

ParlAmericas (formerly FIPA)

CARIBBEAN WORKSHOP ON STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT

St John's – Antigua and Barbuda – January 30th-31st, 2012

DRAFT AGENDA

Monday, January 30th

8:30-9:00	Opening Chaired by: Geoff Dubrow, Parliamentary Oversight specialist Welcome from host country Objectives of workshop
9:00-10:30	<u>Session 1</u> : The Caribbean—Role of Parliament in the budget process Overview of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The budget process in parliamentary systems (and comparison to congressional system) • Ex-ante and ex-post roles of legislatures in the budget process • Leading practices that increase the effectiveness of Public Accounts Committee (PAC)
10:30-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:30	<u>Session 2</u> : PACs in the Caribbean—Leading practices Panel: Members of PACs Overview of ex-post parliamentary oversight role, including role of parliamentary committees (primarily the PAC) with support from the Auditor General (AG).
12:30-1:45	Lunch
1:45-3:00	<u>Session 3</u> : Oversight in smaller legislatures—Potential reforms Panel: Dr. Hilda Rosemarie Husbands-Mathurin , Speaker of the House of Assembly, St. Lucia Other MP, TBC Discussion of obstacles facing smaller legislatures in carrying out their ex-post oversight role, including the part-time nature of parliamentarians, lack of committee structure and need for parliamentary staff capacity. Discussion of proposed solutions and possible development of recommendations to strengthen oversight structure.
3:00-3:15	Coffee break
3:15-4:00	Break-out groups
4:00-5:00	Reporting back to plenary Closing of Day 1

Tuesday, January 31st

9:00-9:15	Overview of Day 1 and road map of day ahead
9:15-10:45	<p><u>Session 4: Collaboration with the Auditor General</u> Panel: Auditor Generals, MPs and experts Overview of how the AG can effectively support the oversight role of the PAC.</p>
10:45-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:30	<p><u>Session 5: Strengthening the role of the Auditor General</u> Panel: Auditor Generals, MPs and experts An overview of the key challenges faced by Auditor Generals in the Caribbean and some potential strategies for improving AG independence, strengthening the ability to publicly report on key findings and the role of the PAC in supporting the AG.</p>
12:30-12:35	Overview of Strategy session to take place after lunch
12:35-1:50	Lunch
1:50-4:30	<p><u>Strategy session: Next steps</u> A facilitated discussion on lessons learned and next steps to strengthen oversight in the Caribbean region. Breakout groups: - Small PACs - Larger PACs—improving best practices - AG-PAC collaboration - Independence of Auditor General Reports to plenary and facilitated discussion.</p>
4:30-5:00	Closing