

National Assembly of Belize

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PRESS RELEASE

<u>Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives attends the 7th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network in Santiago, Chile</u>

—21st **April 2023**—The Honourable Marconi Leal, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, is currently in Santiago, Chile attending the 7th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network: The Future of Democracy in the Digital Era, which has been organized by ParlAmericas with the support of the National Congress of Chile. The conference started yesterday 20th April, and will end tomorrow, 22nd April 2023.

This three-day conference seeks to give participating parliamentarians and other parliamentary officials the opportunity to analyze the impact of digital transformation on democratic systems, considering not only the opportunities and challenges that have emerged in recent years due to the widespread use of the internet and ICTs, but also how efforts and initiatives for integrated and inclusive digital governance can be implemented within the paradigm of open parliament.

Topics being discussed include: Advancing citizen participation through digital means; new opportunities and challenges for gender equality; Addressing online disinformation from within parliament; Parliamentary actions for integrated and inclusive digital governance; and From digital divide to digital inclusion.

The conference will end with the signing of a declaration where parliamentarians will commit to promote inclusive, people-centered digitalization that is in compliance with human rights and that fosters a trustworthy, safe, responsible, and sustainable use of emerging digital technologies and artificial intelligence, as well as advocating digital transformation in general.

ParlAmericas is meeting the costs of travel and accommodation for the participation of Honourable Leal, who is schedule to return on Sunday, 23rd April 2023.

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