

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Port-au-Prince, 8 December 2015

A DELEGATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM ACROSS THE AMERICAS VISITS HAITI TO DEEPEN RELATIONS WITH DIFFERENT DEMOCRATIC ACTORS

Five parliamentarians from countries across the Americas will be in Port-au-Prince on December 8 to 11, to meet with political and civil society actors as part of the Mission d'observation électorale (MiOÉH) deployed by ParlAmericas in Haiti since September 2015.

The delegation's main objective is to deepen relations between the Mission and Haitian democratic stakeholders. Members of the delegation will meet with parliamentarians from across the party spectrum elected in the August and October 2015 elections, and with representatives of civil society. The delegation will initiate dialogue on electoral best practices in the hemisphere; on political cooperation to promote legislative priorities within a democratic context; and on strategies to improve women's participation in the electoral process, political parties and civil society.

The delegation is composed of Gina Godoy, Member of the National Assembly of Ecuador, President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians; Ligia Fallas, Member of the National Assembly of Costa Rica and Board Member of ParlAmericas; Máxima Apaza Millares, Senator in the Plurinational Legislative Assembly of Bolivia; Carmen Omonte, Member of the Congress of Peru; and Luis Alberto Batres, Member of the National Assembly of El Salvador.

In addition to meeting with their parliamentary counterparts, the delegation will participate in two roundtables on challenges for gender integration in political parties and civil society organizations. The roundtables will be organized in the framework of MiOÉH observation activities of the electoral process.

According to Gina Godoy, head of the delegation, "the exchanges and meetings that the delegation will conduct provide a unique opportunity to reinforce consultations undertaken by the MiOÉH and by ParlAmericas relating to the role of women in the electoral process. These consultations will help to identify participatory barriers encountered by women in the political decision-making processes, and to articulate strategies which take into consideration Haiti's social realities and the role that women can play at all levels in our countries."

To stay informed about the delegation's activities, please consult the mission's Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/parlAmericas.MiOÉH - for more information on the MiOÉH, please visit our website at: www.parlAmericas.org/fr/ourwork/MiOÉH.aspx

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ParlAmericas – the network of the national legislatures of the Americas – serves as an independent forum for parliamentarians of the Americas committed to cooperative political dialogue and participation in the Inter-American system.

For further information, contact the media and communication analyst
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PRESS RELEASE

Port-au-Prince, 13 December 2015

For immediate release

Parliamentary delegation of ParlAmericas Concludes Successful Visit in Haiti

A parliamentary delegation, which has been visiting Haiti's capital since December 8 in support of the ParlAmericas Mission d'observation électorale (MiOÉH), concluded its activities yesterday.

During their visit, the parliamentary delegates had an opportunity to engage in open and frank discussions with different electoral and democratic stakeholders to share experiences and explore solutions drawing from processes in their countries.

Head of delegation Gina Godoy, President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of ParlAmericas and Member of the National Assembly of Ecuador, stated: "The opportunity to listen to women candidates, former parliamentarians, activists and experts was deeply motivating. It takes a driving vocation and enormous courage for Haitian women to claim the space that is theirs, but they also face a lot of obstacles, such as a lack of financial resources and structural mechanisms that exclude them. Women must struggle against this and it is important that we can accompany them."

The delegation participated in meetings, conferences and roundtables that focused on the key topics of gender integration in political life and in political parties, electoral violence against women, and assistance provided through national and international organizations towards solutions that strengthen women's participation in the electoral process.

The delegation also held constructive meetings with civil society organizations and elected parliamentarians from across the political party spectrum. Luis Alberto Batres, Member of the National Assembly of El Salvador said the following: "These meetings allowed us to visualize the current political, economic and social situation in Haiti. It is the ideal time to raise the awareness of Haitian women and men to reinforce that women play a fundamental role in building a democracy that is both representative and equitable." The Member of the Congress of Peru, Carmen Omonte, underlined that "Haiti is facing significant challenges, like the integration of women into spaces for political decision-making, with perseverance and determination. Society as a whole must provide women with opportunities and encourage their participation in building a better country."

The members of the delegation were largely satisfied with the activities in which they participated, highlighting two roundtables that were organized by the MiOÉH on challenges for gender integration in political parties and civil society organizations. According to Máxima Apaza, Member of the Plurinational Legislative Assembly of Bolivia, "the roundtables were spaces for horizontal inclusion. They allowed us to hear from Haitian parliamentarians and social organizations, offering them our support and solidarity."

Ligia Fallas, Member of the National Assembly of Costa Rica, concluded that the visit “gave delegates an opportunity to see the urgent need for ongoing support to newly elected parliamentarians by reinforcing actions and positive measures taken to ensure women’s participation in Haiti’s political sphere.”

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