



### THIRD MEETING OF THE GROUP OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS INTER-PARLIAMENTARY FORUM OF THE AMERICAS (FIPA)

#### *Considering:*

The Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA), formed by parliamentarians endowed with popular representation, committed to the interests of our peoples and, particularly, the rights of women;

Recognize that the advances of women in the exercise of our rights and the achievement of greater and better opportunities for participation, are the result of our ongoing and systematic struggle, which we assert is still necessary to continued progress in eliminating discrimination, inequalities and all forms of violence;

Recognize that the participation of women in most legislatures in the Americas has increased, although for the conquest of these spaces women still face social obstacles and exclusionary practices in formal politics;

Recognize that, as women parliamentarians of the Americas, we represent greater ethnic, cultural and social diversity and, although having made some progress, there are still challenges to be met;

Recognize that the presence of women in spaces of public power is essential to transform and consolidate democracies in the Americas;

Recognize that we still have to influence politically the Public Agenda so that it incorporates women's proposals and demands.

For these foregoing reasons we agree to approve the following:

#### QUITO DECLARATION OF THE GROUP OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS

*The Group of Women Parliamentarians gathered in the city of Quito, the days 11 and 12 of August of 2010, commits to join efforts to accomplish:*

I. Strengthen Parliamentary actions and expand their impact, in order to make a sustained progress towards a real advance on women's rights.

II. Work to ensure the introduction of a gender perspective in legislation and in all that the legislature does, in order to improve the status of women's rights and to eliminate all forms of exclusion.

III. Promote constitutional reforms so that domestic legislation is consistent with international instruments on women's rights, such as the Belem do Pará Convention, CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women) and the Beijing Platform, to overcome inconsistencies in their application.

IV. Commit our parliaments to proposals in favour of women and substantive equality between men and women as the only way to promote social transformation.

V. Empower women through the integration with other women parliamentarians and women's organizations, within



and outside the country, to work together and to share experiences, knowledge and proposals.

VI. Legislate on the basis of the separation between church and state, and secular ethics as a principle for making laws and controlling actions, to the benefit of all women in their diversity and uniqueness.

VII. Demand that competent authorities ratify, adopt and implement international instruments concerning the rights of girls, (female) adolescents and women.

VIII. Create mechanisms for women to participate in a context of substantive progress toward the equality of women and men in the private sphere, so that household responsibilities are shared, and women have more time for greater participation and greater enjoyment of rights that are restricted by having to do double and triple duty.

IX. Share the legislative and supervisory work of parliaments with women's organizations and organized civil society, enabling accountability and genuine citizen participation.

X. Monitor public organizations in their compliance with the women's rights within the framework of their competences.

XI. Ensure equitable access for men and women to communication media, while eliminating sexist and discriminatory content through a committed approach to the full exercise of women's rights and their promotion and defence.

Given in the city of Quito, Republic of Ecuador, on August 12, 2010.

#### Acknowledgements

The Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas would like to thank the following organizations for the financial support provided to hold this event:

Project undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

