



AGENDA

Empowering Action on the Escazú Agreement: A Parliamentarians & Civil Society Dialogue

Room 11 | Monday, 27 May 2024

4 PM – 5:30 PM (Antigua and Barbuda, GMT-4)

Session overview and objectives

This session, jointly hosted by Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) and ParlAmericas, will bring together parliamentarians and civil society representatives from the Caribbean SIDS for a dialogue on the Escazú Agreement as a critical framework for effective and inclusive environmental governance that contributes to the region's sustainable growth. Focusing on access to information, participation, and justice for all human rights defenders in environmental matters, the Agreement lays out a pathway for environmental action from a human rights-based approach.

Parliamentarians' unique role ensures effective environmental governance is incorporated as a cross-cutting priority throughout their portfolios, and encourages them to engage in various public mechanisms to reflect inclusive environmental decision making. The session will explore:

- The role of parliamentarians in the effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement through the use of digital tools and other public engagement mechanisms;
- The role of parliamentarians in ensuring the recognition, protection, and promotion of the rights of access to information, participation, and justice for all human rights defenders in environmental matters through the Escazú Agreement as an innovative tool.

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4:00 pm – Opening remarks

- **Hon. Valerie Woods, MP (Belize)**, Speaker of the House of Representatives, PGA Board Member and Climate Action Campaign Convenor
- **Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda**, UN Women Deputy Executive Director

4:15 pm – Presentation: Assessing the pulse of the Escazú Agreement: Where do we stand today?

- **Ms. Kate Wilson**, Legal Officer, Department of Sustainable Development, Government of Saint Lucia

4:25 pm – Panel: Inclusive environmental governance

This discussion will bring together parliamentarians and representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs) to discuss strategies for increasing public awareness and empowering citizens to exercise their access rights to information, participation and justice. Additionally, the discussion will explore the role of parliaments in inclusive environmental governance, facilitating the exchange of good practices and lessons learned on promoting the access rights enshrined in the Escazú Agreement as well as challenges and opportunities for parliamentarians in protecting human rights defenders in environmental matters.

Moderator: **Sen. Anthony Vieira (Trinidad and Tobago)**, Vice-President for the Caribbean of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and Sustainability

Panelists:

- **Hon. Lakeyia Joseph, MP (Dominica)**, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture with responsibility for Development of Agro Enterprises
- **Sen. Sophia Frazer-Binns (Jamaica)**, Shadow Minister of Land, Environment and Climate Change
- **Sen. Lisa Jawahir (Saint Lucia)**, Vice President of ParlAmericas Caribbean's Gender Equality Network
- **Hon. Amanza Desir, MP (Guyana)**, Shadow Minister of Foreign Affairs
- **Stefanie Lauchman**, Communications manager for the Mulokot Foundation and environmental journalist and human rights activist from Suriname

5:10 pm – Questions and dialogue



5:25 pm – Closing Remarks

- **Alisha Todd**, Director General of ParlAmericas
- **Saarah Monawvil**, Director of the Human Rights & Environment Program, PGA

About the organizers

ParlAmericas is the institution that has been promoting inter-parliamentary diplomacy across 35 parliaments in the inter-American system for over 20 years. A key part of this work is strengthening the alignment of parliamentary actions in the Americas and the Caribbean with existing international and regional frameworks such as the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Escazú Agreement, to name a few. In approaching the Escazú Agreement as a human rights-based tool for parliamentary climate action, the work of the ParlAmericas Climate Change and Sustainability program intersects with two other thematic pillars for the organization: Open Parliament and Gender Equality.

Parliamentarians for Global Action is the largest non-governmental, multi-party global network of individual legislators with approximately 1,200 members in 150 countries around the world which informs and mobilizes parliamentarians to advocate for human rights and the rule of law, democracy, human security, peace, inclusion, gender equality and justice, including climate justice. PGA's Campaign for a Human-Rights Based Approach to Climate Action seeks to raise awareness and assist in the effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement for climate governance and to ensure the three rights of access to: information, participation, and justice in environmental matters.

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