Agenda
16th Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas
Accelerating Progress on Agenda 2030: Good Practices for Parliamentary Action
October 30th – November 1st | Asuncion, Paraguay

#ParlAmericas2019
#ParlAmericasSDG

In order to reduce our ecological footprint, the gathering documents, resources and publications are available at www.parlamericas.org. For easy access through your mobile phone, we invite you to download a QR reader application.

Tuesday, October 29, 2019: Arrival

All day Arrival of participants / transfer from the airport to the official hotel

Wednesday, October 30, 2019: Arrival, Board of Directors meeting and workshop

All meeting will take place in the Archives and Library of the Congress of Paraguay, unless otherwise specified.

All day Arrival of participants / transfer from the airport to the official hotel

08:30 – 13:00 49th Meeting of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas
Closed-door meeting for ParlAmericas Board Members

13:00 – 13:15 Official Photograph of the Board of Directors

12:00 – 12:45 Registration of participants in the hotel lobby

12:45 Transportation of participants to the Chamber of Senators of Paraguay

13:15 – 14:20 Lunch offered by the Chamber of Senators of Paraguay
Location: Room Acosta Ñu, Chamber of Senators

14:20 – 18:00 Workshop: Monitoring Progress towards SDGs through Public Spending
(a separate agenda is available for this workshop)

18:00 Transportation of participants to official hotel

Dinner at leisure
Thursday, October 31, 2019: 16th Plenary Assembly

08:00  Participants registration in the hotel lobby

08:30 – 09:00  Transportation of participants to National Congress

09:00 – 09:40  Inauguration and Opening Remarks
  Location: National Congress of Paraguay
  
  • H.E. Blas Llano, President of the Chamber of Senators, National Congress of the Republic of Paraguay
  • H.E. Pedro Alliana, President of the Chamber of Deputies, National Congress of the Republic of Paraguay
  • Member of the National Assembly Ana Belén Marín, 2nd Vice-President of ParlAmericas and President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change
  • Senator Blanca Ovelar, 2nd Vice-President of ParlAmericas and President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
  • Senator Patrick Kemper, ParlAmericas Board Member and Host of the 16th Plenary Assembly

09:40 – 10:00  Keynote Address
  Location: National Congress of Paraguay
  
  • Achim Steiner, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

10:00 – 10:20  Official photograph and break
  Location: Entrance of the Congress of Paraguay

10:20 – 11:30  Opening Plenary Session
  Location: Archives and Library of the Congress of Paraguay
  
  • Motion to designate the President of the Plenary Assembly
  • Motion to approve the Plenary Assembly agenda
  • Annual report to the members of ParlAmericas
    a. Report from the ParlAmericas Board
    b. Report from the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality
    c. Report from the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change
    d. Report from the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
    e. Report from operations and finances
  • Announcement of the election procedures

11:30 – 13:15  Working session 1: Examining regional progress in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals from the parliamentary perspective
  Location: Archives and Library of the Congress of Paraguay

  This session will present a general overview of the current state and progress in implementing the SDGs in the hemisphere four years after the adoption of Agenda 2030. The participant’s discussion will revolve around the important role that parliaments play in implementing the SDGs and the opportunities to contribute to this process. Similarly, parliamentarians will be invited to explore the links between Goals
5, 13, and 16, and the rest of the SDGs, as well as the necessity for these to be addressed holistically by parliaments and other related actors.

Moderator: Member of the Legislative Assembly Cristina Cornejo (El Salvador), Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality for Central America and ParlAmericas Board Member

Panellists:
- Emanuele Sapienza, Policy Advisor, UNDP Regional Hub in Panama
- Member of the Legislative Assembly María Inés Solís (Costa Rica), ParlAmericas Board Member

13:15 – 14:45 Lunch offered by the Chamber of Senators of Paraguay
Location: Room Acosta Ñu, Chamber of Senators

14:45 – 17:00 Working session 2: From words to action – Case studies on how parliaments have adapted and are making progress to achieve the 2030 Agenda
Location: Archives and Library of the Congress of Paraguay

The parliaments of the Americas and Caribbean have undertaken significant efforts to strengthen their structures, strategies and mechanisms to contribute to the effective implementation of the SDGs. This session will provide a space for parliamentary delegations to share their experiences, advancements, achievements and the obstacles they have faced in response to the demands required to significantly contribute to the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs in their respective countries, as well as internal compliance to the objectives and goals of sustainable development.

Moderator: Juliet Cuthbert Flynn, Member of Parliament (Jamaica), ParlAmericas Board Member

Panellists:
- Senator Mario Martín Arévalo Fernández and Senator Blanca Ovelar (Paraguay)
- Member of the Legislative Assembly Nielsen Pérez (Costa Rica)
- Senator Antares Vásquez (México), ParlAmericas Board Member

17:00 Transportation of participants to official hotel
19:00 Transportation of participants to reception
19:30 – 21:00 Welcome Reception
Location: “Casa Bicentenario del Teatro Edda de los Ríos”
Friday, November 1, 2019: 16th Plenary Assembly

All meetings of the day will take pace in the Archives and Library of the Congress of Paraguay, unless otherwise specified.

08:30  Transportation of participants to the Archives and Library of the Congress of Paraguay

09:00 – 10:30  Working session 3: Gender equality: an essential condition for achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals

Parliaments have a key role in the adoption and the implementation of legislative frameworks and national strategies to promote gender equality, which is a prerequisite and an accelerator for the achievement of all SDGs. This session will assess the region’s standing on SDG 5 on gender equality and women’s empowerment, and its linkages to other sustainable development priorities. The panellists will share knowledge on different SDG 5 targets and highlight the data required for monitoring progress.

Facilitator: Senator Rosa Gálvez (Canada), Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change for North America

Panellists:
- Ayesha Constable, Advisor to FRIDA - The Young Feminist Fund and Caribbean Representative of the Sustainable Development Solutions Youth Network
- Dosia Calderón, Senior Officer for Latin America and the Caribbean Engagement of Girls Not Brides
- Melania Canales Poma, President of the National Organization of Andean and Amazonian Indigenous Women of Peru (ONAMIAP as abbreviated in Spanish)

10:30 – 10:45  Health Break

10:45 – 12:15  Working session 4: Encouraging partnerships and collaborative work for a sustainable future

Cooperation and significant participation of diverse public actors and civil society is essential to advance the achievement of the goals and the objectives of sustainable development. This session will present strategies and best practices for promoting the work of parliaments with the Executive, civil society, private sector, academia, and traditionally marginalized groups, and leveraging the effectiveness of the actions directed towards making progress on implementing the SDGs. Furthermore, the session will explore the funding mechanisms directed towards facilitating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and how updating how taxation systems and fiscal policies can be adapted to respond to the implementation needs and to contribute to effective development.

Moderator: Senator Ranard Henfield (The Bahamas), Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network for the Caribbean

Panelists:
- Jessica Domínguez, Sustainable Development Division of Allcot
• Dr. Camilo D. Benitez Aldana, Comptroller General of the Republic of Paraguay
• Mario Samaja, United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Paraguay

12:15 – 12:30 Evaluations

12:30 – 13:15 Closing Plenary Session
  • Reading of the declaration
  • Announcement of the host country for the 17th Plenary Assembly
  • Announcement of the next ParlAmericas meetings
  • Election results
  • Closing remarks

13:15 – 14:30 Lunch offered by the Chamber of Senators of Paraguay
Location: Room Acosta Ñu, Chamber of Senators

14:30 Return to hotel and end of official program

Please note that meeting sessions will be audio-recorded to become podcast episodes. Find ParlAmericas on iTunes and Google Play to listen to sessions and presentations from our past gatherings held across the hemisphere.

This meeting is being undertaken in part with financial support from the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada.