

Preliminary Agenda

**14th Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas:
Parliamentary Actions to Incentivize Responsible Political Discourse**
November 15-17, 2017 | Medellín, Colombia

#PA14Col



*All meetings will be held at the Sheraton Hotel unless specified otherwise.
Address: Carrera 43 C #6 Sur 100, Medellín*

Tuesday, November 14, 2017: Arrival

All day Arrival of the members of the Board of Directors and Skills Training participants;
transfer from the airport to the Sheraton Hotel

Wednesday, November 15, 2017: Arrival, Board of Directors Meeting and Skills Training

All day Arrival of participants and transfer from the airport to the Sheraton Hotel

09:00 – 12:30 **Concurrent meetings**

09:00 – 12:15 **44th Meeting of the Board of
Directors of ParlAmericas**
Room TBD

*Closed-door meeting for Board
Members of ParlAmericas*

12:15 – 12:30 **Official Photograph of the
Board of Directors**
Location TBD

**Skills Training: Effective Online Research
Practices for Parliamentarians**

Room TBD
Language: Spanish

The objective of this training will be to offer parliamentarians a primer on new and cost-effective methods of political analysis and research using open source tools. Participants will be oriented to pragmatic analytical frameworks and information tools that they (or their staff) can apply in supporting their daily work. The training sessions will be implemented in cooperation with the Political Analysis Unit of the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy of the OAS.

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch offered for Board Members and Skills Training participants**
Room TBD

14:00 – 17:30 **Continuation of the 44th
Meeting of the Board of
Directors of ParlAmericas**
Room TBD

**Skills Training: Effective Online Research
Practices for Parliamentarians**

Room TBD
Language: English

19:00 – 21:00 **Welcome cocktail**
Room TBD

Thursday, November 16, 2017: 14th Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas

08:00 – 08:30 **Registration of Participants**

08:30 – 09:30 **Inauguration**

Room TBD

- Senator Marcela Guerra (Mexico), President of ParlAmericas
- Representative Germán Blanco (Colombia), host of the 14th Plenary Assembly
- Local authorities TBD

09:30 – 10:00 **Transfer to the Metro of Medellin**

10:00 – 11:30 **Visit to the Metro of Medellin**

Address: Calle 44 #46-001 Bello, Antioquia

11:30 – 12:00 **Transfer to Sheraton Hotel**

12:00 – 12:45 **Keynote address**

Room TBD

12:45 – 13:00 **Official Photograph**

13:00 – 15:00 **Lunch**

Room TBD

15:00 – 15:45 **Introduction**

Room TBD

This session will address the following topics:

- *Approval of the agenda*
- *ParlAmericas annual report*
- *Presentation of the resolutions of the Board of Directors*
- *Announcement of the election procedures*

15:45 – 17:15 **Panel session: *Effective Institutional Practices to Strengthen Understanding of Journalists and Accuracy in Reporting about Parliamentary Work***

Room TBD

Journalists are an important intermediary in shaping how parliaments are understood, and what information about parliamentary work is distributed and consumed by citizens. This session will draw from the ParlAmericas OPN Road Map for Legislative Openness in highlighting effective institutional practices to improve accessibility of information about the full scope of work conducted by parliaments to journalists, thereby promoting conditions for more comprehensive and accurate reporting and public understanding about this work.

19:30 **Transfer to the Welcome Dinner**

20:00 – 22:00 **Welcome Dinner**

Location: TBD

22:00 **Transfer to Sheraton Hotel**

Friday, November 17, 2017: 14th Plenary Assembly

09:00 – 10:30 **Panel session: *International Standards and Perspectives on Accountability in Social Media***

Room TBD

Social networks are a medium for communication and distribution of information, whose accessibility could both strengthen pluralism by empowering marginalized voices or foment social divisions when used as avenues for populist rhetoric or the distribution of intentional misinformation. This raises issues about accountability and about whether there is a role for public policy in the context of international standards and constitutional obligations to guarantee freedom of expression and opinion. This session will draw on creative policy initiatives in the Americas and from beyond our region's borders that have endeavored to achieve this balance without restricting free expression.

10:30 – 12:30 **Roundtable work: *Transforming Incentives for Responsible Political Discourse in Parliaments***

Room TBD

Legislators also have responsibility for promoting discourse that inspires public confidence by resisting incentives to simplify complex issues and adopting rhetorical styles that counter intolerance, personal attacks and perpetuation of social cleavages – which have been raised as a barrier to political engagement of women and young people. This session will combine an expert panel and group discussions to identify strategies that incentivize responsible political discourse in parliaments.

12:30 – 13:15 **Official Closing of the Plenary Assembly**

Room TBD

This session will address the following topics:

- *Voting and election results*
- *Announcement of the host country for the 15th Plenary Assembly*
- *ParlAmericas 2018 calendar*
- *Reading of the declaration*
- *Closing remarks*
- *Evaluations*

13:15 **End of official program**