AGENDA

DIGITAL READINESS IN PARLIAMENTS

Meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament

📹 Virtual | March 14, 2025

[Register here]

This meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament will provide a platform for the exchange of good practices and experiences among parliamentary staff and experts from across the hemisphere on strengthening the digital readiness of parliaments. Participants will discuss practical strategies to seize opportunities and mitigate threats in a context of fast-paced technological developments so that parliaments continue to promote openness, transparency, inclusiveness, ethics and probity.

Interpretation will be provided in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

A. 08:30 – 11:00 (UTC – 06:00)	B. 09:30 – 12:00 (UTC – 05:00)	C. 10:30 – 13:00 (UTC – 04:00)		D. 11:30 – 14:00 (UTC – 03:00)
Belize	Colombia	Antigua & Barbuda	Paraguay	Argentina
Costa Rica	Ecuador	Barbados	Saint Kitts and	Brasilia, Brasil
El Salvador	Jamaica	Bolivia	Nevis	Santiago, Chile
Guatemala	Panama	Ottawa, Canada	St. Lucia	Suriname
Honduras	Peru	Dominica	Saint Vincent and	Uruguay
Mexico City, Mexico		Dominican Republic	the Grenadines	
Nicaragua		Grenada	The Bahamas	
		Guyana	Trinidad & Tobago	
		Havana, Cuba	Washington D.C., United States	

Welcome and introduction

A. 08:30 (UTC – 06:00)	B. 09:30 (UTC – 05:00)	C. 10:30 (UTC – 04:00)	D. 11:30 (UTC – 03:00)

- **Luis Rojas** (Chile), Deputy Secretary General, Chamber of Deputies, and General Coordinator of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament

Panel session: Practical considerations for a responsible digital transformation and AI implementation

A. 08:40 (UTC – 06:00)	B. 09:40 (UTC – 05:00)	C. 10:40 (UTC – 04:00)	D. 11:40 (UTC – 03:00)

In this session, experts will discuss practical strategies for ensuring that the digital transformation process and the growing use of AI in parliaments are not only secure, but also aligned with high ethical standards. Drawing on experiences with cybersecurity and the analysis of the gendered effects of AI algorithms, panellists will share insights into the risks and opportunities associated with the use of AI to undertake parliamentary work, highlighting actionable measures that can be adopted to promote fairness, transparency, and security in its deployment.

Moderator:

- **Juan Carlos Chavarría Herrera** (Costa Rica), Director of the Citizen Participation Department, Legislative Assembly and Regional Coordinator for Central America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament

Panellists:

- **Dale Joseph**, Chief Cyber Analyst at the Regional Intelligence Fusion Centre (RIFC), CARICOM IMPACS
- **Candy Saunders-Alfred**, Cyber Analyst, RFIC, CARICOM IMPACS
- **Zinnya del Villar**, Director of Technology, Data, and Innovation at Data-Pop Alliance

Dialogue: The building blocks of digital-ready parliaments

A. 09:25 (UTC – 06:00)	B. 10:25 (UTC – 05:00)	C. 11:25 (UTC – 04:00)	D. 12:25 (UTC – 03:00)

This dialogue will feature exchanges on how parliaments in the hemisphere can strengthen essential capacities and safeguards to thrive in the digital era. Parliamentary staff from the region will address concrete cases involving data governance, accessibility, tools to support the digitalization of Hansards, digital infrastructure and emerging communication practices in the digital age.

Moderator:

- **Christopher Henry** (Canada), Director General of Digital Enablement and Innovation at the House of Commons and Regional Coordinator for North America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament

Commentator:
- **Ana Cláudia Sousa Oliveira** (Brazil), Legislative Analyst at the Women's Secretariat, Chamber of Deputies and Research Coordinator at the National Observatory for Women in Politics

Presenters:
- Presentation on data governance
    - **Mónica Vanegas** (Colombia), Chief of the Citizen Service Office, Senate; and **Daniela Méndez**, Project professional, Extituto (Colombian civil society organization member of the Alliance for an Open Congress)
    - **Florian de Abreu Coutinho Madruga** (Brazil), Legislative Analyst, Transparency Secretariat, Federal Senate
- Presentation on accessibility
    - Member of the Legislative Assembly **Luz Mary Alpízar** (Costa Rica), Second Vice-president of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
    - **Fadhel Ben Slama** (Canada), Senior Digital Product Strategist, House of Commons
- Presentation on tools to support the digitalization of Hansards
    - **Federico Fernández** (Argentina), Director of Institutional Strengthening, Senate
    - **Anslem John** (Trinidad and Tobago), Senior Information Technology (IT) Infrastructure Specialist, House of Representatives
- Presentation on digital infrastructure
    - **Ivana Betterson** (Suriname), ICT Support Staff, National Assembly
- Presentation on emerging communication practices in the digital age
    - Mg. **Laksman Sumano** (Mexico), Director of Information and News of the Congress Channel
    - **Alexis Hegar** (Belize), Communication, Education and Outreach Officer, National Assembly

Closing remarks

A. 10:55 (UTC – 06:00)	B. 11:55 (UTC – 05:00)	C. 12:55 (UTC – 04:00)	D. 13:55 (UTC – 03:00)

- **Juan Carlos Chavarría Herrera** (Costa Rica), Director of the Citizen Participation Department, Legislative Assembly and Regional Coordinator for Central America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament

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