



COMMUNIQUÉ

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Ottawa, March 26, 2020

Publication on COVID-19 and the role of parliament during a pandemic

The global pandemic of the COVID-19 virus presents an unprecedented challenge, for which we must develop innovative techniques that ensure the fulfilment of our respective functions, while following the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO) on the prevention of the spread of this virus. As parliaments are the highest instance of democratic representation, legislators must continue to project the voice of citizens and keep them informed of the measures that are being adopted to protect public health.

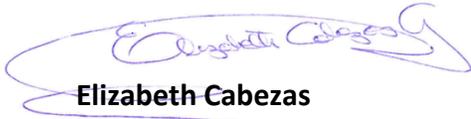
For that reason, ParlAmericas has developed a publication on [COVID-19 and the role of parliament during a pandemic](#) in order to present an overview of the socioeconomic and public health implications of this pandemic; mitigation and adaptation recommendations in order to continue performing parliamentary work; and a reflection on the important role of parliamentarians during a health crisis, bearing in mind the role of political control over the actions being taken in our countries.

This document includes measures that parliaments are putting into practice, such as the approval of provisions that allow for plenary and committee sessions to be held virtually, as is the case of the parliaments of Brazil, Chile and Ecuador.¹ As such, we wish to offer our support and advice by making available the tools and efforts that are being developed.

This publication will be updated taking into account the latest events concerning COVID-19, for which we would appreciate any comments you may have, as well as information on the mitigation and adaptation measures being implemented in the parliaments of the Americas and the Caribbean. Kindly contact parlamericasopn@parlamericas.org.

¹ The Ecuadorian parliament has approved the "Regulation for the Implementation of Virtual Sessions and Provisional Teleworking", activated two digital platforms (sessions and voting) and arranged for the opening of electronic service channels. These efforts make it possible to continue providing institutional services. For more information on the Ecuadorian experience, you may wish to contact the following: gloria.larenas@asambleanacional.gob.ec and alejandrogalarza@asambleanacional.gob.ec.

We encourage the hemisphere's legislatures to find in this situation an opportunity to coordinate actions and to revive cooperation activities in the interests of our peoples.



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