



**PARLIAMENT**  
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Levels G - 8, Tower D  
The Port-of-Spain International Waterfront Centre  
1A Wrightson Road, Port - of - Spain

# REPORT



**Inter- Parliamentary Meeting on  
Transparency, Summit of the Americas  
2015**

**Panama City, Panama**

**April 09 to 10, 2015**

**&**

**36th Meeting of the Board of Directors of  
ParlAmericas, Panama City, Panama**

**April 11, 2015**

## **Introduction**

1. ParlAmericas is a hemispheric organization comprising the national legislatures of thirty-five (35) independent states from North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean. The organization serves as an independent discussion forum for parliamentarians of the Americas through the hosting of meetings, training opportunities, and the facilitation of year-round discussions and follow up actions.

2. In conjunction with the hosting of the VII Summit of the Americas, "*Prosperity with Equity: The Challenge of Cooperation in the Americas*" in Panama City from April 10 to 11, 2015, the organization used the opportunity to ensure that the legislative branch, a pillar of democracy, should also meet at this time.

3. The Latin American Parliament and ParlAmericas co-organized this meeting to facilitate a space for parliamentary dialogue on international standards and encourage regional commitments for legislative transparency. Parliamentarians from across the region were invited to exchange views and best practices, with a focus on democratic innovations and parliamentary ethics.

## **Travel Details and Courtesies**

4. The delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Meeting on Transparency, Summit of the Americas 2015, and the 36<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas held in Panama City, Panama from April 9 to 10, and on April 11, 2015, respectively, comprised:

- Hon. Wade Mark, MP, Speaker of the House and Leader of the delegation;
- Sen. James Lambert, Vice-President of the Senate;
- Sen. Camille Robinson-Regis; Leader of Opposition Business in the Senate; and;
- Ms. Kimberly Mitchell, Graduate Research Assistant, and Secretary to the delegation.

5. The delegation departed Trinidad and Tobago on Thursday April 09, 2015. They arrived in Panama on the same day, and were met by officials from the Latin

American Parliament and the Financial Attaché from the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago in Panama, Ms. Sherry Ann Hansraj.

6. For the return journey, Sen. James Lambert was the first to depart Panama on Saturday April 11, 2015. The rest of the delegation departed Panama on Sunday April 12, 2015. The programme of activities is provided in Appendix A.

### **Inter-Parliamentary Meeting on Transparency**

7. The Inter-Parliamentary Meeting on Transparency was held on Friday, April 10, 2015 at the Parlatino Headquarters. In attendance were representatives from Legislatures from North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. There were welcome remarks from:

- Sen. Blanca Alcalá Ruiz, Member of the Parliament of Mexico, and Secretary General of the Latin American Parliament;
- H.D. Elias Castillo González, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Panama, and President of the Latin American Parliament;
- Sen. Marcela Guerra Castillo, Member of the Parliament of Mexico and President of ParlAmericas;
- Adolfo Valderrama, MP, President of the National Assembly of Panama; and
- Hon. Robert Nicholson, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs Canada.

8. The keynote address was given by Sen. Luis Almagro, of Uruguay, newly elected Secretary General to the OAS. The speakers welcomed participants and thanked them for their attendance. They noted the significance of having the meeting during the VII Summit of the Americas. They all agreed on the importance of legislative transparency especially at a time when the public is demanding transparency and accountability in governance. They further commented that the Meeting served as a platform for the sharing of ideas, debates and solutions that can strengthen democracy and transparency in their respective parliaments.

9. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by Parlatino and ParlAmericas aimed at sharing information, increasing joint activities, and fostering cooperation for projects with parliaments in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. The Meeting featured two (2) panel discussions, the

first on “Democratic Innovations” and the second on “Parliamentary Ethics.” The participants *inter alia*, referred to their experiences.

10. The first panel was moderated by H.D. Luis Eduardo Quirós, Member of the National Assembly of Panama. The participants were:

- José Roberto Alejos, Member of Congress of Guatemala;
- Gina Godoy, Member of the National Assembly of Ecuador;
- Earl Dreeshen, MP, Member of Parliament of Canada;
- Domingo Neto, Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Brazil; and
- Sen. Alejandro Encinas Rodríguez, Member of the Parliament of Mexico.

11. The second panel was moderated by Ana Matilde Gómez, Member of the National Assembly of Panama. The participants were:

- Miguel Edgardo Martínez, Member of Congress of Honduras;
- Hon. Wade Mark, MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Trinidad and Tobago;
- Epsy Campbell, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica; and
- Sen. Jorge Pedraza, Member of the Congress of the Republic of Columbia.



## Panel 1: “Democratic Innovations”

12. This panel introduced participants to the various opportunities presented by new technology for citizen engagement such as participatory budgeting and law-making, far-reaching electoral and political reforms and other initiatives to modernize, “wikilegis” platforms for drafting legislation and other web 2.0 tools for connecting citizens and parliamentarians on policy debates.

13. Participants were reminded of the increasing challenges associated with parliamentary legitimacy and the decreasing confidence of citizens in the region. They were however, encouraged to keep working as the parliaments of the Americas have emerged as strong leaders in legislative openness, transparency, accountability and have also been embracing innovative mechanisms for engaging civil society.

14. Each panellist was given five (5) minutes to give a brief presentation on their country’s experiences with democratic innovations. The first presenter, José Roberto Alejos, Member of Congress of Guatemala, revealed that in 2009, Guatemala made steps towards democratic transparency as they opened the doors of Congress to the public to attend any session be it public or private.

15. Mr. Alejos indicated that it was the obligation of the State to provide citizens with all information except that deemed secret. An Office of Public Information was established and Congress was introduced to social media. There is also a dedicated channel to broadcast sessions of the Congress and an e-board to track when Members vote.





16. The second presenter, Gina Godoy, Member of the National Assembly of Ecuador indicated that her Assembly has an Assembly TV, a Radio channel, and a translator in Quechua for the different ethnic groups.

17. Mr. Earl Dreeshen, Member of Parliament of Canada indicated that the Canadian Parliament has televised parliamentary proceedings and a website. The parliament embraced technology due to the size of the country. It also allows citizens to be aware of the parliament's activities.

18. Citizens in Canada make use of Facebook, the parliamentary website, Twitter and virtual town meetings held by the Prime Minister. Budget consultations take place online, questionnaires are made available on the budgetary process to get an indication of how the citizens would like to see the funding utilized. The parliamentary website also features a mechanism to allow citizens to follow the progress of legislation.

19. Mr. Domingo Neto, Member of the Chamber of Deputies, of Brazil informed participants that previously, citizens in Brazil did not have access to information and could not access their representatives. As a result, they undertook a number of technological initiatives to keep citizens informed. Some of the tools utilized in Brazil are:

- Crowd sourcing – use of an e-democracy website/portal of the Brazilian Chamber. This provides the citizens with the ability to give feedback on legislation, debate topics, and make comments;
- Video forum – facilitates the exchange of ideas, and allows for real time interaction with citizens;
- Wikilegis – allows citizens to submit specific comments or suggest alternative methods for legislation. This has resulted in citizens' suggestions accepted for use in Bills; and
- Hacker lab – allows for young people to develop software applications for mobile devices to be used by legislators and citizens.

20. Sen. Alejandro Encinas Rodríguez, Member of the Parliament of Mexico stressed that access to information, transparency and accountability are every citizen's right, and must be fully guaranteed by the State. He indicated that they

established disclosure on public funds, and enacted legislation that guarantees the access to information in Mexico.

## **Panel 2: “Parliamentary Ethics”**

21. This panel introduced participants to debates concerning parliamentary codes of ethics and conduct. Persons were informed of the important work being done in this regard by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) in establishing benchmarks on parliamentary ethics. The representatives at the meeting were encouraged to rethink their models of representation and move towards establishing one that is more attentive to the needs of the public.

22. As in the previous panel, each panellist was allowed five (5) minutes to give a presentation on their country’s experiences regarding parliamentary ethics. The first presenter, Miguel Edgardo Martínez, Member of Congress of Honduras, informed the audience that his country was working on Open Government Models and signed an agreement with the Income Director, District Attorney and the President of the Congress of Honduras to fight against corruption.

23. In addition, participants were informed that the Congress of Honduras implemented an electronic voting system via card or biometrics, established a website to interact with the public and has its own channel to broadcast live sessions.

24. Hon. Wade Mark, MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Trinidad and Tobago, informed the gathering that the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago adopted two (2) sets of codes of ethics pertaining to Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries as well as for all parliamentarians. The codes make provisions for the disclosure and declaration of interests, guidelines regarding the receipt of gifts, rules regarding foreign travel, disclosure of potential conflicts of interest, and the recording of interests among other matters.

25. Participants were also informed of several legislative provisions such as:

- the Integrity in Public Life Act, Chap. 22:01 – which mandates persons in public life to file a declaration of income, assets and liabilities that exceed ten

thousand dollars in value in respect of the previous year and in each succeeding year that a person is in public life;

- the Prevention of Corruption Act, Chap. 11:11 – section 3 of the Act provides for the offence of corruption in office;
- the House of Representatives (Powers and Privileges) Act Chap. 2:02 – makes the provision that no member shall accept or receive bribes or compensation to promote or oppose any Bill or matter intended for the consideration of the House or any committee; and
- the Financial Intelligence Unit Act, Chap. 72:01 – provides guidance to financial institutions on the application of customer due diligence requirements to politically exposed persons (PEPs).





26. Epsy Campbell, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica, stressed the importance of the need for persons in office to be accountable and transparent. She indicated that in Costa Rica, members have to sign a code of ethics conduct upon entrance into office.

27. Sen. Jorge Pedraza, Member of Congress of the Republic of Colombia disclosed that Colombia has suffered from numerous scandals due to narco-politics. He further added that fifty-nine (59) parliamentarians were in jail. Sen. Pedraza also indicated that ethics should be inserted into education models in order to make public processes transparent.

28. At the end of the sessions, the President of ParlAmericas, and Senator of Mexico, Marcela Guerra Castillo, thanked all the participants for their presentations and moved for the adoption of the declaration of the Assembled Parliamentarians of the Americas on the Occasion of the VII Summit of the Americas. The Declaration was unanimously adopted and is attached at **Appendix B**.

### **36<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas, April 11, 2015**

29. The 36<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas was held on the day after the Inter-Parliamentary Meeting on Transparency. This meeting was attended by the Hon. Wade Mark, MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives, who is a regional representative for the Caribbean on the Board of Directors. A list of the members of the Board of Directors is attached at **Appendix C**, and the agenda for the meeting is attached at **Appendix D**.

30. Sen. Marcela Guerra Castillo, Member of Parliament of Mexico and President of ParlAmericas, opened the session and gave welcome remarks. The Board then proceeded to review and adopt the agenda, and approved the Report of the 35<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting held in Santiago, Chile from September 24 to 27, 2014.

31. In her report, the President expressed gratitude for the support she received on her presidency. She informed members that Peru was paying its dues to

ParlAmericas. She indicated that the more successful activities they hosted, the more countries will be inclined to work with the organization.

32. Ms. Alisha Todd, Director General of ParlAmericas, informed members that the organization was able to secure funding to the value of eight (8) million Canadian dollars for the next five (5) years with the assistance of Canada. She indicated that the Secretariat will be working on a number of new activities to span the five (5) year period, many of which will be Study tours, seminars for parliamentarians, Board Meetings, Plenary Assembly Meetings, workshops and the development of publications to share information about activities.

33. Ms. Todd proceeded to discuss the organization's upcoming events for the period 2015 to 2016. Board Members were then informed that the organization will be embarking upon hiring new employees for the Secretariat but on a needs basis according to projects. She stressed that membership fees were very important, and every effort was being made to maintain the current level of financing from the different parliaments.

34. Ms. Todd indicated further that there were other ways in which parliaments contributed to the organization, via investments in kind such as offering to host events or provide expertise for a particular project. ParlAmericas has also been increasing its profile by making contributions in kind. The example used was that of the UNDP and World Bank's upcoming conference on Parliamentary Oversight. It was revealed that the organization contributed to the conference by providing assistance with publications.

35. A small committee was nominated to work on the organization's strategic plan. This group comprises:

- Hon. Wade Mark, MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Trinidad and Tobago;
- Sen. Michael MacDonald, Member of Parliament of Canada;
- Guadalupe Valdez, Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Dominican Republic; and
- Gina Godoy, Member of the National Assembly, Ecuador.

36. The final aspect of the meeting concerned the Corporation meeting which is required for not-for-profit organizations as stipulated by Canadian law (ParlAmericas is registered as a not-for-profit organization). This meeting took place within the Board Meeting. All voting board members are members of the Corporation Board, but need to be formally re-elected on a yearly basis. At this Corporation meeting, all members of the board were voted to the Corporation Board with the exception of two (2) non-voting members, Alisha Todd, Director General and Javier Ortega of Panama, the host of the next ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly Meeting.



## **Other Business**

### **Social Events**

37. ParlAmericas hosted participants to an informal welcome reception on Thursday April 09, 2015, and another at the end of the Inter-Parliamentary Meeting on Transparency on Friday April 10, 2015.

38. On the evening of Saturday April 11, 2015, members of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas were hosted at a reception held by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Canada, at the Embassy of Canada to Panama.

### **Expressions of Thanks**

39. Hon. Wade Mark, MP, leader of the delegation, conveyed appreciation to Sen. Marcela Guerra Castillo, Parliament of Mexico and President of ParlAmericas, and to Ms. Alisha Todd, Director General of ParlAmericas, for the exceptional hospitality and kind assistance extended during the visit.



### **Conclusion**

40. In accordance with House of Representatives Standing Order 22 (6), which states, *“Within twenty-one days of the return to Trinidad and Tobago of an officially recognized parliamentary delegation composed in any part of Members of the House, the head of the delegation, or a Member acting on his behalf, shall present a report to the House on the activities of the delegation”*, this Report is submitted for laying in Parliament.

Hon. Wade Mark, MP  
Head of Delegation

**April 28, 2015**

**DRAFT AGENDA**

***Parliamentary Gathering during VII Summit of the Americas:  
Legislative Transparency***

**Friday, April 10, 2015**

8:00 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 9:45 Opening Ceremony

Welcome Remarks:

- *Blanca Alcalá Ruiz, Senator of Mexico and Secretary General of Parlamento Latinoamericano*
- *Marcela Guerra Castillo, Senator of Mexico and President of ParlAmericas*
- *Elías Castillo González, Member of the National Assembly of Panama and President of Parlamento Latinoamericano*
- *Adolfo Valderrama, President of the National Assembly of Panama*

Keynote Address: Luis Almagro, Senator of Uruguay and newly elected Secretary General of the OAS

9:45 – 10:00 Official Photograph

10:00 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – 13:00 Panel 1: “Democratic Innovations”

Perspectives of parliamentarians from the Americas

Moderator: Luis Eduardo Quirós, Member of the National Assembly of Panama

- Alejandro Encinas Rodríguez, Senator of Mexico
- José Roberto Alejos, Member of Congress of Guatemala
- Gina Godoy, Member of the National Assembly of Ecuador
- Member of Parliament of Canada, to be confirmed

Q&A and

debate 13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 17:00 Panel 2: “Parliamentary Ethics”

Perspectives of parliamentarians from the Americas

Moderator: Ana Matilde Gómez, Member of the National Assembly of Panama

- Member of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile, to be confirmed
- Epsy Campbell, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica
- Wade Mark, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Trinidad and Tobago
- Jorge Pedraza, Senator of Colombia

Q&A and debate

17:00 – 17:30 Final Declaration and Signing of MoU (ParlAmericas and *Parlamento*)



*Latinoamericano)*

17:30 – 18:00 Closing Ceremony

19:00 – 21:00 Reception



Parlamento Latinoamericano



Appendix B

## DECLARATION OF THE ASSEMBLED PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS ON THE OCCASION OF THE VII SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

Panama City, Panama

The Government of Panama is hosting the VII Summit of the Americas from April 10 to 11, 2015, to serve as a platform for the heads of State and Government from across the hemisphere to hold debates under the theme of "Prosperity with Equity: The Challenge of Cooperation in the Americas" – including the sub-themes of democratic governance and citizen participation.

As pillars of democracy, parliamentarians from 26 countries of the Americas are convening on the occasion of the Summit, with the purpose of exchanging experiences and knowledge related to national and regional commitments on transparency, with a focus on democratic innovations and parliamentary ethics. To this end, at the *Parliamentary Gathering*, organized by the Latin American Parliament (*Parlamento Latinoamericano*) and ParlAmericas, delegations of parliamentarians committed to the promotion of high standards of legislative transparency:

### Whereas:

It is an obligation of our parliaments to contribute to peace and to the region's democracy through peaceful and constitutional avenues, and for this reason it is urgent to actively promote among citizens that would take advantage of new information technologies for education and citizen participation.

Legislatures benefit from a vibrant civil society and from the existence of strong mechanisms for inclusive political engagement of citizens, both in understanding citizen priorities and in helping ensure accountability of parliamentarians to the citizens they represent;

The nature of legislative representation is evolving, as citizens are able to communicate more easily with each other, and with their representatives, as a result of greater access to mobile communications and the internet, as well as the spread of social media;

The Americas has been a leading region in democratic innovation, from groundbreaking work on participatory budgeting; and through efforts to use new technology to engage citizens;

Latin America has played a leading role globally in sharing information on legislative openness through various organizations, among them the Legislative Openness Working Group of the Open Government Partnership;

New technologies also provide legislatures with increased opportunities to engage citizens in legislative work—including rural populations living in poverty and other marginalized groups—thereby providing an opportunity to strengthen confidence in public institutions;

Advances in digital communications have also helped to increase citizens' expectations of their legislatures, including an increase in said expectations with respect to transparency and ethics;

Leaders of the parliaments of the Americas issued the Lima Declaration in July 2014, through which they made commitments to bring governments closer to the people, support transparency and accountability in parliamentary work, and facilitate social inclusion;

It is the will of the Parliaments of the continent to promote and improve transparency mechanisms, recognizing the work that various organizations carry out on this issue, among them the *Red Latinoamericana por la Transparencia Legislativa*;

There exists a growing body of international norms and standards on legislative transparency and ethics, including the Santiago Declaration on Parliamentary Transparency and Integrity in Parliaments and Political Parties, which was signed in Santiago de Chile in January 2012; the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness, which has been endorsed by more than 160 civil society organizations in more than 80 countries, and new standards on codes of ethics for parliamentarians being developed by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association;

## RESOLVE

To support the following recommendations:

1. To commit to the strengthening of regional cooperation and to the exchange of best practices, keeping in mind the evolution of citizen expectations of legislatures with respect to transparency and ethics in our societies, and to utilize the technological advances and the experience of leaders on these themes in the Americas, with the objective of strengthening regional cooperation and the exchange of best practices, including the possibility of developing common benchmarks on openness and parliamentary ethics and conduct. For this reason, the participating organizations at this Gathering invite other forums and legislative assemblies to promote parliamentary transparency and ethics that respond to citizens' expectations.
2. Facilitate collaboration between the Latin American Parliament and ParlAmericas, with the Legislative Openness Working Group of the Open Government Partnership and other stakeholders to work on legislative transparency that would lead to regional cooperation.
3. Foster among member parliaments of the organizations mentioned above to collect and share information on codes of conduct and codes of ethics, as well as best practices on disclosure of interests, with the possibility of developing regional and sub-regional initiatives on parliamentary ethics and transparency.
4. Encourage the opening of the legislatures of the region so that they may collaborate with civil society groups, technologists and citizens with the objective of improving the capacity of parliaments in the digital era.

Parliamentarians expressed their satisfaction with and approval of the agenda of the VII Summit of the Americas which convenes the Heads of State and Government of our countries and agree with the necessity of achieving true regional integration, the only path for countries to achieve sustainable development on central issues such as education, health, energy, the environment, migration, security, citizen participation and democratic governance.

Adopted on April 10, 2015 in Panama City, Panama

**List of Members of the Board of Directors**

**Appendix C**

<b>Germán Alcides Blanco Álvarez</b> , Representative / Representante	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President / 1 <sup>er</sup> Vicepresidente	Colombia	
<b>Jennifer Simons</b> , Speaker of the National Assembly / Presidenta de la Asamblea Nacional	President of the Group of the Women Parliamentarians / Presidenta del Grupo de Mujeres Parlamentarias	Suriname / Surinam	
<b>Guadalupe Valdez</b> , Member of the Chamber of Deputies / Diputada	Caribbean / Caribe Secretary Treasurer / Secretario-Tesorero	Dominican Republic / República Dominicana	
<b>REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES / REPRESENTANTES REGIONALES</b>			
<b>Michael L. MacDonald</b> , Member of Parliament / Miembro del Parlamento	North America / América del Norte	Canada / Canadá	
<b>Alejandro Tello</b> , Senator / Senador	North America / América del Norte	Mexico / México	
<b>Hugh Buchanan</b> , Member of Parliament / Miembro del Parlamento	Caribbean / Caribe	Jamaica	
<b>Wade Mark</b> , Speaker of the House of Representatives / Presidente de la Cámara de Representantes	Caribbean / Caribe	Trinidad and/ y Tobago	
<b>Ligia Elena Fallas Rodríguez</b> , Member of the Chamber of Deputies / Diputada	Central America / América Central	Costa Rica	
<b>Martha Marina González Dávila</b> , Member of the Chamber of Deputies / Diputada	Central America / América Central	Nicaragua	
<b>Alicia Comelli</b> , Member of the Chamber of Deputies / Diputada	South America / América del Sur	Argentina	
<b>Ignacio Urrutia Bonilla</b> , Member of the Chamber of Deputies / Diputado	South America / América del Sur	Chile	
<b>Gina Godoy</b> , Member of the National Assembly / Asambleísta	South America / América del Sur	Ecuador	
<b>NON-VOTING MEMBERS / LOS MIEMBROS NO VOTANTES</b>			
<b>Javier Ortega</b> , Member of the National Assembly / Diputado	Host of the 12 <sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly / Anfitrión de la 12 <sup>a</sup> Asamblea Plenaria	Panama / Panamá	
<b>Randy Hoback</b> , Member of Parliament / Miembro del Parlamento	Immediate Past-President / el presidente inmediato anterior	Canada / Canadá	
<b>Moises Benamor</b> , OAS/OEA	Associate / Asociado	OAS	
<b>Alisha Todd</b> , Director General / Directora General	International Secretariat / Secretaría Internacional	ParlAmericas	
<b>OBSERVERS / OBSERVADORES</b>			
<b>Claudia Nogueira</b> , Member of the Chamber of Deputies / Diputada	Vicepresident of the Group of the Women Parliamentarians / Vicepresidenta del Grupo de Mujeres Parlamentarias	Chile	
<b>ABSENTEES / AUSENTES</b>			
<b>Mirma Figueroa</b> , Member of Congress / Diputada	Central America / América Central	Guatemala	
<b>Humberto Costa</b> , Senator / Senador	South America / América del Sur	Brazil / Brasil	
Vacant / Vacante	Caribbean / Caribe	The Bahamas / Las Bahamas	
<b>OTHER ATTENDEES / OTROS ASISTENTES</b>			
<b>Anabella Zavagno</b>			
<b>Thais Martín Navas</b>	International Secretariat / Secretaría Internacional	ParlAmericas	
<b>Lisane Thirsk</b>			

<b>Alexandre Roger</b> , Secretary to the Canadian Section / Secretario de la Sección Canadiense	Parliament / Parlamento	Canada / Canadá	
<b>Nathalie Grant</b> , Protocol Officer / Oficial de Protocolo	National Assembly / Asamblea Nacional	Suriname / Surinam	
<b>Asna Radjaram</b> , Expert of the Department of International Relations / expert del departamento de Relaciones Internacionales	National Assembly / Asamblea Nacional	Suriname / Surinam	



## 36<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors meeting 11 April 2015, Panama

- 9:00**                    **Arrival of participants**
- 9:10-9:45**            **Meeting Opening**  
 ✓ Welcome  
 ✓ Introduction of Participants **(Tab 1)**  
 ✓ Review and Adoption of Agenda  
 ✓ Approval of Report from 35<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting **(Tab 2)**
- 9:45-10:00**         **President`s Report**
- 10:00-10:45**       **Update on Recent Activities of Board of Directors Members**
- 10:45-11:00**       **Break**
- 11:00-11:30**       **Update from the OAS**
- 11:30-13:00**       **International Secretariat Report**  
 ✓ Director General`s Report **(Tab 3)**  
 ✓ Financial Update **(Tab 4)**  
 ✓ New projects and financing      ✓ Working  
 with the Secretariat
- 13:00-14:30**       **Catered Lunch**
- 14:30-15:30**       **Planning of Events for 2015**  
 ⌚ Calendar of Upcoming Events **(Tab 5)**  
 ⌚ Gathering of the Group of Women **(Tab 6)**  
 ⌚ Plenary Assembly
- 15:30-16:00**       **Break**
- 16:00-17:30**       **Points for discussions**  
 ⌚ IPU **(Tab 7)**  
 ⌚ Frente Contra el Hambre MOU  
 ⌚ Strategic Plan for 2015-2020 – nomination of committee **(Tab 8)**
- 17:30-18:00**       **Annual General Meeting of the ParlAmericas Corporation **(Tab 9)****

**18:00-19:00**      **Other Business and Close of Meeting**

**Evening**            **Dinner**

✓  
Location TBD – Restaurant

