ParliAmericas supports action on climate change through innovative programming that is specifically designed for parliamentarians in the Americas and the Caribbean. Parliamentarians can play a critical role in accelerating progress to combat climate change by raising climate ambition and promoting climate action through their law making, oversight and monitoring, budget allocation, representation and awareness raising functions. Through its programming, ParliAmericas endeavours to foster coherent and informed parliamentary actions and legislation to strengthen the sustainability and climate resilience of societies across the hemisphere.

ParliAmericas Climate Change Program

1) Climate Science for Parliamentarians: ParliAmericas creates spaces for parliamentarians to identify, discuss, and improve their understanding of ways to utilize available scientific evidence and best practices to combat climate change. Through conferences, working sessions, briefings, and tailored knowledge resources, ParliAmericas equips parliamentarians with access to experts and practitioners from across the hemisphere, and capacities to draw on local knowledge systems in their work, including through civil society working on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

2) Alignment to International Frameworks: ParliAmericas promotes coordination and alignment of parliamentary actions on the environment with international frameworks to avoid duplication of objectives. The 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction serve as guiding policy documents for this purpose.

3) Alliances and Partnerships: ParliAmericas promotes the development of alliances and partnerships with a wide range of organizations and stakeholders to advance innovative ways to engage parliamentarians and communicate national and local climate priorities to legislators.

4) Active Field Engagement: Advancing climate action requires contextualized knowledge. ParliAmericas applies an experiential learning approach, including through field visits, to bridge the gap between knowledge possessed by parliamentarians and actions that they can implement to combat climate change.

5) Gender Inclusive Dialogue and Action: ParliAmericas programming is informed by intersectional analysis, which recognizes systems of discrimination and privilege that overlap with gender relations. These considerations are mainstreamed through the planning, delivery and follow-up to activities, to ensure that parliamentary dialogue and legislative actions on climate change are gender inclusive and responsive to the specific ways in which women and men from different backgrounds experience climate change.
ParlAmericas in Action: Developing the Parliamentary Protocol on Disaster Risk Reduction

ParlAmericas, along with its partner the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), is developing a Parliamentary Protocol to support parliaments across the Americas and the Caribbean to align national legislation with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which will apply learning generated through recent activities on that subject, including a field visit and briefing on coastal urban climate risks and related hemispheric dialogue of parliamentarians and international and civil society organizations conducted with the UNISDR. The Parliamentary Protocol on Disaster Risk Reduction will be launched in 2019.

Parliamentary Network on Climate Change

The ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change (PNCC) was created in 2016 with the objective of promoting parliamentary diplomacy on climate action within parliaments, aligned with existing international frameworks that work towards combating climate change and achieving sustainable development. The PNCC fosters knowledge exchanges between parliamentarians, expert practitioners, civil society and other stakeholders on effective practices for climate change mitigation and adaptation through workshops, dialogues and the creation of specialized resources. The work of the PNCC encourages cooperation between parliaments and government agencies in the development and implementation of innovative policies to combat climate change. Recent topics of focus include renewable energy, disaster risk reduction, and climate financing concepts such as loss and damage, carbon pricing and markets, as well as the importance of integrating gender into climate action and raising ambition within the Nationally Determined Contributions to meet the Paris Agreement goals and attain the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Network is governed by an elected Executive Committee, composed of the President, and sub-regional Vice-Presidencies representing North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean.

Strategic Partnerships

ParlAmericas is an official observer organization to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. ParlAmericas has signed a collaboration agreement with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, and Memorandums of Understanding with the United Nations Environment Programme, UN Women and the Organization of American States.

About ParlAmericas

ParlAmericas is the institution that promotes parliamentary diplomacy in the inter-American system. Composed of the 35 national legislatures in North, Central and South America, and the Caribbean, ParlAmericas promotes cooperative political dialogue, facilitates the exchange of good legislative practices, and produces tailored resources to support parliamentarians in their work. The International Secretariat of ParlAmericas is headquartered in Ottawa, Canada.

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