



ParlAmericas and the IX Summit of the Americas

Building a sustainable, resilient, and equitable future

The Summit of the Americas gathers Heads of State and Government from across the Americas and the Caribbean to discuss matters of hemispheric relevance, reaffirm shared values, and agree on actions to address common challenges. This year, the IX Summit of the Americas took place in Los Angeles, United States of America, from June 6 to 10, 2022, around the theme of "Building a sustainable, resilient, and equitable future."

Since our creation in 2001 to coincide with the III Summit of the Americas, held in the city of Québec, Canada, ParlAmericas has led the participation of parliaments in the Summits of the Americas processes in accordance with the organization's mission to promote parliamentary participation in the Inter-American System and contribute to interparliamentary dialogue on matters of hemispheric importance.

The following is a brief summary of a series of activities carried out on the occasion of the IX Summit, including pre-Summit meetings, the Summit parliamentary gathering and parallel events held during the Summit in which parliamentarians from the Americas and the Caribbean participated.



#ParlAmericas #SummitAmericas

THEME: IX Summit of the Americas

DATE: May 17, 2022

LOCATION: Virtual

PARTICIPANTS: 22 parliamentarians from 15 countries of the Americas and the Caribbean



This activity aligned with SDGs 16 and 17.



Briefing with high-ranking OAS officials in advance of the IX Summit of the Americas

As the members designated by the national parliaments of the Americas and the Caribbean to the governing bodies of ParlAmericas, the members of the ParlAmericas Board of Directors and the executive committees of the organization’s thematic networks received a briefing from senior OAS officials in advance of the IX Summit of the Americas.

The OAS Secretary for Strengthening Democracy **Francisco Guerrero** presented an overview of the political climate in the region, and the Director of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat **María Celina Conte** shared a summary of the Summit of the Americas process and the various official forums and stakeholders involved.



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#ParlAmericas #SummitAmericas

 **THEMES:** IX Summit of the Americas, parliamentary diplomacy, multilateralism

 **DATE:** June 1, 2022

 **LOCATION:** Virtual

 **PARTICIPANTS:** 43 parliamentarians from 18 countries of the Americas and the Caribbean.



This activity aligned with SDGs 16 and 17.



Promoting Multilateralism through Parliamentary Diplomacy

High-level dialogue on the occasion of the IX Summit of the Americas

In advance of the IX Summit of the Americas, ParlAmericas convened this high-level space to discuss multilateralism, parliamentary diplomacy, and the role of the parliaments of the hemisphere in implementing the agreements and commitments reached at the Summits.

The meeting also offered participants an opportunity to learn more about the Summit process and stakeholders' forums through a panel titled "Multi-stakeholder perspectives in the Summit of the Americas process," which included representatives of three official forums of the IX Summit: The Civil Society Forum, the Young Americas Forum and the CEO Summit. The panellists presented their expectations and priorities for the Summit.

The meeting also included the presentation of the publication *Contributions to the Implementation of the Lima Commitment*, which summarizes the work carried out through ParlAmericas to support the implementation of the *Lima Commitment: Democratic Governance Against Corruption*, adopted at the VIII Summit of the Americas in Lima, Peru.



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

"The participation of the legislative branch in international affairs has become increasingly relevant, not only to the collaboration and coordination between governments needed to ensure the achievement of the State's aims and tasks, but also in acknowledging a complex political, social, and economic climate that demands international cooperation of the highest order."



[AGENDA](#)



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IX SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

LOS ANGELES • 2022

#ParlAmericas #SummitAmericas

THEMES: democratic governance, health and resilience, our green future, energy transition, and digital transformation

DATES: June 6 and 7, 2022

LOCATION: Los Angeles, California, United States of America

PARTICIPANTS: 46 parliamentarians from 22 countries of the Americas and the Caribbean

HOSTS: House Democracy Partnership (HDP) of the United States House of Representatives, National Democratic Institute (NDI), International Republican Institute (IRI)



This activity aligned with SDGs 3, 5, 7, 13, and 16.



Parliamentary gathering on the occasion of the IX Summit of the Americas

Undertaken in collaboration with the House Democracy Partnership of the United States House of Representatives, the National Democratic Institute, and the International Republican Institute, the parliamentary gathering convened legislators from the Americas and the Caribbean in Los Angeles California on the occasion of the IX Summit of the Americas.

Thematic panels

During the event, participants had an opportunity to engage with colleagues from across the hemisphere and share experiences and legislative good practices through thematic panels that addressed the Summit's five thematic areas: democratic governance, a green future, energy transition, health and resilience, and digital transformation. The following is a summary of the key takeaways from each panel.

Panel: “Strengthening Democratic Resilience to Combat Corruption”

- Corruption, a complex and multidimensional phenomenon, continues to be one of the most serious problems in the hemisphere, as it affects the adequate investment of public resources, increases economic and social inequality, undermines trust in institutions and creates social discontent and political polarization.
- A robust anti-corruption agenda should contemplate the strengthening of practices favouring public integrity, transparency, and accountability, with a special focus on mechanisms allowing for meaningful participation by civil society organizations within those spheres. Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff can make important contributions by adopting or updating legislation, policies, and codes of ethics and conduct.

Panel: “Application of Democratic Principles to Improve Green Energy Commitments”

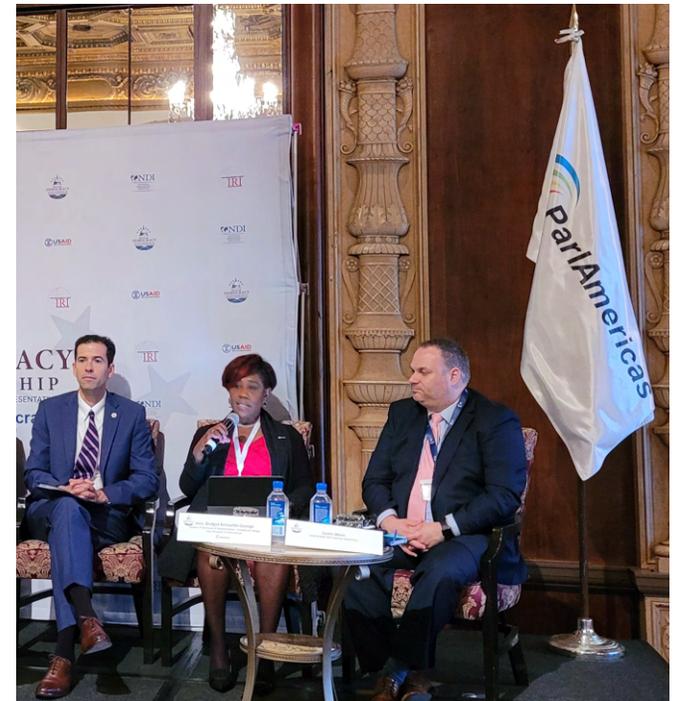
- Advancing towards green energy involves, among other measures, a progressive reduction in the use of fossil fuels and an increase in renewable energy investments within the framework of broader initiatives to strengthen ambition for inclusive climate action and to step-up efforts to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement. These decisions have deep socioeconomic implications for various countries across the hemisphere, which requires that conditions be established to guarantee a fair, democratic, and inclusive energy transition.
- Recognizing that the impacts of climate change have disproportionately affected the most vulnerable communities and systems, it is essential that gender and intersectional perspectives be mainstreamed across the development, review, and implementation of policies, laws, and programs for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Panel: “Trends in Digital Transformation to Promote Transparency and Counter Disinformation”

- One of the main challenges is to build increasingly open States and increasingly democratic societies and governments. This implies a cultural transformation in public governance around issues such as access to public information, accountability, and citizen participation as transversal pillars of public administration.
- It is important to promote hemispheric collaboration, especially among the region's legislatures, in order to foster the principles of transparency and proactive dissemination of institutional information, and to develop coordinated responses that feature the most recent developments in cybersecurity and data protection.

Panel: “Building Consensus to Support Inclusive Democratic Engagement”

- Building democratic consensus in the region will involve strengthening international governance, multilateralism, and coordinated efforts among the countries in the hemisphere in areas such as the defense of democracy, the promotion of human rights and gender equality, and the fight against climate change.
- It is necessary to strengthen and update participation mechanisms so that citizen involvement — especially by historically marginalized groups — in public affairs can be meaningful and effective, ensuring that people can exercise their rights in the context of inclusive and participatory democracies. This requires institutional and cultural transformations to achieve more agile, flexible, efficient, and transparent administration.



Panel: “Democratic Resilience During Health Crises”

- The public health crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic exposed the pressing need to strengthen healthcare systems in the hemisphere. To this end, it is essential that countries expand equitable access to comprehensive, quality healthcare centred on people and communities, boost investment in preventative healthcare models, and improve primary care in order to advance toward universal healthcare.
- Strengthening cooperation on public healthcare among the countries of the hemisphere is an important way to help bridge gaps in basic capacities, facilitate access to products needed in the health sector, and promote coordination between national epidemiological monitoring systems.

Panel: “Empowering and Enhancing Women’s Inclusion in Parliament”

- There remains an urgent need in the region to strengthen the levels of participation by women candidates in electoral processes, under conditions of equality. Among other measures, this requires promoting young women’s leadership within political parties, avoiding the relegation of women candidates to the last positions on party lists, and creating mechanisms to prevent and protect against gender-based political violence.
- Additionally, some concrete measures that can be taken by parliaments with regard to gender equality are: establishing daycare facilities in parliament, developing codes of conduct on workplace violence and sexual harassment, fostering solidarity among women parliamentarians, adjusting parliamentary session and committee schedules to consider parliamentarians' care obligations, and promoting a culture in which men parliamentarians proactively promote gender equality efforts.

Dialogue with the OAS Secretary General

Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the Organization of American States, participated in a dialogue moderated by former US Senator, the Honourable **Christopher Dodd**, Special Advisor for the IX Summit of the Americas. The conversation addressed issues such as the importance of the Summit themes, the main challenges facing democratic governance in the hemisphere, the role of parliaments in the multilateral spaces created by the Inter-American System, and other matters of regional relevance.



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The Honourable **Bridgid Annisette-George**, Speaker of the House of Representatives (Trinidad and Tobago), Vice-President of ParlAmericas

"In our deliberations over the next days, I invite us to really centre the concerns of women, and of all other persons who lack equal access to power. Their perspectives are too often marginal to political decision making. It is our duty as parliamentarians to represent them and guarantee their rights; it is clear that our countries cannot afford to diminish their agency and talents."



The Honourable **Carolyn Trench-Sandiford**, President of the Senate (Belize)

"Those most severely impacted by the resource scarcity caused by climate change and environmental degradation are the same groups commonly excluded from political decision making – individuals living in poverty, rural women, minorities, Indigenous groups and young people. Ensuring that we uphold the principles of climate governance by equitably including everyone in the political processes and that decision makers listen to their political voices is critical."



Luis Almagro, Secretary General, OAS

"Parliamentary work is essentially democratic and deliberative in nature. That is why we need a forum like ParlAmericas that can gather parliamentarians of various ideological backgrounds and political leanings to engage in dialogue and find solutions to shared problems."



Senator **Natalie Campbell-Rodriques** (Jamaica)

"As one of the most climatically, ecologically, and biologically diverse regions in the world, it is important that we understand the varied impacts of climate change as well as our opportunities for emission reduction specific to our national context."



Senator **Verónica Noemí Camino Farjat** (Mexico)

"Some populations differently experience the risks of climate change due to social, economic, cultural, ethnic, and gender inequalities that are unfortunately deeply rooted in our societies. That complex relationship between social inequalities and discrimination that unfolds on different levels needs to be addressed by climate policy."



The Honourable Senator **Rosa Galvez** (Canada)

"The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has advocated for reducing subsidies for the oil and gas sector and that those subsidies should be directed to renewable energy instead. This transition must be orderly and coordinated: we cannot afford a chaotic transition as it produces significant undesirable impacts both social and economic."



Senator **Javier Macaya** (Chile)

"The prestige of democracy as a way of channeling the ambitions of a society and its politics, as a way of settling differences, seems to have waned as the amount of information available has grown and the relationship between representatives and their constituents has become more horizontal. I think that is the great challenge we have to face: understanding how to make that relationship more synergistic."

Commitment for parliamentary engagement in the Summit of the Americas process

At the IX Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas and the Caribbean adopted a mandate in the Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance to promote parliamentary engagement, through ParlAmericas, as an integral part of the Summit of the Americas process.

In response to this strengthened mandate for ParlAmericas' engagement within future Summits of the Americas, the ParlAmericas Board, comprising parliamentarians from the Americas and the Caribbean designated by their national legislatures, adopted a Commitment for Parliamentary Engagement in the Summits of the Americas Process reaffirming ParlAmericas' determination to promote the meaningful participation of parliamentarians of the hemisphere in the Summit of the Americas processes.

Parallel events in the framework of the IX Summit of the Americas

Members of the ParlAmericas parliamentary delegation were invited to participate in some of the parallel events held during the IX Summit of the Americas.

IV Young Americas Forum. Organized by Young American Business Trust. The Forum provided a space for youth representatives to offer recommendations to the Summit based on the 5 C's of Youth Development: (1) climate change, (2) COVID-19, (3) collaborating with youth, (4) combating corruption and (5) connectivity and digital transformation.

Panel: "Democratic institutionalism and rising authoritarianisms in the region." Organized by the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (REDLAD) and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). The presentations and dialogues analyzed the concerning democratic retreat seen in some of the countries in the region and the importance of legislatures in defending and promoting equity, rights, and human dignity. Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Vlado Mirosevic** (Chile) participated on behalf of ParlAmericas.

Corruption and governance, presentation of results by the Citizen Corruption Observatory. Organized by the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (REDLAD), Creer en Plural, the Citizen Forum of the Americas, and the Citizen Corruption Observatory. During the event, participants discussed the state of corruption in the hemisphere and its impacts on human rights. Additionally, the Citizen Corruption Observatory presented a report on progress made in implementing the Lima Commitment. Member of the National Assembly **Wilma Andrade** (Ecuador) participated on behalf of ParlAmericas.

High-level panel: "Women's leadership: Advancing gender equality and democracy in the Americas." Organized by the Government of Canada, the Summits Secretariat, the Inter-American Commission of Women, and the Inter-American Task Force on Women's Leadership, of which ParlAmericas is a member. The event addressed the progress made and obstacles encountered in women's full and effective participation in public life. Director General **Alisha Todd** participated on behalf of ParlAmericas.



COUNTRIES REPRESENTED



ParAmericas acknowledges the contributions of the following partners who supported our delegations' participation in activities during the IX Summit of the Americas.





ParlAmericas is the institution that promotes **PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY** in the **INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM**



ParlAmericas mainstreams **GENDER EQUALITY** by advocating for women's political empowerment and the application of a gender lens in legislative work



ParlAmericas works towards strengthening democracy and governance by accompanying **ELECTORAL PROCESSES**



ParlAmericas is composed of the **35 NATIONAL LEGISLATURES** of the countries of North, Central and South America and the Caribbean



ParlAmericas fosters **OPEN PARLIAMENTS** by advancing the principles of transparency, accountability, citizen participation, ethics and probity



ParlAmericas organizes consultations and builds **MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS** with young leaders and civil society organizations



ParlAmericas facilitates the exchange of parliamentary **GOOD PRACTICES** and promotes **COOPERATIVE POLITICAL DIALOGUE** in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals



ParlAmericas promotes policies and legislative measures to mitigate and adapt to the effects of **CLIMATE CHANGE**



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