



#ParlAmericasCC #LACCW2023

 **THEMES:** Renewable Energy, Decarbonization, Just Transition

 **DATES:** October 25, 2023

 **LOCATION:** Panama City, Panama

 **PARTICIPANTS:** More than 35 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, youth leaders, and representatives of civil society and multilateral organizations

 **ORGANIZING PARTNER:** Global Renewable Congress (GRC) and IRENA



This activity aligned with SDGs 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 13.



Upscaling Renewable Energy Deployment for the Good of All: The Role of Legislators

The dialogue examined the role of renewable energy in the context of the Global Stocktake, diverse national environments, and successful policy designs. Legislators and experts highlighted the intersectional implications and the socio-economic co-benefits of promoting urgent action on renewable energy uptake to meet the Paris Agreement goal of limiting average temperature increase to 1.5°C. Moreover, the dialogue noted how decision makers can better engage with civil society including women, youth, Indigenous populations, and civil society organizations to ensure the energy transition is inclusive and provides pathways of empowerment, following the guidelines of energy justice.



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Opening remarks by:

- The Honourable Member of the National Assembly **Fernando Arce** (Panama), ParlAmericas Board Member
- **Bärbel Höhn**, GRC Chair and acting Ambassador for Energy Reform in Africa

Keynote:

- **Juan Carlos Villalonga**, President of GLOBE Legislators and former Member of the Chamber of Deputies of Argentina

Panellists:

- **Paola Vega**, Member of GRC, former Member of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica and former Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change (PNCC)
- **Charlin Bodley**, Manager of Rocky Mountain Institute's Energy Transition Academy and Women in Renewable Energy (WIRE) Network
- The Honourable **Oscar Mira** (Belize), Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security and Defense
- **Joice Mendez**, United Nations Secretary General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change and IRENA Youth Leader

Moderators:

- Senator **Anthony Vieira** (Trinidad and Tobago), Vice-President for the Caribbean of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change
- **Enrique Maurtua Konstantinidis**, Senior consultant on climate policy, Global Gas and Oil Network

Closing remarks by:

- **Guadalupe Gonzalez**, Director of Electricity, Panama National Secretariat of Energy

KEY CONCLUSIONS FROM THE MEETING

- Renewables are demonstrating to be reliable sources of energy. Moreover, the capital price to install these systems is reducing, for example in the last few years solar energy has reduced 85% in cost, proving that society has the tools and technology to meet its transition goals.
- The renewable energy matrix needs to be diverse to avoid dependence on a single source of energy.
- There are opportunities for energy laws to be reformed or created to promote the use of [distributed energy resources](#), improve energy efficiency, ensure adequate infrastructure to help support the energy transition, reward renewable energy uptake through incentives, and legally bind the commitments made in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of the country.
- The energy transition should be designed in consultation with women, youth, Indigenous groups, rural populations, workers from sunset industries, among other stakeholders to ensure clean energy systems are available to all, financially accessible, considerate of generations to come, its benefits equitably distributed, and provides avenues for which interested individuals can participate in the sector.
- Effectively communicating the co-benefits of the energy transition, as well as promoting energy literacy and capacity building programs, is important in order to improve social acceptance for renewable projects and to help support the empowerment of community members, such as youth, women, and Indigenous populations.
- Within the energy sector, only 2% of available jobs are held by women, however these are mostly in administrative roles and not in a technical field. Therefore, to close the gender gap in this sector, a multi-stakeholder and evidence-based approach, which is founded on data that is gender disaggregated, must be taken.



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