



 YEAR IN  
HIGHLIGHTS

2023

Photographs: Courtesy of host parliaments, ParlAmericas and partner organizations.

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# ABOUT PARLAMERICAS



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



ParlAmericas is headquartered in **OTTAWA, CANADA**



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF PARLAMERICAS



Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to present you with a brief overview of the work we have carried out through ParlAmericas in 2023.

First, I would like to note that the complex global and hemispheric landscape—reflected, for example, by erupting regional conflicts, an increase in transnational crime, the serious effects of climate change, the intensification of political polarization, and an unprecedented increase in migration, to mention but a few issues—has shown the value of parliamentary diplomacy as an indispensable tool for fostering regional cooperation and reaching agreements on concerted responses to shared challenges.

In this context, ParlAmericas—the only inter-parliamentary organization in the hemisphere made up of the 35 national parliaments of North, Central, and South America and the Caribbean—emerges as the ideal forum for parliamentarians from all political parties to come together to share experiences, exchange good legislative practices and build the political consensus needed to respond to common problems in a coordinated manner and together build a more prosperous, stable and harmonious future for the region.

On this premise, we have developed opportunities for inter-parliamentary dialogue on some of the most pressing issues on the hemispheric and global agendas. In particular, I would like to highlight our work in two critical areas: the serious situation of food insecurity in the hemisphere, including its intricate relationship with climate change and its gender-differentiated impacts; and the opportunities and challenges that the digital era presents for democratic governance and the rule of law.

These issues were addressed in declarations that set out a series of commitments for parliamentary action. I invite you to review them; you will find valuable insights that also reflect the views of specialists, representatives of multilateral and civil society organizations, and youth from across the hemisphere.

I would further like to take this opportunity to celebrate the memorandum of understanding we have signed with ECLAC to work on issues related to sustainable development, transformative and inclusive socioeconomic recovery, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and gender equality.

I will conclude by briefly highlighting our continuous work to promote parliamentary participation in the inter-American system in accordance with our mission.

For ParlAmericas, maintaining hemispheric inter-parliamentary dialogue and linkages with the various entities of the inter-American system is essential to addressing common challenges in a coordinated manner, making progress on the structural transformations that the citizens of the Americas and the Caribbean demand and fulfilling the political commitments that governments have adopted through hemispheric mechanisms and agreements.

In that spirit, drawing on our experiences and with the contribution of our colleagues, we have been building a strategy to institutionalize and strengthen parliamentary participation in the inter-American system guided by the will to contribute to achieving common objectives related to strengthening democracy, upholding the rule of law and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms—central elements of the institutional framework of the inter-American system.

We hope to continue to count on your support and participation in this endeavour. The pressing regional challenges that we face require our greatest commitment to work collaboratively and reach agreement.

I invite you to review and share this document, where you will find detailed information on the results of our work and the publications and tools that we have diligently worked to make available.

Thank you very much for your support.

Sincerely,

*Blanca Ovelar*

**Senator, Paraguay**  
**President of ParlAmericas**

 FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER @OVELAR\_BLANCA

# OPERATIONS AND FINANCES

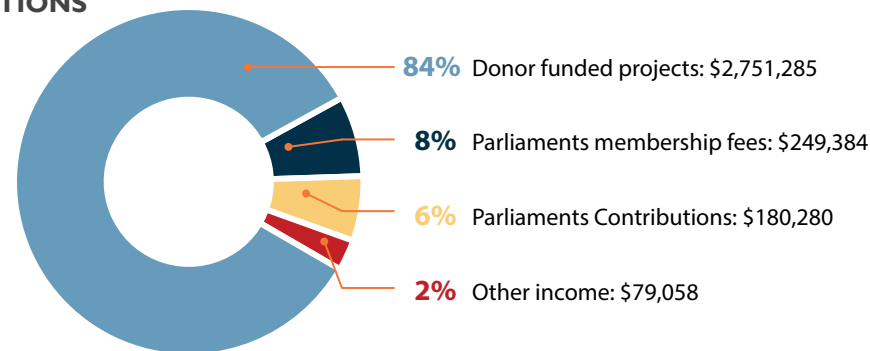
ParAmericas' operations and activities in the 2023 fiscal year were financed through the support of our member parliaments, our partners and the generous contributions of the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada. ParAmericas wishes to acknowledge with sincere appreciation the invaluable support, expertise and time contributed by member parliaments, individual parliamentarians and partners to ensure the successful implementation of ParAmericas' programming throughout the year.

**Note:** The in-kind contributions included in ParAmericas' financial statements are recorded when fair values can be reasonably estimated and supporting documentation is provided by the member parliament. We recognize that the amount shown is a fraction of the overall value of in-kind support provided by member parliaments and partners in the normal course of ParAmericas' operations. ParAmericas therefore also tracks and records an indicative value of the total contributions to ParAmericas' programming.

**Source:** ParAmericas' audited financial statements as of September 30, 2023, and the corresponding annual financial report prepared for the ParAmericas Board of Directors and member parliaments.

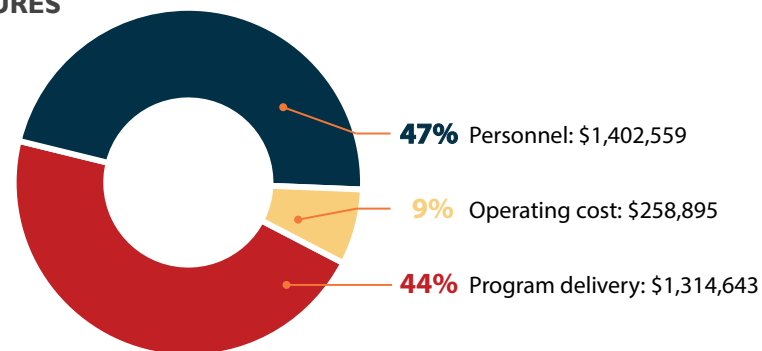
## CONTRIBUTIONS

\$3,260,007



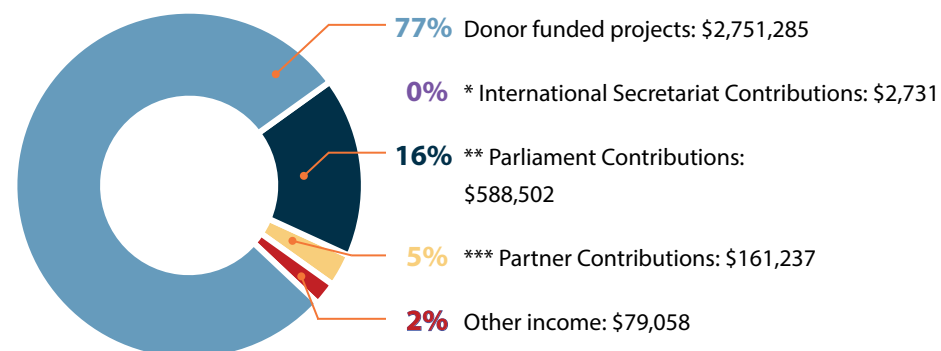
## EXPENDITURES

\$2,976,097



## INDICATIVE VALUE OF TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

\$3,582,813



# NATIONAL LEGISLATURES REPRESENTED ON OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Executive Committee of the Board of Directors

(December 2022 - December 2024):

**Blanca Ovelar**, President

Senator, Paraguay

**The Honourable Bridgid Annisette-George**, Vice-President

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Trinidad and Tobago

**Verónica Noemí Camino Farjat**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President and President of the

Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality

Senator, Mexico

**Javier Macaya**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President and President of the Open Parliament Network

Senator, Chile

**The Honourable Rosa Galvez**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President and President of the Parliamentary

Network on Climate Change

Senator, Canada

ParlAmericas is run by parliamentarians for parliamentarians, with a Board of Directors composed of 21 seats which represent countries from North, South, Central America and the Caribbean. In addition, the Board has ex-officio representation from the Plenary Host, the ParlAmericas Immediate Past President, the Directors of the ParlAmericas Corporation, the ParlAmericas International Secretariat, and the OAS General Secretariat. Each Network is governed by an elected Executive Committee, composed of one President and sub-regional Vice-Presidents representing North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean.

For more information on our Board of Directors and Executive Committees please consult the ParlAmericas website: <https://www.parlAmericas.org/board-of-directors/>



# PARTNERS



8





# COLLABORATION MECHANISMS



The **Inter-American Task Force on Women's Empowerment and Leadership** serves as a coordination mechanism that reinforces commitments and strategies to advance women's empowerment and leadership. The Task Force is composed of key inter-American and international institutions working across sectors and at multiple levels.



The **Open Parliament e-Network (OPeN)** provides a platform for legislators who champion legislative openness through serving on the network's Parliamentary Leadership Council. OPeN builds on the work of the OGP Legislative Openness Working Group by bringing together leading international organizations that are committed to the openness agenda in parliaments.



The **UNFCCC Parliamentary Group** supports parliamentary engagement at COP. ParlAmericas, as a founding member of the UNFCCC Parliamentary Group, facilitates the participation of parliamentarians in the COP process and UNFCCC meetings with the support of GLOBE international, the Focal Point for the Parliamentary Group.



The **Circular Economy Coalition for Latin America and the Caribbean** is a regional platform that works to increase understanding of the circular economy, improve cooperation among stakeholders, and provide technical assistance for the development of public policies for the circular economy, sustainable consumption and production.



The **Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean** is a network of more than 400 legislators in the hemisphere working to make food and agriculture national priorities for sustainable development. Both organizations signed a Memorandum of Understanding that establishes the guidelines to join efforts in the fight against hunger and malnutrition and to strengthen food sovereignty in the Americas and the Caribbean.

## 2023 ACTIVITIES

January

26 and 27

Participation in the Third Caribbean Clerks Programme held in Bridgetown, Barbados

February

21

Simulated parliamentary session of the Young Women in Leadership (YWIL) – Jamaica Program organized with the Caribbean Women in Leadership (CIWiL) in partnership with the Bureau of Gender Affairs in the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport and the Houses of Parliament

22

Participation in Regular Session of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States

24

Virtual training session “Strengthening the Legislative Advocacy of Feminist Organizations in Latin America: Processes, Tools and Experiences”

March

1

Virtual learning lab “Mobilizing Parliaments to Address Climate Migration” within the framework of the VIII Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean

28

Participation in the Legislative Track of the II Summit for Democracy organized by the House Democracy Partnership of the House of Representatives of the United States of America as part of the II Summit for Democracy in Washington D.C.

28

Virtual meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament

April

20 - 22

7<sup>th</sup> Gathering of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network “The Future of Democracy in the Digital Era” organized with the National Congress of Chile

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>May</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>31</b></p>	<p>ParlAmericas delegation to attend the Special Meeting of the Organization of the American States Permanent Council in Washington D.C.</p> <p>Virtual meeting “Historic opportunity: The Role of Parliaments in Ending Plastic Pollution” co-organized with the Circular Economy Coalition of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Waste and Resources Action Programme, and the World Wide Fund for Nature</p> <p>Virtual meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Gender Equality</p> <p>Participation in the Forum on Active Transparency “Oversight Role of Legislative Committees and Strategies to Engage Youth in the Co-creation of Public Policies” in Panama City, Panama</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>June</b></p>	<p><b>14 - 16</b></p> <p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>June 30 to July 4</b></p>	<p>Participation in the X Forum of the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger of Latin America and the Caribbean and the II Global Parliamentary Summit Against Hunger and Malnutrition held in Chile</p> <p>Virtual parliamentary exchange on “Artificial Intelligence and Digital Rights” organized by the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network (OPN). Launch of the OPN Digital Caucus</p> <p>Participation in the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe held in Vancouver, Canada</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>July</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p>Virtual meeting “Towards Effective Environmental Governance: Access to Information, Participation, and Justice” organized with Parliamentarians for Global Action</p>

## August

- 11** Joint meeting “Open and Inclusive Parliaments: Experiences and Strategies in Latin America” organized by the Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament, the Parliamentary Staff Network for Gender Equality, and the Federal Senate of Brazil
- 16** Virtual meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Climate Change
- 16** Virtual meeting “Towards Equality: More Women Shaping Politics” organized with the Ministry of Women of the Republic of Panama
- 17** Meeting “The Role of Youth in Strengthening Democracy: Building a Just and Inclusive future” co-organized with the National Forum of Youth in Political Parties, the International Republican Institute, and the Espacio Cívico Foundation, in Panama City, Panama
- 24** First regional gathering of the Forums of Women in Political Parties organized with the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica

## September

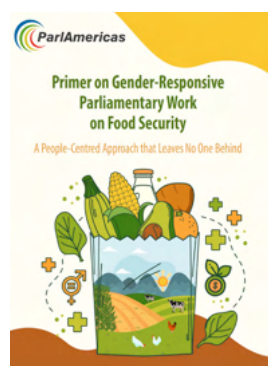
- 6** Co-organisation of the Open Parliament Day in the framework of the 8th Global Summit of the Open Government Partnership in Tallinn, Estonia
- 7 and 8** Participation in the 8<sup>th</sup> Open Government Partnership Global Summit in Tallinn, Estonia
- 11** Launch of the children’s book *Isis and Her Friends: An Adventure Through the Reefs!* in the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica
- 27** Participation in the “Second World Summit of the Committees of the Future 2023” organized by the Parliament of Uruguay and the Inter-Parliamentary Union
- 28 and 29** 7<sup>th</sup> Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and 15<sup>th</sup> Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality, “A Food Secure Future: Building People and Planet-Centred Strategies” organized with the Senate of the Republic of Mexico

October	10	Launch of the children's book <i>Rocio and the Belled Forest</i> in the framework of the National Children's Congress of Honduras
	24 and 25	Interparliamentary meeting "Parliamentary Perspectives for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean" organized with the National Assembly of Panama
	25	Interparliamentary meeting "Upscaling Renewable Energy Deployment for the Good of All: The Role of Legislators" organized with IRENA and the Global Renewables Congress in the framework of Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week 2023 in Panama
	Oct 31 and Nov 1	Meeting "Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Gender Equality and Sustainable Development" organized with UN Women MCO-Caribbean and the Parliament of Saint Lucia
November	9	ParlAmericas and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen collaboration on sustainable development
	29 y 30	Working meeting "Legislative Transparency Measurements and Tools: Opportunities for Parliamentary Openness" organized with the Congress of the Republic of Colombia and the Latin American Network for Legislative Transparency
December	3 to 7	Participation in the 28 <sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates
	5	Virtual seminar "With All That's Going on Right Now...": The Challenge of Political Leadership During Crisis," co-organized with the Global Centre for Pluralism and the Parliamentary Centre
	11	Participation in the meeting of the ECLAC Community of Practice on Voluntary National Reviews
	13	Virtual meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Gender Equality
	14	Virtual dialogue "Current Legislative Experiences in the Governance of Artificial Intelligence" organized by the ParlAmericas Digital Caucus

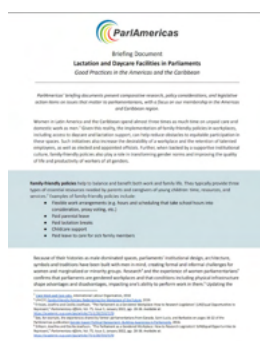
# RESOURCES AND PUBLICATIONS

ParlAmericas creates specialized resources for parliamentarians and parliamentary stakeholders that align with hemispheric priority issues being addressed by legislatures and with the themes of focus of ParlAmericas' networks.

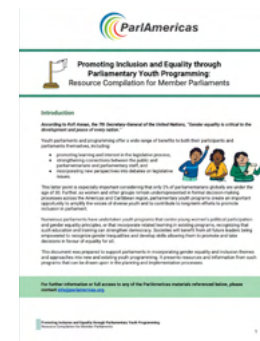
A selection of the key resources utilized in this year's activities are featured below. These and many other materials can also be found on [our website](#).



Primer on Gender-Responsive Parliamentary Work on Food Security: A People-Centred Approach That Leaves No One Behind



Briefing Document on Lactation and Daycare Facilities in Parliaments: Good Practices in the Americas and the Caribbean



Promoting Inclusion and Equality through Parliamentary Youth Programming: Resource Compilation for Member Parliaments



Subscribe to the [ParlAmericas Podcast](#), where you can listen to sessions from ParlAmericas activities.



Subscribe to the [ParlAmericas Channel](#), where you can access video content of our ParlAmericas activities.

# CHILDREN’S BOOKS

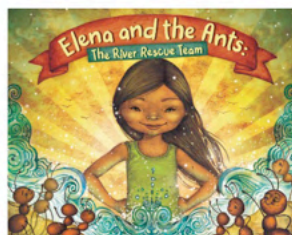
Over the last few years, ParlAmericas has collaborated with member parliaments and civil society partner organizations to publish children’s books. These stories incorporate principles such as teamwork, respect, equality, responsibility, and care for the environment to encourage inclusive and collaborative leadership models.

Parliamentarians can use these books in their outreach activities to connect with young people about what it means to serve their community.

Visit our [website](#) to read them digitally and access complementary materials like learning guides.

Elena and the Ants: The River Rescue Team	Izzy and her Friends
Rocio and the Belled Forest	I Lead: Stories of Caribbean Women Leaders

## Elena and the Ants: The River Rescue Team



Elena is a shy girl who lives with her family in the town of El Tigre in the Ngäbe Buglé region of Panama. She has small and very observant eyes. She admires nature and does not miss a chance to study everything that surrounds her – especially the ants, whom she considers her friends.

In this story, Elena faces a big problem: the contamination of her town’s river.

Feeling too small for such a big problem, Elena is about to give up until, watching the comings and goings of her ant friends, she asks herself: “How can you make something so big while being so small?” Bit by bit, she learns how to take advantage of her talents and feels empowered to take on her mission.

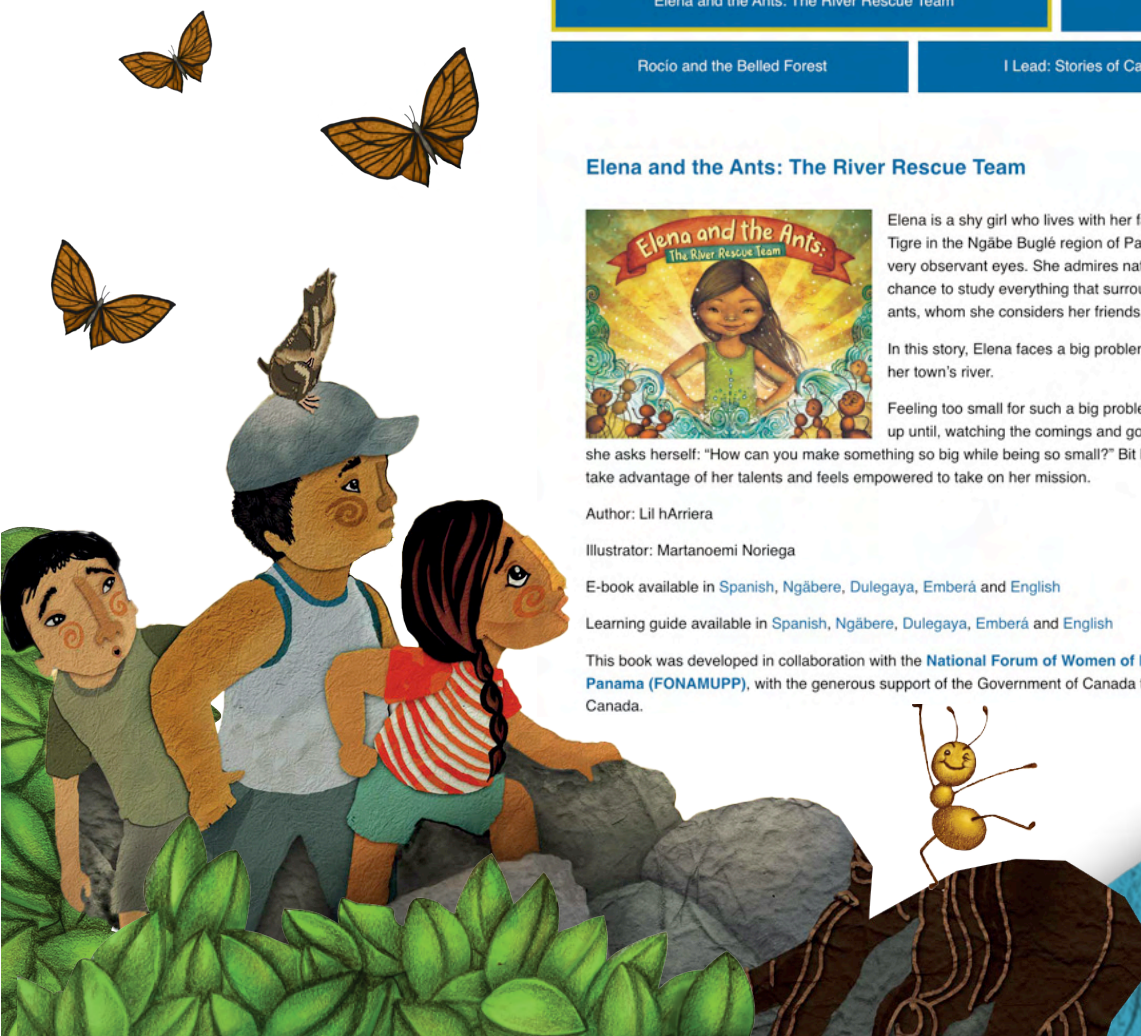
Author: Lil hArriera

Illustrator: Martanoemi Noriega

E-book available in Spanish, Ngäbere, Dulegaya, Emberá and English

Learning guide available in Spanish, Ngäbere, Dulegaya, Emberá and English

This book was developed in collaboration with the **National Forum of Women of Political Parties of Panama (FONAMUPP)**, with the generous support of the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada.





## #ParlAmericas

**THEMES:** Migration, human rights, sustainable development, regional cooperation, gender equality

**DATES:** October 24 and 25, 2023

**LOCATION:** Panama City, Panama

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 50 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, specialists and representatives of civil society organizations from over 14 countries in the Americas and the Caribbean

**HOST:** National Assembly of Panama



*These activities aligned with SDGs 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17.*



## Parliamentary Perspectives for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean

The gathering, which brought together parliamentarians, specialists, representatives of multilateral organizations, civil society, and women's and youth organizations, provided a space to analyze recent migration trends in the region from various perspectives and facilitate the exchange of national migration policies and good legislative practices, seeking to promote comprehensive, inclusive, and human rights-based migration governance.

The sessions also focused on exploring sustainable and gender-sensitive strategies for promoting regional cooperation among national parliaments in the Americas and the Caribbean through a collaborative and coordinated approach to migration, fostering the development of innovative solutions to shared challenges.





## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening remarks:

- The Honourable Member of the National Assembly of Panama **Kayra Harding Bart**, Vice-President for Central America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality and host of the gathering

### Specialists:

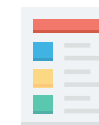
- **Rudolf Maxwald**, Senior Regional Liaison and Policy Advisor, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Representative **David Toro Ramírez** (Colombia)
- Member of Congress **Juan Carlos Rodas Lucero** (Guatemala), Chair of the Migrants Committee
- **Sara Cognuck González**, consultant, UNICEF
- **Elena Lorac**, founder and co-coordinator of Reconoci.do, a movement of young Dominicans of Haitian descent
- **Verónica Cano**, researcher, CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC
- **Jacqueline Emmanuel**, Director of Economic Affairs and Regional Integration, Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)
- **María Noel Vaeza**, Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean, UN Women

### Dialogues moderated by:

- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Nelsa Shoraya Suárez Ariza** (Dominican Republic), Second Vice-President for the Caribbean of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and Sustainability
- The Honourable Member of the National Assembly **Alina González** (Panama)
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Camila Crescimbeni** (Argentina), Chair of the Population and Human Development Committee
- Member of Congress **Luis Enrique Ortega Sanchez** (Honduras)
- Member of the National Assembly **Radjendrekoemar Debie** (Suriname)
- Representative **Sylvia Iburguren Gauthier** (Uruguay)
- The Honourable Member of the National Assembly **Juan Diego Vásquez** (Panama)
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Vlado Mirosevic** (Chile), ParlAmericas Board Member

### Closing Remarks:

- The Honourable Member of the National Assembly **Kayra Harding Bart** (Panama), Vice-President for Central America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality and host of the gathering



[FULL AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



[PRESENTATIONS](#)



[VIDEO RECORDINGS](#)



[PODCAST EPISODE](#)



## KEY FINDINGS

- Migration is a complex and multidimensional phenomenon that requires coordinated work among different State levels and branches, as well as collaborative efforts at the regional level. Given their role as representatives, parliaments can play a relevant role in migration governance at the national level and promote dialogue and cooperation through parliamentary diplomacy actions at the regional and international level.
- It is essential to understand the drivers of migration so that they can be addressed. These include factors such as poverty, violence, human trafficking, food insecurity, social conflicts, crime, economic crises, and the threats associated with climate change. Parliaments can play a key role in their budgetary functions in terms of ensuring investment in migrant origin countries to improve access to services, prevent and respond to violence, and create opportunities for vulnerable populations.
- Regarding migration routes, efforts must be enhanced to transform them into safe and regular routes. Parliaments can work on regulatory frameworks that guarantee family reunification in cases where minors are separated from their families, strengthen asylum procedures in relevant cases, and provide oversight to ensure that procedures at border crossings and reception areas are in line with international and regional regulatory frameworks, based on a human rights approach.
- It is necessary to promote the economic and social integration of migrants in all their diversity, recognizing their contributions to the development of their countries of origin, transit, and destination. To this end, parliaments can support or promote the signing of agreements on the free movement of persons with neighbouring countries or other countries in the region; the simplification of paperwork for the recognition of professional qualifications and licences; the necessary reform of regulations related to remittances; and the creation of employment programs that specifically focus on migrants, among other actions.
- The proportion of migrating girls, boys, and adolescents in Latin America and the Caribbean has increased to a record level in the last three years and is the highest worldwide (globally they represent 13% of the migrant population, compared to 25% at the regional level). Parliaments can be instrumental in guaranteeing the rights, safety, and well-being of migrant and refugee children and adolescents, in line with international conventions and agreements, ensuring their access to health, education and security. In this regard, it is also necessary to consider that girls and adolescents are even more exposed to risks of violence in all its forms, especially sexual violence, human trafficking, and discrimination.





The Honourable Member of the National Assembly  
**Kayra Harding Bart** (Panama), Vice-President for  
Central America of the PNGE and host of the gathering

*"By recognizing that migration drives prosperity, innovation, and development at a global level, we can work together to optimize its contributions through improvements in its governance. It is essential to address and reduce migration vulnerabilities by establishing a safe, orderly, and regular process. In addition, it is necessary to empower migrants as well as host communities to achieve full inclusion and social cohesion."*



**Jacqueline Emmanuel**, Director of Economic Affairs  
and Regional Integration, Organization of Eastern  
Caribbean States (OECS)

*"Integration mechanisms can provide multiple socio-economic co-benefits. In terms of the free movement of persons regime within the OECS, they include reducing the adversities that people face when disasters occur, attracting skills and services for recovery and reconstruction, and creating a positive effect on employment through greater skills mobility and increased opportunities for business growth and networking, among others."*



**Rudolf Maxwald**, Senior Regional Liaison and Policy  
Advisor, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

*"Too often, migration is a necessity rather than a choice. We need to address it collectively. We have to focus on saving and protecting lives and livelihoods, empowering people, communities and governments to drive solutions to displacement and irregular migration, and facilitating inclusive, innovative and responsive pathways to regular migration. We have to make migration work for migrants, communities, the private sector and countries of origin, transit and destination. We need to make sure we harness the potential of migration for sustainable development."*



**Sara Cognuck González**, consultant, UNICEF

*"In the last six years, 2.3 million children and adolescents were displaced due to climate disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean. When children or adolescents migrate, they not only lose their homes and social ties, but also lose access to basic services and, in many cases, their rights are not guaranteed. In addition, it is important to apply a gender lens to recognize that girls and adolescents are also exposed to sexual violence and other forms of gender violence. Legislatures are essential in taking action in response to this unprecedented crisis."*



**María Noel Vaeza**, Regional Director for the Americas and  
the Caribbean, UN Women

*"Until recently, migration data was generic. It is imperative that statistics also look at women, because migration affects us disproportionately. The region is experiencing a human mobility crisis, and we are witnessing the feminization of migration as well as the feminization of poverty. Pre-existing situations of vulnerability, inequalities, and gender roles interact with the multiple factors that drive people to migrate, and it is necessary to analyze and consider these intersections for inclusive approaches."*



The Honourable Member of the National Assembly  
**Juan Diego Vásquez** (Panamá)

*"It is valuable to discuss the positive effects of migration, how the phenomenon has evolved and how so many of our countries have been shaped by the knowledge, wisdom, experiences, and contributions of healthy, sustainable, and humane migration in the region. Understanding the contributions of migration and its opportunities, as well as its challenges, is essential."*



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK FOR GENDER EQUALITY



Dear colleagues,

As you will see in the pages ahead, in 2023, the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality (PNGE) was dedicated to convening a variety of actors to collectively address some of the most important gender equality issues in our hemisphere.

I would especially like to highlight our work to strengthen the relationship between parliaments and feminist organizations — a central commitment of the PNGE based on the belief that coordination between both groups is critical to achieving our shared objectives. This process has been guided by the results of an ambitious survey with the participation of more than 200 women's organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean; the most relevant findings have been compiled in a [report](#) that I invite you to review and share, as it offers insights on how we can coordinate efforts and joint actions.

On another note, I had the honour of hosting the [15<sup>th</sup> Gathering of the PNGE](#) in the Senate of Mexico. This year's gathering was held jointly with the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and Sustainability to address the pressing situation of food insecurity in the hemisphere, its intricate relationship with climate change, and its gendered impacts. As highlighted in the working sessions, building more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient agrifood systems cannot wait. I would like to extend special thanks to the colleagues who joined us in Mexico City for this event; it was moving to witness their genuine commitment to eradicating hunger in the hemisphere.

Promoting women's political leadership is another cause that has been at the heart of the PNGE since its inception. Under this banner, we have carried out a series of regional and local initiatives. In Jamaica, we delivered [Young Women in Leadership](#), an intensive training program on transformational leadership,

inclusive decision-making, and parliamentary procedures. This initiative was the fourth in a series of similar trainings held in Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda, and Saint Lucia. In [Panama, we convened more than 200 young people](#) to draw on their experiences and knowledge in order to develop proposals to strengthen democracy in ways that reflect their visions for a just and inclusive future.

It has been incredibly rewarding to support the youth of the Americas and the Caribbean in their political leadership training. Recognizing their enormous transformative potential, we are committed to increasing our work with the hemisphere's youth to provide them with tools and opportunities so they can contribute to the progress of their communities. I can say with confidence that the future is bright.

In closing, given the recent increase in demonstrations that seek to undermine the tenets of gender equality, the PNGE will continue to work hard, guided by our unwavering conviction that the promotion and protection of the human rights of women and historically marginalized groups is the cornerstone of building a more peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world.

Thank you to all who joined us throughout the year, and I hope that in 2024 we will continue to renew our commitment to the millions of women and girls in the hemisphere.

Sincerely,

*Verónica Noemí Camino Farjat*

**Senator, Mexico**  
**President of the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality**

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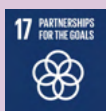
#ParlAmericasGEN

**THEMES:** Gender equality, care work, economic valuation of unpaid care work

**DATE:** February 24, 2023

**LOCATION:** Virtual

**PARTICIPANTS:** 107 representatives of women's organizations from 15 countries



*This activity is aligned with SDGs 5, 16, and 17.*



## Virtual Workshop for Latin American Feminist Organizations

This interactive training session, **“Strengthening Legislative Advocacy by Feminist Organizations in Latin America: Processes, Tools, and Experiences,”** aimed to explore processes, tools, and experiences related to the participation of feminist organizations in parliamentary processes. Recognizing the fundamental role these organizations play in influencing legislative and policy changes in the region, this workshop provided an introduction to parliamentary processes, the value of building collaborative relationships with parliaments, the relationship between the public agenda and the legislative agenda, the open parliament approach as an advocacy opportunity, and effective strategies on how to individually engage with parliamentarians at key moments.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening remarks:

- Senator **Verónica Camino Farjat** (Mexico), President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality

### Presentation “Why engage with parliaments? The legislative process and opportunities for action”:

- **Guadalupe Valdez** (Dominican Republic), former Member of the Chamber of Deputies

### Presentation “Open parliament: windows of opportunity for feminist advocacy”:

- **Valentina Enciso**, Political Action Coordinator, *Fundación Artemisas*, Colombia

### Group interview with former parliamentarians: “Gender equality, parliaments, and territories: weaving networks from within”:

- Moderator: **Marcela Sabat** (Chile), former Member of the Chamber of Deputies and Senator
- Panellists:
  - **Gina Godoy** (Ecuador), former Member of the National Assembly
  - **Ana Matilde Gómez** (Panama), former Member of the National Assembly
  - **Nielsen Pérez** (Costa Rica), former Member of the Legislative Assembly

### Interactive group workshop in breakout sessions: “Gender equality, parliaments, and territories: weaving networks from outside”:

- Moderators:
  - **Friné Salguero**, Simone de Beauvoir Leadership Institute, Mexico
  - **Ana Lima**, CLADEM, Mexico
  - **Justina Lee**, Ecofeminista, Argentina



## SHARED RESOURCES

The session also included a presentation on ParlAmericas' [What We Heard](#) report, which details the key findings of a survey carried out among women's organizations in Latin America on their engagement with parliaments. It is worth noting that the results of this survey informed the development of this workshop.

The following are key resources on citizen participation in the legislative process that were shared during the session:

- [Road Map Towards Legislative Openness 2.0](#) (ParlAmericas)
- [Toolkit: Citizen Participation in the Legislative Process](#) (ParlAmericas)
- [Plataforma en Colectiva](#) [“As a Collective” Platform] (Fundación Artemisas, available in Spanish)



[FULL AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



[PODCAST EPISODE](#)





## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are some of the key conclusions and recommendations from the session:

### ***On the importance of citizen participation:***

- Citizen participation in parliamentary processes is crucial, as it can contribute to better legislative debates that consider diverse perspectives, informed by the experiences and backgrounds of various actors.
- The participation of feminist organizations in the legislative process can lead to the debate and approval of legislation that promotes greater equality and considers and seeks to reduce inequities.

### ***On the mechanisms for participating in parliamentary processes:***

- It is important to understand the legislative cycle in order to select the best participation strategy, the appropriate timing, and the actors involved. This may vary from country to country depending on the specific institutional system and procedures (unicameral vs. bicameral legislatures, number of committees, status of bills, etc.).
- Parliament is the legislative branch of government that is responsible for legislating, while the executive branch of government is responsible for developing policy. It is essential to understand the role and functions of the different branches of government to determine the best entry point for advocacy activities and the most effective strategy for participation.
- Formal mechanisms for participating in parliamentary processes include: submitting bills through a citizen initiative process or through parliamentarians; participating in public hearings or other activities proposed by parliaments' citizen participation units; participating in committee meetings; submitting comments as a stakeholder; attending plenary sessions; monitoring legislative work through the website and social media; meeting with parliamentarians during constituency visits; submitting requests for access to public information; and co-creating open parliament commitments, among others.

### ***On direct advocacy with parliamentarians:***

- Advocacy messages and materials should be based on evidence (citing relevant facts and sources), concise, and compelling.
- Another possible advocacy campaign tool is to tell a story of how an issue affects specific populations in the country and how the proposed reform could positively impact those communities in order to capture the interest of elected representatives.
- It may be useful to tie strategies to regulatory frameworks and international agreements, as well as share comparative legislation and the experiences of other countries that have passed laws in the area of interest.
- Consider that parliamentary duties include not only the legislative function, but also the budgetary and oversight functions, which can also be influenced by advocacy efforts.
- Research the issue prior to implementing advocacy efforts to identify competing priorities and ideas that different stakeholders may have on the issue. This will help in developing advocacy strategies and persuasive messages for parliamentarians who have varying views on the issue.
- Build alliances with a variety of political actors that will enable exploring conversations and solutions in a collaborative manner.
- Recognize that political decisions will also be guided by political party ideology and legislative dynamics, and identify the leadership of each group. Discussing, sharing research, sending emails, and meeting with party or caucus leaders can be useful approaches to influencing parliamentary debates.
- Organize public advocacy events to obtain feedback from a broader audience on the issues of interest. This strategy allows policymakers to hear different perspectives, including from academics, experts, youth, representatives of civil society organizations, and members of interested/affected communities.



#ParlAmericasGEN #ParlAmericasOPN

**TITLE:** Open and Inclusive Parliaments: Experiences and Strategies in Latin America

**THEMES:** Gender equality, political participation and representation of women, gender-based violence, care policies, open parliament, co-creation

**DATES:** August 10 -11, 2023

**LOCATION:** Brasilia, Brazil

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 45 parliamentary staff and representatives of civil society organizations from 14 countries of the Americas and the Caribbean

**HOST:** Federal Senate of Brazil



*This activity aligned with SDGs 5, 10, 16, and 17.*



## Joint Meeting of the Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament and the Parliamentary Staff Network for Gender Equality of ParlAmericas

The joint meeting of the Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament and the Parliamentary Staff Network for Gender Equality of ParlAmericas was dedicated to exploring issues related to gender equality within parliaments, including gender-based violence and care policies, and sharing experiences and good parliamentary practices at the operational and administrative level, as well as in the legislative sphere. In addition, parliamentary staff, together with specialists and representatives of civil society organizations, in particular women's organizations, participated in co-creation workshops to inform a ParlAmericas tool that will guide parliaments in the region in addressing the pillars of open parliament with a gender and intersectionality perspective.





## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening round table:

- **Ilana Trombka** (Brazil), Director General, Federal Senate
- **Luis Rojas** (Chile), Secretary General of the Constitutional Process, Deputy Secretary of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile, and General Coordinator of the Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament
- **Kathy Ramos** (Panama), Director of Gender of the National Assembly and Regional Coordinator for Central America of the Parliamentary Staff Network on Gender Equality

### Opening:

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

### Keynote speaker:

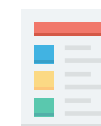
- Dr. **Lívia Maria Sant'Anna Vaz**, Attorney General of the Public Prosecutor's Office of the State of Bahia

### Discussions moderated by:

- **Yuriria García Núñez** (Mexico), Head of Gender Equality Unit, Chamber of Deputies
- **Maria Terezinha Nunes** (Brazil), Coordinator of the Equity Network, Federal Senate
- **Catalina Cirio** (Argentina), Deputy Director of the Parliamentary Observatory on Gender and Equity, Honourable Chamber of Deputies of the Nation

### Presentations:

- **Doris Muñoz Varela** (Uruguay), Director of Communications, Chamber of Representatives
- **Gisela Manero** (Argentina), Director of Equality, Honourable Chamber of Deputies of the Nation
- **Luis Acosta** (Honduras), Legislative Manager, National Congress
- **Claudia Fuenzalida Cereceda** (Chile), Head of the Planning and Management Unit and lead on gender issues, Senate of the Republic
- **Natalia Ferreira Da Costa** (Paraguay), Project Coordinator, Chamber of Senators
- **María Cristina Rosado** (Colombia), Secretary of the Legal Committee for Women's Equity of the Congress of the Republic and Regional Coordinator for South America of the Parliamentary Staff Network for Gender Equality
- **Stella Maria Vaz Santos Valadares** (Brazil), General Coordinator of the Standing Committee for the Promotion of Gender and Racial Equality, Federal Senate
- **Tarcila Rivera Zea**, Founder and President of the Centre for Indigenous Cultures of Peru (CHIRAPAQ) and Founder of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas (ECMIA, by its Spanish acronym)



[FULL AGENDA](#)



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## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Co-creation facilitated by:

- **Rocío Noriega (Chile)**, Advisor to the Bicameral Group on Transparency, National Congress

### Working groups moderated by:

- **Stella Maria Vaz Santos Valadares (Brazil)**, General Coordinator of the Standing Committee for the Promotion of Gender and Racial Equality, Federal Senate
- **Roger Celi**, Coordinator of the Legislative Area, Citizenship and Development Foundation
- **Marcela Castrillón (Uruguay)**, Interim Director of the Administrative Area, Chamber of Representatives
- **Eduardo Carrillo**, Co-Executive Director, TEDIC
- **Juan Carlos Chavarria (Costa Rica)**, Director of Citizen Participation of the Legislative Assembly and Regional Coordinator for Central America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament
- **Delfina Schenone**, Head of the Policy Area, Latin American Team for Justice and Gender
- **Flora Vagas (Brazil)**, International Affairs Advisor of the General Directorate, Federal Senate
- **Sílvia Rita Souza**, Executive Director, Women's Democracy Network Brazil





## KEY CONCLUSIONS

- Parliaments represent the forum for consensus-building to draft laws, including those related to the gender equality agenda, such as addressing gender-based violence or care policies. At the same time, parliaments are also workplaces and, therefore, must also have clear internal regulations to prevent, address, penalize, and eradicate gender-based workplace violence, as well as standards in support of caregiving and breastfeeding. Parliamentary staff are essential to establishing, communicating, and implementing these initiatives, both as planners and end users.
- The open parliament framework, with its four pillars—transparency and access to information, accountability, citizen participation, and ethics and probity—is a key instrument for promoting gender equality in and within legislative work. To achieve this, multi-stakeholder consultation, dialogue, and cooperation are essential.
- It is important to incorporate an intersectional approach to understanding the issues and defining solutions. Intersectionality is an analytical tool that recognizes that systemic inequalities are shaped by overlapping social factors, such as gender, ethnicity and class, among others. Consequently, a person's disadvantages and privileges cannot be understood by examining the various elements of his or her identity in isolation. On the contrary, we must pay attention to the set of power relations that affect them. The meeting addressed the experiences of black women and the intersections between violence and racism in particular, as well as the experiences of Indigenous women and the specific obstacles they face in order to participate in politics and influence parliaments.
- Promoting policies in favour of advancing the skills and competencies on gender equality and open parliament among parliamentary staff may be key to mainstreaming a gender perspective in the work carried out in legislative, administrative, and operational spheres of parliaments.





**Ilana Trombka** (Brazil), Director General of the Federal Senate:

*"Civil servants, parliamentary staff, we have immense power in our hands. We have daily contact with those who create the laws and we work daily with the public bureaucracy. Out of this coexistence must come the improvement of society, especially to work toward achieving gender equity."*



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

*"Ongoing dialogue and co-creation between members of Congress, parliamentary staff, and civil society organizations will undoubtedly be the key to making our parliaments more open and inclusive organizations, whether to function more effectively or to improve our society. In this way, we will rise to the legislative challenges that a new digital society demands."*



**Luis Rojas** (Chile), Secretary General of the Constitutional Process, Deputy Secretary of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile, and General Coordinator of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament:

*"There is a clear need for citizens to exercise their right to participate, and we must be up to the task of guaranteeing not only formal but substantive participation in discussions on public affairs from an inclusive perspective."*



**Kathy Ramos** (Panama), Director of Gender of the National Assembly and Regional Coordinator of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Gender Equality:

*"In this meeting we have the opportunity to explore how we can mainstream the gender perspective in the legislative openness agenda with the shared objectives of strengthening our legislative institutions to build open, inclusive, and gender-sensitive parliaments."*



**Livia Maria Sant'Anna Vaz** (Brasil), Attorney General of the Public Prosecutor's Office of the State of Bahia:

*"I believe that yes, it is vitally important that we have regulatory frameworks for gender equity, but we need the individuals who comprise the legislatures to have prior knowledge, free from discrimination. Otherwise, laws will remain solely on paper."*



**Tarcila Rivera Zea**, Founder and President of the Centre for Indigenous Cultures of Peru (CHIRAPAQ) and Founder of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas (ECMIA, by its Spanish acronym)

*"Civil society, women and, in this case, Indigenous women, can, with the right information, have a better and greater participation in developing and following up on the implementation of laws."*





### #ParlAmericasGEN



**TITLE:** Building networks of sisterhood to promote gender equality



**THEMES:** Women's empowerment, political participation, eradication of political violence against women



**DATE:** August 23 and 24, 2023



**VENUE:** San José, Costa Rica



**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 60 representatives of forums and fronts of women in political parties from Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, and the Dominican Republic; current and former women parliamentarians; representatives of international organizations and civil society



**CO-ORGANIZER:** Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica



*This activity is in line with SDGs 5, 16 and 17.*



## First Regional Gathering of the Forums of Women in Political Parties

This gathering brought together women leaders representing forums and fronts of women in political parties from Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, and the Dominican Republic to exchange reflections, experiences, and lessons learned on themes of common interest on the regional gender equality agenda and on the work of civil society to promote the political rights of women.

During the gathering, the participating representatives of forums and fronts of women in political parties, together with current and former women parliamentarians, experts, and representatives of international organizations and civil society, explored issues related to strengthening women's political participation, addressing and eradicating gender-based political violence, and promoting women's political leadership in the region.



## MAIN SPEECHES

### Opening remarks:

- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Rodrigo Arias** (Costa Rica), President of the Legislative Assembly
- The Honourable Member of the National Assembly **Kayra Harding Bart** (Panama), Vice-President for Central America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality
- **Marlene Mora**, President of the Forum of Women Politicians of Costa Rica
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Carolina Delgado** (Costa Rica), President of the Front of Women in Political Parties of Costa Rica and member of the ParlAmericas Board of Directors

### Keynote speaker:

- **Alejandra Mora Mora**, Executive Secretary, Inter-American Commission of Women, Organization of American States

### Panellists:

- **Máxima Apaza**, former senator and political leader, Bolivia
- **Eugenia Zamora**, President of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, Costa Rica
- **María de los Ángeles Alfaro Murillo**, former Member of the Legislative Assembly, Costa Rica
- **Allegra Baiocchi**, United Nations Resident Coordinator, Costa Rica
- **Lourdes Araya**, representative of the National Costa Rican Network of Municipal Women
- **María Rosa Belliard**, Forum of Women Politicians of the Dominican Republic
- **Honorina Rodríguez**, Forum of Women Politicians of Honduras
- **Waizaan Hin Herrera**, Front of Women in Political Parties of Costa Rica
- **Marcela Guerrero**, Forum of Women Politicians of Costa Rica
- **Sonia Maldonado**, Guatemalan Forum of Women in Political Parties
- **Dalila Mosquera**, National Forum of Women in Political Parties of Panama

### Moderators:

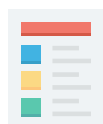
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Kattia Rivera Soto** (Costa Rica)
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Olga Morera** (Costa Rica)
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **María Marta Carballo Arce** (Costa Rica)
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Kattia Cambronero** (Costa Rica)
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Johana Obando** (Costa Rica)
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Luz Mary Alpízar** (Costa Rica)
- Former Member of the Legislative Assembly **Pilar Porras** (Costa Rica)
- Former Member of the Legislative Assembly **Paola Valladares** (Costa Rica)
- Former Member of the Legislative Assembly **Paola Vega** (Costa Rica)
- **Delmy Ordóñez**, Forum of Women Politicians of Honduras
- **Onelia Roca**, Guatemalan Forum of Women in Political Parties
- **Adilia Caravaca**, Executive President, National Women's Institute of Costa Rica
- **Yosmar Castellano**, gender affairs consultant
- **Siany Villalobos**, Director of the Presidency, Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica

### Reading of the declaration:

- **Milagros Díaz**, Forum of Women in Political Parties of the Dominican Republic

### Closing remarks:

- **Cindy Quesada**, Minister of the Status of Women
- Her Excellency **Elizabeth Williams**, Ambassador of Canada to Costa Rica
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Carolina Delgado** (Costa Rica), President of the Front of Women in Political Parties of Costa Rica and member of the ParlAmericas Board of Directors



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[RECORDING DAY 2](#)



## DECLARATION

### Declaration:

During the Gathering, the representatives of forums and fronts of women in political parties adopted a declaration that includes, among other commitments:

- Continuing to promote sisterhood and collaboration between the forums and fronts of women in political parties and with women's organizations in the region to share good practices and lessons learned that result in benefits for women, particularly with regard to their political participation.
- Continuing to work towards political parties' adoption and effective implementation of criteria for equal representation in the composition of the entire party organization and their different bodies and mechanisms for the advancement of political rights.
- Continuing to advocate for political parties to adopt concrete and effective measures that enable women candidates to overcome structural obstacles in relation to the financing of political campaigns by establishing fundraising networks, creating specific internal funds, and/or allocating budget for their political training and education to advance women's leadership.
- Calling on electoral authorities and other relevant authorities in our respective countries to ensure that political parties comply with applicable provisions and regulations related to quotas, parity, and alternation criteria, as the case may be, in the creation of lists for electoral positions.

Participating forums and fronts of women in political parties:







#ParlAmericasGEN #ParlAmericasCC

**TITLE:** A food secure future: Building people and planet-centred strategies

**THEMES:** Food security and sovereignty; the right to food; sustainable, inclusive, and resilient agri-food systems; empowerment of rural and indigenous women and youth

**DATES:** September 28 and 29, 2023

**LOCATION:** Mexico City, Mexico

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 60 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and representatives of civil society organizations from over 18 countries in the Americas and the Caribbean

**HOST:** Senate of the Republic of Mexico



This activity aligned with SDGs 1, 2, 5, and 13.



## 15th Gathering of the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality (PNGE) of ParlAmericas and 7th Gathering of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change (PNCC)

The joint gathering of the PNGE and the PNCC provided a space for the exchange of legislative actions to guarantee the right to food by promoting innovative, multi-sector good practices that foster sustainability, inclusion, and resilience.

The discussions focused on the state of food security and sovereignty in the hemisphere and their relationship with climate change, taking into consideration the gender and intersectionality perspective. In this regard, specialists and women's organizations made contributions that enriched the methodology of the different sessions.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening remarks:

- Senator **Checo Pérez** (Mexico), Vice-President of the General Committee of the Senate of the Republic
- Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President of ParlAmericas
- Senator **Verónica Noemí Camino Farjat** (Mexico), President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality and host of the gathering
- Senator **Rosa Galvez** (Canada), President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change

### Keynote speaker:

- **Guadalupe Valdez**, Special Ambassador for Zero Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean

### Specialists:

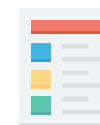
- **Eduardo Benítez**, Assistant Representative for Programs, FAO Office in Mexico
- **Chenille Humes**, Agricultural Youth Ambassador for Jamaica
- **Benjamín López Velásquez**, Co-founder of Flor de Tierra and Representative of the Network of Rural Youth of Guatemala
- **Diego Montenegro Ernst**, Representative of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in Mexico
- **Matteo Perrone**, Resident Representative of the World Food Program in Ecuador
- **Nadia Manning-Thomas**, Planning and Coordination Specialist, UN Women - Caribbean Multi-Country Office
- **Medalith Rivera Maquera**, Representative of the Union of Aymara Indigenous Youth of Peru "Wayna Wila Ujia" and Member of the Children and Youth Committee of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas (ECMIA)

### Dialogues moderated by:

- The Honourable Member of the National Assembly **Kayra Harding Bart** (Panama), Vice-President for Central America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality
- Senator **Lilia Margarita Valdez Martínez** (Mexico), Representative of the Mexico Chapter of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger
- **Sulma Campos Mata**, Head of the Technical Unit for Gender Equality of the Senate of the Republic of Mexico and general coordinator of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Gender Equality
- **Jatziri Pando Medina**, Technical secretary of the Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change Committee of the Senate of the Republic of Mexico and regional coordinator for North America of the Parliamentary Staff Network on Climate Change
- Member of Parliament **Tamika Davis** (Jamaica)

### Closing remarks:

- **Joel Hernández**, Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of Mexico



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## DECLARATION

**During the Gathering, parliamentarians adopted a declaration that includes the following commitments:**

- Adopt approaches in our legislative work that acknowledge the urgency of addressing the crisis of food insecurity in our region, and promoting measures grounded in principles of food sovereignty to make our food systems more sustainable and climate resilient.
- Establish spaces for the substantive participation of women, the rural poor, Indigenous, Afrodescendent, and Indo-descendent peoples, smallholder farmers and fisherfolk, migrants and other traditionally marginalized groups in decision-making processes to build more sustainable food systems.
- Promote the use of gender analysis in legislative undertakings aimed at the food crisis that include issues such as equal access to agricultural technologies, technical assistance, productive resources, tenure security and control over land.
- Call on relevant authorities to collect disaggregated data, especially by gender, race and ethnicity, and by geographic zones (rural-urban), and develop a national information system that includes food insecurity and vulnerability.
- Develop new legislation or reform existing laws, incorporating principles of circular economy, to reduce and eliminate food loss and waste in all sectors in the value chain and connected food systems, promoting the involvement of all stakeholders including producer organizations, the private sector, distributors and retailers, and consumers.
- Promote investments towards rural communities with the objective of improving their transportation infrastructure and strengthening their access, especially for women, to basic services, capital goods, and microcredit.
- Promote community-based food production models grounded in principles of food sovereignty that recognize and promote traditional cultural practices aligned with local experiences and knowledge, so that communities may contribute to the meaningful definition and development of food policies that are appropriate from a cultural, ecological, social, and economic perspective.
- Work through ParlAmericas, the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger, and multilateral bodies and in coordination with civil society organisations, women's organisations, and youth to share good legislative practices and successful experiences in the fight against hunger and fulfilling the right to food.



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

*"Despite the abundant wealth of our fertile lands, the diversity of our ecosystems, and decades of gradual progress in the fight against hunger, four out of every ten people in our hemisphere suffer from moderate to severe food insecurity. [...] A suitable and healthy diet, along with basic health and education services, is an essential component of human dignity and the right of every person to participate fully in the life of a society."*



Senator **Rosa Galvez** (Canada), President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change

*"We need to understand the interconnections between gender, food, technology, science, and anti-corruption strategies so that the solutions we propose address the root causes and have a long-term impact."*



Senator **Verónica Noemí Camino Farjat** (Mexico), President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality and host of the gathering

*"Empowering women and closing gender gaps in agri-food systems improves not only individual but also collective well-being, reducing hunger through economic autonomy and by strengthening resilience."*



**Guadalupe Valdez**, Special Ambassador for Zero Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean

*"Food security is an achievable goal if we recognize its intricate relationship with the health of the planet and if we design strategies that ensure the improvement of people's lives and their sustainability. It is essential for parliamentarians to have an ethical commitment toward the production of legislative frameworks that generate more efficient and sustainable food production systems, reduce food loss and waste, and promote equity and access to food resources."*



## ELECTIONS RESULTS

### The Executive Committee of the ParIAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality is conformed as follows:

#### President

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

#### Vice-President - North America

- Member of the Parliament **Stephanie Kusie** (Canada)

#### First Vice-President - Central America

- Member of the National Assembly **Kayra Harding Bart** (Panama)

#### Second Vice-President - Central America

- Member of Congress **Andrea Villagrán** (Guatemala)

#### First Vice-President - South America

- Senator **Carmen Gloria Aravena** (Chile)

#### Second Vice-President - South America

- Senator **Daniella Velloso Borges Ribeiro** (Brazil)

#### Vice-President - The Caribbean

- Senator **Lisa Jawahir** (Saint Lucia)

### The Executive Committee of the ParIAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and Sustainability is conformed as follows:

#### President

- Senator **Rosa Galvez** (Canada)

#### Vice-President

- Senador **Raúl Bolaños-Cacho Cué** (México)

#### Vice-President - Central America

- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Óscar Izquierdo Sandí** (Costa Rica)

#### First Vice-President - South America

- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Margarita Stolbizer** (Argentina)

#### Second Vice-President - South America

- Member of the National Assembly **Radjendrekoeemar Debie** (Suriname)

#### First Vice-President - The Caribbean

- Senator **Anthony Vieira** (Trinidad and Tobago)

#### Second Vice-President - The Caribbean

- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Nelsa Shoraya Suárez Ariza** (Dominican Republic)



#ParlAmericasGEN

**THEMES:** Gender equality, political participation and representation of women, gender-based violence, care policies, open parliament, co-creation

**DATES:** October 31 and November 1, 2023

**LOCATION:** Gros Islet, Saint Lucia

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 80 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, specialists and representatives of national gender machineries and civil society organizations from over 17 countries and territories in the Caribbean

**HOST:** UN Women Multi Country Office- Caribbean and the Parliament of Saint Lucia



This activity aligned with SDGs 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 13, 16, and 17



## Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Gender Equality and Sustainable Development

This multi-stakeholder dialogue provided a space for exchange on gender equality as a catalyst for achieving sustainable development, noting all forms of gender inequality -- especially violence against women and girls (VAWG) and specifically family violence -- as threats to Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) achieving sustainable development.

The discussions focused on innovative initiatives and good practices to build partnerships to end VAWG and advance gender equality and sustainable development within and through parliament, taking into consideration a gender and intersectional perspective. Specialists, civil society organisations, national gender machineries and the private sector made contributions that enriched the methodology of the different sessions of the meeting.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening Remarks:

- **Tonni Brodber**, Representative, UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean
- **Alisha Todd**, Director General, ParlAmericas
- The Honourable **Claudius Francis** (Saint Lucia), Speaker of the House of Assembly, Member of the ParlAmericas Board of Directors
- Senator the Honourable **Alvina Reynolds** (Saint Lucia), President of the Senate

### Keynote Panel:

- The Honourable Dr. **Virginia Albert-Poyotte** (Saint Lucia), M.P., Minister for the Public Service, Home Affairs, Labour and Gender Affairs
- **Roberta Clarke**, Commissioner, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
- **Tonni Brodber**, Representative, UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean

### Panellists:

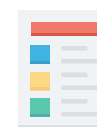
- The Honourable Justice **Peter Jamadar**, Caribbean Court of Justice
- The Honourable **Dessima Williams** (Grenada), President of the Senate
- **Isiuwa Iyahun**, Deputy Representative, UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean
- **Phylcia Alexander**, Executive Director, RedRoot SVG
- **Nadine Heywood**, Vice-President of Credit Solutions and Programme Lead for Women's Initiatives, Scotiabank
- **Dominique Noralez**, Caribbean Representative, Commonwealth Youth Council
- **Janey Joseph**, Director of Gender Affairs, Department of Gender Affairs of Saint Lucia
- **Dr. Rosina Wiltshire**, gender and development specialist
- **Asha Challenger**, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the UN and Focal Point for the SIDS Conference Gender Equality Forum
- **Dwight Sibblies** (Jamaica), M.P.
- The Honourable **Alincia Williams Grant** (Antigua and Barbuda), President of the Senate
- The Honourable **Emma Hippolyte** (Saint Lucia), M.P., Minister of Commerce, Manufacturing, Business Development, Cooperatives and Consumer Affairs
- **Terry Ince**, Convenor of the CEDAW Committee of Trinidad and Tobago and Chair of the Caribbean Regional Spotlight Initiative Civil Society Reference Group
- **Catherine Sealys**, President, Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia
- **Sasha Sahadeo**, Gender Officer, Caribbean Women in Leadership
- **Nadella Oya**, Interim Chair, Caribbean Gender Alliance

### Dialogues moderated by:

- The Honourable **Valerie Woods** (Belize), Speaker of the House of Representatives
- **Erin Brown**, Erin Brown Connects
- Senator **Lisa Jawahir** (Saint Lucia), Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality
- **Letitia Nicholas**, Monitoring and Reporting Analyst, UN Women Caribbean
- **Chantal La Roche**, Director, Legal Services, Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago
- **Phillip Carlisle**, CariMAN

### Closing remarks:

- **Tonni Brodber**, Representative, UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean
- **Alisha Todd**, Director General, ParlAmericas
- Senator the Honourable **Alvina Reynolds** (Saint Lucia), President of the Senate



[AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



[PODCAST EPISODE](#)



## JOINT STATEMENT

During the multi-stakeholder dialogue, participants issued a [joint statement](#) that considers the ways in which we can collaboratively advance the intrinsically interconnected objectives of inclusive and sustainable development, gender equality, and an end to violence against women and girls. The joint statement includes the following commitments:

- Promoting the collection of data disaggregated by sex, race, ethnicity, disability, age, socioeconomic status, and geographic zone (rural-urban) on the various forms of gender-based violence, especially violence against women and girls, and gender analysis, dissemination, and use, to address the data gaps on this phenomenon and other related developmental issues, in order to guide the development of programs and interventions that are appropriately tailored to meet the needs of communities and countries.
- Designing and implementing effective and inclusive actions in our own realms, as well as in partnership with other actors, to address sustainable development issues, gender inequality, and violence against women and girls that draw on our knowledge of existing good, innovative, and evidence-based responses in place in the region and around the world, including Health and Family Life Education (HFLE).
- Utilizing our various platforms, networks, positions, and communication channels to strengthen public knowledge and raise consciousness on gender equality and violence against women and girls and amplify the calls for collaboration, unity, participation, and investment to address inequalities and promote sustainable development.
- Advocating for and contributing our expertise and voices to the development of inclusive national positions, as well as amplifying Indigenous voices and the voices of other vulnerable and marginalized groups, at the 4th SIDS Conference and other international fora on sustainable development issues in order to accomplish the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A.) Pathway, highlighting in particular how gender equality and women's empowerment can be a catalyst to deliver on commitments related to: debt; access to sustainable finance; oceans and the blue economy; gender-responsive climate action, including comprehensive responses to economic and non-economic losses and damage, and just transitions; citizen security; and gender data and statistics.
- Calling for adequate allocations of resources, gender responsive budgeting, and increased accessibility of financing to ensure the effective implementation of commitments and actions related to gender equality, ending violence against women and girls, and sustainable development.







**Tonni Brodber**, Representative, UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean

*"If we take the countries that we have prevalence data for – it's only 5 in the Caribbean: Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, Guyana and Jamaica – 46% of women who have ever been in a relationship have experienced some form of violence from their partner. That means at least 1 in 2 women have been dealing with this in their life. That's why the Spotlight Initiative in the Caribbean has been focused specifically in a way to measure success."*



The Honourable **Claudius Francis** (Saint Lucia), Speaker of the House of Assembly, Member of the ParlAmericas Board of Directors

*"Gender equality is not just a moral imperative. It is a social and economic necessity. Empowering women and ensuring full participation in all aspects of society is fundamental to achieve sustainable development. When we speak of sustainable development we mean a future where economic growth, social well-being and environmental protection are all in balance. Gender equality is one of the cornerstones of this vision."*



Senator the Honourable **Alvina Reynolds** (Saint Lucia), President of the Senate

*"We know about the great costs of gender inequality and violence against women and girls to every aspect of society and our populations, and we also know of the difficult challenge we face in eradicating the deep roots of these issues. For this reason, it is imperative that we keep these issues at the fore in all spaces, actively drawing attention to inequalities and all of the ways they manifest - even where it may not be immediately evident. These are no sustainable development issues that are not also gender equality issues."*



**Alisha Todd**, Director General, ParlAmericas

*"This meeting is really about sustainable development and gender equality and how deeply interconnected these issues are. One will not be achieved without the other... We have to redouble our efforts to achieve transformative change in our societies and make these ideals a reality in the Caribbean and around the world."*



The Honourable Dr. **Virginia Albert-Poyotte** (Saint Lucia), M.P., Minister for the Public Service, Home Affairs, Labour and Gender Affairs

*"We will not attain sustainable development if we do not include gender in the discussion. If we do not have men and women equally contributing to national development, we will not achieve sustainable development and sustainable development basically means we have to sustain what is good for the country, what is good for the planet, what is good for men, women, and children."*



**Roberta Clarke**, Commissioner, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

*"Violence against women is a weapon of power and control used in times of peace as well as in times of conflict, and we hear in the news every day about that: it is both a cause of sex and gender discrimination, and a tool with which such discrimination is perpetuated, reinforced and strengthened. Of course we keep resisting, and meetings like this are part of the resistance."*





#ParlAmericasGEN

-  **TITLE:** "With All That's Going on Right Now...": The Challenge of Political Leadership During Crisis
-  **THEMES:** Leadership and political participation of women, conflict analysis from a gender perspective
-  **DATE:** December 5, 2023
-  **LOCATION:** Virtual
-  **PARTICIPANTS:** More than 30 current and former women parliamentarians, and representatives of civil society from the Americas and the Caribbean
-  **ORGANIZING PARTNERS:** Parliamentary Centre and Global Centre for Pluralism



*This activity is aligned with SDGs 5, 16, and 17.*



## Virtual Seminar for Women Parliamentarians of the Americas and the Caribbean on the Defence, Peace, and Security Agenda

This meeting brought together current and former women parliamentarians and civil society representatives to promote a constructive dialogue from a gender perspective on relevant issues in the defense, peace, and security sectors. In the context of converging crises, such as the war between Israel and Hamas and the escalation of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the war between Russia and Ukraine, and their impacts worldwide, the meeting offered a space for discussion and exchange of good practices related to ethical and responsible leadership.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening remarks:

- Member of Parliament **Anita Vandenbeld** (Canada)
- Senator **Verónica Noemí Camino Farjat** (Mexico), President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality

### Panellists:

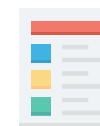
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Margarita Stolbizer** (Argentina), Rapporteur to the 148th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union's Committee on Peace and International Security
- **Meredith Preston McGhie**, Secretary General, Global Centre for Pluralism

### Moderator:

- **Guadalupe Valdez** (Dominican Republic), former parliamentarian

### Closing remarks:

- Member of Parliament **Stephanie Kusie** (Canada), Vice-President for North America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality



AGENDA



PRESS RELEASE

## MAIN CONCLUSIONS

- The weakening of our democracies - exacerbated by the phenomena of extreme polarization, the proliferation of hate speech, and the persistence of authoritarian models - is one of the determining factors of current crises.
- The internationally agreed concept of [human security](#) requires States to provide people-centred, comprehensive, context-specific, and prevention-oriented responses that strengthen the protection and empowerment of all population groups.
- Before, during, and after conflict, human rights violations - including violations of women's rights - increase while institutions are weakened. Parliamentary diplomacy is a key tool for conflict prevention as it can contribute to the adoption of measures that strengthen institutions in times of peace.
- It is essential to recognize women not only as potential victims of threats but also as active agents of change, contributing to the achievement of international agreements in line with UN Security Council [Resolution 1325/2000](#). Despite being one of the groups most affected by conflict, women are still underrepresented in decision-making on defense, peace, and security.
- Pluralist leadership is based on the recognition of and commitment to the dignity of all people who make up society, guaranteeing their sense of belonging. It is necessary to build spaces where people can have discussions based on compassion, respect, and empathy, and where they feel heard. Human-centred peace arises from listening, compromise, and an openness to change so that people can find their way even in contexts where they may disagree.
- Societies thrive when diversity is valued. Our societies are diverse in terms of culture, religion, language, ethnicity, and many other factors. Pluralism is reflected in actions that respond positively to these differences and is conceived as an ethic that can shape not only our individual choices but also collective decisions.



#ParlAmericasGEN

**TITLE:** Care Policies in Parliaments: Exchanging Good Practices in the Americas and the Caribbean

**THEMES:** Institutional care policies, co-responsibility, work-life balance, Inter-American Model Law on Care

**DATE:** December 13, 2023

**LOCATION:** Virtual

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 65 parliamentary staffers, representatives of national gender machineries and international organizations from 20 countries of the Americas and the Caribbean



*This activity aligned with SDGs 5, 8 and 10.*



## 7th Meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network for Gender Equality

This meeting provided a space for parliamentary staff and representatives of national gender machineries in the Americas and the Caribbean to examine strategies and share good practices and experiences for the implementation of care policies within parliaments.

With the support of invited experts, there were presentations of regional and international standards on care to be addressed by parliaments, both at the regulatory and institutional levels, aimed at recognizing and valuing care work



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening remarks by:

- Senator **Carmen Gloria Aravena** (Chile), First Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality
- **Sulma Campos Mata** (Mexico), head of the Technical Unit for Gender Equality, Senate of the Republic

### Panellists:

- **Ana Gúezmes**, Gender Division director, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- **Alejandra Mora Mora**, Executive Secretary, Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)
- **Claudia Fuenzalida Cereceda** (Chile), head of the Planning and Management Control Unit and head of Gender Affairs, Senate of the Republic
- **Gracielle Fernanda do Nascimento Azeredo** (Brazil), legislative analyst, member of the Permanent Committee for the Promotion of Gender and Race Equality and of the Working Group on Racial Affinity, Federal Senate
- **Annie Carpentier** (Canada), Deputy Director, Members' Human Resources Services, House of Commons

### Dialogues moderated by:

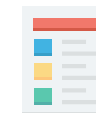
- **Chantal La Roche** (Trinidad and Tobago), Parliamentary Legal Services Director
- **Haydeé Hernández Pérez** (Costa Rica), head of the Technical Unit for Gender Equality and Equity of the Legislative Assembly

### Closing remarks by:

- **Sulma Campos Mata** (Mexico), head of the Technical Unit for Gender Equality, Senate of the Republic

### KEY CONSIDERATIONS FROM THE MEETING:

- Care work comprises activities aimed at the daily well-being of people, at various levels: material, economic, moral, and emotional. It is a human right: to care, to be cared for, and to self-care. Given that care work is often predominantly performed by women, institutionalizing care policies in workplaces - including parliaments - and promoting co-responsibility helps to ensure women's economic autonomy.
- It is necessary to move towards a [care society](#), promoting a model of co-responsibility in which actors such as the State, civil society, the private sector, the community, and families actively contribute to and support care work. The [Inter-American Model Law on Care](#) redefines care work and its [Implementation Guide](#) includes the highest standards on care and co-responsibility.
- Parliaments not only have an external task in the development of regulations to recognize care as a right but must also promote transformations within parliaments through institutional measures that address the care related needs in a diversity of families and contexts. For more details on existing practices in the region, see the [Briefing Document on Lactation and Daycare Facilities in the Americas and the Caribbean](#).



[AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



[BRIEFING DOCUMENT](#)



[PRESENTATIONS](#)

## WOMEN'S POLITICAL LEADERSHIP PROJECT



In 2018, ParlAmericas launched a project to promote women's political leadership in Latin America and the Caribbean. The project, which concluded this year, supported multi-partisan women's organizations in their delivery of programming that builds environments which enable women's leadership in politics and other sectors where they are underrepresented. The project's activities also strengthened the institutional capacities of these organizations as they fulfill their work in collaboration with national parliaments, gender bureaux, multilaterals, and other regional and local civil society organizations.

Through this project, ParlAmericas accompanied [Caribbean Women in Leadership](#) (CIWiL) and the [National Forum of Women in Political Parties](#) (FONAMUPP) in Panama. The joint initiatives carried out with these organizations build on the successes of ParlAmericas' work on gender mainstreaming and civil society engagement.

In 2023, project activities included:

- national and regional knowledge exchanges on gender equality and women's leadership held virtually and in-person
- virtual and in-person training sessions to encourage and support electoral candidacies by women;
- training initiatives to promote gender-responsive youth leadership;
- the strengthening of and undertaking of activities by local chapters of the partner organizations;
- and the creation of resources, publications, and communications and advocacy materials.







Caribbean Women in Leadership

**Caribbean Women in Leadership (CIWIL)** is a flagship networking organisation committed to advancing transformational leadership and to increasing the numbers of women in leadership and decision-making in political and civic life, proportionate to the female population in Caribbean countries. CIWIL is a non-political, non-partisan, and independent institution and a leading advocate to increase the participation of women in leadership and decision-making within the Caribbean.

CIWIL works with activists, women parliamentarians, development professionals, and national gender machineries to train and support women across the region as they seek elected office or assume other positions of leadership. The vision of CIWIL is to promote the sustainable development of Caribbean societies embracing transformational leadership principles including gender equality, equity, economic and social justice and environmental sustainability.

### Key details on 2023 activities

- Implementation of YWiL Jamaica (January - March 2023), in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, the Houses of Parliament, and other ministries and organizations
- 4 regional webinars delivered to foster dialogue on priority gender equality themes
- 4 virtual training sessions for national chapter executives
- 2 training sessions (1 in-person; 1 virtual) focused women's transformational leadership and inclusive advocacy
- 9 training sessions (1 in-person; 8 virtual) for the completion of a Training of Trainers Program
- Publication of a children's book and accompanying learning guide comprising inspirational profiles about real Caribbean women leaders





FORO NACIONAL DE  
**M U J E R E S**  
DE PARTIDOS POLÍTICOS



**The Forum of Women in Political Parties (FONAMUPP)** of Panama is a non-governmental, non-profit organization with the objective of promoting the political participation of Panamanian women with equal opportunities and conditions. FONAMUPP has been active for 25 years and has played a strong role in advocating for electoral reforms in favour of parity.

**Key details on 2023 activities**

- 5 training sessions (4 in-person; 1 virtual) for nominated or prospective women candidates and their support networks
- 4 in-person training sessions led on themes related to gender equality and women’s political leadership for external stakeholders
- 1 in-person session for young women that provided an orientation to FONAMUPP and its advocacy work, and an interactive dialogue on motivations to pursue political leadership
- 3 chapter initiatives funded through FONAMUPP’s draw-down fund





## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE OPEN PARLIAMENT NETWORK



Dear colleagues,

It has been another fruitful year for the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network (OPN) during which we have made significant progress in our efforts to continue positioning the open parliament model within our countries.

I would like to particularly highlight the [7<sup>th</sup> Gathering of the OPN](#) which was organized in Santiago with the support of the National Congress of Chile. It was an honour to have my country host over 100 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, specialists, and representatives of civil society organizations from the Americas and the Caribbean to examine the implications of digital transformation and artificial intelligence for democratic governance. As reflected in the [declaration](#) we adopted at the gathering, it is essential that we move forward with legislative actions that promote transparent, ethical, and inclusive digital governance in compliance with the highest human rights standards.

Faced with the tremendous disruptive potential of the digital era, the open parliament model offers us key tools to navigate the challenges created by new technologies and take advantage of the opportunities they offer to build more robust and participatory democracies. In this regard, and in response to colleagues' interest in these topics, we launched the OPN Digital Caucus—a forum dedicated to issues related to AI and digital governance. I invite you to join the Digital Caucus in order to contribute to the development of digital governance proposals that recognize our regional contexts, needs, and cultural and linguistic diversity.

Another central aspect of our work throughout 2023 was the coordination between our open parliament and gender equality programming, an interrelationship that we consider fundamental to promoting more inclusive parliaments. To this end, we organized working spaces that addressed issues

such as the importance of using plain language that does not exclude any given sector and encourages informed citizen participation in parliamentary processes; the mainstreaming of gender and intersectional approaches in open parliament action plans; and the opportunities that transparency metrics offer for building multi-stakeholder alliances. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to the Federal Senate of Brazil and the Congress of Colombia for their generous hospitality in hosting these important meetings.

Before concluding, I would like to extend special recognition to the hundreds of parliamentary staff who have participated in activities of the Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament. I would also like to thank the representatives of civil society organizations throughout the hemisphere who have responded to our call for collaboration: your commitment and dedication is essential to achieving a stronger, more inclusive, and effective ecosystem of openness.

Colleagues, today it is more critical than ever to continue strengthening the very foundations of democratic governance. To this end, the open parliament model has emerged as a fundamental safeguard for our democracies and ensures that parliaments continue to truly serve the interests of the people we represent.

We look forward to your continued support in the coming year.

Sincerely,

*Javier Macaya Danús*

**Senator, Chile**  
**President of the Open Parliament Network**

.....  
 FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER @JAVIER MACAYA



## #ParlAmericasOPN

**THEMES:** Legislative openness, transparency, accountability, citizen participation, ethics and probity, accessible and inclusive language.

**DATE:** March 24, 2023

**LOCATION:** Virtual

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 100 parliamentary staff and representatives of international organizations and academia from 11 Latin American countries.



*This activity is aligned with SDG 16.*



## 5th Meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament

The 5th Meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament addressed the importance of using inclusive and accessible language in legislative work to foster informed and empowered citizen participation in parliamentary processes. This communication style seeks to ensure that the content, structure, and design of information published by parliaments can be accessed, understood, and reused by all.

In addition, participants presented on the progress that has been made on applying legislative openness standards in parliamentary committees.

Based on the presentation on the theoretical and technical elements of plain language for the purposes of drafting laws and other legislative instruments, participants exchanged experiences and good practices with regard to how these efforts have led to a better relationship between parliaments and the public in Latin America.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening remarks:

- **Luis Rojas** (Chile), Secretary General of Constitutional Process and General Coordinator of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament

### Panellists:

- **Rocío Noriega** (Chile), Advisor to the Bicameral Group on Transparency
- **Cristiane Brum Bernardes** (Brazil), International Parliament Engagement Network (IPEN) and Professor and Researcher, Master's Program in Legislative Affairs, Chamber of Deputies
- **Betsy Perafán Liévano**, Academic Director, Faculty of Law, Universidad de los Andes
- **Andrea González Somellera** (Mexico), Advisor to the General Secretariat, Chamber of Deputies

### Moderators:

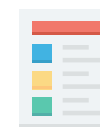
- **Sulma Campos Mata** (Mexico), Head of the Technical Unit for Gender Equality of the Senate and General Coordinator of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Gender Equality
- **Henrique Porath** (Brazil), Coordinator of the Innovation Support Center (Nainova), Federal Senate

### Closing remarks :

- **Nelly González** (Panama), Legal Advisor to the Presidency of the National Assembly and Regional Coordinator for Central America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament

### KEY CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING:

- Addressing the various theoretical and technical aspects of using clear, accessible, and inclusive language allows for improved understanding of the critical importance and impact it can have on reshaping the relationship between parliaments and the public.
- Accessible and inclusive language is a tool for improving the accessibility, transparency, and understanding of laws by all persons, regardless of their education, origin, gender, or level of vulnerability.
- Promoting the use of accessible and inclusive language enables the exploration and evaluation of new mechanisms in order to foster and strengthen informed and empowered citizen participation in parliamentary processes and in parliaments' various working groups.
- Strategies to adopt the use of accessible and inclusive language should be approached from an intersectional perspective, whereby technical parliamentary units can contribute their experience and improve how information about legislative processes is communicated when interacting with the public.
- The use of accessible and inclusive language has a significant impact on the open parliament agenda, facilitating efforts under the four pillars of legislative openness. It makes quality information accessible to the public, encourages greater citizen participation, and promotes collaborative relationships between the public and parliamentarians.
- Parliaments in the hemisphere are making progress towards implementing policies and strategies that promote the use of plain language in an incremental and progressive manner, including in the publication of information in the languages spoken by the region's Indigenous populations.



[FULL AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



[PRESENTATIONS](#)



[VIDEO RECORDING](#)



#ParlAmericasOPN

**TITLE:** The Future of Democracy in the Digital Era

**THEMES:** Democracy, digitalization, digital governance, disinformation, artificial intelligence, digital rights, connectivity

**DATES:** April 20, 21 and 22, 2023

**LOCATION:** Santiago, Chile

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 100 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, specialists, and representatives of civil society organizations from more than 18 countries of the Americas and the Caribbean.

**HOST:** National Congress of Chile



*This activity is aligned with SDGs 5, 9, 10, 16, and 17.*



## 7th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

The 7th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network was dedicated to exploring the opportunities and challenges for democratic governance posed by the digital era. Joined by specialists and representatives of civil society organizations, parliamentarians participated in working sessions that addressed key issues such as digital inclusion, disinformation, and comprehensive and inclusive digital governance. During discussions, special attention was given to digitalization and how it relates to the empowerment of women and historically marginalized groups based on inclusive digital governance paradigms that recognize the importance of their meaningful participation in the digital ecosystem as an essential condition for achieving more robust and solid democracies.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening remarks:

- Senator **Juan Antonio Coloma** (Chile), President of the Senate
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Vlado Mirosevic** (Chile), President of the Chamber of Deputies and ParlAmericas Board Member
- Senator **Javier Macaya** (Chile), Second Vice-President of ParlAmericas and President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

### Keynote speaker:

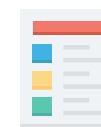
- **Valeria Lübbert** (Chile), Executive Secretary of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Public Integrity and Transparency

### Dialogues moderated by:

- The Honourable **Jeremiah Norbert** (Saint Lucia), Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly
- The Honourable Senator **René Cormier** (Canada), Second Vice-President for North America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
- Member of the National Assembly **Wilma Andrade** (Ecuador), Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
- **Luis Santana**, Associate Researcher, GobLab, Adolfo Ibáñez University, Chile
- Senator **Antares Vázquez** (Mexico), ParlAmericas Board Member
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Leonardo Soto** (Chile), Member of the Bicameral Group on Transparency
- The Honourable Senator **Joyelle Clarke** (Saint Kitts and Nevis), Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Action and Constituency Empowerment

### Panellists:

- Senator **Paulina Nuñez Urrutia** (Chile), Member of the Bicameral Group on Transparency
- Member of Parliament **Marc Serré** (Canada), ParlAmericas Board Member
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Luz Mary Alpizar** (Costa Rica)
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Sonia Rincón** (Mexico)
- Senator **Germán Blanco** (Colombia), ParlAmericas Board Member
- Senator **Kenneth Pugh** (Chile)
- **Raúl Guzmán** (Chile), Secretary General of the Senate
- **Miguel Landeros** (Chile), Secretary General of the Chamber of Deputies
- **Luis Rojas** (Chile), Secretary General of Constitutional Process, Secretary of the Bicameral Group on Transparency, and General Coordinator of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament



[FULL AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



[PRESENTATIONS](#)



[APRIL 20](#)

[APRIL 21](#)

[APRIL 22](#)



[PODCAST EPISODE](#)



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Specialists:

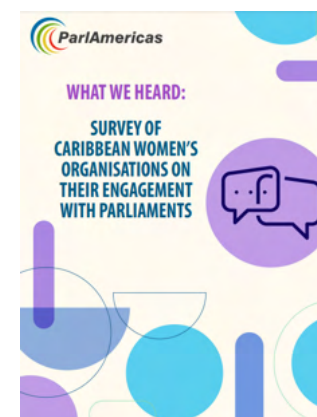
- **Fernando Rojas Mejía**, Senior Assistant on Economic Affairs, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- **Yolanda Martinez**, General Lead, GovStack Global
- **María Barón**, Chair of the Board of Directors, Open Government Partnership (OGP)
- **Gabriela Rosero**, Head of Office Chile, UN Women
- **Valentina Enciso**, Political Action Coordinator, Fundación Artemisas
- **Ashlee Burnett**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Feminitt
- **Josefina Correa**, Advocacy Coordinator, Ciudadanía Inteligente
- **Sara Fratti**, Program Coordinator for Guatemala, Fundación Avina
- **Matías Ponce**, Director of Communications, Inter-American Court of Human Rights
- **Nazima Raghubir**, Board Member, Media Institute of the Caribbean
- **Kate Arthur**, Founder and CEO, Digital Moment
- **Roger Celi**, Member of the Latin American Network for Legislative Transparency and Coordinator of the Legislative Area, Fundación Ciudadanía y Desarrollo
- **Nicole Pitter Patterson**, Co-founder, She Leads IT
- **Eduardo Ramirez**, Expert in Territorial Development and Investment Development and Digitization, FAO Regional Office
- **Eduardo Chomali**, Principal Executive, Information and Communication Technologies, Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)

### Reading of the declaration *The Future of Democracy in the Digital Era*:

- Senator **Bertha Caraveo** (Mexico), First Vice-President for North America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
- The Honourable Senator **Osbert Frederick** (Antigua and Barbuda), Vice-President of the Senate



### [STANDARDS FOR LEGISLATIVE OPENNESS IN COMMITTEE WORK](#)



### [WHAT WE HEARD: SURVEY OF CARIBBEAN WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS ON THEIR ENGAGEMENT WITH PARLIAMENTS](#)





Senator **Javier Macaya** (Chile), Second Vice-President of ParlAmericas and President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

*"We need to address the phenomenon of digitalization within the context of democratic governance, recognizing that it is not only a highly topical issue with a variety of consequences, but also its position at the heart of legislative openness."*



Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Vlado Mirosevic** (Chile), President of the Chamber of Deputies and ParlAmericas Board Member

*"In terms of public affairs, digitalization offers countless possibilities to encourage and expand citizen participation, empowering in particular those groups that have been historically marginalized; to promote better and more legitimate political decision-making; and make public institutions more efficient, effective, and transparent and draw them closer to the public."*



Member of the National Assembly **Wilma Andrade Muñoz** (Ecuador), Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

*"It is necessary for the parliamentary agenda in general and the legislative agenda on gender in particular, to work towards eliminating the barriers to citizen participation, strengthening the existing mechanisms for interaction with civil society in our region's parliaments."*



The Honourable Senator **René Cormier** (Canada), Second Vice-President for North America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

*"In the context of digital transformation, we face numerous challenges: the omnipresence of web giants driven solely by commercial interests, far removed from our democratic goals, the unethical use of artificial intelligence, fake news, possible foreign interference in our electoral processes, a loss of confidence in democratic institutions, growing economic disparities, and a lack of true gender equality and inclusiveness. These are some of the issues we must address."*



The Honourable Senator **Joyelle Clarke** (Saint Kitts and Nevis), Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Action and Constituency Empowerment

*"There are issues that we need to address in the Caribbean and in Latin America in terms of de-masculinizing spaces of power, investments, and technology so that we can achieve greater equality. [...] We have heard a number of innovative ideas on how to bridge the digital divide, addressing issues such as women and technology, livelihoods and innovation in rural areas, and investments in connectivity for productivity in the digital age."*



## ELECTIONS AND DECLARATION

During the gathering, the following members were elected to vacant positions on the Executive Committee of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network:

- Senator **Javier Macaya** (Chile), President
- Senator **Bertha Caraveo** (Mexico), Vice-President for North America
- The Honourable Senator **René Cormier** (Canada), Second Vice-President for North America
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Luz Mary Alpízar** (Costa Rica), Vice-President for Central America
- Member of the National Assembly **Corina Cano** (Panama), Second Vice-President for Central America
- Member of the National Assembly **Wilma Andrade Muñoz** (Ecuador), Vice-President for South America
- Honourable Representative **Catherine Juvinao** (Colombia), Second Vice-President for South America
- His Honour **Reginald Farley** (Barbados), President of the Senate, Vice-President for the Caribbean

### Declaration

During the gathering, parliamentarians adopted a declaration that, among others, includes commitments to:

- Promote a people-centered digitalization in accordance with human rights that is inclusive and fosters the reliable, safe, responsible, and sustainable use of emerging digital technologies and artificial intelligence.
- Call on the corresponding national authorities to establish connectivity needs, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas, enabling the design of general connectivity plans with appropriate financing models that consider the infrastructure development needed to ensure connectivity in historically marginalized communities.
- Urge our governments to overcome the gaps in access to information and communication technologies, particularly gender gaps, through connectivity plans developed with special attention to groups that have been historically marginalized, discriminated against, and/or in vulnerable situations, ensuring that everyone has an equal opportunity to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from digital transformation, including through opportunities to learn, work, and innovate.
- Promote policies for the development of digital skills and competencies so people may enjoy the benefits of digitalization in a safe, responsible, and inclusive manner, with special attention to children, adolescents, women, Indigenous peoples, persons living with disabilities, and the elderly.
- Advocate for the need to facilitate dialogues and establish or appoint parliamentary committees to address disinformation and consider legislative actions to counteract its effects in accordance with human rights and civil and political liberties.



#ParlAmericasOPN #DigitalCaucus

**THEMES:** Artificial intelligence, digital rights, legislative openness

**DATE:** June 15, 2023

**LOCATION:** Virtual

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 90 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, and representatives of international organizations and academia from 19 countries in the hemisphere attended the event.



*This activity is aligned with SDGs 5, 10, 16 and 17.*



## Virtual Parliamentary Exchange on Artificial Intelligence and Digital Rights

The rapid development of artificial intelligence has made it evident that its impacts must be analyzed and addressed from a multi-pronged legislative approach that prioritizes the rights of users and consumers and considers key issues such as privacy, data protection, transparency, gender mainstreaming in relation to algorithmic responsibility, intellectual property rights, and ethics.

Through the parliamentary exchange, participants addressed the most important elements to be considered within regulatory frameworks related to artificial intelligence and offered experiences on the work undertaken by parliaments of the hemisphere in this regard.

The Digital Caucus was presented as a new parliamentary working group committed to developing legislative proposals on digital governance, including AI regulation, using inclusive, multidimensional approaches.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Welcoming remarks:

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

### Panellists:

- **Cecilia Danesi**, researcher at the Institute for European Studies and Human Rights (UPSA), lecturer and director of postgraduate courses at several universities around the world
- Senator **Kenneth Pugh** (Chile), Chair of the Senate Committees for Ethics and Transparency and National Defense Ambassador **Washington Abdala** (Uruguay), Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay and Chair of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States

### Moderators:

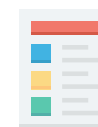
- Honourable Representative **Catherine Juvinao** (Colombia), Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Margarita Stolbizer** (Argentina)

### Closing remarks:

- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Luz Mary Alpízar** (Costa Rica), Vice-President for Central America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

### KEY CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING:

- It is essential that parliamentarians of the Americas and the Caribbean, particularly those from the Global South, meaningfully participate in discussions on the implications of artificial intelligence and digital rights to ensure that artificial intelligence governance models reflect shared principles of democracy and the rule of law, peace, human rights, poverty eradication, justice, transparency, and equality.
- The Digital Caucus will aim to be a forum that brings together parliamentarians and various relevant actors in the hemisphere, including technology companies, specialists, universities, and civil society organizations to jointly develop artificial intelligence governance proposals that recognize our diversity, contexts, and needs.
- Regulation of artificial intelligence does not seek to stifle innovation or to impose barriers on progress, but to ensure that the development and deployment of these technologies aligns with shared democratic values and serves the common good.
- It is crucial to establish the most well-suited mechanisms to guarantee that the coming technological revolution protects human rights and democracy, incorporates a gender equity perspective, fosters sustainable development, and promotes inclusion and social cohesion.



[AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



[STATEMENT](#)



[VIDEO](#)



#ParlAmericasOPN

**TITLE:** Legislative Transparency Measurements and Tools: Opportunities for Parliamentary Openness

**THEMES:** Open parliament, transparency, ethics and probity, citizen participation, inclusion and gender equality, women's political participation and representation, collaboration with civil society

**DATES:** November 29 and 30, 2023

**LOCATION:** Bogota, Colombia

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 35 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, and representatives of civil society organizations from 13 countries of the Americas

**HOST:** Congress of the Republic of Colombia



This activity is aligned with SDGs 5, 10, 16, and 17.



## ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network Working Meeting

The working meeting of the Open Parliament Network, held jointly with the Congress of the Republic of Colombia and the Latin American Network for Legislative Transparency (RLTL, by its Spanish acronym), considered various perspectives on the relevance of legislative transparency measurements and tools, such as the [Latin American Legislative Transparency Index](#), in creating political windows of opportunity that favour the promotion of the open parliament agenda in the region. Parliamentarians, together with parliamentary staff and representatives of civil society organizations, participated in panels and working groups to reflect on the implementation of actions and commitments—related to different pillars of open parliament—to strengthen legislatures, through more inclusive and effective mechanisms for openness and transparency.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening round table:

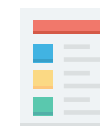
- Hon. Senator **Iván Name** (Colombia), President of the Senate
- Hon. Representative **Andrés Calle** (Colombia), President of the Chamber of Representatives
- Hon. Representative **Catherine Juvinao Clavijo** (Colombia), Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
- Hon. Senator **Germán Blanco** (Colombia), ParlAmericas Board Member

### Dialogue moderators:

- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Blanca Alcalá** (Mexico), Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies
- **Rocío Noriega** (Chile), Advisor to the Bicameral Group on Transparency, National Congress
- Honourable Alternate Member of the National Assembly **Walkiria Chandler** (Panama)
- **Francisco Samaniego**, Executive Project Coordinator, Center for Information and Resources for Development (CIRD by its Spanish acronym), Paraguay
- Hon. Representative **Cristian Avendaño** (Colombia)

### Working group moderators:

- Senator **Bertha Caraveo** (Mexico), First Vice-President for North America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Luz Mary Alpízar** (Costa Rica), First Vice-President for Central America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
- Member of the National Assembly **Corina Cano** (Panama), Second Vice-President for Central America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
- Member of Congress **Mario Argeñal** (Honduras), Chair of the Congressional Committee on Ethics and Transparency



[AGENDA \(In Spanish\)](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



[VIDEO - November 29](#)

[VIDEO - November 30](#)



[PODCAST](#)



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Panellists:

- Representative **Nancy Núñez Soler** (Uruguay)
- **Luis Rojas** (Chile), Deputy Secretary of the Chamber of Deputies and General Coordinator of the ParLAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament
- **María Baron**, Coordinator of the Latin American Network for Legislative Transparency and Global Executive Director, Directorio Legislativo, Argentina
- **Roger Celi**, Coordinator of the Legislative Area, Citizenship and Development Foundation (FCD by its Spanish Acronym), Ecuador
- **Vanessa Cala**, President of the Plain Language Network of Colombia and staff member of the General Secretariat of the Chamber of Representatives
- **María Liz Sosa** (Paraguay), Director General, General Directorate of Institutional Development and External Cooperation of the Honourable Chamber of Senators
- **Leah de Boersner**, Vice-President of the Board of Directors, Civic Space Foundation (Fundación Espacio Cívico), Panama
- **Juliana Hernández**, Director, Artemisas Foundation (Fundación Artemisas), Colombia
- Hon. Representative **Ana Rogelia Monsalve** (Colombia), Representative of the Chamber of Representatives for the Special Afro-descendant National Constituency
- **María Cristina Padilla** (Honduras), Director of Transparency, National Congress
- Senator **Iván Flores** (Chile), Member of the Senate Committee on Ethics and Transparency
- **Doris Muñoz Varela** (Uruguay), Director of the Communications Area, Chamber of Representatives
- **Diana Chávez**, Project Manager, Transparency Civil Association (Asociación Civil Transparencia), Peru





## MAIN CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING

- Building awareness about the open parliament agenda amongst political and civil society actors can help foster political windows of opportunity to advance work in this area. Measurement tools like the Latin American Legislative Transparency Index can assist in identifying the strengths and potential of parliaments, in order to establish courses of action to promote advances under different pillars of open parliament. These windows of opportunity facilitate the diagnosing, proposing and implementing of improvements to legislative openness and the institutional capacity of parliaments in the region.
- Strategic alliances are fundamental to implementing open parliament actions and transparency measures. Collaboration between parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, and civil society organizations, including women's organizations, can generate synergies and political momentum to advance legislative openness action plans and commitments. It is important that these dialogue spaces integrate opportunities for citizen participation that are accessible and facilitate the involvement of populations that have been historically excluded from the legislative sphere.
- Effective communication and active transparency are essential to deepening public confidence in parliamentary openness processes. In this regard, there are several challenges associated with the communication of legislative information which need to be addressed by parliaments, in collaboration with civil society organizations, to bring them closer to citizens and strengthen public confidence in parliamentary activities.
- Transparency measurement and tools can provide pathways for action that allow parliaments to prioritize and implement strategies to strengthen the open parliament agenda in political and administrative spheres. The information that these resources generate for parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, and civil society organizations can facilitate the development of inclusive spaces for consultation and dialogue among these actors, based on evidence and oriented toward measurable results in the short, medium, and long term.
- Parliamentary integrity systems have proven to create incentives that promote an institutional culture of openness and legislative strengthening. As part of the pillars of open parliament, ethics and probity require internal rules and regulations that, when endorsed across multiple political and administrative units, can advance corruption prevention strategies promoted by parliaments in the region.
- Exchanging good practices and lessons learned in regional forums for dialogue can promote strategic alliances that advance the open parliament agenda. Transparency measurements and tools are monitoring mechanisms that parliaments continue to use as a hemispheric reference to promote legislative openness within their respective political and administrative work.
- The open parliament agenda can be further strengthened to promote human rights, gender equality, and intersectionality. Promoting innovation in legislative openness mechanisms to favour the inclusion of women's organizations is an effort that can be advanced regionally, by incorporating related metrics into existing transparency tools and measurements.





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

*"At this meeting we will be able to take advantage of two days of in-depth interactions and socialization so that we can generate the necessary work among parliaments of the region in order to develop joint agendas and move forward on this agenda of openness, promoting the key approach of intersectionality."*



Hon. Senator **Germán Blanco** (Colombia), ParlAmericas Board Member:

*"As members of ParlAmericas, these meetings must deliver results that become courses of action across the various parliaments to bring parliamentary action closer to the public and civil society and better communicate its aims."*



Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Blanca Alcalá** (Mexico), Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies:

*"We need new spaces, not only to make known what we do as parliamentarians, but also what guides us in making certain decisions, to vote one way or another."*



**Luis Rojas** (Chile), Deputy Secretary of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile and General Coordinator of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament:

*"Legislative offices often use the results of the index as a guide to identify and address weaknesses. The index can be used as an institutional diagnostic tool and gradually promote improvements in openness and transparency processes."*



**Leah de Boersner**, Vice-President of the Board of Directors, Civic Space Foundation, Panama:

*"Creating spaces for permanent dialogue between parliaments and civil society organizations, in order to generate continuous feedback, allows us to better understand the potential and importance for the public in promoting transparency, access to information, anti-corruption, and citizen participation within any political agenda."*



#ParlAmericasOPN #DigitalCaucus

**THEMES:** artificial intelligence, digital governance, legislative openness

**DATE:** December 14, 2023

**LOCATION:** Virtual

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 60 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, and representatives of international organizations and academia from 22 countries.



This activity is aligned with SDGs 5, 10, 16, and 17.



## Current Legislative Experiences in the Governance of Artificial Intelligence

The virtual meeting “Current Legislative Experiences in the Governance of Artificial Intelligence” focused on addressing the advances and key components of legislation related to artificial intelligence, considering laws and legislative proposals from the Americas and the Caribbean as well as the European Parliament. The parliamentarians convened to not only exchange their experiences on the matter, but also offer reflections related to the importance of legislating on this issue taking into account the effects of artificial intelligence on misinformation, the exacerbation of inequalities, and the violation of privacy, among other impacts to the democratic system. This activity is part of a series of dialogues being carried out by the ParlAmericas Digital Caucus.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening remarks:

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

### Panellists:

- Member of the European Parliament **Brando Benifei** (Italy), Co-rapporteur of the European Parliament's Artificial Intelligence Act
- Senator **Kenneth Pugh** (Chile), Co-chair of the Digital Caucus of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
- Member of Parliament **Francesco Sorbara** (Canada)

### Parliamentary interventions:

- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Pedro Campos** (Brazil)
- Member of the European Parliament **Ibán García del Blanco** (Spain)
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **María Eugenia Hernández** (Mexico)
- Member of Congress **Karol Paredes** (Peru)
- Representative **Rodrigo Goñi** (Uruguay), Chair of the Parliament's Special Committee of the Future

### Moderators:

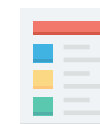
- Honourable Representative **Catherine Juvinao** (Colombia), Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
- **Natalí Casanova-Burkholder**, Project Manager for Open Parliament, ParlAmericas International Secretariat

### Closing remarks:

- His Honour **Reginald Farley** (Barbados), President of the Senate and Vice-President for the Caribbean of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

### KEY CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING:

- A key consideration when regulating in this area is to promote people-centered, human rights-compliant digitalization that is inclusive and fosters a reliable, safe, responsible, and sustainable use of emerging digital technologies and artificial intelligence.
- To ensure that artificial intelligence contributes positively to our societies—and the promotion of inclusion and citizen participation—legislation should include provisions that protect individuals from digital risks linked to privacy infringement and cyber-attacks, among other considerations.
- It is essential to move towards the 'zero digital divide' objective; ensure universal access to technology, digital education and inclusion; and reduce the gender gaps that exist in our society, especially in technological fields, so that artificial intelligence models do not further deepen the biases that already prevail in algorithms and generative artificial intelligence models.
- Given the global nature of the development and deployment of these technologies, harmonizing regulatory frameworks is key; thus, it is imperative that parliamentarians of the Americas and the Caribbean participate in global discussions and build, in a coordinated manner, legislative proposals for the governance of artificial intelligence based on unique realities and needs in their countries.



[AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



[VIDEO RECORDING](#)



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY



Dear colleagues,

In 2023 we experienced a considerable increase in extreme weather events such as forest fires, hurricanes, and heat waves—a clear sign of the urgent need to increase our ambitions on climate action. In addition, as recognized by the first [Global Stocktake](#) presented at COP28, the world is not on track to meet the central goal of the Paris Agreement of limiting temperature increases to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

Given this pressing situation, the work of parliaments in the fight against climate change is of singular importance. It is precisely for this reason that the agenda of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and Sustainability (PNCCS) has focused on creating spaces to address critical issues, such as [environmental governance](#), [climate migration](#), the [intersection between food security, climate change, and gender equality](#), the [elimination of plastic pollution](#), and the [need to accelerate renewable energy use](#).

I would like to emphasize that it has been truly rewarding to see the commitment and willingness of hundreds of parliamentarians from the Americas and the Caribbean to respond to our calls for action and assume a leading role within the framework of global efforts to address the effects of climate change.

One clear demonstration of this commitment is the formation of the PNCCS Green Economy Caucus—a working group of parliamentarians from the Americas and the Caribbean that, in association with the ECLAC Parliamentary Observatory on Climate Change and Just Transition, seeks to decouple economic growth and environmental degradation. I invite you to join the Caucus; it will be the ideal forum for exchanging good legislative practices on key issues for the region like access to climate finance, the alignment of public and private financial flows with international climate commitments and the SDGs, and the creation of green jobs, among others.

Reflecting the recognition of parliaments as essential actors in the global architecture for climate action, COP28 in Dubai featured a parliamentary pavilion for the first time. I am pleased to report that a parliamentary delegation from [ParlAmericas attended](#). For those of us who had the privilege of participating, COP28 was an unparalleled opportunity to bring forward parliamentary perspectives on key issues such as climate finance, environmental governance, and incentives and strategies for decarbonizing the world's energy matrix. This favourable setting for parliamentary participation should inspire us to further increase our efforts ahead of COP30, which will be held in our hemisphere, in Brazil in 2025.

Colleagues, the growing recognition of the importance of parliamentary work in international dialogues and processes on climate change — which is a result of advocacy by legislators and inter-parliamentary organizations such as ParlAmericas — is a further reason to strengthen our commitment to the environmental agenda.

To this end, the PNCCS will continue to provide a platform for parliamentarians of the Americas and the Caribbean to share strategies for turning international commitments and agreements into realities that result in concrete benefits for life on this planet.

I look forward to continuing to engage with you all next year.

Sincerely,

*Rosa Galvez*

**Senator, Canada**  
**President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and Sustainability**

.....  
 FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER @SENROSAGALVEZ



#ParlAmericasCC #SendaiFramework #RP23

**THEMES:** Climate migration, disaster risk reduction, gender

**DATE:** March 1, 2023

**LOCATION:** Virtual

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 60 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, and representatives of international, civil society and women's organizations



*This activity is aligned with the SDGs 1, 3, 5, 10, 11, 13, 16, and 17.*



## Mobilizing Parliaments to Address Climate Migration: A Virtual Learning Lab

Within the framework of the [VIII Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean](#), under the theme “Science and Technology for Integrated Disaster Risk Management,” ParlAmericas organized a learning lab to promote the exchange of knowledge and experiences regarding the push factors of climate migration, the strategies that parliaments can employ to mitigate climate migration, and how parliaments can support the development of relocation strategies that respond to the needs of marginalized persons including women and girls. Through the multi-stakeholder dialogue, participants benefited from legislative, gender, and science and technology perspectives on climate migration and disaster resilience-building.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening remarks:

- Senator the Honourable **Rosa Galvez** (Canada), President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change

### Moderator:

- Member of the National Assembly **Juan Diego Vásquez** (Panama)

### Panellists:

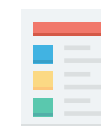
- Member of the Chamber of Representatives **Julia Miranda Londoño** (Colombia)
- **Pablo Escribano**, Regional Thematic Specialist on Migration, Environment and Climate Change of the International Organization for Migration
- **Vanya David**, President of the Dominica National Council of Women

### Closing remarks:

- Senator **Anthony Vieira** (Trinidad and Tobago), Vice-President for the Caribbean of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change

### MAIN TAKEAWAYS OF THE WORKSHOP

- Parliaments can be instrumental in recognizing that disasters caused by natural hazards as well as incremental changes in the environment are push factors for migration as exemplified through Colombia's bill to address the displacement of persons due to climatic causes.
- Parliaments can play a key role in their legislative, budgetary, and oversight role to ensure alignment with international frameworks such as the Sendai Framework and promote the necessary inter-institutional coordination to conduct vulnerability assessments.
- Parliaments can support the integration of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems as key systems which provide guidance on how governments, communities, and individuals can act to minimize negative impacts and thus prevent natural hazards from becoming disasters.
- Parliamentarians can discuss legal reforms to strengthen social support systems that reduce occurrences of forced displacement and promote inclusive relocation strategies, in the event where displacement cannot be avoided, addressing socio-economic disparities, such as gender inequality and poverty, which are known to worsen in the face of natural hazards



[FULL AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



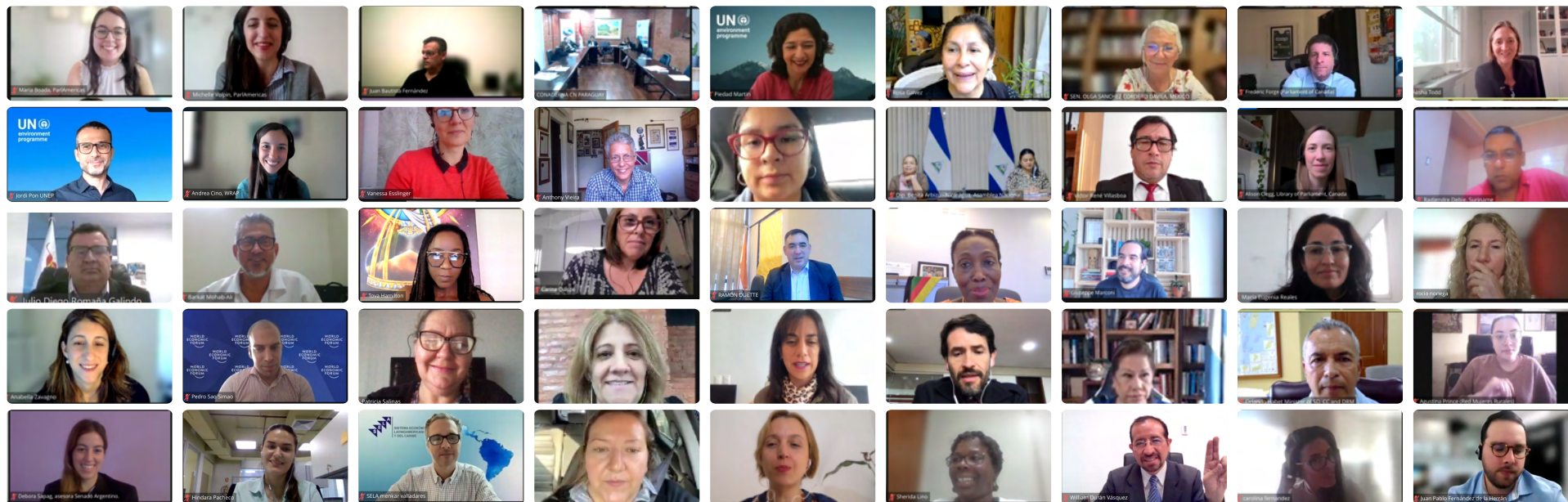
[PRESENTATION](#)



[COLOMBIA'S BILL](#)



[VIDEO RECORDING](#)



#ParAmericasCC #GlobalPlasticsTreaty

**THEMES:** Circular economy, plastic pollution

**DATE:** May 24, 2023

**LOCATION:** Virtual

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 100 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, women's organizations, youth leaders, and representatives of civil society and multilateral organizations

**CO-ORGANIZERS:** The Latin American and the Caribbean Circular Economy Coalition, EMF, UNEP, WRAP, and the WWF



This activity aligned with SDGs 3, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15.



## Historic Opportunity: The Role of Parliaments in Ending Plastic Pollution

The adoption of the United Nations [resolution](#) in 2022 to create a legally binding international agreement to end plastic pollution by 2024 created positive momentum across the globe. To sustain this momentum and advance regional cooperation on ending plastic pollution, parliamentarians and specialists from the hemisphere were convened to examine how parliaments can address the unsustainable production and consumption of plastics and promote the transition to a circular economy. The discussions held also acknowledged that through the revision and redesign of current take-make-waste practices there is also a renewed opportunity to better-address the systemic inequalities faced by women and historically marginalized communities.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening remarks:

- The Honourable Senator **Rosa Galvez** (Canada), President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change (PNCC)
- **Piedad Martín**, Deputy Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP)

### Panellists:

- Honourable Member of the Chamber of Representatives **Juan Carlos Losada** (Colombia)
- Senator **Paulina Nuñez** (Chile)
- The Honourable **Orlando Habet** (Belize), Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
- **Jordi Pon**, Regional Chemicals & Waste Sub-Programme Coordinator, UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
- **Andrea Cino**, International Partnerships Manager, Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP)
- **Luisa Santiago**, Executive Director for Latin America, Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF)

### Moderators:

- The Honourable Senator **Dessima Williams** (Grenada), President of the Senate
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Graciela Camaño** (Argentina)

### MAIN TAKEAWAYS FROM THE MEETING:

- The development of a global treaty on plastics can provide a legal framework for strengthening the legislative efforts of parliaments across the globe.
- Parliament can promote the reduction of plastic production and consumption through provisions in legislation that incentivize the development of nature-based solutions to replace plastics, extend producer responsibility, and impose import restrictions on plastic products. These were among the good practices shared during the roundtable presentations given by [Colombia](#), [Belize](#), and [Chile](#).
- It is imperative that the measures taken towards a circular economy to eliminate plastic pollution are based on intersectoral and intersectional considerations and that the impacts on small businesses, individuals living in situations of poverty, women and marginalized groups are assessed.
- Parliament can utilise gender responsive stakeholder consultations and gender analyses to address specific concerns and provide opportunities for women and girls to act as agents of change on the plastics agenda.
- Parliament has a role in promoting clear communication of the standards and definitions of the plastics agenda including but not limited to the terms reusable, biodegradable, and recyclable, and then employing targeted communication strategies when disseminating this information to the public.



[FULL AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



[PRESENTATIONS](#)



[VIDEO RECORDING](#)





#ParlAmericasCC #EscazuAgreement

**THEMES:** Environmental governance, human rights

**DATE:** July 11, 2023

**LOCATION:** Virtual

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 70 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, youth leaders, and representatives of civil society and multilateral organizations

**CO-ORGANIZER:** Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA)



*This activity aligned with SDGs 5, 10, 13, 15, 16, and 17.*



## Towards Effective Environmental Governance: Access to Information, Participation, and Justice

Recognizing the importance of urgent action to promote inclusive and effective environmental governance across Latin America and the Caribbean, and the crucial role of the [Escazú Agreement](#) in guiding these efforts, ParlAmericas in collaboration with Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) convened parliamentarians, specialists, and representatives of civil society from the hemisphere to address parliamentary efforts on this agenda. Featuring a keynote presentation on the state of the Escazú Agreement’s implementation in the region, a panel discussion, and subsequent open dialogue, the session examined the role of parliaments in safeguarding the rights of access to information, participation, and justice in environmental matters as enshrined in the Agreement, including special emphasis on empowering women, youth, and marginalised communities to participate in environmental decision-making.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening remarks:

- The Honourable **Valerie Woods**, MP (Belize), Speaker of the House of Representatives, PGA Board Member, and Climate Action Campaign Convenor
- The Honourable Senator **Rosa Galvez** (Canada), President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change

### Presentation:

- **David Barrio Lamarche**, Environmental Affairs Officer, Escazú Agreement Secretariat, ECLAC

### Panellists:

- Senator **Sophia Frazer-Binns** (Jamaica), Shadow Minister of Land, Environment and Climate Change
- Senator **Emilio Álvarez Icaza** (Mexico), PGA Board Member
- **Tyrell Gittens**, young geographer, environmentalist, conservationist and journalist from Trinidad and Tobago

### Moderator:

- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Margarita Stolbizer** (Argentina), PGA Board Member

### Closing remarks:

- **Mónica Adame**, Secretary General of PGA
- **Alisha Todd**, Director General of ParlAmericas

### MAIN TAKEAWAYS FROM THE MEETING:

- The Escazú Agreement presents the minimum standards that States must observe in order to fulfill the rights of access to information, participation, and justice in environmental matters, promoting a human-rights centred approach to environmental governance in the region.
- Through the Agreement, States are called to establish conditions that encourage public participation in environmental decision-making processes and that are adapted to the social, economic, cultural, geographical and gender characteristics of their national population. As representatives of their people, parliamentarians can be instrumental in applying an inclusive and participatory lens that facilitates broad and meaningful participation.
- It is essential that the public, especially youth, women, and members of communities particularly vulnerable to the effects of environmental degradation are empowered to participate in environmental decision-making, this includes ensuring sufficient notice is given and accessibility needs are considered ahead of public consultations on environmental projects.
- Taking into account the central role of justice for democratic strengthening as well as the specific provision of the Escazú Agreement to protect environmental human rights defenders, the most threatened of whom are women, farmers and Afro-descendant and Indigenous persons, it is imperative that the judicial system is adequately equipped to protect the people and address their petitions, through robust legal frameworks. For instance, parliaments can strengthen the judicial system's capacity to address socio-environmental disputes by incorporating environmental crimes in the penal codes.



[FULL AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



[PRESENTATION](#)



[VIDEO RECORDING](#)



#ParlAmericasCC #PNCCStaff

**THEMES:** Climate commitments, enhancing technical capacity, parliamentary staff work

**DATE:** August 16, 2023

**LOCATION:** Virtual

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 50 parliamentary staff and representatives of women's organizations and multilateral organizations from 20 countries.



*This activity aligned with SDGs 5, 13, 16, and 17.*



## 2nd Meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Climate Change

In follow-up to the launch of the Parliamentary Staff Network on Climate Change (PNCC–Staff) in December 2022, this meeting served as the first occasion to convene parliamentary staff of the region and subject matter experts in alignment with the objectives of the Staff Network, which include facilitating knowledge exchanges that help promote the uptake of good practices on parliamentary climate action. Through expert presentations and a round table discussion, the meeting explored the ways parliamentary staff can provide support to parliamentary work to oversee efforts to meet national and international climate commitments, institutional actions to build capacity of parliamentary actors to engage on these topics, and initiatives to promote citizen participation in related decision making processes to ensure no one is left behind.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening remarks:

- **Frédéric Forge** (Canada), Senior Director of International Affairs and Integrated Reference Services Division of the Library of Parliament of Canada and PNCC-Staff General Coordinator

### Presentations:

- **Cali Villalonga**, President of GLOBE Legislators
- **Nadia Manning-Thomas**, Planning and Coordination Specialist for UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean

### Panellists:

- **Brian B. Caesar** (Trinidad and Tobago), Clerk of the Senate
- **Juan Manuel Moreira** (Argentina), Director General for Environment and Sustainable Development of the Chamber of Deputies and PNCC-Staff Focal point
- **María Victoria Lumaca** (Uruguay), Technical Secretary, Committee on the Environment of the Senate and PNCC-Staff Focal point

### Moderators:

- **Laura Prado Chacón** (Costa Rica), Advisor to the Executive Directorate and PNCC-Staff Regional Coordinator for Central America
- **Jatziri Pando Medina** (Mexico), Technical Secretary, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change Committee, Senate of the Republic and PNCC-Staff Regional Coordinator for North America

### Closing remarks:

- **Alisha Todd**, Director General of ParlAmericas

### MAIN TAKEAWAYS FROM THE MEETING:

- Parliamentary staff offer a wealth of expertise to the parliament through technical support on addressing priority topics of the region and contribute to the overall longevity and effective implementation of environmental efforts in both internal and external parliamentary work due to their institutional roles, which benefits each different legislature. They also have the potential to apply their knowledge in other positions in political governance throughout their career.
- Parliamentary staff can be key actors in the nexus of science and decision-making to promote the alignment of national plans with international climate commitment through the technical support provided to parliamentary oversight committees with regard to conducting research and offering recommendations to monitor the implementation of environmental plans.
- Considering that climate change has differential impacts on women and girls, such as in their access to water and food and exposure to disaster risk, the availability of data that illustrates gender inequalities, as well as capacity building in gender analysis by technical officers, are both essential for ensuring parliamentary climate work is gender-responsive.
- Parliaments can lead by example through institutional efforts to measure and reduce their carbon footprint, as well as on the front of inclusivity by ensuring committee work is participatory and a diversity of organizations are invited to contribute to decision making on environmental matters.



[FULL AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



[PRESENTATION](#)



[VIDEO RECORDING](#)



#ParlAmericasCC #LACCW2023

**THEMES:** Renewable energy, decarbonization, just transition

**DATES:** October 25, 2023

**LOCATION:** Panama City, Panama

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 35 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, youth leaders, and representatives of civil society and multilateral organizations

**ORGANIZING PARTNER:** Global Renewable Congress (GRC) and IRENA



*This activity aligned with SDGs 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 13.*



## Upscaling Renewable Energy Deployment for the Good of All: The Role of Legislators

The dialogue examined the role of renewable energy in the context of the Global Stocktake, diverse national environments, and successful policy designs. Legislators and experts highlighted the intersectional implications and the socio-economic co-benefits of promoting urgent action on renewable energy uptake to meet the Paris Agreement goal of limiting average temperature increase to 1.5°C. Moreover, the dialogue noted how decision makers can better engage with civil society including women, youth, Indigenous populations, and civil society organizations to ensure the energy transition is inclusive and provides pathways of empowerment, following the guidelines of energy justice.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening remarks by:

- The Honourable Member of the National Assembly **Fernando Arce** (Panama), ParlAmericas Board Member
- **Bärbel Höhn**, GRC Chair and acting Ambassador for Energy Reform in Africa

### Keynote:

- **Juan Carlos Villalonga**, President of GLOBE Legislators and former Member of the Chamber of Deputies of Argentina

### Panellists:

- **Paola Vega**, Member of GRC, former Member of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica and former Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change (PNCC)
- **Charlin Bodley**, Manager of Rocky Mountain Institute's Energy Transition Academy and Women in Renewable Energy (WIRE) Network
- The Honourable **Oscar Mira** (Belize), Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security and Defense
- **Joice Mendez**, United Nations Secretary General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change and IRENA Youth Leader

### Moderators:

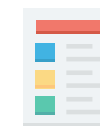
- Senator **Anthony Vieira** (Trinidad and Tobago), Vice-President for the Caribbean of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change
- **Enrique Maurtua Konstantinidis**, Senior consultant on climate policy, Global Gas and Oil Network

### Closing remarks by:

- **Guadalupe Gonzalez**, Director of Electricity, Panama National Secretariat of Energy

### KEY CONCLUSIONS FROM THE MEETING

- Renewables are demonstrating to be reliable sources of energy. Moreover, the capital price to install these systems is reducing, for example in the last few years solar energy has reduced 85% in cost, proving that society has the tools and technology to meet its transition goals.
- The renewable energy matrix needs to be diverse to avoid dependence on a single source of energy.
- There are opportunities for energy laws to be reformed or created to promote the use of [distributed energy resources](#), improve energy efficiency, ensure adequate infrastructure to help support the energy transition, reward renewable energy uptake through incentives, and legally bind the commitments made in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of the country.
- The energy transition should be designed in consultation with women, youth, Indigenous groups, rural populations, workers from sunset industries, among other stakeholders to ensure clean energy systems are available to all, financially accessible, considerate of generations to come, its benefits equitably distributed, and provides avenues for which interested individuals can participate in the sector.
- Effectively communicating the co-benefits of the energy transition, as well as promoting energy literacy and capacity building programs, is important in order to improve social acceptance for renewable projects and to help support the empowerment of community members, such as youth, women, and Indigenous populations.
- Within the energy sector, only 2% of available jobs are held by women, however these are mostly in administrative roles and not in a technical field. Therefore, to close the gender gap in this sector, a multi-stakeholder and evidence-based approach, which is founded on data that is gender disaggregated, must be taken.



[FULL AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



[PRESENTATIONS](#)



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[PODCAST EPISODE](#)



#ParAmericasCC #COP28

**THEMES:** Technology and innovation, inclusion, frontline communities, finance

**DATES:** November 30, 2023 – December 12, 2023

**LOCATION:** Dubai, United Arab Emirates

**HOST:** The Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE)



*This activity aligned with SDGs 5, 7, 10, 13, 16, and 17.*



## Parliamentary Delegation to COP28

ParlAmericas participated in the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and hosted a side event in the first ever parliamentary pavilion, which served as the central hub for the global parliamentary constituency. The ParlAmericas delegation of Senator the Honourable Rosa Galvez (Canada), President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and Sustainability; the Honourable Dessima Williams (Grenada), President of the Senate and ParlAmericas Board Member; and the Honourable Carolyn Trench-Sandiford (Belize), President of the Senate and ParlAmericas Board Member, presented on panels in which they discussed the role of women parliamentarians in advancing climate action, working among political parties to address the climate challenge, and mobilizing climate finance. The delegation also engaged with fellow parliamentarians from across the hemisphere and with representatives from international organizations, academia, and youth organizations.



## KEY PARLAMERICAS PARTICIPATION

### The Escazú Agreement and Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE): Strengthening Environmental Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean ([Agenda](#))

This official side event hosted by ParlAmericas examined how parliamentary efforts toward the implementation of the Escazú Agreement and ACE can strengthen gender-transformative environmental democracy, increase citizen participation, protect human rights, and ultimately meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

### Latin American Legislative Perspectives for Effective and Inclusive Climate Action ([Agenda](#))

The inter-parliamentary dialogue among Latin American parliamentarians hosted by ParlAmericas and GLOBE Legislators was centred on the discussion of strategies and ongoing efforts to promote equality and inclusion in climate commitments and oversee the alignment of budgets and legislation with the goals of the Paris Agreement and the outcomes of COP28.

### Parliamentary Meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Federal National Council of UAE

The ParlAmericas delegation participated in a day of parliamentary meetings hosted by IPU and the Federal Council of UAE to facilitate knowledge sharing around various topics, including but not limited to: insights into the current science, progress on commitments with a focus on the Global Stocktake, and the urgency of operationalizing the Loss and Damage Mechanism.

### Discussion with YOUNGO

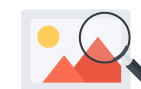
The ParlAmericas delegation met with leaders of YOUNGO, the official youth constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to discuss advancing youth perspectives and opportunities in decision-making spaces. Consult the [YOUNGO report](#) for further information on these mechanisms.



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

*"We as parliamentarians can be key actors in steering the region toward comprehensive and transformative environmental governance that ensures all members of our society are not only aware of their rights but are also empowered to exercise them."*



Senator the Honourable **Carolyn Trench-Sandiford** (Belize),  
President of the Senate and ParlAmericas Board Member

*"Parliament, in addition to its oversight and scrutiny functions, can also champion the diverse multilateral agreements, including the Paris Agreement. For example we signed the Declaration of Intent with the UN country office in Belize to have the parliament partner on building awareness and knowledge of all the agreements that Belize has signed. Parliaments have a unique ability to contribute to the development and implementation of the country's national climate commitments through our diverse functions."*





## KEY OUTCOMES & PARLIAMENTARY ACTION POINTS POST COP28

### OUTCOMES:

- COP28 concluded with the adoption of the political outcome of the first [Global Stocktake \(GST\)](#), the Paris Agreement's mechanism for evaluating progress and raising climate ambition. The GST includes a call for countries to take actions for globally tripling the renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency improvements by 2030.
- Among the [initiatives](#) and [decisions](#) taken were the adoption of the framework for the [Global Goal on Adaptation](#); progress on the [operationalization of the loss and damage fund](#) through a historic agreement; and the launch of the [Gender-Responsive Just Transition and Climate Action Partnership](#), among others. Commitments were also announced and can be viewed on the [Global Climate Action Portal](#).



### ACTION POINTS:

To support the translation of COP28 climate commitments into action, parliamentarians have a **pivotal role in holding the executive branch accountable** through their oversight and other legislative responsibilities.

- Request that your country's government officials, national negotiation team, and/or parliamentary delegation to COP28 present the national commitments made at COP28 within the parliament's plenary and inquire if the country is on track to meet its own national climate and environmental objectives.
  - COP30 is the deadline for countries to present updated and more ambitious [Nationally Determined Contributions \(NDCs\)](#). The window of opportunity to raise climate ambition is rapidly narrowing as existing commitments fall short of the Paris Agreement goal to limit global warming to 1.5°C.
  - To view your country's current NDC, consult our [interactive tool](#).
- Examine the [Outcome of the Global Stocktake](#), identify how the parliament can support these commitments, and ensure the alignment of legislation and budgetary allocations with these goals.
- Request an evaluation of current climate related legislation and policies to ensure they are compatible with the country's NDC, the 2030 Agenda, and other relevant multilateral agreements.
- Assess if climate legislation and policies are gender sensitive, and whether there are initiatives in place to improve the availability of sex disaggregated data.

# Thank you

for being part of ParlAmericas in 2023.

We look forward to building on these successes with your continued support!

## THE PARLAMERICAS TEAM

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