



# National Assembly of Belize

## Office of the Clerk

P.O. Box 139, Belmopan, Cayo District, Belize Central America  
Tel. (+501) 822-2141/2142 or 2144  
E-mail: [ClerkNA@bna.gov.bz](mailto:ClerkNA@bna.gov.bz)  
[www.nationalassembly.gov.bz](http://www.nationalassembly.gov.bz)

REF: NA/17/24 (48)

### PRESS RELEASE

**Senators attend the hemispheric interparliamentary gathering on Migration in the Context of Socio-Environmental Challenges, Climate Change and Sustainability, Gender Equality and Women's Rights and Gender Equity in San José, Costa Rica**

--Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 – **Senator, the Honourable Isabel Bennett-Moody, and Senator, the Honourable Antonio Herrera** attended the **8th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and Sustainability, 16th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality and IX Meeting of the Interparliamentary Commission on Women's Rights and Gender Equity of FOPREL**, in **San José, Costa Rica**, from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

The three-day event was hosted jointly by FOPREL and ParlAmericas, bringing together parliamentarians, non-governmental organizations and activists from across the Americas to address urgent issues surrounding the impact of climate change on migration, women's rights, gender equality, and human trafficking. The gathering provided a space to analyse recent migration trends in the region from different perspectives, and to explore the role of parliaments in adopting comprehensive and inclusive approaches to address migration-related challenges and opportunities in the hemisphere.

The sessions featured keynote speeches and panel discussions which focused on integrating gender perspectives into climate policies, promoting sustainability and regional framework law to prevent and combat trafficking of persons. Participants also shared best practices and strategies for fostering inclusive environments within their respective legislative bodies.

In her role as a panellist, the Honourable Bennett-Moody presented on "Legislative Experiences and Best Practices in Addressing Human Mobility," sharing valuable insights and perspectives relating to education and health services available to migrants in Belize. In addition, her contributions highlighted the nine legislations that Belize has enacted to help to meet the needs of migrants.

A significant outcome of the IX Meeting was the adoption of a Resolution aimed at strengthening regulatory frameworks and collective action to prevent and combat human trafficking in Central America, the Caribbean Basin, and Mexico by Senator Bennett Moody in the FOPREL Interparliamentary Commission on Citizen Security and Administration of Justice. This resolution underscores the commitment of participating parliamentarians to address this pressing issue and protect the rights of migrants in the region.

Travel expenses for both Senators were made possible through the support of FOPREL and ParlAmericas. The Senators departed Belize on Tuesday, 22nd October 2024, and returned on Saturday, 26th October 2024.

---END---

