



National Assembly of Belize

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PRESS RELEASE

President of the Senate attends Conference of Parties COP28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

—Thursday, 14th December 2023— Senator, the Honourable Carolyn Trench-Sandiford, President of the Senate, represented the National Assembly at the Conference of Parties COP28 in Dubai where she served as a panelist for two side meetings on the 4th December 2023.

The first panel was convened by ParlAmericas, of which the National Assembly is a member, and on which President Trench-Sandiford serves as a member of the Board. The panel's title was "the Escazú Agreement and ACE: Strengthening environmental democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean". Having ratified the Escazu Agreement in February of this year, President Trench-Sandiford had the opportunity to provide few of the keyways Belize's parliament is working to meet the agreement's core objectives of strengthened access to information, participation and capacity on environment topics. Other panelists that joined President Trench-Sandiford on this discussion were Hon. Dessima Willaims, President of the Senate of Grenada, Hon. Juan Carlos Losada, member of the Chamber of Representatives of Colombia and Carlos de Miguel, Head of the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The second panel was by Globe International-the global Legislators Association, and the was title, "A common climate? Can different parties work together on the climate challenge in an era of polarization?" During this panel President Trench-Sandiford was able to share Belize's experience on cross party dialogue and consensus building in the legislative passage of Bills and motions. Joining President Trench-Sandiford were Hon. Chris Skidmore and Hon. Alex Scobel, Conservative and Labour Parties' members of the House of Commons in the United Kingdom and Professor Thomas Hale of the Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford University.

On the 6th December, President Trench-Sandiford also attended the parliamentary meeting organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union to facilitate knowledge sharing, international cooperation and exchange of best practices for climate action.

All costs related to the travel for President Trench-Sandiford were met by ParlAmericas.

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