



ParlAmericas Parliamentary Delegation to Washington

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Multidimensional Security and Regional Cooperation: Parliamentary Perspectives *High-level meetings and dialogue sessions in preparation for the X Summit of the Americas*

March 25-27, 2025
Washington, D.C.

With the objective of serving as a consultative platform on the issues to be addressed at the X Summit of the Americas (Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, December 2025), this hemispheric interparliamentary gathering will examine threats to regional security, regional cooperation strategies and parliament's role in these efforts given their representative work and the ways in which these issues impact the population's quality of life. In addition, the meeting will analyze the critical connection between regional security and the quality of democracy, human rights protections and progress towards sustainable development.

Through a series of high-level meetings with officials from the **Organization of American States (OAS)**, representatives of the U.S. Congress and dialogue sessions with partners and experts from international organizations, discussions will assess key security issues from a multidimensional approach and the collaboration mechanisms within the inter-American system for tackling challenges related to security, democracy, human rights and development. Particular emphasis will be placed on the role of parliaments in strengthening these mechanisms and implementing policies that promote peace and stability across the hemisphere.

General objectives:

- Facilitate spaces for high-level political dialogue with the OAS and other stakeholders on multidimensional security and aligned agendas related to strengthening peace, prosperity and stability in the region
- Continue to strengthen institutional ties between the OAS and ParlAmericas
- Foster connections between parliamentarians and their peers in the U.S. Congress
- Inform parliamentarians about the preparations for the X Summit of the Americas, facilitating their engagement in preparatory processes in order to integrate their strategic perspectives on the proposed political objectives for the Summit
- Strengthen the relationship between ParlAmericas and strategic partners within the inter-American system that are part of the Joint Summit Working Group and share the mission of supporting Member States in the effective and efficient implementation of the mandates agreed upon during the Summits of the Americas

Monday, March 24

Throughout the day **Arrival of delegates**

Tuesday, March 25

- 08:30 **Meet in the hotel lobby**
Hotel Hampton Inn Washington, D.C./White House
- 09:00 - 09:30 **Transfer to and arrival at the Organization of American States**
Rubén Darío Room – OAS General Services Building, 8th floor (1889 F Street NW, 20006)
- 09:30 - 10:30 **Welcoming remarks and introduction of delegation members**
- Senator **Blanca Ovelar** (Paraguay), President of ParlAmericas
- 10:30 - 10:45 **Introductory briefing and overview of the delegation's general objectives**
- **Alisha Todd**, Director General of ParlAmericas
- 10:45 - 11:00 **Coffee break**
- 11:00 - 13:00 **Towards the X Summit of the Americas**
This session will provide the delegation with an overview of the Summit of the Americas' process, and the priorities and objectives established by the Dominican Republic as the host country of the X Summit of the Americas. Mechanisms to facilitate parliamentary participation in the Summit process through ParlAmericas will also be explored.

Furthermore, delegates will be joined by representatives of organizations within the Joint Summit Working Group to explore strategies to support OAS Member States in implementing national measures and policies aligned with commitments made at the Summits of the Americas.
- Panellists:**
- **María Celina Conte**, Director, Summits of the Americas Secretariat
 - **Andrés Valenciano**, Acting Director, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Office in Washington
 - Dr. **Jarbas Barbosa**, Director, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)
 - **Susan Fridy**, Director of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Washington Center
 - Ambassador **Mayerlyn Cordero Díaz**, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the OAS

- Senator **Ricardo de los Santos Polanco** (Dominican Republic), President of the Senate

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

14:00 - 15:15 **Addressing the Structural Drivers of Insecurity**

Insecurity in the Americas and the Caribbean is deeply rooted in structural development challenges such as inequality, social exclusion and institutional fragility, among others. These factors not only contribute to violence and instability but also undermine state capacity, erode public trust, and weaken democratic resilience.

This session will examine key structural drivers of insecurity and explore the role of multilateral institutions and financing in supporting long-term stability through development-focused initiatives.

Panelistas:

- **Marcela Meléndez**, Deputy Chief Economist, Office of the Chief Economist for Latin American and Caribbean (LAC), World Bank
- **Beatriz Abizanda**, Citizen Security Lead Specialist, Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)
- **Jairo Acuña**, Team Leader, Governance, Latin America and the Caribbean, UNDP

15:15 - 15:30 **International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF) Presentation**

- **Katherine Brantley**, International Grants Director, The ICCF Group Conservation Council of Nations

15:30 - 17:00 **Inclusive Economic Development: A Strategic Pillar for Stability and Social Cohesion in the Hemisphere**

This session will analyze strategies for inclusive economic development as a cornerstone for enhancing stability and social cohesion across the hemisphere.

The discussion will highlight innovative legislative approaches for fostering inclusive economies, ensuring equitable access to economic opportunities and promoting entrepreneurship and innovation. It will also underscore the importance of investing in the economic empowerment of women, who suffer disproportionately from poverty, discrimination and exploitation.

Panellists:

- **Alejandra Mora Mora**, Executive Secretary, Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)
- **Lloyd Day**, Deputy Director General, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
- **Luis Viguria**, Chief Executive Officer, Young Americas Business Trust

Discussant:

- **Maricarmen Plata**, Secretary for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE), OAS

Wednesday, March 26

08:00 **Meet in the hotel lobby**
Hotel Hampton Inn Washington, D.C./White House

08:00 - 08:30 **Transfer to the U.S. Congress**

08:30 - 09:00 **Arrival at the U.S. Congress**
U.S. Congress (Washington, DC 20004, USA)

09:00 - 10:30 **Legislative Dialogue on Security in the Western Hemisphere**
Rayburn House Office Building 2168
U.S. Congress (Washington, DC 20004, USA)

During this session, organized in collaboration with the House Democracy Partnership, delegates will have an opportunity to meet with Members of the U.S. Congress to discuss the state of security in the Hemisphere.

Participants will exchange insights on collaborative strategies to improve regional security and respond to cross-border challenges such as transnational organized crime, drug trafficking and human trafficking, among others.

Remarks:

- Rep. **Robin Kelly** (D-IL) (United States)
- Rep. **Delia Ramirez** (D-IL) (United States)
- Drop-in remarks expected from Rep. **Dina Titus** (D-NV) (United States)
- Drop-in remarks expected from Rep. **Darin LaHood** (R-IL) (United States)
- Drop-in remarks expected from Rep. **Gwen Moore** (D-WI) (United States)

10:30 - 11:00 **Group photo at the U.S. Congress**

11:00 - 11:30 **Transfer to the OAS**

11:30 - 13:00 **Security in the Context of Our Democracies**
Meeting with the OAS Secretary General and the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy
OAS Main Building (17th St. and Constitution Ave. NW)

In this high-level meeting, delegates will engage with the OAS Secretary General and the Secretary for Strengthening Democracy to discuss the state of democracy in the hemisphere and its impact on regional security.

Participants will exchange reflections on the role of parliaments in promoting democratic governance, safeguarding the rule of law and addressing threats to regional stability through multilateral efforts that foster coordinated responses to strengthening democracy and security in the region.

- **Luis Almagro**, Secretary General OAS
- **Francisco Guerrero**, Secretary for Strengthening Democracy at the OAS and ParlAmericas ex officio Board Member

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

14:00 - 15:00 **Protocolary meeting with the Chair of the Permanent Council of the OAS**
OAS Main Building (17th St. and Constitution Ave. NW)

- Ambassador **Héctor Enrique Arce Zaconeta**, Chair of the Permanent Council, Permanent Representative of Bolivia
- Ambassador **Wendy Acevedo**, Vice-Chair of the Permanent Council, Permanent Representative of El Salvador

15:00 - 17:00 **High-Level Dialogue with Representatives of Permanent Missions to the OAS**

This high-level dialogue will bring together delegates and representatives from Permanent Missions to the OAS to exchange perspectives on regional priorities related to security, democracy and the strengthening of multilateralism within the framework of the inter-American system. The session will provide a space to analyze the most pressing hemispheric challenges, foster cooperative political dialogue and explore strategies to build safer, more democratic and resilient societies through joint regional efforts.

17:00 **Reception**

Thursday, March 27

08:00 **Meet in the hotel lobby**
Hotel Hampton Inn Washington, D.C./White House

08:30 - 09:00 **Transfer and arrival at the Organization of American States**
Rubén Darío Room – OAS General Services Building, 8th floor (1889 F Street NW, 20006)

09:00 - 10:30 **The Role of Parliaments in Promoting Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**
Building on discussions from the hemispheric interparliamentary meeting "Migration in a Context of Social and Environmental Challenges," held in San José, Costa Rica, in October 2024, this session will offer delegates the opportunity to engage with experts and representatives of regional organizations on parliaments' role in migration governance.

Delegates will share insights on legislative strategies to strengthen regulatory frameworks, ensure the protection of migrants' rights and promote coordinated responses that foster safe, orderly and regular migration in the region.

Panellists:

- **Andrew Selee**, President, Migration Policy Institute
- **Claudia González Bengoa**, Head of the Migration and Forced Displacement section of the Department of Social Inclusion (DIS) of the OAS Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE)

10:30 - 10:45 **Coffee break**

10:45 - 12:15 **Climate Security and Resilience: Strengthening Governance for a Sustainable Future**

This session will examine the interplay between climate security and environmental governance, exploring how parliaments can advance legislative actions that strengthen resilience, promote environmental stewardship, and mitigate risks associated with resource scarcity and environmental degradation. Panelists will discuss strategies to achieve these objectives and foster sustainable development through cross-sector collaboration.

Climate change is a risk multiplier that threatens ecosystems, economies, and communities, exacerbating vulnerabilities across the region. Its impacts on water, food, energy, and environmental security require coordinated governance strategies that integrate conservation, sustainable resource management, and legislative action.

Panellists:

- **Kim Osborne**, OAS Executive Secretary for Integral Development
- **Renata Koch Alvarenga**, expert on gender and climate justice, Founder and Executive Director of EmpoderaClima

12:15 - 13:30 **Lunch**

13:30 - 15:30 **Regional Security in a Changing Context: Traditional and Non-Traditional Threats**

This session will examine the regional security landscape, addressing traditional threats such as transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, alongside non-traditional threats like the role of Artificial Intelligence, cybersecurity vulnerabilities and the influence of international actors. The discussion will highlight the impact of these threats on citizen security, democratic governance and regional stability, with particular emphasis on their disproportionate effects on women and historically marginalized communities.

Participants will explore legislative and collaborative strategies to strengthen security and resilience across the hemisphere.

Panellists:

- **Rebecca Bill Chavez**, president and CEO, Inter-American Dialogue
- **Kerry Ann Barrett**, Chief of Cybersecurity, OAS - Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism
- **Moises Benamor**, OAS Chief Representative Institutions
- **Monica Sanders**, Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown University
- **Christopher Hernandez-Roy**, Deputy Director and Senior Fellow, Americas Program, Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)

15:30 - 16:15 Closing session: Reflections and takeaways

The closing session for the delegation will enable the review of the visit's outcomes and the exchange of reflections. This session will provide an opportunity to identify lessons learned and outline next steps in preparation for the X Summit of the Americas.



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



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