



#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:

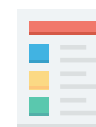
- **Valeria Lübbert** (Chile), Executive Secretary of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Public Integrity and Transparency

### 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 Alpízar** (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](#)



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## 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

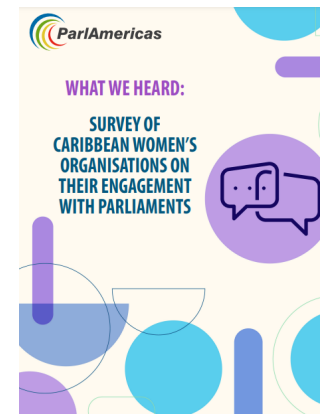
The purpose of this document is to guide parliamentarians sitting on legislative committees, and the staff and technical bodies that support them, in applying an open parliament approach in their committees' work. This tool was developed with reference to the following resources: the Parliament (Basic, Best, Possible) Legislative Committee Job (2017), the Parliament (Legislative Transparency Toolkit (2018), the Latin American Legislative Transparency Index, 2018 (2018) of the Latin American Network for Legislative Transparency and the Legislative for Democracy Platform (2017) of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPI) based on UN, OAS and ILO. In addition, the methodology included consulting with Latin American parliamentarians who are members of the transparency, anti-corruption and/or ethics committees in their legislatures and with the respective parliamentary staff.

The standards for committee work are classified by the four pillars of open parliament: transparency and access to public information, accountability, citizen participation, and ethics and justice. Additionally, considerations are proposed for incorporating a gender perspective as a cross-cutting theme.

This document is intended to act as a guide for committees seeking to conduct a self-assessment exercise to determine the state of progress of various possible actions and initiatives in order to approach their work from an open parliament perspective. To this end, it is suggested that the column entitled Level of progress be completed with the designation of the following categories: Advanced, in process, pending. The category list applicable may also be used where appropriate. In addition, at the end of the document there is a Notes/Comments section for those who wish to describe the level of progress in more detail or document ideas and/or challenges.

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Published in April 2023.

### 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.

## PARLIAMENTS REPRESENTED



Antigua and Barbuda



Colombia



Jamaica



Argentina



Costa Rica



Mexico



Belize



Dominican Republic



Panama



Bolivia



Ecuador



Saint Kitts and Nevis



Canada



Guatemala



Saint Lucia



Chile



Honduras



Suriname

## ORGANIZING PARTNERS



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## REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS



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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**



ParlAmericas is headquartered in **OTTAWA, CANADA**

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