



**Ordinary session of the
Geopolitical Group of Latin America and the Caribbean
to the Inter-Parliamentary Union
(GRULAC-IPU) at the 15th IPU Assembly
(Istanbul, Turkey, 14 April 2026)**

GRULAC met in ordinary session on Tuesday afternoon **April 14 , 2026** , from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., under the leadership of its President, Senator Rojo Edwards (Chile), assisted by the GRULAC Secretariat, Mr. Oscar Piquinela , Secretary General, and Ms. Carina Galvalisi , Secretary . The following members of the GRULAC Bureau also participated: First Vice President Rabindre Parmessar (Suriname) and Second Vice-President Rocío Abed (Paraguay). Also present were the members of the Executive Committee representing GRULAC: Ms. María del Carmen Alva Prieto (Peru), Mr. Claudio Cajado (Brazil), and Ms. Cynthia López Castro (Mexico), an ex officio member of the Executive Committee in her capacity as President of Women MPs.

Participating delegations

The following delegations were present at the GRULAC meeting: Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Guyana, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Suriname and Uruguay, President of Parlatino and President of Parlasur and delegation.



The following agenda was considered :



GRULAC ORDINARY SESSION
Tuesday, April 14, 2026 (from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)
Room: MR 21 (Hilton Bomonti Conference Center)
(English interpretation provided by the IPU)

PRELIMINARY AGENDA¹

Item 1 - 3:00 PM – 3:10 PM

Welcome remarks by the President of GRULAC, Senator Rojo Edwards (Chile)

Item 2 - 15.10 – 15.15 hours

Approval of the Agenda of the GRULAC session at the 152nd IPU Assembly

Item 3 - 3:15 PM – 3:20 PM

Approval of the Minutes of the GRULAC sessions held on the occasion of the 151st IPU Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland (October 2025). These are available on the GRULAC Secretariat website: www.secretariagrulacuip.org

Item 4 - 15.20 – 15.25 hours

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

Item 5 - 3:25 PM – 3:35 PM

Receive the President of the UIP, Dr. Tulia Ackson

Item 6 - 3:35 PM – 3:45 PM

Receive Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU

Item 7 - 3:45 PM – 4:35 PM

Welcome the candidates for Secretary General of the IPU and exchanges on the topic among the GRULAC members. Each candidate will be allotted 10 minutes (5 minutes for introductions, 3 minutes for questions from GRULAC, and 2 minutes for responses). The possibility of a common geopolitical position will be discussed.

Item 8 - 4:35 PM – 4:50 PM

Reports:

- Members of the Executive Committee.
- Members of other statutory bodies of the IPU
 - Report Co-rapporteurs on "Building a fair and sustainable global economy: the role of parliaments in combating protectionism, reducing tariffs and preventing corporate tax evasion" of the IPU Standing Committee on Sustainable Development. Jaqueline Sabao (Tanzania), Deborah O'Neil (Australia), Rojo Edwards (Chile)

Item 9 - 16.50 – 16.55 hours

Report by Dr. José Pedro Montero, President of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP) on the activities of the ASGP

Item 10 - 16.55 – 17.05 hours

Report by the President of the Chamber of Representatives of Uruguay, Rodrigo Goñi Reyes, on the initiative to establish a Global Network of Future Commissions

Item 11 - 17.05 – 17.15 hours

Examination of applications for the registration of an urgent item on the Assembly agenda

¹ Updated on April 8, 2026 – 10:00 AM

Item 12 - 17.15 – 17.20 hours

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

Item 13 - 17.20 – 17.45

Vacancies to be filled at the 152nd UIP Assembly

Candidates to be submitted by GRULAC

1. Board of Directors of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security : 1 vacancy (woman)

- Vacancy left by Bolivia , which cannot run for this position

2. Bureau of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs : Re-election for another 2 years of Rep . M. Salinas (Paraguay), who completed his first 2-year term and is eligible for a second term

3. Working Group on Science and Technology : 1 vacancy (male or female)

Vacancy to replace Ms. M. Seymour (Bahamas) who is no longer a Member of Parliament

Applications to be submitted on an individual basis

3. Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians: 2 vacancies for GRULAC (male and female)

Note: Candidates are nominated individually based on their competence, commitment to human rights, and availability. They must have a good command of English or French. While they do not represent any geopolitical group as such, they must be members of a parliament belonging to one of the aforementioned geopolitical groups. They may receive the support of their national parliaments in submitting their nominations.

Item 14 - 17.45 – 18.00 hours

Other matters.

Oscar Piquinela
Secretary General of GRULAC

Senator Rojo Edwards,
President of GRULAC



SUMMARY RECORDS OF GRULAC ORDINARY SESSION (Istanbul, Turkey, April 14, 2026)

1. Opening of the meeting

The President of GRULAC, Senator Rojo Edwards (Chile) welcomed the delegations and highlighted the importance of strengthening the participation and coordination of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the work of the IPU.



At the beginning of the session, special recognition was given to **Mr. Oscar Piquinela**, Secretary General of GRULAC, he was recognized for his 36 years of service to GRULAC and for Uruguay's leadership of the Group's Executive Secretariat. Recognition was also given to **Mr. Juan Osés (Chile) for his 35 years of participation** at the IPU Assemblies.

The President also greeted the Presidents of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (Parlatino) and the Mercosur Parliament (Parlasur).

It was reported that **the Dominican Republic will host the IPU Assembly in October 2027**, a circumstance that was especially valued as it constitutes the first Assembly of the Organization in Latin America since the one held in Ecuador in 2013. It was highlighted that this meeting will constitute an opportunity to promote greater participation of Caribbean countries in GRULAC.

2. Approval of the previous minutes and the agenda

The Secretary of GRULAC reported that the minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed beforehand and that no comments had been received.

He reminded the delegations of the importance of the designated parliamentarians actively participating in the committees and other bodies for which they were nominated. He also stressed the need for the representatives eligible to vote to remain in Istanbul until April 19, the date scheduled for the election of the new IPU Secretary General.

The minutes of the previous meeting and the agenda were approved.

3. Address by the President of the IPU



The President of the IPU, **Dr. Tulia Ackson**, addressed the Group and thanked its members for their commitment to the Organization and their continued participation in the Assemblies. She also recalled the discussions held with GRULAC regarding the aspiration for Spanish to be recognized as an official language of the IPU and stated that she would continue to follow up on this matter.

Vice President Rabindre Parmessar (Suriname) raised the difficulties faced by small island developing states and developing countries in fully participating in IPU activities, particularly due to the cost of contributions and participation in meetings. He proposed analyzing financing mechanisms to provide them with greater support and emphasized that these countries disproportionately suffer the consequences of climate change.

President Ackson indicated that the matter would continue to be considered by the Executive Committee and recalled the use of the Parliamentary Solidarity Fund to facilitate the participation of small island states in certain Assemblies. She also reported that the possibility of providing a dedicated meeting space for these states was being explored.

4. Intervention of the President of Parlatino

The President of the Latin American and the Caribbean Parliament, **Deputy Rolando González (Cuba)**, reported on various initiatives of said organization.

He highlighted the opening in Panama of an office linked to the Green Climate Fund, intended to facilitate access for Latin American countries to these resources; the progress of the Parliamentary Alliance for Climate Action ; and the upcoming presentation of a Parliamentary Charter for Climate Action in Latin America and the Caribbean.

He also reported that the 39th Assembly of the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino) had approved the creation of a Special Commission on the Caribbean , also open to Caribbean countries that are not part of the organization, with the objective of specifically addressing the needs of small island states.

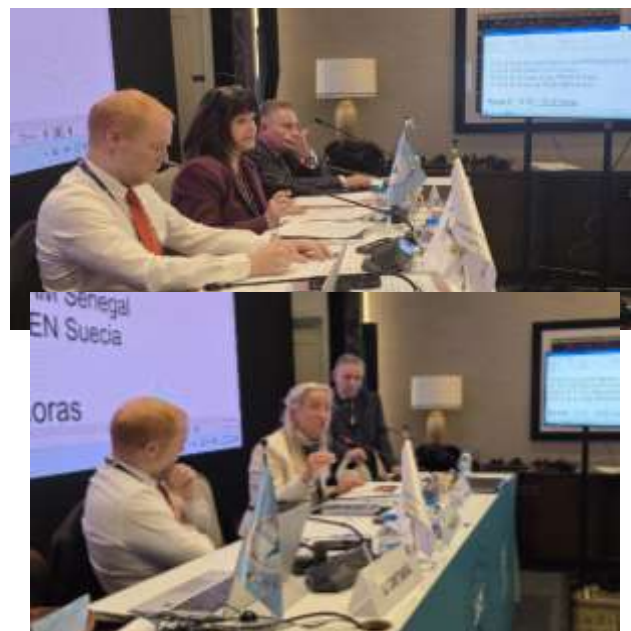
5. Election of the IPU Secretary General

One of the central topics of the meeting was the upcoming election of the IPU Secretary General.

The President reported that, following the withdrawal of the candidate from the Republic of Korea for health reasons, four candidates remained:

- **Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou (Greece)**
- **Anda Filip (Romania)**
- **Fatou Dieng Thiam (Senegal)**
- **Cecilia Widegren (Sweden)**

The four candidates were received successively by GRULAC and had the same amount of time to present their backgrounds, priorities and proposals, followed by an exchange with the parliamentarians.



Among the main issues raised by the Group members were the recognition of Spanish as an official language of the IPU , the strengthening of GRULAC's presence and influence within the Organization, support for small island States and developing countries, gender equality and violence against women, IPU financing, climate change, the modernization of the Organization, the use of new technologies and the strengthening of the Future Commissions and anticipatory governance.

Following the presentations, the discussion turned to the advisability of GRULAC seeking a common position on one of the candidacies. Several participants indicated that a coordinated position would allow the Group to increase its negotiating power with other geopolitical groups and more effectively articulate its priorities.

Other members emphasized the independence of each Parliament and the secret nature of the vote.

As a result of the exchange, it was established that any eventual position of GRULAC would be exclusively a recommendation and would not be binding, with each country maintaining full freedom to exercise its vote.

It was agreed to hold confidential consultations between the delegations to determine if there was a sufficiently large majority in favor of any candidate that would allow the Group to reach a common position.

6. Draft resolution of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development

Reports were given on the work related to the draft resolution entitled "Building a fair and sustainable global economy: the role of parliaments in combating protectionism, reducing tariffs and preventing corporate tax avoidance" .

Senator Deborah O'Neil (Australia) addressed GRULAC, in her capacity as co - rapporteur of the draft resolution, together with Senator Rojo Edwards (Chile).

It was explained that the text brought together two originally separate initiatives — one linked to trade and tariffs and the other to tax avoidance by multinational companies — and that hundreds of amendments had been received from Member Parliaments.



The co -rapporteurs worked on incorporating and harmonizing these proposals with the aim of achieving a balanced text that would promote free and fair trade, while ensuring adequate taxation of multinational companies.

7. Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP)

The President of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP), **Dr. José Pedro Montero (Uruguay)** , reported on the main topics that would be considered during the Association's meetings in Istanbul, including the functioning of parliamentary administrations, remote work and the use of artificial intelligence in parliaments.

He particularly highlighted that, for the first time in ASGP history, simultaneous interpretation into Spanish and Arabic , funded by the IPU, would be offered at both the Istanbul Assembly and the subsequent Assembly in Tanzania.

In this context, he called for promoting greater participation of the Secretaries General of Latin American parliaments in the Association's meetings.

8. Future Commissions, anticipatory governance and artificial intelligence

The President of the Uruguayan Chamber of Representatives, **Rodrigo Goñi** , proposed that GRULAC promote within the IPU the creation of a **permanent space or global network of Future Commissions and anticipatory governance** , with the aim of exchanging experiences and methodologies to address complex and emerging challenges.



He also announced the intention to hold a new international forum in Montevideo during the last week of November 2026, dedicated to artificial intelligence in parliaments, its regulation and its impacts on society, following the experience of the meeting previously held in Kuala Lumpur.

The proposal received broad support.

It was agreed to empower the GRULAC Bureau to, together with the Group's representatives on the Executive Committee, analyze and promote before the IPU the

most appropriate institutional modality to establish a permanent space dedicated to Future Commissions and anticipatory governance.

9. Report of the GRULAC representatives on the Executive Committee



GRULAC representatives on the Executive Committee, **Maricarmen Alva Prieto (Peru)** and **Claudio Cajado (Brazil)**, reported on the main issues discussed by this body.

Among the topics discussed were the selection process for candidates for Secretary General; the financial situation of the Organization; the situation of various Member Parliaments affected by conflicts, political crises or institutional disruptions; the situation in Venezuela; and the development of the new IPU Strategy 2027-2031.

Information was also provided about the upcoming Assemblies: the next meeting in Tanzania, from 5 to 9 October 2026 , and the one initially planned in Geneva, from 17 to 21 May 2027 , should no other host Parliament emerge.

Reference was also made to the upcoming election of the IPU Presidency and the ongoing discussion regarding rotation among geopolitical groups.

10. Forum of Women Parliamentarians

Senator **Cynthia López Castro (Mexico)** reported on the IPU study on sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments , noting that it was time to carry out the regional stage for Latin America and the Caribbean.

He requested the collaboration of GRULAC Parliaments to facilitate the participation of female parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and male parliamentarians in the planned interviews, under confidentiality criteria.

She also invited the delegations to participate in the World Conference of Women Parliamentarians, scheduled to take place in Serbia from June 2 to 4, 2026.

11. Parliamentary action on climate change

Juan Pablo Letelier presented the work developed in the area of parliamentary action against climate change and, in particular, a guide intended to support the development of legislation for the reduction of methane emissions.

He highlighted the relevance of the issue for Latin America, especially due to its impact on the energy, agricultural and waste management sectors, and noted the growing influence of environmental regulations on international trade.

He also referred to new debates related to carbon dioxide removal and geoengineering, which will require increasing attention from the perspective of governance and parliamentary regulation.

12. Emergency item

The President of GRULAC reported on the existence of two proposals for the emergency item related to the war situation in the Middle East.

Following an exchange of views, the Group considered the possibility of providing institutional support for the proposal concerning the **urgent need for parliamentary efforts to preserve ceasefires and support peacebuilding**.

GRULAC agreed to support this proposed emergency item.

It was also agreed to appoint **Senator Andrés Ojeda (Uruguay)** and **Deputy Marcela Guerra (Mexico)** as GRULAC representatives to the corresponding Drafting Committee, with the aim of contributing to the improvement of the text.

13. GRULAC Vacancies and Candidacies

The existing vacancies in different bodies of the IPU were then considered.

The following agreements were adopted:

- Re-election of Deputy Marcelo Salinas (Paraguay) to the Bureau of the Fourth Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs for another 2 years
- Bureau of the First Permanent Committee on Peace and International Security: Deputy Flor Weisse (Chile), for a 2-year term with the possibility of re-election for another 2 years
- ~~Working Group on Science and Technology: Deputy Francisco Fariás (Mexico)~~ *After being submitted to the IPU, this candidacy was rejected by the IPU because Mexico was already part of the Science and Technology Group through Senator Ricardo Monreal.*
- Drafting committee for the urgent item: Deputy Marcela Guerra (Mexico) and Senator Andrés Ojeda (Uruguay)
- Regarding **the Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians**, it was reported that there were two vacancies and that applications were submitted individually. Interested parties were invited to contact the GRULAC Bureau and Secretariat to discuss the Group's potential support.

14. Future Presidency of the IPU

Under "Other business" item, the advisability of GRULAC beginning to analyze in advance the election of the next IPU Presidency, scheduled for October 2026, was raised.

The importance of increasing the Group's influence within the Organization was highlighted, and the possibility of promoting a candidacy from Latin America and the Caribbean was raised.

The Bureau indicated that the matter should continue to be analyzed in a timely manner by the Group with a view to achieving the greatest possible regional coordination.

15. Closure

With no other matters to discuss, the President thanked the delegations for their participation and adjourned the meeting.

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