

NEWS RELEASE

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Canadian Section of ParlAmericas marks the 20th anniversary of ParlAmericas

The <u>Canadian Section of ParlAmericas</u> extends its best wishes to the inter-parliamentary forum <u>ParlAmericas</u> as it celebrates its 20th anniversary.

"Twenty years ago, forward-thinking Canadian parliamentarians recognized the importance of the Americas and Caribbean region to Canada by helping to establish ParlAmericas," said Marc Serré, M.P. and Chair of the Canadian Section of ParlAmericas. "I wish to thank these pioneers for providing us with an inter-parliamentary forum that has evolved and adapted so that parliamentarians from 35 countries can continue to come together to discuss many of the critical issues facing the Americas and Caribbean region."

Originally known as the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas, ParlAmericas was founded in Ottawa at a meeting that took place March 7–9, 2001. The organization was created by parliamentarians from dozens of countries who wanted to establish a permanent forum for delegations from the national legislatures of the members of the Organization of American States. Since its inception, ParlAmericas has aimed to improve national democratic processes through a permanent forum where issues that matter to the Americas and the Caribbean are discussed.

<u>ParlAmericas</u> is the only interparliamentary institution with its International Secretariat headquartered in Canada. The Canadian Section of ParlAmericas works closely with the International Secretariat to advance parliamentary diplomacy and political dialogue throughout the Americas and the Caribbean.

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