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Parliamentarians from across the hemisphere meet in Paraguay to dialogue on how to accelerate the progress of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

More than 60 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and experts from 20 countries of the Americas and the Caribbean will convene in Asuncion, Paraguay, from October 30th to November 1st, for the 16th ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly on theme of “Accelerating Progress on Agenda 2030: Good Practices for Parliamentary Action”.

Participants will exchange good practices and discuss effective legislative solutions to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. With the common goal of contributing to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the hemisphere, participants will engage in a series of working sessions to explore integral and innovative solutions that respond to the various needs of our societies. These sessions will also explore the importance of gender equality as a central pillar for the achievement of each of the 17 SDGs. The Plenary Assembly will open with a keynote address by Achim Steiner, Administrator for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

“I am honoured to welcome colleague parliamentarians from across the region to Paraguay on this noteworthy occasion. As representatives of citizens, it’s is our duty to promote and contribute to the implementation of the SDGs, which aim to end poverty, build peaceful societies, and promote prosperity and wellbeing of all people, while protecting the environment for current and future generations” mentioned Senator Patrick Kemper (Paraguay), host of the meeting. Senator Blanca Ovelar (Paraguay), President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network (OPN) elaborated on the importance of the Plenary Assembly: “Building partnerships and continuing to vigorously advancing progress towards a sustainable future is critical, and today -more than ever- it is necessary to engage in open dialogues and involve citizens, private stakeholders and civil society organizations in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda”.

Member of the National Assembly Elizabeth Cabezas (Ecuador), Vice President of ParlAmericas, further emphasized that “it is imperative that we redouble our commitment to advance progress towards the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals in the hemisphere. As parliamentarians we have a significant role to play in leading these efforts to promote, oversee and adopt people-centered policies and legislation aligned with these objectives to ensure that no one is left behind.”

The Plenary Assembly will also include a training session on Monitoring Progress towards the SDGs through Public Spending, which will explore the ways through which parliamentarians can analyze budget proposals, allocations and expenditures to ensure that spending is effectively aligned and contributing to national efforts to meet the SDGs.

For further information and updates on the 16th ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly, please visit www.parlAmericas.org and follow @ParlAmericas on social media with the hashtags #ParlAmericas2019 #ParlAmericasSDG.