

AGENDA

21st ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly & 9th Gathering of Open Parliament Network

Legislating for the Future: Harnessing Anticipatory Governance in Parliamentary Action

May 27 - 29, 2025
Montevideo, Uruguay

The social and economic consequences of a rapidly changing world have put existing governance models increasingly under pressure. Citizen trust in the ability of public institutions to deliver results that improve their lives is eroding. Increased polarization is straining democracies and undermining peace and stability in the hemisphere at a time when overlapping crises – including climate change, a changing economic and political global order, shifting demographics, and the transformative impact of Artificial Intelligence and the expanding digital revolution – amplify the imperative for urgent, coordinated action.

To rebuild trust and collaboration between institutions and society, parliaments have a decisive role to play as spaces for broad-based democratic dialogue and consensus-building to guide the construction of a new social contract, where citizens are involved in shaping a common vision for a prosperous and sustainable future that benefits all people. This gathering will explore anticipatory governance and open parliament as complementary frameworks to strengthen the capacity of parliaments to effectively address emerging challenges and opportunities, ensuring inclusive and responsive policymaking that reflects the diverse needs and aspirations of their populations.

Times shown correspond to the local time in Montevideo.

Monday, May 26

Arrival of parliamentary delegations

Tuesday, May 27

08:45 Transfer of participants to the Parliament of Uruguay

09:30 - 10:15 **Inauguration and welcoming remarks**

- Member of the Chamber of Representatives **Carlos Varela Nestier** (Uruguay), Vice-President of the Foreign Affairs Committee
- Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President of ParlAmericas (video)
- Senator **Javier Macaya** (Chile), Second Vice-President of ParlAmericas and President of the Open Parliament Network
- Eng. **Carolina Cosse** (Uruguay), Vice-President of the Republic, President of the Chamber of Senators, and President of the General Assembly

10:15 - 10:30 **Official photograph**

10:30 - 11:30 **Dialogue Session**
Parliaments of the Future: Anticipation, Innovation and Action

This dialogue session will explore anticipatory governance – a model for decision making that utilizes scientific evidence, foresight modelling, emerging technologies, and collective intelligence generated through inclusive participatory processes – as a framework that parliaments can use to better address the rapid and complex changes faced by modern societies.

Moderator:

- Honourable Representative **Catherine Juvinao** (Colombia), Vice-President for South America of ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

Panelists:

- **Alfonso Fernández**, Resident Representative of the UNDP in Uruguay
- **Felipe Bosch**, Researcher and Network Weaver, School of International Futures (SOIF)

Complementary Rapporteur:

- Dr. **Claire Nelson**, Founder and Chief Ideation Leader, The Futures Forum (video)

11:30 - 13:00 **Session 1: Science and Future Perspectives in Parliament**

This inter-parliamentary dialogue session will explore examples of future-oriented legislative work currently underway in the hemisphere.

Objectives:

- Identify good practices that promote the integration of scientific and foresight perspectives in legislative processes, including the creation of parliamentary committees dedicated to the future, science, and technology.
- Discuss the benefits and challenges of adopting an anticipatory governance approach in parliamentary work.
- Explore the synergies between the open parliament and anticipatory governance frameworks, and the opportunity to leverage future-oriented discussions in parliaments as inclusive, collaborative processes.

Moderator:

- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Vlado Mirosevic** (Chile), Member of the ParlAmericas Board

Panelists:

- Senator **Silvia Nane** (Uruguay), President of the Futures Committee
- Senator **Réjean Aucoin** (Canada)
- Member of Parliament **Sjamira D.M. Roseburg** (Sint Maarten)

13:00 - 14:30 **Lunch**

14:30 - 16:30 **Session 2: Working Session - Using Strategic Foresight in Parliaments**

This working session will introduce the key concepts and tools of foresight, and will provide participants the opportunity to apply these methods in a working group activity.

Objectives:

- Introduce the key concepts and tools of foresight, and identify strategies to effectively leverage collective intelligence, through inclusive participatory processes, to inform foresight work.
- In working groups, apply the concepts of foresight and collective intelligence, to analyze the impacts of a future trend and determine anticipatory parliamentary actions, ensuring transparency, accountability, citizen participation and ethics.

Moderator:

- Member of the Chamber of Representatives **Rodrigo Goñi** (Uruguay)

Panelists:

- **Javier Medina**, Deputy Executive Secretary a.i., Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- **Lydia Garrido**, Senior Advisor, Futures Committee of the Parliament of Uruguay, and Director of the UNESCO Chair in Sociocultural Anticipation and Resilience

17:00 Transfer of participants to the official hotel

Wednesday, May 28

08:00 Transfer of participants to the Parliament of Uruguay

09:00 - 10:45 **Session 3: The AI and Big Tech Era: Shaping The Future Tech-Empowered World**

This panel session will explore aspects of the current era of the digital revolution, with accelerated technological innovation that presents unprecedented opportunities for progress, but also introduces complex risks that demand ethical and rights-based governance frameworks.

Objectives:

- Prompt reflection among parliamentarians about the economic, societal and geopolitical implications of the current era of digital transformation, characterized by the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence and the concentration of power in tech industries.
- Explore the role of parliament in shaping a future that promotes technological innovation, with safe technologies and cyberspace for all people, with special attention to children, adolescents and women.

Moderator:

- The Honourable **Leo Cato**, Speaker of the House of Representatives (Grenada), and Vice-President for the Caribbean of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

Panelists:

- **Matías Jackson**, Researcher, Data and Society Lab
- **Natalia Zuazo**, Senior Consultant, Communication and Information, UNESCO
- **María Julia Garcete Yegros**, Director General, Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN-OAS)
- **Sherna Benjamin**, Vice-President, Committee of Experts, Follow-up Mechanism of the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI)

10:45 - 11:00 **Coffee break**

11:00 - 12:30 **Session 4: Preparing for the Extreme Impacts of Climate Change and its Consequences**

The climate crisis is no longer approaching: it is here, accelerating systemic breakdowns and compounding global risks, while intersecting with geopolitical instability and social tensions. This session will explore how parliaments can prepare for its most extreme impacts by embracing foresight as a powerful lens to imagine alternative futures, uncover overlooked risks, and inform urgent legislative action.

Objectives:

- Introduce strategic foresight as a tool for exploring possible climate futures, uncovering emerging risks and opportunities, and guiding long-term, inclusive and intersectional policymaking.
- Explore how anticipatory governance can inform parliamentary responses to climate-related disruptions, including addressing the wider geopolitical and economic shifts driven by climate change and fostering inclusive collaboration and effective communication with communities and vulnerable populations to prepare for and adapt to the anticipated changes.

Moderator:

- The Honourable **Osbert Frederick** (Antigua and Barbuda), Speaker of the House of Representatives

Panelists:

- Dr. **Carolina Santacruz-Pérez**, Senior Science Officer, Focal Point for Latin America and the Caribbean, International Science Council (ISC)
- **Federico Burone**, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- **Lorena Lamas**, Regional Advisor: Development Cooperation, Environment and Climate Change, UN Women
- **Samantha Khan**, Specialist in Social Innovation, Impact, and Cultural Diplomacy

12:30 - 13:30 **Open Parliament Network: Open Parliament Advances in the Region**

Parliamentary delegations are invited to present progress on open parliament commitments and actions, to be included in the ParlAmericas [Open Parliament Commitment Tool](#). Legislators are encouraged to prepare and to submit the relevant information in advance by completing this [form](#).

Moderator:

- Senator **Germán Blanco** (Colombia), member of the ParlAmericas Board

Presentations:

- Senator **Javier Macaya** (Chile), Second Vice-President of ParlAmericas and President of the Open Parliament Network
- Senator **Carmen Gloria Aravena** (Chile), Vice-President of the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality
- Honourable Representative **Catherine Juvinao** (Colombia), Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Luz Mary Alpízar** (Costa Rica), First Vice-President for Central America of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
- Member of the Legislative Assembly **Suecy Callejas** (El Salvador), First Vice-President of the Legislative Assembly
- **Miguel Landeros** (Chile), General Secretary, Chamber of Deputies

13:30 - 15:00 **Lunch**

15:00 - 17:30 **Session 5: Working Session - Demographic Transition and Its Impacts**

This working session will include an expert panel to provide an overview of the anticipated gender-differentiated impacts of the demographic transition, including aging and fertility trends, that will reshape societies in the coming decades. This will be followed by round-table discussion groups where participants will use a foresight tool to explore the social, economic, and institutional implications of these changes and consider future-oriented parliamentary actions.

Objectives:

- Prompt reflection among parliamentarians about the anticipated economic and social impacts of current and expected demographic trends in the Americas and the Caribbean, and examine the role of parliaments in proactively preparing for these scenarios.
- Apply foresight tools in a collaborative exercise to analyze the scenarios and implications of demographic transition from an inclusive and intergenerational perspective.

Moderator:

- The Honourable **Fergino Brownbill** (Curaçao), president of the Parliament

Panelists:

- **Simone Cecchini**, Director, Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Center (CELADE) - Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- **Valeria Colunga**, Expert in Intergenerational Justice

Specialists for working tables:

- *Labor market (working table in English and Spanish):*
 - *Moderator (working table in English):* The Honourable **Claudius J. Francis** (St. Lucia), Speaker of the House of Assembly and member of the ParlAmericas Board
 - *Moderator (working table in Spanish):* Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Marcela Campagnoli** (Argentina)
 - *Specialist (working table in English):* **Megan Ballesty**, Co-Leader, Sur Futuro
 - *Specialist (working table in Spanish):* **Ramino Albrieu**, Leader and Senior Researcher, Sur Futuro
- *Systems of care (working table in Spanish):*
 - *Moderator:* Honourable Representative **Catherine Juvinao** (Colombia), Vice-President for South America of ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
 - *Specialist:* **Hugo Bai**, Coordinator of Social Dialogue, Planning and Budgeting Office of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay
- *Pension systems (working table in Spanish):*
 - *Moderator:* Member of the Legislative Assembly **Suecy Callejas** (El Salvador), First Vice-President of the Legislative Assembly
 - *Specialist:* **Fernando Filgueira**, Representative, UNFPA Uruguay
- *Internal and international migration (I):*
 - *Moderator:* Member of the Legislative Assembly **Carolina Delgado** (Costa Rica), member of the ParlAmericas Board
 - *Specialist:* **Simone Cecchini**, Director, Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Center (CELADE) - Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

17:30 Transfer of participants to the official hotel

Thursday, May 29

08:00 Transfer of participants to the Parliament of Uruguay

09:00 - 11:00 **Session 6: The Future of Democracy: Rebuilding the Social Contract**

This session will examine the renewal of the social contract as a democratic imperative in a context of political polarization and declining trust in institutions. It will explore how parliaments can serve as spaces for pluralistic deliberative dialogue and civic engagement, helping bridge the divide between citizens and the state.

Objectives:

- Reflect on the role of parliaments in rebuilding the social contract by fostering inclusive dialogue, encouraging civic participation, and rebuilding trust between citizens and institutions.
- Consider how principles of open parliament and anticipatory governance can guide more transparent, participatory, and future-oriented parliamentary practices in times of democratic uncertainty.

Moderator:

- **Dolores Martínez** (Argentina), Parliamentary Secretary, Senate of the Nation

Panelists:

- **María Baron**, Global Executive Director, Directorio Legislativo, the organization that coordinates the Latin American Network for Legislative Transparency (RLTL)
- **Paloma Morazo**, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Uruguay

11:00 - 11:10 **Coffee Break**

11:15 - 12:15 **Plenary Assembly Session**

Chair of the Plenary Assembly: Senator **Germán Blanco** (Colombia), member of the ParlAmericas Board

- Presentation of the ParlAmericas Presidency Report
 - Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President of ParlAmericas (video)
- Presentation of the annual reports of ParlAmericas Parliamentary Networks
 - Senator **Rosa Galvez** (Canada), President of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and Sustainability (video)
 - Senator **Carmen Gloria Aravena** (Chile), Vice-President of the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality
 - Member of the Legislative Assembly **Luzmary Alpízar** (Costa Rica), First Vice-President for Central America of the Open Parliament Network
- Report from the International Secretariat
 - **Alisha Todd**, Director General

- Elections for the ParlAmericas Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network

Elections to the ParlAmericas Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network will take place during this session. For more information, we invite you to review our election advisories:

- [ParlAmericas Board of Directors](#)
- [Executive Committee of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network](#)

12:15 - 12:45 **Reading of the Declaration of the 21st Plenary Assembly and the 9th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network**

12:45 - 13:30 **Closing Ceremony**

- Her Excellency **Carmen Sorger**, Ambassador of Canada to Uruguay
- Representative of ParlAmericas
- **Sebastián Valdomir** (Uruguay), President of the Chamber of Representatives

13:30 **Lunch**

Transfer of participants to the official hotel



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Select sessions of this event will be recorded and turned into podcast episodes.



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