

## Ordinary session of the Latin America and the Caribbean Geopolitical Group to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (GRULAC-IPU) at the 150th IPU Assembly (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 4th April, 2025)

**GRULAC met in ordinary session** on the afternoon of **Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2025**, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., under the chair of Congresswoman María del Carmen Alva Prieto (Peru), member of GRULAC Bureau in her capacity as a member of the IPU Executive Committee, in the absence of GRULAC President Mr. Manzoor Nadir (Guyana), assisted by the GRULAC Secretariat, Mr. Oscar Piquinela, Secretary General, and Ms. Carina Galvalisi, Secretary. Senator Rojo Edwards (Chile) also participated in the Bureau.



### Participants

The following delegations were present at the meeting of GRULAC: Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Guyana, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Parlatino.





## **GRULAC ORDINARY SESSION**

**Friday, April 4, 2025 (from 3 to 6 pm)**

**Room: Concert Hall, Level 1 (Tashkent City Congress Centre)**

*(English interpretation) provided by the IPU)*

### **PRELIMINARY AGENDA<sup>1</sup>**

#### **Item 1**

Welcome remarks by GRULAC President Manzoor Nadir (Guyana)

#### **Item 2**

Approval of the Agenda of GRULAC's session at the 150th IPU Assembly

#### **Item 3**

Approval of the Minutes of GRULAC sessions held on the occasion of the 149th IPU Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland (October 2024). They are available on the GRULAC Secretariat website: [www.secretariagrulacuiip.org](http://www.secretariagrulacuiip.org)

#### **Item 4**

Report by the Secretariat on various topics of interest to GRULAC.

#### **Item 5**

Address by the President of the IPU, Dr. Tulia Ackson

#### **Item 6**

4pm: Address by the Secretary General Martin Chungong: reporting on the result of the official visits to Costa Rica and Colombia, accompanied by the Secretary General of GRULAC Oscar Piquinela and IPU staff Mauricio Huertas (Division on External Relations and Relations with IPU Member Parliaments)

#### **Item 7**

Reports:

- Members of the Executive Committee
- Members of other IPU statutory bodies

#### **Item 8**

Report of the President of the Bureau of Women MPs, Senator Cynthia López Castro, on the First Global Conference on Women MPs of the IPU, held in Mexico City, 13-16 March 2025

#### **Item 9**

Examination of requests for an emergency item to be included in the Assembly agenda

#### **Item 10**

Appointment of **2 delegates** to the Drafting Committee of the Emergency Item

#### **Item 11**

Vacancies to be filled by GRULAC at the 150th IPU Assembly:

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<sup>1</sup> Updated on 31 March, 2025 – Time 2.30 pm

## EXCLUSIVE GRULAC VACANCIES:

- **First Standing Committee on Peace and International Security: 2 vacancies (to be filled by at least one man)** to replace Ms. A.C. Dartora (Brazil) who has not attended two consecutive sessions and Mr. L. Baez (Dominican Republic) who has resigned from the Committee.
- **Second Standing Committee on Sustainable Development: 3 vacancies (gender considerations must be taken into account)**, replacing Ms. E. Cuesta Santana (Ecuador) and Ms. S. Parag (Guyana), whose terms end at the 150th Assembly; and Ms. I. Moreira (Uruguay), who is no longer a parliamentarian and whose term ended in 2026.  
**Note:** *Members of parliament from Ecuador and Guyana cannot apply; they must wait 2 years to rejoin the Bureau of this Committee.*
  - o On March 21, the candidacy of **Mr. César Rendón, MP (Mexico)** was received.
- **Third Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights: 2 vacancies (2 women or 1 woman and 1 man)**, replacing Ms. S. Nane (Uruguay), whose term ends at the 150th Assembly, and Ms. MdCALva Prieto (Peru), who was elected to the Executive Committee at the 149th Assembly.

**Note:** *Uruguay is not eligible for this vacancy. It must wait 2 years to rejoin the Bureau of this Committee.*

### In accordance with the Rules of the Standing Committees:

- Members of the Bureau shall be elected for a term of two years and may be re-elected for a further period of two years.
- When a member of the Bureau has served for four consecutive years, two years must elapse before that person may again be elected to the same Bureau.
- Representatives of the same Member Parliament shall not simultaneously hold more than one post as President or Vice-President of a Standing Committee, or hold a post in the same body for more than four consecutive years.
- Members of a Bureau who are absent for two consecutive sessions, without a valid reason, may lose their seat on the Bureau by a decision of the corresponding Committee. In such cases, a new election will be held at the next session of the Standing Committee to fill the respective vacancy.

- **Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians: 1 vacancy (preferably a man MP to keep gender balance within the Committee)** to replace Ms. C. Asiain (Uruguay), who ceased to be a parliamentarian
  - o **Mr. Rodrigo Blanco, MP (Paraguay)** submitted his candidacy to the UIP.

**Note:** The candidate(s) interested in occupying this vacancy should belong to a Parliament that is a member of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean. At the same time, it is important to point out that members of the Committee do not serve as representatives of their Parliament or geopolitical group as they are elected in their individual capacity on the basis of their competence, commitment to human rights and availability.

*Parliamentarians from the indicated region wishing to become a member of this Committee are required to meet a set of distinct criteria. Candidates are therefore requested to complete the [form available on the IPU website](#). Candidatures may be submitted up to 09:00 on Tuesday, 8 April 2025.*

- **Bureau of Women Parliamentarians: 2 vacancies (women)** to replace Ms. A. Sagasti (Argentina) and Ms. L. Carneiro (Brazil), whose terms end at the 150th Assembly.
  - o On March 20, the candidacy of **Senator María Mercedes Ortíz (Dominican Republic)** was received.
- **Bureau of Young Parliamentarians: 2 vacancies (one man and one woman)**, replacing Ms. P. Aguirre (Ecuador) and Mr. W. Soto (Peru), whose terms end at the 150th Assembly.
  - o On March 20, the candidacy of **Mr. Luis Báez, MP (Dominican Republic)** was received.

**Note:** According to Article 5.3 of the Forum Rules: "The Bureau shall be composed of two representatives from each of the IPU geopolitical groups, one man and one woman," **under the age of 40**.

- **High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism: 1 vacancy (male or female)** to replace Mr. J. Gandini (Uruguay), who is no longer a member of parliament.

- **Working Group on Science and Technology: 2 vacancies (2 men or 1 man and 1 woman)** to replace Mr. F. Ollisco Barrero (Bolivia) and Mr. M. Bouva (Suriname), whose terms of office expire at the 150th Assembly.
  - o On March 28, the candidacy of **Sen. Silvia Nane (Uruguay)** was received.

**VACANCIES NOT EXCLUSIVE TO GRULAC**

- **Committee on Health**

At its 214th Session, the Governing Council decided to upgrade the IPU Health Advisory Group to the status of a Health Committee. In accordance with the rules of procedure of the newly established Committee, the Governing Council will elect **15 members on 9 April 2025**.

It should be noted that while as many geopolitical groups as possible should be represented on the Committee, **Committee members are elected on an individual basis on the basis of their interests, subject matter expertise and availability to attend all Committee sessions**, and not as representatives **of their Parliament or geopolitical group**.

According to the Committee's rules, no more than eight members should be of the same sex and as many geopolitical groups as possible should be represented.

Parliamentarians wishing to become members of this Committee must meet a number of specific criteria. Candidates are therefore requested to complete the form available on the IPU website. Applications may be submitted until 09:00 hours on Tuesday 8 April 2025.

*IMPORTANT: Article 22 of GRULAC Rules:*

*“ARTICLE 22.- RESPONSIBILITIES .-*

1. *Any candidacy for a position in the IPU representing the Group must be submitted in writing to the GRULAC Secretariat, **together with the endorsement of the highest authority of the corresponding Parliament**, in order to ensure their participation.*
2. *No country may hold more than three positions in total in the IPU, even if they are appointed by the IPU President.*

**Item 12**

Other issues.

Manzoor Nadir  
President of GRULAC

Oscar Piquinela  
Secretary General of GRULAC

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# **SUMMARY RECORDS OF GRULAC ORDINARY SESSION**

## **AT THE 150<sup>th</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY**

**(Tashkent, Uzbekistan, April 4, 2025)**

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### **1. Opening of the session**

The meeting was chaired by Congresswoman María del Carmen Alva (Vice President of the IPU Executive Committee and member of GRULAC Bureau).

The Bureau was composed of Senator Rojo Edwards (Chile) as Second Vice President, and the GRULAC Secretariat, Mr. Oscar Piquinela and Ms. Carina Galvalisi.

The lack of a quorum was initially noted, and it was noted that the topics discussed and requiring approval would be pending until the next Assembly.

### **2. Participation of delegations**

The presence of delegations from Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Peru, Brazil, Paraguay, Mexico, Suriname, Guyana, and the Latin American Parliament was recorded.

The absence of delegations from the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Trinidad and Tobago, Panama, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent, Guatemala, Colombia, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and El Salvador was noted.

### **3. Documents and agenda**

- The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
- The agenda distributed online and via WhatsApp was approved.

### **4. Featured interventions**

- IPU President, Dr. Tulia Ackson: greeted the members of GRULAC, highlighted the election of six female IPU Vice-Presidents, and spoke about support for parliaments undergoing democratic transition (e.g., Chad).

- Delegations from Mexico and Peru: thanked the regional support, highlighted the importance of the World Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Lima (September 2025), and raised questions about strengthening democracy.

- Representative Rolando González (President of Parlatino): reported on climate action initiatives and the creation of the Parliamentary Alliance for Climate Action and Just Transition. The President of Parlatino presented a progress report and referred to the legislative spokesperson meeting; amplifying the voices of small island states; and parliamentary leadership for urgent climate action. This meeting took place on the occasion of the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, organized by the IPU. González said that climate change was a common concern and climate action was a shared responsibility. In that regard, he added, Parlatino established the Parliamentary Alliance for Climate Action and a Just Transition, to accelerate parliamentary input and coordination toward maintaining a clean and healthy environment. He invited parliaments to join this initiative.

- IPU Secretary General Martin Chungong: presented a report on visits to Caribbean parliaments.

## 5. Topics covered

- Vacancies in Standing Committees and IPU bodies: the distribution of positions and the need for ratification at the next Assembly if there were not enough quorum were discussed.
- Amendment to the Regulations: a reminder regarding the expansion of GRULAC to include new Caribbean countries.
- Situation in Venezuela: the suspension of its participation due to debts and internal problems was reviewed.
- Emergency items: a proposal was made to present an issue related to tariff increases. It was agreed that the delegates on the Drafting Committee would be representatives of Chile and Paraguay.

## 6. Appointments and candidacies

- Standing Committees: Partial consensus was reached on vacancies 2, 3, 5, 7, and 8 listed on the GRULAC meeting agenda.
- Science and Technology Group: Senator Silvia Nane (Uruguay) and Senator Monreal (Mexico) nominated.
- Bureau of Young Parliamentarians: Congressman Wilson Soto (Peru) and Representative Julieta Sierra (Uruguay) nominated.

## 7. Closing the session

The invitation to the first joint meeting of Gulf and GRULAC countries was reiterated (5<sup>th</sup> April, 5:00–6:00 p.m.).

President María del Carmen Alva thanked the delegations for their participation and adjourned the meeting.

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## **GRULAC AGREEMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN THE 150th IPU ASSEMBLY**

- 1. First Permanent Committee on International Peace and Security:**
  - Mr. Luis Alfonso Silva (Mexico)
  - Mr. Rodrigo Blanco (Paraguay)
- 2. Second Standing Committee on Sustainable Development:**
  - Mr. César Rendón (Mexico)
  - Mr. Néstor Castellano (Paraguay)
  - Ms. Laura Carneiro (Brazil)
- 3. Third Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights:**
  - Mr. Warren Kwame E. McCoy (Guyana)
- 4. Bureau of Women Parliamentarians:**
  - Ms. María Mercedes Ortiz (Dominican Republic)
  - Ms. Pamela Aguirre (Ecuador)

5. **Bureau of the Young Parliamentarians:**
  - Re-election of Mr. Wilson Soto (Peru)
  - Ms. Julieta Sierra (Uruguay)
6. **Working Group on Science and Technology:**
  - Ms. Silvia Nane (Uruguay)
  - Mr. Saúl Monreal (Mexico)
7. **Committee on Health**
  - Ms. Selene Ávila (Mexico)

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## **BILATERAL MEETING OF GRULAC WITH THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND THE GULF GROUP OF COUNTRIES**

On Saturday, 5<sup>TH</sup> April, GRULAC held the following bilateral meetings:



Meeting of the GRULAC Bureau with the delegation of the United Arab Emirates, chaired by Dr. Ali Al Nuaimi



GRULAC meeting with the Gulf Group of countries

On Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> April, the GRULAC Bureau met with the delegation from the United Arab Emirates, and later, the entire GRULAC participated in the meeting with the Gulf Group of countries.

## Participants

### GRULAC:

Guyana: President of GRULAC, Mr. Manzoor Nadir

Bahamas: Mr. Barran Griffin

Brazil: Deputies Claudio Cajado, Laura Carneiro and José Rocha

Chile: Senator Rojo Awards

Mexico: Representative Selene Ávila, along with two other parliamentarians

Peru: Congresswoman María del Carmen Alva,

Uruguay: Senator Silvia Nane and Representative Amín Niffouri

PARLATINO - President Rolando González Patricio (Cuba)

GRULAC Secretariat: Mr. Oscar Piquinela and Ms. Carina Galvalisi

### United Arab Emirates and Gulf Group of Countries:

United Arab Emirates: Dr. Ali Rashid Al Nuaimi, Member of the Federal National Council and Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Member of the Federal National Council

Kingdom of Bahrain: Mr. Jamal Fakhro, First Vice Chairman of the Shura Council and Mr. Abdulnabi Salman, First Vice Chairman of the Council of Representatives

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Mr. Waleed Hassan Abdulshakour, Member of the Shura Council

Sultanate of Oman: Mr. Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Nadabi, Secretary General of the Shura Council

State of Qatar: Dr. Sultan Al- Dosari, Member of the Shura Council

### **The two meetings were held at the request of Dr. Ali Al Nuaimi, Head of the UAE delegation.**

During the meeting, it was agreed to draft a **Memorandum of Understanding between GRULAC and the Gulf Countries Group**, to be signed at the next IPU Assembly, to be held in October 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland. Prior to this, a draft Memorandum will be exchanged for consideration by the members of both groups. The objective is to bring their positions closer together in the framework of IPU meetings, particularly at its Assemblies, by mentioning support for the urgent issues raised by both groups. This would contribute to strengthening the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two groups.

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