategies and mechanisms to engage citizens throughout the legislative process. Participants will contribute to a Citizen Participation Toolkit compiling best practices from the hemisphere to enable and promote citizen participation in the work of parliaments.

Hon. Bridgid Annisette-George, Speaker of the House and ParlAmericas Board Member, highlighted that “informing citizens of decisions taken in parliament and explaining their reasoning in non-technical terms is an important part of parliament’s role to ensure accountability on fiscal policy,” adding that “citizens across the hemisphere are not only demanding more information but are also looking for opportunities to contribute to legislative decisions, which is why this meeting will explore potential avenues through which this can be done effectively.”

For further information, consult the [agenda of both events](#) and follow @ParlAmericas on social media.

ParlAmericas is the institution that promotes parliamentary diplomacy in the inter-American system. Convening of the national legislatures of the member States of the OAS from North, Central and South America and the Caribbean, ParlAmericas facilitates the exchange of parliamentary best practices and promotes cooperative political dialogue. For more information, visit www.parlamericas.org or write to communications@parlamericas.org.