



Fifth Plenary Meeting

Bogotá, Colombia, November 19-21, 2006

4th Meeting of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas

November 20-21, 2006

Recommendation to carry out the 2007-2008 work plan of the group of women parliamentarians of the Americas

Adopted by the FIPA Plenary Assembly on November 21, 2006

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the goals stated in the *Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas Action Plan 2005-2007*, adopted by the Executive Committee and based on the recommendations made at the 3rd meeting of the Group of Women Parliamentarians, during the 4th Plenary Assembly in Brasilia, Brazil.

The Plenary Assembly recommends that:

1. The Group of Women Parliamentarians, under the guidance of the Chair and with the support of the FIPA Technical Secretariat, implement the 2007-2008 Work Plan, attached in Appendix 1.

Céline Hervieux-Payette
Senator of Canada

Cecilia López Montaña
Senator of Colombia

Co-Chairs, 4th Meeting of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas

Appendix 1: Work Plan 2007-2008

Elaborating on the themes outlined in the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas 2005-2007 Action Plan the FIPA Secretariat, in consultation with the Executive Committee, has developed 5 potential projects to be carried out by the Group of Women Parliamentarians, with the support of the FIPA Secretariat, in 2007-2008.

Projects 1-4 draw on the 2 of the 4 themes identified in the 2005-2007 Action Plan: *Encouraging the involvement of women in politics through engagement and education*; and *building the capacity of men and women parliamentarians to implement international human rights conventions, with special emphasis given to the question of gender*. Project 5 is based on a new theme, identified by the Group of Women Parliamentarians during the 5th FIPA Plenary Assembly: *Actions to obtain democratic gender equity*.

1) Experience and Advice Sharing through the Online Work Group

2005-2007 Action Plan Theme 1: Encouraging the Involvement of Women in Politics through Engagement and Education

In the interest of gathering inspirational material from women parliamentarians that can be shared with women leaders of our region, and with the hope of creating stronger connections between members of the Group of Women Parliamentarians, the FIPA Secretariat proposes to invite women parliamentarians of the Americas to submit one page write ups on topics that could be used to inspire, encourage and assist women to become involved in politics.

Material submitted will be shared with the rest of the Online Group of Women Parliamentarians, thereby strengthening ties between working Group members of the group.

The FIPA Secretariat would undertake to consolidate submissions and produce documents, in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish, which could be posted on the FIPA Website and Virtual Parliament, included in an issue of the FIPA Newsletter *ParlAmericas*, and shared with civil society groups and the general public throughout the region in the interest of reaching as many leaders as possible. The Secretariat will also explore new means of sharing information through the use of information communication technology tools such as blogs and chats.

Possible topics for submission could be (please circle preference):

- a) Stories to Inspire: How I came to be a women parliamentarian
- b) A Beginners Guide: Three Tips I would Give to a Woman Considering Entering Politics
- c) Why was it worth it? What did I accomplish?
- d) Other _____

2) International Women's Week Outreach Project – Connecting with Women Leaders

2005-2007 Action Plan Theme 1: Encouraging the Involvement of Women in Politics through Engagement and Education

In concert with international women's week, the first week in March, the FIPA Secretariat proposes to work with women parliamentarians of the Americas to coordinate outreach programs designed to encourage the involvement of women leaders in politics through engagement and education. Parliamentarians involved in the project could participate in one or two education and engagement outreach projects would be:

1. Participating women parliamentarians will work to identify women who are active in their communities who may have a potential interest in politics, inviting 1-3 women to join them in their offices, commissions, sessions and parliaments for a day in order to provide exposure to the realities of parliamentary life, create connections between women parliamentarians and women community leaders, and encourage more women to enter politics.
2. Participating women parliamentarians may also arrange to visit schools, community groups, women's organizations, etc. in their area to share their experiences as women in parliament and to talk about how to become involved in politics.

In order to create value added to this project the FIPA Secretariat will:

- Coordinate and document projects being implemented across the Americas.
- Provide support including promotional material and information to be distributed to participants regarding women in politics.
- Assist participating women parliamentarians to raise awareness in the wider population through the media by:
 - Working to create a region wide media buzz regarding women in politics.
 - Assisting participating parliamentarians in the creation of press releases for their individual involvement
 - Distribute information regarding the project to parliaments, civil society groups, academic and governmental institutions across the Americas through an issue of ParlAmericas dedicated to women in Parliament in the region.

3) Mentorship Program

2005-2007 Action Plan Theme 1: Encouraging the Involvement of Women in Politics through Engagement and Education

Inspired by the Mission to Haiti undertaken by FIPA's Women's Group, in which women parliamentarians from North America, South America and the Caribbean met with Haitian women interested in pursuing politics, the Secretariat proposes to develop a list of experienced women parliamentarians interested in volunteering as mentors for:

- a) Women newly elected to parliament
- b) Women leaders interested in entering politics

The list would be advertised on the FIPA Website, and distributed to parliaments and/or civil society groups, academic institutions and governmental bureaus across the Americas, inviting interested women to contact the Secretariat in order to be matched with a mentor.

4) Workshop on the Implementation of CEDAW

2005-2007 Action Plan Theme 2: Building the Capacity of Men and Women Parliamentarians to implement International Human Rights Conventions, with Special Emphasis given to the Question of Gender

In the interest of assisting parliamentarians to implement international human rights conventions related to the question of gender equity the FIPA Secretariat proposes to collaborate with a host parliament and organizations such as the World Bank Institute, the Parliamentary Centre, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Organization of American States and others to organize a workshop at the regional level, focusing on building the knowledge base of parliamentarians regarding the existing international convention and enhancing the capacity of parliamentarians to implement relevant conventions within their own parliaments.

The workshop would provide an opportunity for both men and women parliamentarians interested in the implementation of international human rights conventions to network with organizations familiar with the convention and to network and share best practices and lessons learned with their colleagues from across the region.

The FIPA Secretariat will provide value added to the project by ensuring that information regarding existing conventions is available through on the Virtual Parliament of the Americas and that the Online Group of Women Parliamentarians was fully utilized to distribute information related to international human rights conventions and connect parliamentarians interested in the subject.

5) Workshop in Bolivia regarding gender equity advances in that country

New Theme: Actions to obtain democratic gender equity

In the interest of learning more about the advances made in Bolivia in the field of gender equity, and with the intent of expanding the knowledge base of women parliamentarians regarding methods for obtaining democratic gender equity, the Chair of the Group of Women Parliamentarians proposes to organize a workshop in Bolivia, inviting women parliamentarians from across the region to study the question.