



AGENDA

First Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Security *Human Security and Regional Stability: Parliamentary Responses to Challenges in the Americas and the Caribbean*

November 27-28, 2025

Panama City, Panama

Security is an essential public good and an indispensable condition for wellbeing, democracy, and sustainable development. The challenges our hemisphere faces – from violence and crime to the impacts of climate change and food insecurity – demonstrate the structural and interconnected nature of contemporary insecurity and call for broader and more comprehensive responses.

Adopting a human security focus, this Gathering will bring together parliamentarians from the Americas and the Caribbean to exchange perspectives on strengthening legislative action in the face of threats that transcend borders and sectors, and on promoting collaborative strategies that foster cooperation and the development of sustainable solutions. Its objective is to highlight parliaments' role in building a safer hemisphere that is better prepared for future challenges.

This Gathering will also serve as the launch of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Security as a strategic space for interparliamentary cooperation dedicated to the promotion of comprehensive responses to the region's most pressing security challenges. The Network will foster parliamentary exchange on good practices for democratic oversight and accountability in security matters, as well as enhance collaboration on issues of shared importance.

Thursday, November 27

07:30 Registration in the lobby of the official hotel

08:15 Transfer to the National Assembly of Panama

09:00 - 10:00 Inauguration

Location: Plenary of the National Assembly

- **Carlos Alvarado**, Secretary General, National Assembly of Panama
- Her Excellency **Patricia Atkinson**, Ambassador of Canada to Panama
- Senator **Iván Flores García** (Chile), President of ParlAmericas
- Honourable Member of the National Assembly **Eliécer Castrellón Barrios**, Vice-President of the National Assembly of Panama

10:00 - 10:20 Official photograph

10:30 **Transfer to the official hotel**

11:00 - 11:15 **Coffee break**

11:15 - 12:30 **High-level dialogue**

**An Overview of Security and Violence in the Americas and the Caribbean:
Structural Factors and New Trends**

Location: Mezzanine Room

In a context of social, economic, and technological transformations that are redefining security in the hemisphere, this session will analyze the key dynamics shaping insecurity and violence in the Americas and the Caribbean.

It will take a regional perspective to examine the structural factors that perpetuate insecurity, new trends that challenge traditional legal and regulatory frameworks, and opportunities for legislative action to strengthen democratic governance, the rule of law, and cooperation in the face of emerging threats.

Moderator:

- The Honourable **Ahmed Hussien** (Canada), Member of Parliament and Vice-Chair of the Canadian Section of ParlAmericas

Panellists:

- Dr. **Vinicius de Carvalho**, Reader in Brazilian and Latin American Studies, Department of War Studies, King's College London
- Dr. **Marcela Ríos Tobar**, Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch**

Location: Colonial Room III

14:00 – 15:30 **Session 1**

Transnational Organized Crime: Coordinated Legislative Responses

Location: Mezzanine Room

Transnational organized crime has become one of the main threats to security, democratic governance, and development in the Americas and the Caribbean. Its growing capacity for adaptation, diversification, and territorial expansion requires more coordinated responses. This reality has significant and differentiated impacts on the population, from engagement in criminal networks to effects and harms from its activities.

This session will analyze the current state of affairs in the region, including data on involvement and impacts from organized crime, and opportunities to strengthen legislative cooperation, harmonize relevant legal frameworks, and promote coordinated parliamentary action against increasingly complex and transnational criminal networks and the effects of relevant activities.

Objectives:

- Analyze the current landscape of transnational organized crime in the Americas and the Caribbean, identifying its main trends, manifestations, and factors contributing to its expansion.
- Raise awareness of the differentiated impacts on the population of transnational crime, including through engagement in its activities and as a consequence of criminal activities
- Explore mechanisms for parliamentary coordination that contribute to policy harmonization and the promotion of comprehensive regional responses, grounded in a human security approach, to respond to shared challenges.

Moderator: Honourable Member of the National Assembly **Grace Hernández**
(Panama)

Panellists:

- **Gabriel Juárez Lucas**, Head of the Regional Representative's Office, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- **Rufus Ferdinand**, Chief Legal and Compliance Officer, CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS)
- **Juan Carlos Pérez Murillo**, National Director of Public Defense of Costa Rica, Deputy Coordinator of the Inter-American Association of Public Defenders (AIDEF), and representative of the Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the EU on Drugs Policies (COPOLAD III)

15:30 - 15:45 **Coffee break**

15:45 - 17:30 **Session 2**

Citizen Security: Strengthening Legislative Action on a Hemispheric Challenge

Location: Mezzanine Room

Citizen insecurity is one of the hemisphere's most pressing challenges, with profound impacts on well-being, democracy, and development. Structural inequalities, lack of opportunities — particularly for youth — and organized crime fuel environments of violence that erode trust and hinder social and economic progress.

This session, featuring an expert presentation and thematic working groups, will invite parliamentarians to exchange strategies for strengthening institutional responses to different dimensions of insecurity in the hemisphere.

Objectives:

- Analyze the state of citizen insecurity in the hemisphere and its main structural causes.
- Explore alternative and innovative models that strengthen citizen security, prioritize prevention, and rebuild trust in institutions.
- Identify opportunities for regional cooperation to enable more effective joint responses to crime and violence.

Moderator: The Honourable **Manzoor Nadir** (Guyana), Speaker of the National Assembly and member of the ParlAmericas Board

Panellists:

- Dr. **Lea Giménez**, Advisor to the Executive President, Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF)
- **Akilah Dorris**, Planning and Coordination Specialist, UN Women Multi Country Office - Caribbean
- **Rolando Pelicot Ruiz**, social entrepreneur and activist for peace, education, and climate action

Thematic working groups:

- Eliminating violence against women and girls (tables 1 and 3)
 - *Moderators:* The Honourable **Dessima Williams** (Grenada), President of the Senate and member of the ParlAmericas Board, and Member of Congress **Marleni Matías Santiago** (Guatemala), Vice-President for Central America of the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality
 - *Specialists:* **Leah Tandeter** (UN Women) and **Rosa Lucia Peña** (UNDP)
- Strengthening the social fabric and opportunities for youth (tables 2 and 7)
 - *Moderators:* Senator **Hector Guerra** (Belize) and Senator **German Blanco** (Colombia), President of the Open Parliament Network
 - *Specialists:* **Marianela Vega** (UNDP) and **Eluz Martinez** (UNFPA)
- Modernizing public security institutions (tables 4 and 5)
 - *Moderators:* Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Stephan Schubert Rubio** (Chile) and Member of Parliament **Tako van Popta** (Canada)
 - *Specialists:* **Gregorio Montecer** (UNDP) and **Carlos Pérez** (UNODC)
- Digital transformation and technologies for citizen security (table 6)
 - *Moderator:* Member of the National Assembly **Maria Paula Villacreses** (Ecuador)
 - *Specialist:* **Rodolfo Otalora** (PNUD)

Friday, November 28

08:30

Gather in meeting room

09:00 – 10:00 **Keynote address**

Human Security: A Comprehensive Vision for Peace and Development

Location: Mezzanine Room

While crime and conflict are often the most common concepts envisioned when discussing security, there is a broad range of issues that threaten human wellbeing and that also interconnect with violence and instability.

This session will explore how adopting a comprehensive approach to security facilitates a broader understanding of the threats to human wellbeing, offering a people-centred lens for addressing the interconnected challenges of peace, development, and democratic resilience.

Moderator: Honourable Representative **Carolina Giraldo Botero** (Colombia)

Panellist:

- **Gloria Manzotti**, Rule of Law Specialist, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

10:00 – 11:15 **Session 3**

Food Security: Legislative Responses to End Hunger

Location: Mezzanine Room

Despite the hemisphere's vast agricultural potential, millions of people – especially women and rural communities – face hunger or malnutrition. Climate variability and extreme weather events, inequality, violence, economic and migratory pressures, as well as food loss and waste, threaten the right to food and undermine democratic and social stability.

In this context, parliaments play a key role in promoting equitable, stable, and sustainable access to food. This session will provide space to exchange experiences, highlight good practices, and discuss legislative strategies to strengthen the resilience of food systems in the region.

Objectives:

- Analyze the structural drivers of food insecurity and their repercussions for democratic and social stability in the hemisphere.
- Identify relevant legal frameworks, experiences, and good practices for strengthening the resilience of agrifood systems and ensuring reliable access to quality and culturally-appropriate food.
- Explore opportunities for inter-parliamentary and regional cooperation to promote innovative policies, including biotechnology, to reduce food loss and waste and strengthen social protection against hunger and malnutrition.

Moderator: Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Nelsa Shoraya Suárez Ariza** (Dominican Republic), Vice-President for the Caribbean of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and Sustainability and General Coordinator of the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger of Latin America and the Caribbean

Panellists:

- Member of Congress **Luis Roberto Kamiche** (Peru)
- The Honourable **Mark Brantley** (St. Kitts and Nevis), Member of Parliament and Premier of the Nevis Island Administration
- Dr. **María Patricia Sánchez Trejos**, coordinator of the “Agromatics, Food Security, and Slow Food” program, National Laboratory for Bioeconomy and the Environment (LAMBDA), National Centre for Advanced Technology (CeNAT)

11:15 – 11:30 **Coffee break**

11:30 – 13:00 **Session 4**

Environmental and Climate Security: Preventing Crisis and Displacement

Location: Mezzanine Room

Climate change poses serious threats to national, regional, and human security. The accelerated rise in global temperatures and change in weather patterns are leading to radical changes in ecosystems and increasingly frequent and more severe climate-induced events in the Americas and the Caribbean. These events are linked to food and water insecurity, poverty, and forced displacement, and also serve to exacerbate pre-existing conditions that can lead to conflict.

Parliamentary action is an essential component of responding to and mitigating the impacts of climate change, including the related security threats. This session will facilitate exchange on inclusive and sustainable approaches to take such action as a means to support the wellbeing of the planet and the security of the population.

Objectives:

- Examine the interconnections between climate change and human and national security in the Americas and the Caribbean.
- Identify effective and inclusive strategies for parliamentary efforts to mitigate and address climate change and the related security threats at the community, national, and regional levels.

Moderator: Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Vlado Mirosevic** (Chile), member of the ParlAmericas Board

Panellists:

- **Saskia Carusi**, Deputy Chief, UNDRR Office for the Americas & Caribbean
- **Chelsea Elli Nandlal**, attorney-at-law and advocate on climate and energy security
- **Sara Cognuck**, natural resources manager and climate activist

13:00 – 14:30 **Lunch**

14:30 – 16:00 **Session 5**

Social and Economic Security: Protecting Livelihoods and Reducing Vulnerabilities

Location: Mezzanine Room

Social and economic inequality and insecurity challenge the stability and wellbeing of communities, countries, and the region as a whole. Access to income, respect for human rights, and the ability to meet basic needs are paramount to human dignity, safety, and ability to recover from crises. A lack of social and economic security can also be a contributing or exacerbating factor for crime and violence.

This session will explore parliamentary actions that can contribute to fostering social and economic security for the people of the hemisphere – particularly given current demographic, technological, and other societal transformations.

Objectives:

- Raise awareness of the ways in which social and economic inequalities contribute to insecurity at varying levels
- Highlight good practices for parliamentary action to contribute to sustainable livelihoods and wellbeing for all members of the population as a means to foster security and support inclusive development

Moderator: Member of Parliament **Marsha Caddle** (Barbados)

Panellists:

- **Simone Cecchini**, Chief, Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- **Andrea Villalobos**, Immunization Advisor, PAHO Country Office in Panama

16:00 - 17:00 **Closing**

Location: Mezzanine Room

- Reading of the official declaration of the Parliamentary Gathering on Security
- Elections for the [Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Network on Security](#)
- Vote of thanks
 - **Alisha Todd**, Director General, ParlAmericas

- Closing remarks
 - Honourable Member of the National Assembly **Roberto Zúñiga** (Panama)
 - Senator **Iván Flores García** (Chile), President of ParlAmericas

17:00

Close of the official program



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