

## AGENDA

### Towards effective environmental governance: Access to information, participation, and justice

 Virtual | Tuesday, July 11, 2023

10 AM – 12 PM (New York/Ottawa, GMT -4)

A. 08:00 (UTC – 06:00)	B. 09:00 (UTC – 05:00)	C. 10:00 (UTC – 04:00)		D. 11:00 (UTC – 03:00)
Belize, Belize City	Jamaica	Antigua and Barbuda The Bahamas Barbados Dominica Grenada	Guyana New York, USA Ottawa, Canada Saint Kitts and Nevis Saint Lucia Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Trinidad and Tobago	Suriname

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This multi-stakeholder discussion, jointly hosted by ParlAmericas and Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), will bring together parliamentarians and civil society representatives from the Americas and the Caribbean to identify challenges and opportunities linked to effective and inclusive environmental governance, building upon the momentum created by this year’s 2nd Conference of the Parties (COP2) to the [Escazú Agreement](#). The Escazú Agreement is a regional agreement for Latin America and the Caribbean that recognizes, protects, and promotes the rights of access to information, participation, and justice for all human rights defenders in environmental matters. Considering the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration in achieving these goals, this meeting will enable exchanges on the importance of parliaments' role in this context including opportunities to engage with other stakeholders and empower the public to exercise their rights.

*Interpretation will be provided in English and Spanish.*

Today's session will explore:

- The role of parliaments in promoting access to information, not only as a crucial right but also as a means to improve public engagement and empower participation in environmental decision-making, with a special emphasis on women and communities particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change; and
- The role of parliaments in removing barriers of access to justice in environmental matters and strengthening protection mechanisms to ensure all members of society have the ability to seek justice without discrimination.

## Opening remarks

<b>A. 08:00</b> (UTC – 06:00)	<b>B. 09:00</b> (UTC – 05:00)	<b>C. 10:00</b> (UTC – 04:00)	<b>D. 11:00</b> (UTC – 03:00)
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- Hon. **Valerie Woods**, MP (Belize), Speaker of the House of Representatives, PGA Board Member, and Climate Action Campaign Convenor
- Sen. Hon. **Rosa Galvez** (Canada), President of ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change

## The Escazú Agreement: Where are we now?

<b>A. 08:15</b> (UTC – 06:00)	<b>B. 09:15</b> (UTC – 05:00)	<b>C. 10:15</b> (UTC – 04:00)	<b>D. 11:15</b> (UTC – 03:00)
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- **David Barrio Lamarche**, Environmental Affairs Officer, Escazú Agreement Secretariat, ECLAC

## Multi-stakeholder perspectives for inclusive environmental governance

<b>A. 08:35</b> (UTC – 06:00)	<b>B. 09:35</b> (UTC – 05:00)	<b>C. 10:35</b> (UTC – 04:00)	<b>D. 11:35</b> (UTC – 03:00)
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This discussion will invite parliamentarians and CSO representatives to explore strategies for promoting access to information and participation in environmental decision-making in efforts to generate more inclusive processes. The discussion will also facilitate the exchange of parliamentary good practices and lessons learned on fostering access to justice, information, and participation on environmental matters and the protection of human rights defenders in environmental matters.

Moderator: Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Margarita Stolbizer** (Argentina), PGA Board Member

Panellists:

- Sen. **Sophia Frazer-Binns** (Jamaica), Shadow Minister of Land, Environment and Climate Change and PGA Member
- Mr. **Tyrell Gittens**, young geographer, environmentalist, conservationist and journalist from Trinidad and Tobago
- Sen. **Emilio Álvarez Icaza** (Mexico) Senator, PGA Board Member

## Questions and dialogue

<b>A. 09:25</b> (UTC – 06:00)	<b>B. 10:25</b> (UTC – 05:00)	<b>C. 11:25</b> (UTC – 04:00)	<b>D. 12:25</b> (UTC – 03:00)
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Intervention by:

- Sen. **Janelle Chanona** (Belize), PGA Member

## Evaluations

<b>A. 09:50</b> (UTC – 06:00)	<b>B. 10:50</b> (UTC – 05:00)	<b>C. 11:50</b> (UTC – 04:00)	<b>D. 12:50</b> (UTC – 03:00)
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## Closing remarks

<b>A. 09:55</b> (UTC – 06:00)	<b>B. 10:55</b> (UTC – 05:00)	<b>C. 11:55</b> (UTC – 04:00)	<b>D. 12:55</b> (UTC – 03:00)
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- **Mónica Adame**, Secretary-General of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA)
- **Alisha Todd**, Director General of ParlAmericas

## About the organizers

ParlAmericas is the institution that promotes parliamentary diplomacy in the inter-American system. Composed of the 35 national legislatures in North, Central and South America, and the Caribbean, ParlAmericas promotes cooperative political dialogue, facilitates the exchange of legislative practices, and produces tailored resources to support parliamentarians in their work. This includes strengthening the alignment of parliamentary actions in the Americas and the Caribbean with existing international and regional frameworks such as the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Escazú Agreement, to name a few. In approaching the Escazú Agreement as a human rights based tool for parliamentary climate action, the work of the ParlAmericas Climate Change and Sustainability programme intersects with two other thematic pillars for the organization: Open Parliament and Gender Equality.

Parliamentarians for Global Action is the largest non-governmental, multi-party global network of individual legislators with approximately 1,200 members in 148 countries around the world which informs and mobilizes parliamentarians to advocate for human rights and the rule of law, democracy, human security, peace, inclusion, gender equality and justice, including climate justice. PGA's Campaign for a Human-Rights Based Approach to Climate Action seeks to raise awareness and assist in the effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement for climate governance and to ensure the three rights of access to: information, participation, and justice in environmental matters.



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*Select sessions of this event will be recorded and turned into podcast episodes that can be accessed on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify and SimpleCast.*



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



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