



## **Statement/Press release on the July 12<sup>th</sup> Roundtable Discussion on Parliamentary Diplomacy in the Americas**

Washington, DC  
July 12, 2022

Following a roundtable discussion convened today by the *InterAmerican Dialogue* and the *School of Politics, Government and International Relations* at the *Universidad Austral* in Argentina, to address the new opportunities and challenges facing inter-parliamentary diplomacy in the Americas, the two organizations issued the following statement:

Our two organizations were pleased to host a roundtable discussion today about parliamentary diplomacy in the Americas, in which legislative leaders from throughout the region participated. The roundtable came in the wake of the IX Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles, California in June and the commitments that were made there.

Participants in the discussion included democratically elected legislators from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, the United States of America, Mexico, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay. Also attending were Luis Almagro, Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, Christopher Dodd, Special Advisor to the White House for the Summit of the Americas, regional experts and advisors to the legislators.

The importance of inter-parliamentary integration, dialogue, cooperation and harmonization is reflected in the numerous sub-regional parliamentary assemblies that exist in the hemisphere, including the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO), the Andean Parliament, the Amazonian Parliament, the Central American Parliament (PARLACEN), the Parliament of the Common Market of the South (PARLASUR), and the Geopolitical Group of Latin America and the Caribbean of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (GRULAC, IPU).

Accordingly, participants also discussed the enactment into U.S. law last year of the *Organization of American States Legislative Engagement Act*, which promotes the creation of a hemisphere-wide parliamentary forum of democratically elected legislators affiliated with the Organization of American States. The principal authors of the U.S. law – Senator Ben Cardin (Democrat of Maryland) and Senator Roger Wicker (Republican of Mississippi) made presentations and listened to the other participants as they discussed how to advance the creation of such a parliamentary forum.

Consensus was achieved on the need for further work to develop concrete plans to realize the creation of a hemisphere-wide parliamentary forum of the kind envisioned in the U.S. law, the *OAS Legislative Engagement Act*.

As the conveners of today's discussion, the InterAmerican Dialogue and the School of Politics, Government and International Relations at the Universidad Austral are committed to providing analysis and support for future convenings on the topic. Going forward, we will convene additional meetings of legislators, parliamentary organizations, and parliamentary networks – including those that did not have the opportunity to participate in today's session – so that all may contribute feedback on a roadmap for the parliamentary institutions of the region, including the study of the proposal presented by the United States Congress in Public Law No. 116-343.

**Participants in today's discussion included:**

**Rebecca Bill Chavez**

President and CEO, *The Inter-American Dialogue*

**Dr. Juan de Dios Cincunegui (Argentina)**

Director, International Center for Parliamentary Studies, Research and Foresight  
School of Government, Universidad Austral

**Luis Almagro**

Secretary-General of the *Organization of American States* (OAS)

**María Celina Conte**

Director, Summits Secretariat of the *Organization of American States* (OAS)

**Christopher Dodd**

Former Senator (D-CT). White House Special Advisor  
*Ninth Summit of the Americas*

**Ben Cardin**

Senator (D-MD). Co-author of the OAS Legislative Engagement Law (2020)

**Roger F. Wicker**

Senator (R-MS). Co-author of the OAS Legislative Engagement Law (2020)

**Gustavo Pallares**

Deputy Secretary-General of the OSCE *Parliamentary Assembly*  
*Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe*

**Silvia Giacoppo (Argentina)**

Senator. President of PARLATINO (*Latin American and Caribbean Parliament*)

**Lucila Crexell (Argentina)**

Senator. President of PGA (*Parliamentarians for Global Action*)

**Juan Martín Rodríguez** (Uruguay)  
Deputy. Secretary-General of PARLATINO (*Latin American and Caribbean Parliament*)

**Gabriela Cuevas Barrón** (México)  
Honorary President, *Inter-Parliamentary Union* (IPU)

**Sergio Páez Verdugo** (Chile).  
Honorary President, *Inter-Parliamentary Union* (IPU)

**Daniella Ribeiro** (Brasil)  
Senator. Secretary of Interinstitutional Relations of the  
*Latin American and Caribbean Parliament* (PARLATINO)

**Gustavo Penadés** (Uruguay)  
Congressman. Member of GRULAC/IPU  
Vicepresident of *Parliament of the Southern Common Market* (PARLASUR)

**José Manuel Edwards Silva** (Chile)  
Senator. Member of GRULAC  
*Inter-Parliamentary Union* (IPU)

**Graciela Camaño** (Argentina)  
1st Vice-president of PGA (*Parliamentarians for Global Action*) and  
a member of the IPU delegation.

**Sofía Carvajal** (México)  
Congresswoman. 2nd. Vicepresident  
GRULAC, *Inter-Parliamentary Union* (IPU)

**Daniel Caggiani** (Uruguay)  
Senator. Member, *Inter-Parliamentary Union* (IPU)

**Víctor Valdemar Suárez Díaz** (Dominican Republic)  
Parliamentarian. *Inter-Parliamentary Union* (IPU)

**Wilma P. Andrade Muñoz** (Ecuador)  
2nd Vicepresident, Women Parliamentarians, IPU

**Fernando Iglesias** (Argentina)  
Secretary, *Parliamentarians for Global Action* (PGA)

**Yasna Provoste** (Chile)  
Senator. Member, *Latin American and Caribbean Parliament* (PARLATINO)

**Margarita Stolbizer** (Argentina)

Congresswoman. Secretary of PGA (*Parliamentarians for Global Action*) and a member of the IPU Delegation

**Marjorie de los Angeles Chavez Macias** (Ecuador).

Assemblywoman. She promoted the creation of the Interparliamentary Friendship Group with the House of Representatives and the Senate of the United States of America, and the National Assembly of Ecuador.

**Other participants:**

**Jim Moran** (United States of America)

Former Congressman. A member of *Former Members of Congress* (FMC)

**Pete Weichlein** (United States of America)

CEO, *Former Members of Congress* (FMC)

**Oscar Piquinella** (Uruguay)

Secretary-General, GRULAC, *Inter-Parliamentary Union* (IPU)

**Gustavo Sánchez Piñeiro** (Uruguay)

At the headquarters of the InterAmerican Dialogue in Washington, DC  
Tuesday, July 12, 2022.