

## AGENDA

### 22nd ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly & 10th Gathering of Open Parliament Network

#### Parliamentary Leadership for Shared Prosperity: Advancing Trade, Innovation, and Security in a Changing World

May 19-22, 2026 | Ottawa, Canada

This gathering takes place at a moment of geopolitical and economic reconfiguration in the Western Hemisphere, as shifting trade dynamics, socio-economic transformations, evolving citizen expectations, and rapid technological innovation are redefining how countries engage with one another and position themselves in the world. In this context, parliaments are not peripheral actors: they influence economic direction, reinforce democratic legitimacy, and strengthen states' capacity to respond strategically to change.

The meeting will offer parliamentarians opportunities to reflect on how democratic governance, trade, innovation, security, and development can reinforce one another amid these shifts, and to consider how parliamentary action and cooperation – grounded in an Open Parliament approach that emphasizes transparency, participation, and accountability – can help navigate structural transformations, anchor economic and social change in democratic principles, and ensure that trade and development contribute to social stability, equitable opportunities, and a shared sense of economic progress and prosperity across the Hemisphere.

#### Wednesday, May 20

*All activities will take place in the Senate Chamber of the Senate of Canada, located at 2 Rideau Street, unless otherwise noted.*

- 08:30                      Transfer of participants to the Senate of Canada, 2 Rideau Street
- 09:00 - 10:00            **Inauguration, Land Acknowledgement, and Welcoming Remarks**
- Land acknowledgement
  - National anthem
  - Welcoming remarks
    - Senator the Honourable **René Cormier** (Canada), Speaker *pro tempore* of the Senate
    - **Patricia Lattanzio**, M.P. (Canada), 2nd Vice-President of ParlAmericas and Chair of the Canadian Section of ParlAmericas
    - Senator **Iván Flores García** (Chile), President of ParlAmericas
    - Senator **Germán Blanco Álvarez** (Colombia), 2nd Vice-President of ParlAmericas and President of the Open Parliament Network

10:00 - 11:00

**High-Level Dialogue: Governing Through Change — Strengthening Rules-Based Trade, Democracy, and Sustainable Development Across the Hemisphere**

This keynote dialogue will examine how parliaments can exercise leadership in responding to the economic, technological, and geopolitical transformations reshaping the Americas and the Caribbean. Drawing on regional development and trade perspectives, the discussion will consider how deeper, more inclusive, and rules-based trade integration can strengthen democratic governance and promote sustainable development and equality amid growing geopolitical and economic uncertainty.

*Moderator:*

- Honourable Representative **Catherine Juvinao Clavijo** (Colombia), Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

*Panellists:*

- The Honourable **Greg Fergus**, M.P. (Canada)
- **Michelle Muschett**, UN Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme

11:00 - 11:30

**Official Photograph and Health Break**

11:30 - 13:00

**Parliamentary Perspectives: Contributing to Expanded and Reliable Regional Trade**

This parliamentary panel will bring together legislators to share national perspectives on how parliamentary action – from reviewing trade agreements to advancing policies on investment and innovation – can contribute to expanded regional trade. The discussion will also explore how legislatures can address the social and environmental dimensions of economic integration, including climate change and the distributional impacts of trade.

*Moderator:*

- Senator the Honourable **Rosa Galvez** (Canada), 2nd Vice-President of ParlAmericas and President of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and Sustainability

*Panellists:*

- Member of the Chamber of Representatives **Rodrigo Goñi Reyes** (Uruguay), President of the Chamber of Representatives and Member of the ParlAmericas Council
- Member of Congress **Patricia Juárez Gallegos** (Peru)
- The Honourable **Reginald Farley** (Barbados), President of the Senate

13:00 - 14:30	<b>Lunch</b>
14:30 - 14:45	<p><b>Special remarks on effective engagement of Indigenous peoples in parliamentary work</b></p> <p><i>Presenters:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Senator the Honourable Dr. <b>Margo Greenwood</b> (Canada), Counsellor of the Canadian Section of ParlAmericas (CPAM)</li> <li>● Chief Dr. <b>Wilton Littlechild</b>, I.P.C., C.C., F.C., K.C., C.M.S., O.S.</li> </ul>
14:45 - 17:00	<p><b>Open Parliament in Action: Strengthening Transparency, Public Engagement, and Oversight for Better Trade Outcomes</b></p> <p>Building on the themes explored in the previous panel, this working table session will feature expert presentations offering an outlook on trade and regional integration. The presentations will highlight how transparency, public participation, integrity, and accountability – the core pillars of an open parliament – contribute to better trade outcomes that leave no one behind.</p> <p>Following the presentations, participants will engage in round-table discussion groups to share practical experiences and strategies for applying open parliament principles to strengthen parliamentary work on trade policy. These discussions will focus on concrete approaches to ensuring that legislation and policy frameworks shaping trade outcomes are well-informed, inclusive, and aligned with the public interest.</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Senator the Honourable <b>René Cormier</b> (Canada), Vice-President for North America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network</li> </ul> <p><i>Panellists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noel Alonso Murray</b>, Executive Director, <i>Directorio Legislativo</i></li> <li>● <b>Salvator Cusimano</b>, Executive Director, Transparency International Canada</li> </ul>
17:00	Transfer of participants to the official hotel
18:45	Transfer of participants to the Sir John A. Macdonald Building
19:00	<p><b>Welcome Reception – ParlAmericas 25th Anniversary Celebration</b></p> <p><i>Location: Room 200, Sir John A. Macdonald Building, 144 Wellington Street</i></p>

**Thursday, May 21**

*All activities will take place in the House of Commons Chamber, located in the West Block building at 111 Wellington Street, unless otherwise noted.*

08:30            Transfer of participants to the West Block of the House of Commons of Canada

- 09:00 - 10:00 **The Trade-Security Nexus – Part 1: A Human Security Lens**
- This dialogue session will explore how trade and security objectives can be mutually reinforcing, contributing to regional stability, food and energy security, and reliable economic exchange. Through a human security lens, the discussion will examine how trade systems can support livelihoods, reduce vulnerabilities, and strengthen resilience in the face of economic, environmental, and social pressures.
- Moderator:*
- **Randy Hoback**, M.P. (Canada)
- Panellists:*
- **Dr. Jean-Charles Le Vallée**, Country Representative in Canada, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
  - **Dr. Monica Gattinger**, Director of the Institute for Science, Society and Policy at the University of Ottawa’s School of Political Studies and Fellow at the Canadian Global Affairs Institute
- 10:00 - 10:15 **Special Remarks by the Honourable Francis Scarpaleggia, Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada**
- 10:15 - 10:20 **Official Photograph in the Chamber of the House of Commons**
- 10:20 - 11:20 **The Trade-Security Nexus – Part 2: Addressing Illicit Economies and Strengthening Regional Stability**
- This dialogue session will examine how transnational criminal networks exploit legitimate trade systems, including financial flows, logistics infrastructure, and global supply chains. Drawing on trade and security perspectives, the discussion will explore key risks to regional commerce – such as trade-based money laundering, port and supply-chain vulnerabilities, and illicit markets – and will consider how parliamentary action, through strengthened legal frameworks, effective oversight, and international cooperation, can help safeguard trade integrity and the public interest.
- Moderator:*
- Senator **Verónica Noemí Camino Farjat** (Mexico), Vice-President of the Senate of the Republic and Member of the ParlAmericas Council
- Panellist:*
- **Michael Bejos**, Officer in Charge, Department against Transnational Organized Crime (DTOC), OAS Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS/OAS)
- 11:20 - 11:30 **Health Break**
- Location: Room 225-A, House of Commons of Canada*
- 11:30 - 13:30 **Collaborating with Industry and Government to Spur Innovation and Growth**
- Location: Room 225-A, House of Commons of Canada*

This panel session will bring together leaders from business, international development, trade promotion, and innovation networks to examine how policy frameworks can support investment, strengthen innovation ecosystems, and expand economic opportunities across the Americas and the Caribbean. The discussion will highlight the role of parliamentarians in shaping legislative and regulatory environments that enable effective partnerships, while ensuring that responses to economic and technological transformation are translated into policies that reflect the needs and aspirations of their constituents.

*Moderator:*

- **Sandra Cobena**, M.P. (Canada)

*Panellists:*

- **Marta C. Blackwell**, Executive Vice-President, Canadian Council for the Americas
- **Juan Fernando Londoño Osorio**, Advisor to the Corporate Vice-President, Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean - CAF
- **Valerie Lorena**, Executive Director, Young Americas Business Trust
- **Scott Bradley**, Vice-President, Government Relations, OpenText

13:30 - 14:30 **Lunch**

14:30 - 16:30 **Parliaments as Drivers of Resilient and Sustainable Trade Systems**

*Location: Room 225-A, House of Commons of Canada*

This interactive session will bring parliamentarians together in working tables to exchange experiences and practical insights on how legislatures can shape policies that strengthen resilient, shared, and sustainable economic integration across the Americas and the Caribbean while preserving democratic values. The working tables seek to generate concrete reflections on how parliaments can help ensure that economic integration contributes to long-term prosperity, stability, strong democratic institutions, and opportunity across the Hemisphere.

*Moderator:*

- Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), Member of the ParlAmericas Council

*Panellists:*

- The Honourable Dr. **Dessima Williams** (Grenada), President of the Senate and Member of the ParlAmericas Council
- **Keiji Inoue**, Director a.i., International Trade and Integration Division, ECLAC
- Dr. **Judit Fabian**, Visiting Researcher at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa, Fellow at the Canadian Global Affairs Institute, and a founding member of the World Trade Organization Gender Research Hub

16:30 - 17:00 **End of Day Recap**

17:00 - 18:30 Tour of the Parliament of Canada (*optional*)

18:30 Transfer of participants to the official hotel

## **Friday, May 22**

*All activities will take place in the House of Commons West Block building at 111 Wellington Street. Meeting rooms are indicated below.*

08:30 Transfer of participants to the West Block of the House of Commons of Canada

09:00 - 09:10 **Special presentation on youth engagement in the Senate of Canada**

*Location: Room 225-A, House of Commons of Canada*

*Presenter:*

- **Mélisa Leclerc**, Director General, Communications, Broadcasting and Publications, Senate of Canada

09:10 - 11:00 **Sustainable Futures: Youth Perspectives on the Future of Work and the Economy**

*Location: Room 225-A, House of Commons of Canada*

This dialogue session will examine how young leaders are contributing to more sustainable and inclusive economic models across the Americas and the Caribbean, highlighting the perspectives, priorities, and aspirations of younger generations. Drawing on the perspectives of youth on labour, trade, and innovation, the discussion will examine how young people are both shaping and being impacted by changes to the future of work affecting skills development, entrepreneurship, and access to decent employment, while also considering how parliamentary action, grounded in listening, representation, and inclusive policy design, can help ensure that economic transitions respond meaningfully to youth realities and expand fair and equitable opportunities for all.

### **Panel dialogue – Perspectives of Youth on Labour, Trade, and Innovation**

*Moderator:*

- Senator **Vlado Mirosevic Verdugo** (Chile), Member of the ParlAmericas Council

*Panellists:*

- **Asia Gilharry**, Export Business Advisor of Beltraide and YWiL Belize participant
- **Constanza Isabella D'Ambrosio Rojas**, Youth representative of the Costa Rican parliament and participant of the Young Women's Parliament for Climate
- **Jordan Aaron Keszler**, MSc Candidate in Geography at the University of Waterloo

*Commentators:*

- Senator **Gustavo Lara Salazar** (Dominican Republic), Member of the ParlAmericas Council

- Member of Parliament **Ludmila de Weever** (Sint Maarten)
- **Christopher Brathwaite**, CARICOM Youth Ambassador for Barbados
- **Sabina Gardea**, Participant of the Young Americas Business Trust of the OAS and delegate of Mexico studying multilateralism, global governance, and international cooperation

### **Round tables – Youth-Led Visions for Inclusive Economic Transitions**

#### *Reporters:*

- **Mohammad Mahdi Khanbabaie**, Graduate of the University of Toronto in Economics and Political Science
- **Gabriela Gill**, Projects and Operations Coordinator – Bliss Earth Recycling / Bliss Tierra Foundation
- **Vaishnavi Goboodun**, International Development Fellow with the Young Americas Business Trust and Graduate of the University of Alberta
- **William Santiago Vasquez**, Student of Strategic Marketing and developer of impact projects
- **Sean Clarke**, Senior Client Analytics Analyst at the Business Development Bank of Canada

11:00 - 11:15 **Health Break**

11:15 - 12:15 **Plenary Assembly Session**

*Location: House of Commons Chamber, House of Commons of Canada*

#### **Remarks**

- Senator **Iván Flores García** (Chile), President of ParlAmericas
- **Patricia Lattanzio**, M.P. (Canada), 2nd Vice-President of ParlAmericas and Chair of the Canadian Section of ParlAmericas
- **Alisha Todd** (Canada), Director General, ParlAmericas

### **From Dialogue to Parliamentary Action: Reflections from the ParlAmericas Networks**

#### *Moderator:*

- The Honourable **Alvina Bertram Reynolds** (Saint Lucia), President of the Senate and Vice-President of ParlAmericas

#### *Panellists:*

- Senator **Germán Blanco Álvarez** (Colombia), 2nd Vice-President of ParlAmericas and President of the Open Parliament Network
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Antares Vázquez Alatorre** (Mexico), 2nd Vice-President of ParlAmericas and President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality

- The Honourable **Lanein Blanchette** (Saint Kitts and Nevis), Speaker of the National Assembly and Vice-President for the Caribbean of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Security
- Senator **Anthony Vieira** (Trinidad and Tobago), Vice-President for the Caribbean of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and Sustainability

12:15 - 12:45     **Reading of the Declaration of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Assembly and the 10<sup>th</sup> Gathering of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network**

*Location: House of Commons Chamber, House of Commons of Canada*

12:45 - 13:30     **Closing Ceremony**

*Location: House of Commons Chamber, House of Commons of Canada*

13:30             **Lunch**

14:30             Transfer of participants to the official hotel

16:30 - 19:00     Boat tour of the Rideau Canal (optional)



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*Select sessions of this event will be recorded and turned into podcast episodes.*



*This activity is being undertaken with financial support from the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada.*



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