

# 7th FIPA Plenary Assembly Report

Mexico City, Mexico  
November 17–19, 2010





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## Acknowledgements

The Technical Secretariat of FIPA wishes to express its heartfelt thanks to the Senate of Mexico, in particular to Senator Adriana González Carillo, and the staff of the Bureau for Coordination of Foreign Affairs and Parliamentary Relations of the Mexican Senate for their collaboration in the organization of the Seventh Plenary Assembly of FIPA.

We would also like to express our sincere thanks to the guest speakers and working group secretaries for their invaluable contribution to the working sessions.



Ignacio González CPPAN Senate, Mexico

Delegates of the 7th Plenary Assembly—Official Photo

## 1. Introduction

At the kind invitation of the Senate of Mexico, the Seventh Plenary Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA) was held on November 17–19, 2010 in Mexico City.

The overall theme of the event was *New Challenges for the Americas in the 21st Century*. This important event brought together about 40 parliamentarians participating as official delegates from 12 countries of the Americas, as well as one representative from a permanent observer country. (See Appendix 1 for the list of participants.)

## 2. Opening Session

The opening ceremony of the Seventh Plenary Assembly took place on Wednesday, November 17, 2010 at the Patio Central (Central Square) of the Senate of Mexico.

The session began with a welcome delivered by the **Honourable Manlio Fabio Beltrones, President of the Senate of Mexico**. Senator Beltrones underscored the importance of the Assembly, highlighting that its work and outcomes would contribute to the reinforcement of the mechanisms created by the parliaments and governments of the region to strengthen the fight against crime.



Ignacio González CPPAN Senate, Mexico

Guests of Honour - Opening Ceremony

The ceremony proceeded with remarks by **Senator José González Morfin, President of the Board of Political Coordination of the Senate of Mexico**. Senator González called for the work of FIPA to strengthen concerted actions that convey the required political will, so that the battle against organized crime will translate into concrete actions and strategies which will end “this scourge that affects so much our families and countries.”

He was followed by the **Mexican Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Patricia Espinosa Castellano**. Ambassador Espinosa stated that the greatest regional challenge is the urgent necessity to consolidate democracy in order to develop common, regular practices, and open and transparent institutions, so as to ensure the participation and support of citizens in the construction of prosperous and just societies.

The ceremony proceeded with remarks by **Mexican Deputy Amador Monroy Estrada, Vice President of the Chamber of Deputies of Mexico**, who pointed out that Mexican legislators in the Lower Chamber are interested in the harmonization of policies to foster international trade and encourage security, subjects that impact different regions across the hemisphere.

**Mexican Senator Adriana González Carillo, Representative of the Plenary Assembly Host Country on the Executive Committee of FIPA**, was then invited to speak. Senator González stated that the Plenary Assembly represents the opportunity to solidify the process of institutional strengthening in the Americas, as it encourages the necessary reforms to intensify the rule of law, to promote fair trade that supports sustainable development, and to mitigate the effects of climate change and pandemics.

**The Honourable Luiz Carlos Hauly, President of FIPA and Member of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies**, then addressed the Assembly. President Hauly thanked the Mexican Senate for its generosity in hosting the event. Speaking on hemispheric integration, he stressed that a Parliament of the Americas has the potential to become a reality. “We are 35 countries, with a billion people in

the region,” he said, “who have the right to dream of integration in all senses.”

## 3. First Session of the Plenary Assembly

### 3.1 Consideration of the Agenda

President Luiz Carlos Hauly launched the session with a presentation of the draft agenda. The agenda was adopted unanimously by the Plenary Assembly. (See Appendix 2 for the agenda of the Plenary Assembly.)

### 3.2 Election of the Seventh Plenary Meeting Chair

President Hauly then presided over the election of the Chair of the Seventh Plenary Assembly. Mexican Senator Adriana González Carillo, representative of the Plenary Assembly Host Country on the Executive Committee of FIPA, was elected by acclamation.

### 3.3 Annual Report

President Hauly was invited to present the annual report of FIPA, summarizing the work of the Executive Committee and Technical Secretariat in 2009-2010.

President Hauly started his report by sharing the results of major FIPA activities. These included the Trade Workshop for Parliamentarians, *The Doha Round: Challenges and Opportunities for the Region*, which was organized in conjunction with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and hosted by the Senate of Mexico in May; and the Meeting of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, *Women in Power: Challenges for the 21st Century*, which was hosted by the National Assembly of Ecuador in August 2010 in Quito. He also noted the participation of a FIPA delegation at the 40th General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) in June 2010 in Lima, and mentioned that the Executive Committee had met three times throughout the year, first in Panama in January, then in Asuncion in June, and in Mexico City a day before this Plenary Assembly.



President Haully also reported on the signing of a contribution agreement between the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Parliamentary Centre of Canada (PCC) and FIPA for a stream of work aimed at *Strengthening the Role of Parliaments in Democratic Governance and Sustainable Development in the Americas*. He also announced that PCC and FIPA had signed a new Memorandum of Understanding which would facilitate the execution of activities envisioned under the contribution agreement, and spoke to an initial needs assessment exercise that took place among member countries, based on which capacity-building activities are being developed.

President Haully then turned to administrative matters, reporting in particular on the review and implementation of a new communications strategy for FIPA, which focuses on updating and modernizing the website and developing a new image and logo for the organization. He also informed on staff changes at the Technical Secretariat, and reported on the regular fees and special contributions received from member parliaments and other organizations over the past year.

The report was approved by the Plenary Assembly. (See Appendix 3 for the complete Annual Report.)

### 3.4 Establishment of Working Groups

As recommended by the FIPA Executive Committee, the Chair of the Plenary Meeting proposed the establishment of the following working groups:

#### **Working Group 1: Preparation and Response to Natural and Human-made Disasters and Emergency Situations**

Chair: Víctor Juliao III, Representative of Central America in the Executive Committee of FIPA, Member of the National Assembly of Panama

Invited Experts: Jeremy Collymore, Executive Director, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Agency (CDEMA)

Ricardo Mena, Regional Coordinator, United Nations International Strategy for the Reduction of Disasters (UNISDR)

#### **Working Group 2: Regional Security and Transnational Crime**

Chair: Carlos Roger Caballero Fioro, Member of the Senate of Paraguay

Invited Experts: Gerardo Rodríguez Sánchez Lara, Member, Collective for the Analysis of Security with Democracy, Mexico City, Mexico

Dr. Athanasios Hristoulas, Professor, Department of International Affairs, Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico (ITAM), Mexico City, Mexico

#### **Working Group 3: Participation of Civil Society in the Strengthening of Democracy**

Chair: Randy Hoback, Representative of North America in the Executive Committee of FIPA, Member of Parliament (M.P.) of Canada



Ignacio González CPPAN Senate, Mexico

President of FIPA, Deputy Luiz Carlos Haully (Brazil) in the Opening Ceremony

Invited Experts: Dr. Philip Oxhorn, Professor and Founding Director, Institute for the Study of International Development (ISID), McGill University, Montreal, Canada

Koebel Price, Senior Advisor, Citizen Participation Program, National Democratic Institute (NDI), Washington D.C., United States

Senator González also invited all parliamentarians to take part in the second working session of the **Meeting of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas** to be held the morning of November 18, 2010 and chaired by the President of the Group, Linda Machuca Moscoso, Member of the National Assembly of Ecuador.

(See Appendix 4 for biographies of invited experts.)

### 3.5 Other Business

The Chair advised participants that elections would take place to fill the following positions:

- Host country of the Eighth Plenary Assembly; and
- One representative for each of the four sub-regions: the Caribbean, Central America, North America, and South America.

In addition, the Executive Committee put forward a resolution that, given the importance of North American leadership in achieving the goals of FIPA and at the Executive Committee, and due to the absence of the United States of America in the activities of FIPA, Mexico be designated to fill the position on the Executive Committee left vacant by the United States of America, to end at the 8th Plenary Assembly. The resolution was approved by the Plenary.

The Chair invited delegates to read the rules of procedure and make use of nomination forms available in their Plenary documents.



Ignacio González CPPAN Senate, Mexico

From left to right: Expert Gloria Young (Panama) and Linda Machuca, President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians and Member of the National Assembly of Ecuador

### 3.6 Special Presentation: Challenges for the Americas—Dr. Roberto Newell, Director of the Mexican Institute for Competitiveness A.C.

The Chair introduced Dr. Newell, who gave a powerful talk on the challenges facing the Americas in the context of the global economy. He spoke about the impact of the global economic crisis, mentioning that the world has changed forever as a result, and that political realities must forcibly adapt. He outlined the serious changes that have taken place in the standard of living of consumer families in the United States of America, bringing to life statistics of the global economic crisis. Dr. Newell spoke about the resulting changes in consumer habits in the United States and elsewhere, and how this in turn impacts the global economy. He concluded by making several recommendations for countries in the Americas, focusing especially on the need to invest in human capital to ensure that the hemisphere remains relevant and competitive in the shifting global economy.



Following a stimulating discussion which included various perspectives on the Americas, the Plenary Session was adjourned.

## 4. Final Session of the Plenary Assembly

The final session of the Seventh Plenary Assembly was held on the morning of Friday, November 19, 2010.

### 4.1 Reports of the Working Groups and Consideration of Recommendations

The Chair of the Plenary Assembly, Mexican Senator Adriana González Carillo, invited working group chairs to present summaries of deliberations held within their respective groups and the recommendations being submitted to the Plenary Assembly for consideration. (See Appendix 5 for the full reports and recommendations of working groups.)

#### 4.1.1 Working Group I: Preparation and Response to Natural and Human-Made Disasters and Emergency Situations

Víctor Juliao III, Member of the National Assembly of Panama and member of the Executive Committee of FIPA representing Central America, took the floor to present the report and recommendations of the Working Group on Preparation and Response to Natural and Human-Made Disasters and Emergency Situations. Eight parliamentarians from six member countries had participated in this working group.

He highlighted the participation of the invited experts, Ricardo Mena, Head of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction of the United Nations (UNISDR), and Jeremy Collymore, Executive Director of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

Mr. Juliao then presented the recommendations of the working group resulting from its two-day discussion, submitting them for the consideration of the Plenary Assembly. During the ensuing discussion



Ignacio González GPPAN Senate, Mexico

Senator Jose González Morfin (Mexico)

on the recommendations, delegates emphasized that parliamentarians must ensure that public policies have sufficient resources to deal with disasters. The recommendations were adopted by the Plenary Assembly without amendments.

#### 4.1.2 Working Group 2: Regional Security and Transnational Crime

The Chair then gave the floor to Paraguayan Senator, Carlos Roger Caballero Fioro, who had chaired the discussion of the Working Group on Regional Security and Transnational Crime. Thirteen parliamentarians from nine countries of the hemisphere had participated in this working group.

Senator Caballero presented key points from the presentations of the invited experts, Gerardo Rodríguez Sánchez Lara of the Collective for the Analysis of Security with Democracy, and Dr. Athanasios Hristoulas, Professor from the International Studies Department at the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico (ITAM).

Recommendations adopted by the working group were then submitted to the Plenary Assembly for consideration.

During discussion, parliamentarians underlined the need to establish broader networks of cooperation among states in the fight against transnational crime. The recommendations were adopted without amendments.

#### 4.1.3 Working Group 3: Participation of Civil Society in the Strengthening of Democracy

Randy Hoback, Member of Parliament of Canada and member of the Executive Committee of FIPA representing the North America sub-region, presented the recommendations of Working Group on the Participation of Civil Society in the Strengthening of Democracy. Fifteen parliamentarians from six countries had participated in this working group.

Mr. Hoback highlighted the work of the two invited experts, Dr. Philip Oxhorn, Professor and Founding Director of the Institute for the Study of International Development (ISID) at McGill University, and Koebel Price, Senior Advisor of the Citizen Participation Program at the National Democratic Institute (NDI), in Washington D.C.

Recommendations from the working group were then submitted to the Plenary Assembly for consideration. The recommendations were adopted by the Plenary Assembly with minor wording changes.

#### 4.1.4 Sixth Meeting of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas

The President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians, Member of the Ecuadorian National Assembly, Linda Machuca Moscoso, was given the floor to report on the group's activities throughout the year. Ms. Machuca reported on the meeting *Women in Power: A Challenge for the 21st Century* held in Quito, Ecuador on August 11–12, 2010, which was attended by 45 women parliamentarians from 16 countries in the Americas.

She then reported the outcomes of the Sixth Meeting of the Group of Women Parliamentarians, which took place on the mornings of November 17–18, 2010 with the participation of 14 delegates from Canada, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, Dominica, Chile, Mexico, Ecuador, Panama and Paraguay. Ms. Machuca highlighted the participation of Gloria Young, Director of the Centre of Studies and Competences in Gender, Panama, as the invited expert during the meeting. Ms. Young's presentation, upon which the group's discussions were based, explored the progress, difficulties and challenges of Afro-Caribbean, Afro-Latin American, and indigenous women in politics.



Presentations during Final Session of Plenary Assembly



Ms. Machuca presented the recommendations approved by the working group, noting that this set of recommendations fully subscribes to the content of the Quito Declaration issued by the Group of Women Parliamentarians in August 2010. The recommendations were adopted by the Plenary Assembly with one minor amendment.

## 4.2 Consideration of Resolutions

Following examination of the working group reports, the Plenary Assembly considered resolutions presented by the FIPA Executive Committee and by delegates. (See Appendix 6 for the full text of resolutions.)

### 4.2.1 Resolution FIPA/PA7/2010/RES.1: Vacancy on the Executive Committee for the North American Sub-Region

The Plenary Assembly had already passed a resolution on November 17, 2010 regarding Mexico filling the vacancy on the Executive Committee due to the absence of the United States of America.

### 4.2.2 Resolution FIPA/PA7/2010/RES.2: Expanding the Use of “FIPA–ParlAmericas”

FIPA President Luiz Carlos Hauly presented a resolution from the FIPA Executive Committee aimed at promoting parliamentary integration and participation in the inter-American system and contributing to inter-parliamentary dialogue regarding issues on the hemispheric agenda, as well as increasing the visibility and relevance of the FIPA brand. The resolution proposes that where possible, FIPA begin to be known as “FIPA-ParlAmericas”.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

### 4.2.3 Resolution FIPA/PA7/2010/RES.3: Paraguay Holding Two Seats on the Executive Committee

The Chair presented a draft resolution authorizing the Executive Committee to enter into an understanding with Paraguay to relinquish its seat as representative of the South-America sub-region on the Executive Committee to Chile, which would serve until the Eighth Plenary Assembly. The reason for the introduction of this resolution was the double representation of Paraguay on the Executive Committee, both as Host Country of the

Eighth Plenary Meeting and as representative of the South America sub-region.

The resolution was adopted, with Chile abstaining from the vote.

### 4.2.4 Declaration FIPA/PA7/2010/DEC.1 “To Condemn the Violence in Ecuador”

A resolution was then introduced by Ecuador in rejection and condemnation of the violence on September 30, 2010 that threatened the country’s constitutional order and democratic governmental institutions. The resolution made reference to an earlier declaration made by President Hauly, which emphatically condemned such acts and called on all FIPA members to support Ecuador’s National Assembly. The resolution called for the promotion of regional dialogue “so as to jointly influence the maintenance of democracy and peace in each and every country.”

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

## 4.3 Election of FIPA Executive Committee Members

### 4.3.1 Host Country of the Next Plenary Meeting

The Plenary Assembly accepted by unanimity the offer of the Congress of Paraguay to host the Eighth Plenary Assembly



Senator Adriana Gonzalez Carrillo (Mexico)

Ignacio González GPAN Senate, Mexico



Ignacio González CPPAN Senate, Mexico

23rd Executive Committee Meeting

of FIPA in 2011, the year of the country’s bicentennial anniversary. The Assembly also received a proposal from Panama to host the Ninth Plenary Assembly in 2012.

#### 4.3.2 Sub-Regional Representatives

The Chair then invited delegates to elect the country to represent their respective sub-regions on the Executive Committee for the period of 2010 –2012. The following countries were elected:

- For the North American sub-region: Canada
- For the Caribbean sub-region: Haiti
- For the Central America sub-region: no country was elected; the position remains vacant
- For the South American sub-region: Colombia.

(See Appendix 7 for a list of the members of the Executive Committee for 2010 –2011.)

#### 4.4 Other Business

The United Nations’ Assistant Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Margareta Wahlström, participated in the last session of the Plenary Assembly. She offered some suggestions regarding the recommendations of Working Group 1, in relation to the management of disasters and emergencies. Furthermore, she emphasized the relevance of

women during these situations and commended the efforts of the Group of Women Parliamentarians on this matter. She also highlighted some recent parliamentary initiatives that have taken place around the region on this subject.

## 5. Closing

President Haulý acknowledged the warmth and hospitality displayed by the organizers of the Assembly and congratulated Mexico on its Bicentenary of Independence. He congratulated Senator Adriana González Carillo for her efforts as the Chair of the event, and commented on the impressive participation of all parliamentarians, expressing satisfaction with the results achieved through the adopted resolutions.

The Chair congratulated newly elected members of the Executive Committee and thanked the event’s support team for the quality of services provided. She then declared the meeting closed.



# Appendices

## Appendix 1—List of Participants

### DELEGATES

#### President of FIPA (Brazil)

Luiz Carlos Hauly, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

#### Argentina

Julio Cobos, Senator

#### Brazil

José Nery Azevedo, Senator

Francisco de Assis Moraes Souza, Senator

Colbert Martins, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Mauricio Rands, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

#### Canada

Terrance Stratton, Senator

Nicole Demers, Member of Parliament

Earl Dreeshen, Member of Parliament

Randy Hoback, Member of Parliament

Peter Julian, Member of Parliament

Lawrence MacAulay, Member of Parliament

Bev Shipley, Member of Parliament

#### Chile

Germán Becker Alvear, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Mario Bertolino Rendic, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Nino Baltolú, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Ricardo Rincón González, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Cristina Girardi Lavín, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

María Angélica Cristi Marfil, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

#### Colombia

Germán Blanco Alvarez, Member of the Chamber of Representatives

#### Dominica

Gloria Shillingford, Member of Parliament

#### Ecuador

Rocío Valarezo, Member of the National Assembly

Linda Machuca Moscoso, Member of the National Assembly

Gastón Alberto Gagliardo Loor, Member of the National Assembly

Lídice Larrea, Member of the National Assembly

#### Haiti

Edmonde S. Beauzile, Senator

Jean Baptiste Jean Willy, Senator

#### Mexico

Adriana González Carrillo, Senator

Ricardo García Cervantes, Senator

María Serrano Serrano, Senator

Jesús Ramírez Rangel, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Eduardo Bailey Elizondo, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

#### Panama

Dana Castañeda, Member of the National Assembly

Víctor Julio III, Member of the National Assembly

#### Paraguay

Carlos Roger Caballero Fioro, Senator

María Digna Roa, Senator

#### Trinidad and Tobago

Dr. Fuad Khan, Member of Parliament

### PERMANENT OBSERVERS

#### People's Republic of China

Yao Fei, Member of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China

### GUESTS AND INVITED EXPERTS

#### Mexican Institute for Competitiveness

Dr. Roberto Newell, Director

#### United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)

Ricardo Mena, Chief of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

Margareta Wahlström, Assistant Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction of the United Nations

**Caribbean Disaster Emergency  
Management Agency (CDEMA)**

Jeremy Collymore, Executive Director

**Collective for the Analysis of Security  
with Democracy (CASEDE)**

Gerardo Rodríguez Sánchez Lara, Member

**Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico (ITAM)**

Dr. Athanasios Hristoulas, Professor of International Studies

**Institute for the Study of International  
Development (ISID), McGill University**

Dr. Philip Oxhorn, Professor and Founding Director

**National Democratic Institute (NDI)**

Koebel Price, Senior Advisor

**Centre for Gender Studies and Competencies**

Gloria Young, Director

**ACCOMPANYING STAFF**

**Parliament of Canada**

Leif-Erik Aune, Secretary of Delegation

Aïcha Coulibaly, Library of Parliament Analyst

**Senate of Mexico**

Pablo Serrano Vallejo, Director General of  
International Affairs

Cecilia Toledo Escobar, Assistant to Senator Adriana  
González Carrillo

Christian Allan Bravo Rosales, Assistant to Senator Adriana  
González Carrillo

**Senate of Paraguay**

Stella Frutos, Director of the Commission of External  
Relations of the Senate

**FIPA TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**

Gina Hill, Executive Secretary

Viviane Rossini, Administrative Assistant

Elena Sosa Lerín, Communications Program Officer



## Appendix 2— Agenda of the Seventh Plenary Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA), November 17–19, 2010, Mexico City, Mexico

### INTER-PARLIAMENTARY FORUM OF THE AMERICAS (FIPA)

#### SEVENTH PLENARY ASSEMBLY

November 17 – 19, Mexico City, Mexico

#### AGENDA

(As adopted by Plenary Assembly)

#### Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2010

- Participants Arrival  
Transfer from Mexico City's Benito Juárez International Airport to the Marriott Reforma Hotel
- 15.00 – 21.00 hrs Registration and distribution of documents  
Lobby, Marriott Reforma Hotel
- 16.00 – 18.00 hrs Meeting of the Executive Committee members of FIPA  
Room María Félix, Marriott Reforma Hotel

#### Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2010

- 07.30 – 10.00 hrs Registration (continuation) and breakfast at Restaurante Condimento, Marriot Reforma Hotel
- 08.30 – 10.00 hrs **MEETING OF THE GROUP OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS – Session 1**  
Room Diego Rivera 1, Marriott Reforma Hotel  
Speaker: Mrs. Gloria Young, Director, Centre of Studies and Competences in Gender, Panama  
All delegates are welcome to participate
- 10.00 – 10.45 hrs **Transfer to the Patio Central of the Senate of Mexico** (Meeting point: hotel lobby)
- 10.45 – 11.15 hrs **Official photo**
- 11.15 – 12.15 hrs **OPENING SESSION OF THE VII PLENARY ASSEMBLY**  
Patio Central of the Senate of Mexico
- Welcome Remarks**
- Senator Adriana González Carrillo**  
Representative of Mexico in the Executive Committee of FIPA
- Deputy Luiz Carlos Haully**  
Member of the Chamber of Deputies of Brazil and President of FIPA
- Minister of Foreign Affairs, Patricia Espinosa Cantellano**  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico

**Deputy Jorge Carlos Ramírez Marín**  
President of the Chamber of Deputies of Mexico

**Senator Manlio Fabio Beltrones Rivera**  
President of the Senate of Mexico

**Senator José González Morfín**  
President of the Board of Political Coordination

12.15 – 12.30 hrs

Transfer to the Marriot Reforma Hotel

12.45 – 13.30 hrs.

**FIRST SESSION OF THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY**

Room Diego Rivera 1, Marriott Reforma Hotel

- Approval of the provisional order of the day
- Election of the President of the Seventh Plenary Meeting
- Annual Report of the President of FIPA
- Presentation of resolution/recommendation projects by the Executive Committee
- Establishment of the work groups

13.30 – 14.00 hrs

Speech by guest speaker. Theme “Challenges for the Americas“

**Dr. Roberto Newell**, Director of the Mexican Institute for Competitiveness A.C.

14.00 – 15.30 hrs

Lunch

La Mansión Restaurant, Marriott Reforma Hotel

15.45 – 18.45 hrs

**WORKING GROUP SESSIONS**

Lectures by experts and beginning of the debates

**Group 1 – Preparation and Response to Natural Disasters and Emergency Situations**

Room Diego Rivera 1

**Jeremy Collymore**, Executive Director, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Agency (CDEMA)

**Ricardo Mena**, Regional Coordinator, United Nations International Strategy for the Reduction of Disasters (UNISDR)

**Group 2 – Regional Security and Transnational Crime**

Room Diego Rivera 2

**Gerardo Rodríguez Sánchez Lara**, Member, Colectivo de Análisis de la Seguridad con Democracia

**Dr. Athanasios Hristoulas**, Professor, Department of International Affairs, ITAM

**Group 3 – Participation of Civil Society in the Strengthening of Democracy**

Room Rufino Tamayo

**Dr. Philip Oxhorn**, Professor and Founding Director, Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University

**Mr. Koebel Price**, Senior Advisor, Citizen Participation Program, National Democratic Institute (NDI)

19.00 – 19.30 hrs

Transfer from Marriot Reforma Hotel to Hacienda de los Morales

19.30 – 21.30 hrs

Dinner, Hacienda de los Morales, hosted by the Chamber of Deputies



## Thursday, Nov. 18, 2010

- 07.30 – 10.00 hrs      Breakfast  
Restaurant Condimento, Marriott Reforma Hotel
- 08.30 – 10.00 hrs      **MEETING OF THE GROUP OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS –  
Session 2**  
Room Diego Rivera 1, Marriott Reforma Hotel  
All delegates are welcome to participate
- 10.00 – 13.00 hrs      **WORKING GROUP SESSIONS**  
Resumption of debates  
Elaboration of recommendations
- Group 1 – Preparation and Response to Natural Disasters and Emergency Situations**  
**Group 2 – Regional Security and Transnational Crime**  
**Group 3 – Participation of Civil Society in the Strengthening of Democracy**
- 13.00 – 14.30 hrs      Lunch  
La Mansión Restaurant, Marriott Reforma Hotel
- 14.30 – 17.30 hrs      **WORKING GROUP SESSIONS**  
Finalization and approval of recommendations for submission and presentation to the Plenary
- Group 1 – Preparation and Response to Natural Disasters and Emergency Situations**  
**Group 2 – Regional Security and Transnational Crime**  
**Group 3 – Participation of Civil Society in the Strengthening of Democracy**
- 17:30 – 19:00 hrs      Free Time
- 19.00 – 21.00 hrs      Dinner, Patio Central of the Institute Matías Romero, hosted  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## Friday, Nov. 19, 2010

- 07.30 – 10.00 hrs Breakfast  
Restaurant Condimento, Marriott Reforma
- 10.15 – 13.15 hrs **SECOND SESSION OF THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY**  
Presentation and consideration of the recommendations of the Work Groups
- Consideration of other resolution/recommendation projects
  - Election of the new Executive Committee
  - Selection of country to host the next Plenary Assembly
  - Closing ceremony
- 13.15 – 14.45 hrs Lunch  
Restaurant, La Mansión, Marriott Reforma Hotel
- Meeting of the new Executive Committee members of FIPA  
Room María Félix, Marriott Reforma Hotel

## Saturday, Nov. 20, 2010

Optional activities for participants who wish to stay for the celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of the Mexican Revolution



## Appendix 3—Annual Report of the FIPA President, the Honourable Luiz Carlos Hauly, Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Brazil

Original: English – Portuguese

I am very pleased to share with you the 2009–2010 achievements of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas. As FIPA President I am especially glad to see the progress we are making on several key elements of the objectives we set out for ourselves when we revised the FIPA regulations at the 6th Plenary Assembly last year.

### WTO Trade Workshop – The Doha Round: Challenges and Opportunities for the Region

In May the Senate of Mexico hosted the Workshop “The Doha Round: Challenges and Opportunities for the Region”. There was a high level of participation, with 37 representatives from 16 countries including speakers/presidents of three legislative chambers.

### Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas

The Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas held a very successful meeting in August of this year. The event, entitled “Women in Power: Challenges for the 21st Century,” was hosted by the National Assembly of Ecuador. Delegates from 16 countries in the Americas discussed the rights of women under the following themes:

- Exercising Power: The Experience of a Woman Politician
- Women, Politics and Diversity
- Women in Politics and the Media: A Troubled Relation?
- The Situation of Women’s Rights in the Hemisphere: A Critical Look at National Legislations

### Inter-American Agenda: OAS Assembly

A FIPA delegation participated in the 40th Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Lima, Peru, June 6–8. The delegation’s agenda included a meeting with OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza. We continue to seek opportunities to enhance our efforts to increase collaboration between FIPA and the OAS.

### CIDA Contribution Agreement and the MOU with the Parliamentary Centre of Canada

I am particularly happy to announce that in January of this year, a contribution agreement was signed between CIDA (the Canadian International Development Agency), FIPA, and the Parliamentary Centre of Canada, for the implementation of the Project entitled “Strengthening the Role of Parliaments in Democratic Governance and Sustainable Development in the Americas”. This multi-year funding enable the Parliamentary Centre to support FIPA in many areas, including the development of training programs and the elaboration of a strategy to achieve financial sustainability.

In conjunction with this development, FIPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Parliamentary Centre, defining the relationship between the two organizations.

These two agreements will allow FIPA to focus on services and products most needed and requested by parliamentarians in our hemisphere, including some of the activities reported on here.

Over the past year we have also received on-going in-kind support from the House of Commons of Canada, and funding for specific projects from the following organizations:

- The World Trade Organization
- Kinross Aurelian

### Capacity Building-Needs Assessment

As part of a new capacity-building program being developed by FIPA and the Canadian Parliamentary Centre, a needs assessment was conducted with countries within our hemisphere. Findings were based on interviews conducted with parliamentarians, staff, and other stakeholders in Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Panama, Saint Lucia and Washington, D.C., and on responses to an online survey submitted to parliaments of the hemisphere.

Based on the findings obtained, the Executive Committee agreed that an activity on parliamentary oversight, particularly as it relates to control of the budget process

and transparency of public accounts, would be most useful and that such an activity should be prepared in the near future.

### Communications Strategy Revision

FIPA's conducted a review of our communication strategy and an action plan has been proposed. Some the ongoing challenges faced by the Technical Secretariat include the management of information in four languages, technological inconveniences, and time constraints. These difficulties are magnified by quick changes in technology and their effect on communications (for example, social networks, wikis, podcasts, Blackberries, iPhones).

The 2010 proposed strategy focuses on updating and modernizing the website, the implementation of a Content Management System (CMS), and developing new image for the site. The Technical Secretariat is currently assessing options, identifying the most cost-efficient CMS solution and aims to have the new website up and running in early 2011.

Other issues were also identified as needing attention, including introducing an e-newsletter to complement the paper version of *ParlAmericas*, making use of social networking tools to strengthen dialogue among FIPA members, and introducing new information material such as media kits and information booklets.

In addition the Executive Committee launched a contest for the design of a new FIPA logo as part of the modernization of FIPA's image. There is still time to submit your creative design – including the name of FIPA in all four languages!

### Financial Strategy Review

While FIPA has secured a contribution agreement with CIDA, one of the outcomes specified under this funding is that FIPA should become financially sustainable. As a result FIPA will be conducting a review of our financial strategy with a view to long-term sustainability. Part of this review will include re-examining the current fee structure for FIPA member parliaments.

I want to thank those countries that have paid their fees, and I encourage you to ensure that your country has paid

its contribution for the 2009-2010 year, and to pay as promptly as possible your fees for 2010-2011, as these funds are essential to the work of FIPA and the support we receive from the Technical Secretariat.

### Executive Committee Meetings Prior to the Plenary

In Panama City, Panama, in January 2010, and in Asunción, Paraguay, in June of this year. We have also had a brief meeting before the start of the Plenary this week. Much of our agenda at these meeting focused on preparations for this Plenary Assembly, but we also carried out fundamental governance tasks such as maintaining oversight of FIPA activities and finances, and outreach activities to increase FIPA's presence in inter-American systems. To this end, individual EC members have participated in numerous regional activities on behalf of FIPA. For example, I participated in the First Forum of the Parliamentary Front against Huger in March, Randy Hoback of Canada participated in a trade mission to the Congress of Argentina in March, and Linda Machuca participated in two events on behalf of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas.

### Period of Transition at the FIPA Technical Secretariat

Since we last met in Plenary in Ottawa, there have been significant staff changes at the FIPA Technical Secretariat. In January of this year, Elena Sosa Lerin was hired as the new Communications Officer, and Viviane Rossini joined as a Program Assistant. In August, Emmanuelle Pelletier, our long time Executive Secretary, left FIPA for a new career opportunity. We are very thankful to Emmanuelle for her years of dedication to FIPA, and wish her all the best in her new endeavours.

In October of this year we were joined by Gina Hill as FIPA's new Executive Secretary and Program Officer. Elena, Viviane, and Gina are all here, and would be happy to talk with you during the Plenary.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my colleagues and to all FIPA member parliaments. I hope that we continue to accomplish great things together.

Thank you.



## Appendix 4—Biographies of Invited Experts

**Jeremy Collymore, Executive Director  
Caribbean Disaster Emergency  
Management Agency (CDEMA)  
St. Michael, Barbados**

Mr. Jeremy Collymore has enjoyed 30 years of service in the field of disaster management. He has functioned in various capacities and contributed to disaster management-related research, planning and policy development.

During 1989-1991 he served as a Disaster Specialist in UNDR (now OCHA) Pan Caribbean Disaster and prevention projects. He has also partnered with various regional and international agencies including CARICOM, the United Nations, the Canadian International Development Agency and the Inter American Development Bank; in undertaking several technical studies and assessments of institutional arrangements and products in DRM in the Caribbean, Seychelles and Central America. Mr. Collymore has served on a diversity of national, regional and international working groups and task forces. He has also lent his extensive expertise to academia as a lecturer in the Department of Geography at the University of the West Indies, Jamaica and as Assistant to the Director.

Mr. Collymore, who is currently the Executive Director of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency – the lead disaster management Agency in the Caribbean, continues to guide and influence disaster management policy, planning and projects in 18 participating states. He holds a Masters of Philosophy in Geography and has undertaken graduate studies in environmental design and planning. He has written, published and presented extensively in the area of Disaster Management.

**Dr. Athanasios Hristoulas  
Professor of International Relations  
Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM)  
Mexico City, Mexico**

Dr. Athanasios Hristoulas is a professor of international relations at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México

(ITAM). He is also the coordinator of the diploma course on National Security at the same institution. He is a member of the National System of Researchers, Level I. He received his Ph.D. in Political Science from McGill University in 1996. Before moving from Canada to Mexico he was the Military and Strategic Studies Post Doctoral Fellow at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs.

His research interests include Mexican National Security policy, Canadian foreign policy and North American Security Cooperation. He has previously published in journals such as the *Journal of Politics*, *Etudes Internationales*, *Comercio Exterior* and *Foreign Affairs en Español*. His most recent publications include two edited volumes. The first is called *Las Relaciones cívico-militar en el nuevo orden internacional* and the second, *Canada: Política y Gobierno en el siglo XXI*. He has also published a number of book chapters on North American security including “Trading Places: Canada, Mexico and North American Security” in *The Rebordering of North America*, “Le trilateralisme sécuritaire en Amérique du Nord: Rêve ou Réalité?” in *Le Canada Dans L’Orbit Américaine*, “North American Security and Foreign Policy: Does a Trilateral Community Exist?” in *Politics in North America*, and “From Internationalism to Regionalism: The Evolution of Canadian Foreign Policy in the Post-Cold War era” in *The USA and Canada 2008*.

He was recently invited by the International Studies Association to contribute a chapter on North American foreign policy for the prestigious *Compendium of International Relations*. For the academic year 2010-2011, he is on academic leave at the School of Political Studies, University of Ottawa.

**Ricardo Mena, Chief of Regional Office  
of the Americas United Nations International  
Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)  
Panama City, Panama**

Mr. Mena is an international expert with more than 20 years of experience in risk, crisis and disaster management, and has served in the United Nations for the last 16 years in Latin America, Geneva and New York. Prior to his involvement with the United Nations, he worked

in the areas of disaster preparedness and mitigation in Ecuador and neighbouring countries. He has a Master of Science in Crisis and Disaster Management from the University of Leicester, UK.

**Dr. Philip Oxhorn**  
**Associate Professor and Founding Director**  
**Institute for the Study of International**  
**Development McGill University, Montreal, Canada**

Professor Philip Oxhorn is the Founding Director of McGill University's Institute for the Study of International Development and Editor-in-Chief of the international journal *Latin American Research Review*. A former Associate Dean (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies) at McGill, his research focuses on the comparative study of civil society and its role in supporting democratic regimes, particularly in Latin America.

Professor Oxhorn's publications include *Organizing Civil Society: The Popular Sectors and the Struggle for Democracy in Chile* (Penn State University Press, 1995), as well as numerous articles and four co-edited volumes: *What Kind of Democracy? What Kind of Market? Latin America in the Age of Neoliberalism* (with Graciela Ducatenzeiler, Penn State University Press, 1998); *The Market and Democracy In Latin America: Convergence or Divergence?* (with Pamela Starr, Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1999); *Decentralization, Civil Society, and Democratic Governance: Comparative Perspectives from Latin America, Africa, and Asia* (with Joseph Tulchin and Andrew Selee Woodrow Wilson Center Press/the Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004); and *Beyond Neoliberalism? Patterns, Responses, and New Directions in Latin America and the Caribbean* (with Kenneth Roberts and John Burdick, Palgrave Macmillan, 2009). He is currently completing a book-length manuscript titled *Sustaining Civil Society: Economic Change, Democracy and the Social Construction of Citizenship in Latin America* (Penn State University Press, forthcoming).

Professor Oxhorn has lectured extensively in North and South America, Western Europe, Asia and Australia. He has also worked as a consultant to the Inter-American Development Bank, the United Nations Development Program, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada, the Ford Foundation,

The Carter Center, the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, and the Canadian Foundation for the Americas. He has a PhD in Political Science from Harvard University.

**Koebel Price, Senior Advisor**  
**Citizen Participation Program,**  
**National Democratic Institute (NDI)**  
**Washington D.C., United States**

Koebel Price is NDI's Senior Advisor for citizen participation. He has 20 years' experience in leading programs that promote transparency and accountability in government, civil society development and citizen participation, coalition building, political party strengthening and free and fair elections.

Mr. Price has worked in over 25 countries, served as chief of party for U.S. government-funded programs in the Balkans, the Middle East, and North Africa, and managed the democracy and governance portfolios of international development organizations. Domestically, he has served as a Political and Legislative Director with the Minnesota AFL-CIO –part of America's largest trade union confederation – and lead grassroots issue-based civil society organizations that conducted local, regional and national advocacy campaigns. Mr. Price has also been active in Democratic Party politics, including sitting on the Party's State-wide Coordinated Campaign board in Minnesota, and he served in state government as an appointee to the tri-partite Worker's Compensation Advisory Council. He is a trained community organizer and did his postgraduate studies in NGO management.

In his current role, he supports NDI's civil society strengthening efforts globally, including conducting country assessments, program design, implementation and evaluation and liaising with donors. He provides strategies, tools, techniques and training to NDI's global staff members and partner organizations to support and strengthen citizen organizing and activism in new and emerging democracies. As part of his responsibilities, he has dedicated extensive time in the field to assess local conditions, evaluate programs, train staff and glean lessons and best practices.



**Gerardo Rodríguez Sánchez Lara**  
Member, *Colectivo de Análisis de la Seguridad con Democracia A.C.*  
Professor of Terrorism, Centre of Studies of the Army and Air Force/ National Institute of Public Administration / Iberoamericana University Mexico City, Mexico

Gerardo Rodríguez Sánchez Lara is a member of the *Colectivo de Análisis de la Seguridad con Democracia A.C.* (Collective of Security Analysis for Democracy); a civil society network specialized in security matters, where he coordinates its project *Mexico's National Security Survey*. He is a Professor of Terrorism at the Centre of Studies of the Army and the Air Force (CEEFA), the National Institute of Public Administration (INAP), and the Iberoamericana University (UIA) in Mexico City. He has lectured at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington D.C., the National Defense University of Austria, the *Collège interarmées de défense* (CID) of France, the Centre of Higher Naval Studies of Mexico (CESNAV), and the School of Intelligence for the National Security of Mexico (ESISEN). He coordinated the Seminar on Political Perspectives of the *Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México* (ITAM) from 2004-2007.

He has served as Advisor to the President's Office, the Ministry of International Relations, and the Commission of International Relations of the Congress of Mexico. In 2007, he was auditor of the session for Latin America of the Institute of Higher Studies of National Defense of France (IHEDN). As part of a program by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, Mr. Rodríguez was a visitor to several security and intelligence institutions. In 2003, as a Fellow of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, he also visited institutions of public security and law enforcement in Germany.

Mr. Rodríguez received graduate degrees from the United States Institute on National Security from the University of Delaware, and from the ITAM, on International Relations. Mr. Rodríguez has published several articles on terrorism and national security on publications such as *Foreign Affairs Latinoamérica*, *World Association for Public Opinion and Research*, the *Revista del Ejército y Fuerza Aérea de México* (Mexico's Army and

*Air Force Magazine*), the *Atlas de la Seguridad y Defensa de México* (Map of Security and Defence of Mexico), and for the Mexican newspapers *Reforma* and *Excélsior*.

**Gloria Young**  
Director, *Centro de Estudios y Competencias en Género (CECG)*  
President, *Asociación de Parlamentarias y ex Parlamentarias de la Rep. de Panamá*  
Panama City, Panama

Gloria Young is a well-known activist on gender issues. A teacher by profession, she was the founder of the first Support Centre for Abused Women in Panama. She has been a lecturer and a researcher at the University of Panama, and had also contributed articles on gender to national and international magazines and newspapers. On two occasions she was a legislator in Panama.

She obtained a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Public Administration, as well as in Literature and Theatre from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Furthermore, she obtained a Master's degree in Educational Systems with a specialization in Supervision and Curriculum Development from the University of Panama.

She has previously collaborated with FIPA. In 2005, she was a speaker at the Forum on Gender, in Argentina, presenting the paper, "Us Who Dare—Contributions to the Debate on Political Violence against Women who aspire to Elected Office".

## Appendix 5—Working Group Reports and Recommendations

### Working Group 1: Preparation and Response to Natural and Human-Made Disasters and Emergency Situations—Final Report and Recommendations

#### FINAL REPORT

Original: Spanish

The Working Group on Preparation and Response to Natural and Human-made Disasters and Emergency Situations met in the seat of the Mexican Congress in Mexico City, on November 17 –19, 2010, with the participation of delegates from Panama, Chile, Trinidad and Tobago, Canada, Brazil and Haiti.

Panamanian deputy Víctor Julio III chaired the working group's sessions, which had the following objectives:

- To analyze the impact of disasters and emergency situations in the Americas, and their implications for decreasing or increasing the vulnerability factor, which affects preparedness, response and recovery capacity in emergency situations and disasters caused by both humans and nature;
- To identify the means by which the countries of the Americas can work jointly to develop cooperation and coordination mechanisms to overcome the challenges resulting from any type of disaster and/or emergency.

#### PRESENTATIONS

In order to achieve these objectives, the working group heard to presentations by two experts: Ricardo Mena, Head of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR); and Jeremy Collymore, Executive Director, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency.

The following is an overview of those presentations and the ensuing discussion.

Mr. Mena began his presentation on disasters from a development point of view. He covered the issue of climate change and its impact, the adaptation to and reduction of disaster risk, challenges, and next steps.

He highlighted the so-called change-promoting aspects, referring to economics, politics and risk. He spoke about why disasters are a concern for development, since development can increase vulnerability, as in the case of development projects in the region that do not take the risk variable into account.

He emphasized that disasters can have an impact on development projects, but that they can also offer significant development opportunities. Disasters can have an impact on nations and make it difficult to achieve the Millennium Development Objectives.

When he was also asked about how disasters can offer opportunities for development, he answered: by identifying highly vulnerable zones, rebuilding affected zones in a safer manner, and allocating resources for natural disasters.

He explained that climate change can increase desertification, decrease GDP and lower the production of hydraulic energy systems, etc. He raised the question as to how climate change affects Latin America and the Caribbean. He expressed the opinion that the most vulnerable will be more affected by climate change, in addition to the loss of employment and reduction of income, as well as food insecurity, extended droughts and effects on health.

He pointed out that the Hyogo Framework for Action adopted by the United Nations World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in 2005 established a series of priority action areas, such as making disaster reduction a priority, identifying risks and taking measures, developing a greater understanding and awareness, reducing risk, and being well prepared to respond to disasters.

He highlighted the challenges associated with these issues: encouraging government involvement in this area; developing more robust mechanisms for accountability, and including disaster risk among budget items; in addition to raising awareness among decision makers; advocating for building synergy between adaptation for climate change and [disaster] risk; increasing the dialogue with donor countries to mobilize resources; and



contributing to the preparation of a common position that could be taken to Cancún in December 2010.

Jeremy Collymore spoke about climate change and its repercussions in the region, and focused on losses in the productive and social sectors; on the latter point, he emphasized human losses.

He highlighted problems such as hurricanes, droughts, earthquakes, floods and mud slides, in addition to the resultant implications.

He mentioned the global humanitarian reform mechanism in which the United Nations places emphasis on financial predictability, and recommended that each country have a response to natural disasters. He expressed the opinion that a global culture for assistance does exist.

He commented on the need to develop a response capacity based on coordinated humanitarian aid efforts in the case of disasters. He also highlighted regional efforts to deal with disasters.

Among his recommendations, he included encouraging the development of risk policies; reinforcing the development of national risk [reduction] policies and strategies; exploring investment opportunities in infrastructure, social services and natural resources to reduce vulnerability; incorporating risk reduction information in investment and planning policies; and having FIPA establish a support program for cases of disaster and a champion in this area; establishing a process for monitoring and reporting on action resulting from the recommendations, and creating a network to identify some of the risks.

## DISCUSSIONS

The participants shared their experiences in this area, such as the cases of Canada, Chile and Haiti. Each country was seen to have had different experiences with disasters and faced specific situations such as storms, floods, droughts, hurricanes and earthquakes. A suggestion was made to raise awareness about these problems. Some developed countries have supported the countries in which disasters have occurred.

One of the proposals from the participants was the possibility of drafting a public prevention policy plan. It was commented that some countries have the appropriate information and technology to deal with natural disasters. The participants highlighted the use of communication to make the population and the international community aware of risks. The change of attitude with respect to this problem is of great importance.

It was considered that parliamentarians must ensure that public policies have sufficient resources to deal with natural disasters. It was also mentioned that when laws are created, risk must be considered as a fundamental element, with penalties established for those that do not comply with such laws.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

*Adopted by the FIPA Plenary Assembly, November 17 –19, 2010.*

Based on the deliberations of the Working Group on Preparation and Response to Natural and Human-Made Disasters and Emergency Situations that took place during the Seventh FIPA Plenary Assembly in Mexico City, Mexico, on November 17 –19, 2010 and the considerations expressed by that group,

THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY makes the following recommendations:

1. FIPA should encourage the parliaments of member nations to make educational programs available to their citizens. Such programs will raise awareness of risks and prepare the procedures to minimize the risks and effects of natural and man-made disasters as well as other emergency situations.
2. FIPA should encourage parliamentarians to ensure a reduced risk of disasters, which should be included in the planning of development programs as a national priority:
  - a. Parliaments should ensure that construction codes, standards and norms are appropriate in order to deal with the natural and human-made threats in member countries.

- b. Revised budgets should take the risk variable into account and guarantee that important buildings such as hospitals and schools comply with the safety standards set out in 2(a).
  - c. Parliaments should ensure that their governments conduct an environmental impact assessment that includes natural and human-made hazards in development projects.
  - d. FIPA should encourage the parliaments of member countries to adopt policies that take into account the lessons learned from previous disasters.
3. FIPA should encourage the parliaments of member countries to create monitoring committees to ensure that resources and mechanisms are adopted to respond to technical and decentralized needs in order to meet the demands of the member country.
  4. Existing laws on disaster management should be reviewed and re-evaluated to ensure that they refer to disaster risk reduction as well as adaptation to climate change.

#### CHAIR OF THE WORKING GROUP

Víctor Juliao III  
Member of the National Assembly of Panama

#### WORKING GROUP PARTICIPANTS

COUNTRY		NAME
Brazil	Deputy	Luiz Carlos Haully
Canada	M. P.	Earl Dreeshen
Chile	Deputy	Nino Baltolu
Haiti	Senator	Edmonde Suplice Beauzile
Haiti	Senator	Jean Baptiste Jean Willy
Panama	Deputy	Dana Castañeda
Panama	Deputy	Víctor Juliao III
Trinidad y Tobago	M. P.	Dr. Fuad Khan

### Working Group 2: Regional Security and Transnational Crime—Final Report and Recommendations

#### FINAL REPORT

Original: Spanish

The Working Group on Regional Security and Transnational Crime met in the Diego Rivera II Room at the Marriot Hotel in Mexico City from November 17–19, 2010, with the participation of delegates from Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Paraguay.

Senator Carlos Roger Caballero Fioro of Paraguay chaired the group’s sessions, which had the following objectives:

- To analyze the impact of transnational crime in the Americas and its implications with respect to safety and development of the region;
- To identify the challenges of this phenomenon, deliberate on the role played by the national and regional interested parties, evaluate the measures to be taken and indicate opportunities for involvement in the new hemispheric agenda.

#### PRESENTATIONS

In order to achieve those objectives, the working group heard presentations by two experts in this field: Gerardo Rodríguez Sánchez, Member of the Collective for the Analysis of Security with Democracy; and Dr. Athanasios Hristoulas, Professor from the International Studies Department at the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico (ITAM). The following is an overview of their presentations and the ensuing discussion.

#### Gerardo Rodríguez Sánchez

Mr. Rodríguez began his presentation by mentioning that the security agenda in Latin America is very complex due to the regional, geopolitical, economic and social diversity observed throughout the continent. Although there are still certain territorial disputes in the region, there is a minimal chance that Latin America will witness an inter-state war.

Moreover, the situations experienced in South America, with the proliferation of “national security” governments



and the civil wars of Central America, have had a profound effect within national societies. Such effects make it clear that for governments, repression and generalized violence are no longer viable and the nations of Latin America are not willing to resume them at the cost of their development.

In addition, the phenomenon of regionalization has allowed countries to find greater benefits in cooperation for development.

Mr. Rodríguez mentioned some features of the traditional or militarist school, such as protection of the state, or worse, the “government of the day”; external threats (armed attacks); internal threats (subversive movements); mainly military media; and lastly that the threats discourse should not be “securitized”.

On the other hand, we have the expansionist school, which holds that not only the state but also the citizenry must be protected, and that the spectrum of threats should be expanded to include those linked to other aspects of human life, such as social, political and economical development.

Mr. Rodríguez proposed that threats be divided into traditional, intermediate and expanded agenda:

- **Traditional:** These are threats that come from abroad, such as military interventions, or from inside, and that put government institutions at risk, as in the case of armed revolutionary movements or coups d'état. Each traditional threat must be catalogued under [the following]: military intervention, territorial dispute, internal armed movement or weapons proliferation.
- **Intermediate:** These threats are an attack against a state but also directly affect society and demand a great amount of financial and human resources (mainly the national police and armed forces). Intermediate threats harm citizens; for example, drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, terrorism and disorderly borders and migration.
- **Expanded agenda:** These threats are vulnerabilities that affect the population. The fight against these “new

threats” involves the subsidiary participation of the armed forces. With respect to expanded agenda threats, there must be an agenda of social vulnerabilities, refugees and internally displaced persons, natural disasters and pandemics, and economic [and] energy security.

Finally, Mr. Rodríguez remarked that Latin America is a region of relative international peace. However, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are now facing new threats to their security, characterized mainly by their multidimensional nature that directly affects the people. Likewise, in the last two decades, regional mechanisms for political coordination and dialogue have been strengthened, which has helped enhance confidence and cooperation in matters of security and defence to deal with common issues on the regional security agenda.

#### Dr. Athanasios Hristoulas

Dr. Hristoulas began by stating that the end of the Cold War gave way to an important transition in the nature and development of international relationships.

The threat of territorial conflict has diminished considerably, with the exception of Costa Rica and Nicaragua, but there are other threats such as organized crime and ideological threats. All of this has given way to democratic stability and other issues pertaining to what is known as human security.

The loss of security, as in Mexico, reveals a failed state for some years now, as it is evident that Mexico has declared war on drug trafficking.

States must reform, reinforce and legitimize with transparent policies, accountability, and appropriate public sector management, so that they are seen as exercising good governance.

Dr. Hristoulas sees an area of “good governance” in the security sector, in which the best tools must be supplied to continue with heavy-handed strategies: modern equipment, training, etc. As long as there are security agencies, armed forces and antiquated judicial states will continue to exist with impunity.

What does this mean? It means capacity, accountability, management and security systems. Capacity means that security forces are well-equipped in terms of their level of education, where they come from, and their training. With respect to accountability, this is based on transparency and participation, and security agents must be responsible for their actions.

The third element is management, which has to do with the organizational structure of police forces and leadership.

There are three areas for successful regional support or cooperation on security issues.

1. Donor countries must ensure that authorities maintain their autonomy: how the funds are to be distributed and whether or not the project is working must be evaluated by local authorities.
2. There must be recognition that it will take time: it is said that it may take as long as a generation for this to work. A long-term vision is necessary, which could generate problems due to electoral cycles.
3. A regional program with a strategic vision; the police, the judicial system, and penitentiary system must be reformed at the same time, and solutions cannot be implemented only for Mexico.

Paraguayan Senator Caballero thanked Dr. Hristoulas for his presentation and opened the floor to a discussion among those in attendance.

## DISCUSSION

The participants discussed a wide range of issues related to regional security and transnational crime. Different countries have different experiences with drug trafficking and organized crime. Participants discussed the decriminalization of drugs, with some mentioning that their countries have legalized them, such as Chile, provided that they are for personal consumption. A comment was also made that FIPA should suggest to the OAS that a sanction be applied to the drug problem. Parliamentarians also agreed that there should be broad cooperation in the fight against transnational crime. The current context, including factors such as the

decriminalization of drugs, the confiscation of property, and the vulnerability of young people in getting involved in organized crime due to a lack of opportunities in their countries were also discussed.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

*Adopted by the FIPA Plenary Assembly, November 17–19, 2010.*

We, the participating parliamentarians from Working Group 2: Regional Security and Transnational Crime, recommend as follows:

1. That the fight against organized transnational crime, especially drug trafficking, requires cooperation between states, which must be developed while respecting their sovereignty as a fundamental principle.
2. FIPA must recognize that transnational crime is a threat to the nations because it gives rise to other criminal activities; for example, money laundering, weapons trafficking, human trafficking, and organ trafficking, etc.; and we must deal with this with the same commitment.
3. State authorities must draft codes that professionalize the exercise of a public authority that is competent and transparent, with appropriate monitoring and accountability.
4. The fight against organized crime and drug trafficking is not only an issue of security, but also of education and health. The nations should make efforts to prevent the use and abuse of drugs. Preventive health and rehabilitation, as well as appropriate education, are key tools that must be reinforced in order to create new generations with responsible and ethical conduct.
5. Preventive and corrective standards and programs on transnational crimes must be drafted in each of FIPA's member states to observe successful normative practices that can be proposed or implemented in each.
6. National state functions—legislation, governance and justice—must be firm, coherent and efficient in the fight against crime in order to achieve regional security; that is to say, the relevant actions to deal with crime [must be so].



7. Corruption is a crime that threatens the security of the nations and feeds transnational crime; governments should therefore fight it head-on, taking all possible measures and actions to eliminate it.

### CHAIR OF THE WORKING GROUP

Carlos Roger Caballero Fioro  
 Senator of Paraguay

### WORKING GROUP PARTICIPANTS

COUNTRY		NAME
Brazil	Deputy	Colbert Martins
Canada	M. P.	Bev Shipley
Canada	Senator	Terry Stratton
Chile	Deputy	Mario Bertolino
Chile	Deputy	Ricardo Rincón
Colombia	Congressman	German Blanco Alvarez
Dominica	M.P.	Gloria Shillingford
Ecuador	Member of the National Assembly	Rocío Valarezo
Mexico	Senator	Adriana González Carrillo
Mexico	Deputy	Jesús Ramírez
Mexico	Senator	Ricardo García Cervantes
Panama	Expert	Gloria Young
Paraguay	Senator	Carlos Roger Caballero Fioro

### Working Group 3: Participation of Civil Society in the Strengthening of Democracy— Final Report and Recommendations

#### FINAL REPORT

Original: Spanish

The Working Group on the Participation of Civil Society in the Strengthening of Democracy met in the Rufino Tamayo Room at the Marriot Hotel in Mexico City on November 17–19, 2010, with the participation of the delegates from Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico and Paraguay.

Randy Hoback, Member of Parliament from Canada, chaired the working group meeting. The objectives of the working group were [to discuss the following]:

- The role of civil society in strengthening democracy
- Sharing the best democratic practices in each country and working together to seek better alternatives
- Civic education and democracy
- The role of civil society as a foundation of democracy
- The representation crisis
- Ways of working together with government priorities and civil society

### PRESENTATIONS

To meet these objectives, the working group heard presentations from two experts in the field: Dr. Philip Oxhorn, Professor and Founding Director of McGill University’s Institute for the Study of International Development; and Koebel Price, Senior Advisor for the Citizen Participation Program at the National Democratic Institute (NDI). A brief overview of their presentations and subsequent discussions follows.

#### Koebel Price

Mr. Price began by describing the Institute. He said that he has been working in 125 countries and commented on his involvement with the various international political actors; he then went on to explain that the organization has a multi-regional focus. He added that the institute he represents does not create programs but rather works to ensure they are rooted in the various sectors of society, and therefore covers a wide range of activities, helping verify and ensure that processes are fair.

One of the guiding principles behind the creation of this institute was to ensure that all voices of civil society can be heard. Accountability plays a key role in the credibility of society.

He indicated that there is a need to build political spaces like forums, essentially focused on monitoring, where civil society would play a major role. He explained that in his view, organizations are still the best way to give a voice to individuals, who should be heard all the way up to the legislative level, and to ensure they can sit at the table with legislators to verify the results of democratic processes.

He added that civil society groups are starting to have an impact on parliaments in terms of passing laws and

that people working in this area would be a great help. However, he noted that the danger in this practice is that organizations may be co-opted by political parties and then start catering to interests different from those they originally had.

He stated that accountability can derive from agreements, frameworks or structures that often are, and in other cases should be, required.

The floor was then opened for discussion, enabling participants to ask questions and express their concerns, such as the following:

Peter Julian of Canada said that after Mr. Obama was elected President of the United States, he could not continue delivering his pre-election message, and expressed his concern about why this was so. Mr. Price replied that he often heard this question and briefly said that expectations were very high, and that many people were excited about change rather than policies which in many cases were not even known.

Mauricio Rands of Brazil talked about the crisis in representative democracy and the development of a participatory democracy with institutions that meet both day-to-day and value-based expectations.

Linda Machuca of Ecuador spoke of how it was precisely civil society that had responded to an attempted coup in her country by spontaneously coming out in defence of the President, and commented that this was an example of non-organized society which should not be forgotten.

#### **Dr. Philip Oxhorn**

Dr. Oxhorn indicated that democratization and civil society took root in Chile as a result of the organization of social groups. He said that today, Latin America is more democratic despite facing more difficult challenges; yet there has been a confidence to forge ahead, which is characteristic of the types of representation in every state/nation where people have to struggle with many things, especially safety; and democratic institutions must be seen as a solution but so far have been considered to be a hindrance to the way forward.

He said that we should not forget that most young people are different depending on where they are and on their particular circumstances.

He said that the lack of confidence on the government's part is a problem for good governance. The role which civil society represents is sometimes questionable, and this can make a difference and acts as the core foundation of a society with good governance, which should be effective at all times.

Secondly, he said that we must design a new state of government where the citizenry/state play a participatory role. To this end, political leaders should establish joint working relationships where civil society and governments make clear contributions, decentralizing participation so that institutions are not seen as mechanisms that achieve a goal and then falter.

He indicated that civil society must be the driving force for democracy and therefore the key is to create more institutional space and greater transparency. This way, governments will be able to learn from their failures and apply new work strategies involving all citizens.

#### **DISCUSSION**

In conclusion, parliamentarians had an opportunity to exchange questions, ideas, views and experiences from both national and personal perspectives, about participation in civil society and the strengthening of democracy. They agreed that every country has different examples on this issue, but that it is essential to consider the common points. Parliamentarians discussed how much progress each country had made and the situations leading to its achievement.

The Working Group on the Participation of Civil Society in the Strengthening of Democracy met on November 17 and 18, 2010, in Mexico City.

The consensus of the working group was that in many respects, democratic societies in the Americas are struggling with a crisis in citizen participation. The working group defines a "citizen" as a member of society who is entitled to state-granted democratic rights and



who has responsibilities in terms of participating in public and political life. Participation is defined as having the necessary access and information to participate meaningfully in decisions that affect citizens' daily lives.

As FIPA parliamentarians, we believe that full citizen participation and the participation of civil society organizations are crucial to the health of our democratic societies, the development of our peoples and stability in the Americas.

Given the significance of full participation, especially by marginalized groups, we believe that it is vitally important that all FIPA parliamentarians commit to increasing citizen participation and the participation of civil society organizations in the coming five years.

In particular, the lack of expectations for youth living in areas of poverty and the lack of confidence in the democratic system and in the system in general lead young people to shun political participation.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

*Adopted by the FIPA Plenary Assembly, November 17–19, 2010.*

In light of the information above, we provide the following recommendations:

1. As FIPA parliamentarians, we urge our governments to conduct a full diagnosis of the existing barriers to citizen participation, especially in regard to under-represented groups. This should include a survey to show what countries have legislation promoting citizen participation. Once complete, the survey should be made public.
2. In order to promote democratic participation, societies of the Americas have to create a political environment conducive to participation. Therefore, there is a challenge to develop a civic culture.
3. Governments and parliaments must promote participation processes which involve mechanisms of consultation, debate, and decision-making by citizens. In addition, governments need to improve their capacity to deliver those services and policies most urgently required by their citizens.
4. To encourage the openness of societies to civic participation, we should reform the education system to include civic education in the curriculum. We should also involve the media, private businesses, organized labour and other significant institutions in this process.
5. As FIPA parliamentarians, we encourage best practices and full transparency, openness and responsibility among the governments of the Americas. In particular, there should be a focus on developing the appropriate institutional mechanisms specifically designed to achieve these goals.
6. As FIPA parliamentarians, we urge our governments to implement all possible measures to encourage democratic participation in the Americas, providing considerable support to the poor and underprivileged young people in our hemisphere.
7. In order to encourage the various sectors of our societies to participate, we should adopt mechanisms for engaging with marginalized groups, including but not limited to women, youth, ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples/nations, people with disabilities, gays and lesbians, and senior citizens. This participation should not be limited to formal or institutionalized organizations, but rather it must include citizen initiatives and independent social movements.
8. To ensure participation in all sectors, especially that of poor young people, we must consider the need for more equality and inclusiveness in our societies.
9. FIPA should sponsor workshops to educate parliamentarians about new information technologies and their political significance, so they can reach young people.
10. FIPA should sponsor workshops on civic engagement and its importance for democracy.
11. As FIPA parliamentarians, we urge each of our parliaments to annually organize a week to discuss citizen participation.

12. As FIPA parliamentarians, we commit to encouraging all governments to create a full spectrum of mechanisms for citizen recourse in cases of misuse of power or authority.
13. In order to strengthen citizen participation and support the preservation of peace and democracy in the states of the Americas, FIPA should set up a solidarity commission for timely support to countries that are threatened in their democracy.

#### CHAIR OF THE WORKING GROUP

Randy Hoback  
Member of Parliament of Canada

#### WORKING GROUP PARTICIPANTS

COUNTRY		NAME
Brazil	Senator	José Nery
Brazil	Deputy	Mauricio Rands
Brazil	Deputy	Luiz Carlos Haully
Canada	M.P.	Bev Shipley
Canada	M.P.	Lawrence MacAulay
Canada	M.P.	Nicole Demers
Canada	M.P.	Peter Julian
Canada	M.P.	Randy Hoback
Chile	Deputy	Cristina Girardi Lavín
Chile	Deputy	Germán Becker Alvear
Ecuador	Member of the National Assembly	Gastón Alberto Gagliardo
Ecuador	Member of the National Assembly	Linda Machuca Moscoso
Ecuador	Member of the National Assembly	Lídice Larrea V.
Mexico	Senator	María Serrano Serrano
Paraguay	Senator	María Digna Roa

#### Sixth Meeting of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas— Final Report and Recommendations

Original: Spanish

The meeting of the Working Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas took place in the Marriott Hotel in Mexico City on Wednesday the 17th and Thursday the 18th of November, 2010, with the participation of delegates from Canada, Chile, Dominica, Ecuador, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Trinidad and Tobago.

Assembly Member Linda Machuca Moscoso of Ecuador chaired the Group's sessions.

#### PRESENTATION

The Working Group heard a presentation by Gloria Young, Director of the Centre for Gender Studies and Competencies. Her presentation and the ensuing discussion are summarized below.

#### Ms. Gloria Young

The subject of Ms. Young's presentation will be the progress, difficulties and challenges of the participation in electoral politics by Afro-Caribbean women.

Ms. Young remarked that the historical relationship of women to their gender, due to their ethnic-racial origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disabilities or the rural or urban environment in which they live, has been the subject of many studies. International bodies have recognized the inequality in which many populations such as that of black women live, which constitutes a significant political development.

Women face several kinds of discrimination.

Ms. Young noted that international tools play an important role in human development, which includes Afro-Caribbean and indigenous women. It is important to mention that since 1948, when the *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide* was approved, which gave rise in 1963 to the *Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*, a full series of international legal actions has been carried out that has promoted the creation and strengthening of networks of ethnic women at the international level.



In 1966, March 21st was declared the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* and the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* were approved.

Although the *International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid* was approved in 1973, which led to the First Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (1973–1982) and the First World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination in 1978 in Geneva, the identity movements of Afro-Caribbean women still continue with courage to demand for public policy specific to their sector.

It is important to mention that the exclusion of Afrodescendant women in the Americas marks a distinct phase from so many international conventions, covenants and conferences.

With the inauguration of the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, held in 1983 in Geneva, multiculturalism, as a social and global phenomenon, imposed a different dynamic on the issue of exclusion.

By the end of the Second Decade of the Fight against Racism and Racial Discrimination (1983–1992) and beginning of the Third Decade of the Fight against Racism and Racial Discrimination (1994–2003), Afro-Caribbean and Afro-Latin American women, in their various approaches to organization and mobilization, had already decided to help search for a sense of belonging—the affirmation of a cultural identity.

Ms. Young emphasized a new perspective on the horizon, as the Conferences to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance were part of a commitment by more than 100 states to confirm the urgent need for action not only on the topic of apartheid, but also on the topic of discrimination by virtue of race and gender, and intolerance.

To achieve personal and political empowerment, both Afro-Caribbean and indigenous women must not only have the same leadership abilities as any other leader; they must also deal with racial stereotypes.

**Leadership:** The same leadership ability as any other person, while dealing with political favouritism and the opinion vote.

**Intercultural Dialogue:** To go beyond ethnic discourse, making the ethnic space visible and strengthening it in electoral politics, and seeking balance between the contributions of multiculturalism and the electoral and political fields. The common thread. Common interests for dialogue.

**Time:** Now is the time to make decisions. Time has caught up with us and we are learning to raise funds.

Alliances with the women's movement, with open groups of feminists; with collective expressions that contribute to building a more egalitarian, democratic and pluralist society; with the Network of Afro-Latin American and Afro-Caribbean Women, in which organizations and black women from more than thirty countries in the region are involved; and with the Network of Indigenous Women. Building alliances with civic associations and with organized local ethnic groups in countries is a very important aspect of reaction. In this way, differences are recognized and appreciated, and even extended. Homogeneity is giving way to marvellous heterogeneity, of which Afro-Caribbean, Afro-Latin Americans and Indigenous women are a part.

It is important to know that a new political culture is being imposed. While for many years the male protagonists of political power imposed policy that was captive to economics—authoritarian policy, centralist policy—that has deprived democratic systems of content, the people now need a new leadership style. Another type of politician is required if democracy is to be strengthened and expanded in countries. There are great opportunities for women in this area.

Reversing contempt, negation, stereotyping and discrimination through effective wins in elections: in this area, image is important—but women in politics must develop a discourse and draw attention through that discourse. Similarly, that discourse combines a work plan, a political project and an ideological vision.

With respect to the discourse on multiculturalism, this has been surpassed by all of the country's problems, by the universe of globalization. Producing a discourse on differences, from the woman's point of view—this must be a discourse based on inclusion and reinforcement of the ethnic movement in an effective and permanent way.

The culturalist discourse should not confuse us. Different political discourse based on ethnicity may be rejected (indeed it is in many of our societies). It is more a matter of producing a discourse on difference from the perspective of women. We know more than anyone how to call people to dialogue and how to listen. We call upon people to join in our projects and, in general, try not to feel resentment. We are prone to forgiving (though not forgetting) and for that reason, we feel freer to call our opponents to the table for work or dialogue.

Ms. Young reiterated that women are inclusive and that that attitude is needed in today's politics. Traditional politicians are quite happy to "pass the buck" and undermine their internal or external adversaries and even pressure groups. Women have a higher degree of tolerance and for that reason can make calls with greater ease, rather than reject opinions or actions not initiated by us.

Women are needed in politics, because they naturally tend to be inclusive. Afro-Caribbean, Afro-Latin American and indigenous women, rather than attracting by reminding others of racial stigma, attract by appealing to a political and social project from their own leadership and experience; and so, slowly but surely, as we women know how, we will win more votes, more confidence among voters, and work without wavering at the necessary strengthening of the ethnic movement, with much more effectiveness and permanence.

### Linda Machuca Moscoso

The President of the Women's Group then reported on the meeting held in Quito, Ecuador, on August 11th and 12th, 2010, which was attended by 45 women parliamentarians from 16 countries in the Americas who analyzed the topic: "Women in Power: A Challenge for the 21st Century". She also mentioned the publication of a book containing the proceedings of this event with the experiences, developments and best practices along the road to the inclusion of women within politics, as well as the Quito Declaration, which mentions some provisions from the event. These can be consulted on FIPA's Website. "The Ten Commandments of Women Politicians for Communication" were cited to gain space for and formulate ideas and contributions by women parliamentarians.

### DISCUSSIONS

The participants discussed issues related to the current situation of women's participation in politics, the family issues that they face, as well as roles and the issue of confidence in their abilities and the right to act as political representatives of men and women. The participants shared alternatives for resolution that have been carried out in their countries, as well as alternatives to improve and facilitate the active participation of women in politics.

### WHEREAS:

- The purpose of the FIPA Women's Group is to strengthen political women's leadership through ongoing regional exchange; to promote the creation of conditions for equal opportunities, giving priority to fighting poverty and eliminating labour discrimination; to strengthen democracies in the Americas to ensure respect for human rights and the conditions that promote equal and sustainable social development; to encourage the creation of mechanisms that promote women's participation in politics; to strengthen active participation by women in FIPA working meetings, including the gender perspective on each topic analyzed by the organization.



- The Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas meets annually to discuss a special topic to be discussed at the FIPA forum.
- On November 17–18, 2010, a working meeting was held in Mexico on analysis of the discrimination and double discrimination suffered by indigenous and Afrodescendant women in the Americas, and how these aspects are a constant feature in the participation of legislators from different latitudes.
- On August 11 –12, 2010, a meeting of women parliamentarians from the Americas entitled “Women in Power: Challenges for the 21st Century” was held in Ecuador. The following commitments expressed in the Final Declaration were assumed at that event:
  1. To strengthen parliamentary actions and increase their impact so as to make sustained progress towards the actual realization of women’s rights.
  2. To ensure cross-cutting inclusion of the gender perspective in legislative efforts, and in each and every bill of law, to improve the positioning of women’s rights and eliminate any form of exclusion.
  3. To promote constitutional reforms so that internal legislation is in keeping with international instruments in favour of women, such as the Belem do Pará Convention, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the Beijing Platform, in order to overcome application inconsistencies.
  4. To commit our parliaments to proposals in favour of women and equality between men and women as the only way to encourage social transformation.
  5. To strengthen the empowerment of women through integration with other parliamentarians and other women’s organizations, within and outside the country, to work supportively and share experiences, knowledge and proposals.
  6. To do our legislative work under the principles of a secular state and ethics for the purpose of enacting laws and for supervising actions for the benefit of all women based on their diversity and specificity.
  7. To call upon the competent authorities to ratify, subscribe and comply with international instruments on the rights of girls, teenage girls and women.
  8. To create mechanisms to increase women’s participation in substantial progress on equality between women and men in private spaces, so that they share domestic responsibilities and so that women have more free time to participate actively and more fully enjoy the rights that are restricted by double and triple workdays.
  9. To share the legislative and supervisory work of the parliaments with women’s organizations and organized civil society, to allow for true citizen participation and accountability.
  10. To audit public bodies on the enforcement of women’s rights, in regard to their capacities.
  11. To guarantee equal access by men and women to media processes, while eliminating sexist and discriminatory content through a committed approach to the full exercise of women’s rights, their dissemination and defence.
- We recognize that the lack of participation by women in politics and in these spaces of discussion will not be resolved with childcare support only. We therefore need to promote co-responsibility between parents, especially as a means of cooperating with women in their different tasks related to work and the family.
- We must prepare the issues for a new Meeting of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas in 2011.
- We are planning activities of the parliamentary group for 2011.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

*Adopted by the Plenary Assembly of FIPA on November 19, 2010.*

Basing itself on the deliberations of the working group on November 17 –18, 2010 that took place at the Seventh Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas in Mexico City, and on the conclusions reached by that group, THE GROUP OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS makes the following recommendations:

1. Create a network of political women to support and assist those who participated in the past, and who are participating today in popular election forums with a view to designing empowerment strategies, starting by removing obstacles to effective electoral participation and taking advantage of the political capital accumulated by women who have served in parliament.
2. Organize, through FIPA, an international school of political training to build skills among women parliamentarians in order to achieve quality parliamentary work from a gender perspective, in which women parliamentarians develop the skills necessary to draft bills of law that have an impact on their countries and to monitor those bills, and to design methods for effective communication with voters, develop messages, work with the media and other relevant issues of parliamentary development.
3. Request that at future events, the agenda of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas establish equal importance for the analysis of gender issues in parliamentary meetings, particularly in regard to time management, methodology and promotion of participation.
4. Update the issues to be discussed at the Women's Meetings, going beyond situational analysis to focus on proposals and strategies.
5. Implement actions so that the FIPA Women's Group can establish a closer relationship with other related parliamentary organizations.
6. Fully subscribe to the content of the Quito Declaration issued by the Group of Women Parliamentarians in August 2010.
7. Supervise the implementation of public policies instituted by our countries that contribute to reconciling domestic and unpaid work with work in public spaces.
8. Promote new educational practices in our countries so that new generations change their practices and the roles that have been exclusively assigned to women.
9. Organize other activities in addition to the annual meeting of the FIPA Women's Group in the different countries.
10. Build and strengthen the relationships between women parliamentarians in the Americas and networks of Afro-Caribbean, Afro-Latin American and diaspora women, as well as with networks of indigenous women, in order to discuss, exchange and evaluate the situation of discrimination, violation of human rights, poverty and cultural subordination experienced by women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
11. Develop follow-up actions for commitments and recommendations assumed by the participants in the parliamentary group.

### CHAIR OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE GROUP OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS

Linda Machuca Moscoso  
President of Group of Women Parliamentarians  
Member of the National Assembly of Ecuador



## WORKING GROUP PARTICIPANTS

COUNTRY		NAME
Canada	M.P.	Earl Dreeshen
Chile	Deputy	Cristina Girardi Lavín
Chile	Deputy	María Angélica Cristi Marfil
Dominica	M.P.	Gloria Shillingford
Ecuador	Member of the National Assembly	Gastón Gagliardo
Ecuador	Member of the National Assembly	Lídice Larrea
Ecuador	Member of the National Assembly	Linda Machuca Moscoso
Haiti	Senator	Edmonde Beauzile
Haiti	Senator	Jean Baptiste Willy
Mexico	Senator	Adriana González
Mexico	Senator	María Serrano
Panama	Senator	Dana Castañeda
Paraguay	Senator	María Digna Roa
Trinidad Tobago	M.P.	Dr. Fuad Khan

## Appendix 6—Resolutions and Declarations of the Seventh Plenary Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA)

### Resolution FIPA/PA7/2010/RES.1: Vacancy on the Executive Committee for the North American Sub-Region

*Adopted by the FIPA Plenary Assembly on November 17, 2010.*

RECOGNIZING the importance of North American Leadership in the furthering of the objectives of FIPA at the international level, and on the Executive Committee of FIPA; and

Given the absence of the United States of America from the Executive Committee and other FIPA activities, despite being elected at the last Plenary Assembly;

The Plenary Assembly of FIPA:

RESOLVES to co-opt Mexico to fill the seat left vacant by the USA for the remaining year of the two year term, to expire at the 8th Plenary Assembly of FIPA.

### Resolution FIPA/PA7/2010/RES.2: Expanding the Use of “FIPA-ParlAmericas”

*Adopted by the FIPA Plenary Assembly on November 19, 2010.*

RECOGNIZING the importance of promoting parliamentary integration and participation in the inter-American system and contributing to inter-parliamentary dialogue in dealing with issues on the hemispheric agenda;

CONVINCED of FIPA’s increasing relevance to the work of Parliamentarians in the Americas;

CONSIDERING that it would be in our interest to make FIPA’s name and brand more well known; and

CONSCIOUS of legal and contractual obligations currently held under the legal name “FIPA”;

The Plenary Assembly of FIPA:

RESOLVES that where possible FIPA begin to be known as FIPA – ParlAmericas.

### Resolution FIPA/PA7/2010/RES.3: Paraguay Holding Two Seats on the Executive Committee

*Adopted by the FIPA Plenary Assembly on 19 November 2010.*

RECOGNIZING that Paraguay was elected to the Executive Committee at the 6th Plenary Assembly for a two year term;

Given that, as of the 7th Plenary Assembly, Paraguay takes on the role of Host Country of the 8th Plenary Assembly, and will be a full member of the Executive Committee in that capacity; and

AWARE that Chile is interested in representing the South American sub-region on the Executive Committee;

The Plenary Assembly of FIPA:

AUTHORIZES the Executive Committee to enter into an understanding with Paraguay with a view to Paraguay relinquishing its seat as a representative of the sub-region on the Executive Committee to Chile. In that case, Chile would serve the remainder of the term, that is, until the 8th Plenary Assembly.

### Declaration FIPA/PA7/2010/DEC.1: To Condemn the Violence in Ecuador

*Endorsed by the Plenary Assembly of FIPA on November 19, 2010.*

#### CONSIDERING:

That the International Community and, accordingly, intergovernmental and international organizations, have spoken out against the detestable attack against democracy that took place on September 30th in the Republic of Ecuador;

That in a special and timely manner, the OAS Permanent Council, while condemning those events and offering its support to Constitutional President Rafael Correa Delgado, made a strong appeal to law enforcement personnel, as well as to the political and social sectors to avoid exacerbating a situation of political instability, threatening the democratic order, peace and public security;



That the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas, through its President, Luiz Carlos Hauly, and in a timely manner, condemned the violence and anarchy and stated its support for the National Assembly and the constitutional Government;

**RESOLVES:**

1. To strongly reject any act or situation created in the countries of the Americas with a view to forcibly imposing the powers that be or illegitimate governments.
2. To support the President of the Republic of Ecuador, Rafael Correa Delgado, legitimately and democratically elected.
3. To promote an environment of dialogue with neighbouring countries of the Americas so as to jointly influence the maintenance of democracy and peace in each and every country.

## Appendix 7—FIPA Executive Committee Members 2010–2011

Position	Name of the Parliamentary Delegate	Country	Tenure
Presidency	Luiz Carlos Hauly, Member of the Chamber of Deputies	Brazil	2009 to 2011
North America	Randy Hoback, Member of Parliament	Canada	2010 to 2012
	Adriana González Carillo, Senator	Mexico	2010 to 2011
Central America	Vacant	Vacant	2010 to 2012
	Víctor Juliao III, Member of the National Assembly	Panama	2009 to 2011
Caribbean	Edmonde S. Beauzile, Senator	Haiti	2010 to 2012
	Rosemarie Husbands-Mathurin, Speaker of the House of Assembly	Saint Lucia	2009 to 2011
South America	Germán Alcides Blanco, Representative	Colombia	2010 to 2012
	Alberto Grillón Conigliaro, Senator	Paraguay	2009 to 2011
Plenary Meeting Host Country	Alberto Grillón Conigliaro, Senator	Paraguay	2010 to 2011
Chair of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas	Linda Machuca Moscoso, Member of the National Assembly	Ecuador	2009 to 2011
Past President of FIPA	Céline Hervieux-Payette, Senator	Canada	2006 –

Executive Secretary: Gina Hill

