



#ParlAmericasCC

TITLE: Realizing our Green Future: The Road to Low Emissions

THEMES: Climate change, energy transition, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, transportation, land use

DATES: June 23 & July 5, 2022

LOCATION: Virtual

PARTICIPANTS: More than 160 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, specialists, and representatives of youth and civil society organizations from over 25 countries in the Americas and the Caribbean.

HOST: House of Assembly of Dominica and the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala



This activity is aligned with SDGs 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 15.



6th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Climate Change Network

[The 6th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change \(PNCC\)](#) explored the various legislative initiatives needed to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions within the highest emitting sectors of the region: energy, transportation, and agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU). The event started with an inter-parliamentary dialogue held on June 23, in which participants addressed socially inclusive initiatives needed to promote decarbonization in the transportation and energy sectors. On July 5, the gathering held a plenary session devoted to analyzing strategies needed to improve land use practices, reduce emissions associated with this sector, and foster sustainable agricultural practices that incorporate gender-sensitive approaches. To ensure the Gathering would reflect the importance of inclusive approaches to these themes and incorporate gender and intersectional perspectives, the methodology employed at each session was enriched by contributions from women's organizations, youth movements, and specialists in the field.



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Opening remarks:

- The Honourable **Joseph Isaac** (Dominica), President of the House of Assembly, ParlAmericas Board Member
- Member of Congress **Erick Martínez Hernández** (Guatemala), President of the Committee on Environment, Ecology, and Natural Resources
- Member of Congress **Julio César Longo Maldonado** (Guatemala), Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Congress
- Senator **Raúl Bolaños-Cacho Cué** (México), President of the committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change and Vice-President of the ParlAmericas PNCC

Specialists:

- **Andrea Palma**, GIZ technical advisor for the EuroClima+ Programme
- Dr. **Devon Gardner**, Head of Technical Programmes at the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
- The Honourable **Kerrie D. Symmonds** (Barbados), Minister of Energy and Business Development
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Óscar Izquierdo Sandí** (Costa Rica)
- **Denell Florius**, Youth entrepreneur and Cofounder and COO of EcoCarib
- **Laura Serna**, Escazú youth champion for Colombia
- **Dr. Lake Sagaris**, Researcher and Adjunct Associate Professor at the Institute for Sustainable Development of the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile
- Dr. **Mercedes Bustamante**, Professor at the Department of Ecology at the University of Brasilia and lead author of the IPCC's 6th Assessment Report
- Dr. **Osana Bonilla-Findji**, Science Officer for the CGIAR Program
- The Honourable **Matthew Samuda** (Jamaica), Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation and Co-Chair of the NDC Partnership

Dialogues moderated by:

- Senator **Verónica Camino Farjat** (Mexico), President of the ParlAmericas PNGE
- Senator The Honourable **Rosa Galvez** (Canada), President of the ParlAmericas PNCC
- Member of Congress **Fátima Mena Baide** (Honduras)

Closing remarks:

- Member of the National Assembly **Radjendrekoeamar Debie** (Suriname), Vice-President of the ParlAmericas PNCC



[AGENDA JUNE 23](#)

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ParlAmericas publication

In accordance with the mandate adopted by Heads of State and Government at the IX Summit of the Americas to promote parliamentary participation as an integral part of the Summit of the Americas process through ParlAmericas, and in response to the PNCC's aim of fostering the exchange of legislative good practices in relation to climate change, ParlAmericas presents the following document detailing how the 6th Gathering of the PNCC integrated the commitments established by the mandates into its themes and declaration: [Accelerating the Clean, Sustainable, Renewable and Just Energy Transition and Our Sustainable Green Future](#), adopted at the Summit.



[Addressing the commitments made in the environmental mandates adopted at the IX Summit of the Americas](#)



KEY FINDINGS

Inter-Parliamentary Dialogue (June 23)

- It is important that policies designed within the context of the energy transition contemplate actions needed to foster energy independence and empower the citizenry – especially local communities – so that they may autonomously manage energy production, distribution, and consumption more efficiently and in accordance with their ecological, social, economic, and cultural circumstances. Developing and adopting renewable energy sources should leverage processes to make the citizenry an active agent in the energy transition.
- Given that Latin America and the Caribbean have one of the world's highest growth rates in vehicle ownership, it is urgent that we move toward national policies and programmes promoting sustainable urban mobility and modes of active transport. These should draw on gender and intersectional analysis, as mobility and transport use are shaped by social norms and socioeconomic factors that will be experienced differently by women and men. For instance, women are more likely to rely on public transit in the first place due to wage inequalities, and their patterns of use are more likely to be based around care responsibilities. Women are well placed to provide expertise on the design and planning of safe, accessible, and sustainable transport systems.
- Sustainable urban mobility plans should not only stipulate strategies for the electrification of public transport and incentives for zero-emission light, medium, and heavy vehicles, but also contemplate complementary multimodal and interconnected transport strategies that incorporate bicycle use (both traditional and electric) and improve safety conditions for active mobility (pedestrian roads and paths). This systematic approach facilitates mobility for various social groups, regardless of their income, gender, age and skills, so that they can commute easily, affordably and safely.

Plenary Session (July 5)

- The AFOLU sector generates 22% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. However, the sector also has significant potential to reduce emissions on a large scale while benefiting biodiversity and ecosystems, facilitating climate change adaptation, and improving food security.
- The combination of intensified agricultural production processes and indiscriminate logging in forests and other agricultural lands has caused progressive environmental deterioration and is contributing significantly to the climate crisis. This makes it necessary to explore alternative production models like Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA), a comprehensive approach that sustainably boosts productivity, resilience, and adaptation to climate change. If implemented in combination with gender and intersectional perspectives, this model could significantly contribute to the improvement of land use and living conditions in rural communities.
- Despite being key players in world agri-food systems, female producers and entrepreneurs often face structural obstacles that restrict their autonomy and empowerment, impacting their ability to make strategic decisions in the AFOLU sector. This is why it is imperative that we incorporate cross-cutting gender perspectives in the development, review and implementation of policies, legislation, and programmes related, among other things, to women's access to agricultural technology, technical assistance, productive resources, and security in support of land ownership and management.



The Honourable **Joseph Isaac** (Dominica), President of the House of Assembly

"In the case of Small Island Developing States like Dominica, climate change is real: it is evident in the frequency and severity of hurricanes, flooding, droughts and other disasters as a result of natural hazards, so this topic is most relevant and therefore, positive outcomes from our discussion today will add meaningful value that all of us can use in the implementation of bold climate action."



Senator The Honourable **Rosa Galvez** (Canada), President of the PNCC

"The decision to dedicate this gathering to addressing the pressing need to accelerate the energy transition is not a coincidence: as noted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, despite significant progress on climate action the current levels of climate ambition will not be sufficient to limit the global average temperature to well below 2°C, which is one of the key objectives of the Paris Agreement."



Senator **Raúl Bolaños-Cacho Cué** (Mexico), President of the committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change and Vice-President for North America of the ParlAmericas PNCC

"It is essential that we ensure women equal access to agricultural technology, technical assistance, productive resources and security in land ownership and management. Ensuring that women can access land would generate countless benefits, such as substantial improvements to their living conditions, better nutrition within their communities and greater economic independence."



Member of Congress **Erick Martínez Hernández** (Guatemala), President of the Committee on Environment, Ecology, and Natural Resources and President of the Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change

"Despite generating only 0.06% of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide, Guatemala has been gravely impacted by the effects of climate change. That is why the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala has been prioritizing environmental efforts, including two working groups: one addressing decarbonization and another in charge of the Water Law."



Member of the National Assembly **Radjendrekoeemar Debie** (Suriname), Second Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas PNCC

"As one of the most climatically, ecologically, and biologically diverse regions in the world, it is important that we understand the varied impacts of climate change as well as our opportunities for emission reduction specific to our national context."



ELECTION RESULTS AND DECLARATION

Election results for the Executive Committee of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change, 2022-2024

Member of the Legislative Assembly **Oscar Izquierdo Sandí** (Costa Rica) was elected by acclamation to the position of Vice-President for Central America.

The new Executive Committee of the PNCC is as follows:

President

- Senator **Rosa Galvez** (Canada)

Vice-President - North America

- Senator **Raúl Bolaños-Cacho Cué** (Mexico)

Vice-President - Central America

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

First Vice-President - South America

- Member of the National Assembly **Luis Bruno Segovia Mejía** (Ecuador)

Second Vice-President - South America

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

Vice-President - The Caribbean

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

Declaration

During the Gathering, parliamentarians adopted a [declaration](#) that, among other policies, commits to:

- Promote the adoption of policies that favour a just transition to low-emission energy systems, through measures aimed at strengthening clean energy generation, promoting energy efficiency, bolstering efforts to gradually phasedown the unabated coal power and phase-out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, re-directing investment efforts to inclusive approaches that ensure the provision of clean energy services to vulnerable populations that have historically suffered from deficiencies in access to electricity grids, in accordance with the [Glasgow Climate Pact](#).
- Increase and facilitate the representation of women in decent, quality jobs in the renewable energy sector through measures that include, among others, the strengthening of parental leave models, the improvement of women's access to public transport systems, the promotion of the education of women and girls in STEM careers and in capacity building programs that include scholarships.
- Promote the incorporation of gender and intersectional approaches in the budgeting and financing of climate action and the energy transition in a way that responds to principles of equity and sustainability and considers the particularities related to energy use and demand, means of transport and technology, as well as consumption patterns.
- Implement measures to reduce the environmental footprint of our parliaments taking as a reference [ParlAmericas' Guide on Green Parliaments](#), which includes actions such as establishing an inventory of parliamentary emissions, reducing waste created by parliament, reducing energy and water consumption, and promoting more sustainable forms of transport, among other actions.

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED



This activity was made possible with the generous support of the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada.



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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