

ParlAmericas' Board of Directors Announces Topics to Be Covered at Next Plenary Assembly

The 33rd meeting of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas concluded on Friday in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Parliamentarians representing the national legislatures of the four sub-regions of the Americas discussed institutional governance and financing issues, in addition to plans for upcoming events.

One of the primary outcomes of the meeting was a resolution on the theme of the next Plenary Assembly, to be held in Santiago, Chile in September. The issues that will be discussed at the plenary fall under the overarching theme of mainstreaming sustainability, with working groups covering topics such as the post-2015 legislative agenda, democracy and digital media, and use of a gender lens to improve healthcare systems.

During the two-day meeting, board member Ignacio Urrutia Bonilla, Member of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile, provided an update on arrangements underway in his country for the event. He stated that Chile is very proud to host the plenary, as his country considers ParlAmericas an important international entity.

As host of the meeting, Guadalupe Valdez San Pedro, Member of the Chamber of Deputies of the Dominican Republic, commented, "It is the first time that the Dominican Republic enters to form part of the Caribbean regional representation [on ParlAmericas' Board of Directors], and we hope to continue contributing to the enrichment of dialogue, the exchange of experience, and cooperation among our parliaments."

At the meeting's conclusion, the President of ParlAmericas, Randy Hoback, Member of Parliament from Canada, explained that he was pleased with the board's discussions in Santo Domingo. "It was a really good opportunity for us to get together and to discuss priorities and lay out the path coming forward this next year."

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ParlAmericas is an independent network composed of the national legislatures of 35 states from North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean. Members of ParlAmericas are committed to developing inter-parliamentary dialogue on relevant hemispheric issues. They do so at plenary assemblies, capacity-building workshops, and other events closely aligned with issues of current hemispheric importance.

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