



## **ParlAmericas participated in the 2024 Caribbean Clerks Programme organized by The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch**

OTTAWA (CANADA), January 25, 2024 — Today marked the close of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch (CPA UK)'s 2024 Caribbean Clerks Programme, a virtual two-day programme for clerks and parliamentary staff in the Caribbean region to share experiences and exchange good practices.

The first day of the programme focused on the role parliamentary officials play in the effective operation of committees, as well as the importance of fostering opportunities for their professional development. ParlAmericas representatives **Beverly Gibbons** (Barbados), Deputy Clerk, Parliament of Barbados and Regional Coordinator for the Caribbean of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Open Parliament, as well as **Chrisette Benjamin**, ParlAmericas Program Officer - Gender Equality, provided closing remarks and reiterated the foundational work of parliamentary staff and the value of intra-regional cooperation. Ms. Gibbons also spoke to the work of the ParlAmericas Staff Networks on Open Parliament, Gender Equality, and Climate Change and Sustainability in facilitating additional peer-to-peer exchanges on these specific themes.

On the second day of the programme, **Eilish Elliott**, ParlAmericas Project Manager – Gender Equality, participated as a panellist during a discussion on public outreach and youth engagement practices in parliament. Ms. Elliott provided an overview of ParlAmericas' programming with parliaments to engage young people in parliamentary processes and the importance of incorporating [equality and inclusion](#) considerations within these outreach initiatives. Other panellists in this session included the Honourable **Alicia Williams Grant** (Antigua and Barbuda), President of the Senate, and **Billy Helm** (United Kingdom), Senior Engagement Officer, UK House of Commons.

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### **About ParlAmericas**

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 good legislative practices, and produces tailored resources to support parliamentarians in their work. The International Secretariat of ParlAmericas is headquartered in Ottawa, Canada.