



Foro Interparlamentario de las Américas
Fórum Interparlamentar das Américas

FIPA

Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas
Forum interparlementaire des Amériques

REPORT

FIRST PLENARY MEETING

March 14–15, 2002
Mexico City, Mexico

Table of contents

1. <i>Introduction</i>	2
2. <i>Inaugural Session</i>	2
3. <i>First Session of the Plenary Meeting</i>	2
3.1. Election of the Chair of the Plenary Meeting	2
3.2. Approval of the Working Agenda	2
3.3. Report of the Chair of FIPA to the Plenary Meeting	3
3.4. Election of the New Chair of FIPA	3
3.5. Amendments to the Regulations of FIPA	3
3.6. Formation of Working Groups	3
3.7. Other Business	4
3.8. Update on Issues of Summit of the Americas and FTAA Negotiating Process	4
4. <i>Final Session of the Plenary Meeting</i>	4
4.1. Presentation of the Project for the Virtual Parliament of the Americas	4
4.2. Adoption of a Motion to Amend Procedures	4
4.3. Presentation of Reports from Working Groups	4
4.4. Election of the Executive Committee	6
4.5. Host of the Next Plenary Meeting	6
5. <i>Closing of the Plenary Meeting</i>	6
6. <i>Annexes</i>	7
Annex 1 – Countries and delegates attending	7
Annex 2 – Speeches at the inaugural ceremony	11
Annex 3 – Working Agenda	30
Annex 4 – Motion approved by the Plenary Meeting	32
Annex 5 – Letter from the Honorable Thomas Daschle	35
Annex 6 – Presentation by Marc Lortie	36
Annex 7 – Motion to amend the procedures	43
Annex 8 – Report and recommendations – Working Group 1	44
Annex 9 - Report and recommendations – Working Group 2	46
Annex 10 - Report and recommendations – Working Group 3	48
Annex 11 - Report and recommendations – Working Group 4	50
Annex 12 – Declaration of the Brazilian delegation	57
Annex 13 – Executive Committee of FIPA	58

1. Introduction

At the invitation of the Mexican Congress, the First Plenary Meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA) was held in Mexico City on March 14 and 15, 2002. More than 80 delegates from the national legislatures of 23 countries in the hemisphere participated in this important event in an atmosphere of cordiality and cooperation (*see list of countries and delegates attending in Annex 1*).

The topic that guided discussions was security in the new millennium and the role of legislators in ensuring greater security in the hemisphere. Three working groups dealt with different perspectives on the central topic and a fourth one discussed the FTAA negotiating process, which will be a permanent subject at meetings of the Forum.

2. Inaugural Session

The First Plenary Meeting of FIPA opened on Thursday, March 14, 2002 at a special ceremony in the Fiesta Americana Reforma Hotel in Mexico City, attended by delegates from the various countries, political personalities from the Americas, members of the diplomatic corps and other special guests.

Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette of Canada, Interim Chair of FIPA; the Hon. Bill Graham, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada; Senator Diego Fernández de Cevallos, Speaker of the Mexican Senate; Senator Silvia Hernández Enríquez, Chair of the Plenary Meeting; His Excellency Vicente Fox Quezada, President of Mexico, and His Excellency César Gaviria Trujillo, Secretary General of the Organization of American States, spoke at the opening ceremony (*see texts of speeches in Annex 2*).

3. First Session of the Plenary Meeting

After the opening ceremony, the work of the Plenary Meeting began. Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette, Interim Chair of the Forum, welcomed the delegates and presided over the election of the Chair for the meeting.

3.1 Election of the Chair of the Plenary Meeting

On a motion by the delegation from Guatemala, seconded by the delegation from St. Lucia, Mexican Senator Silvia Hernández Enríquez was elected Chair of the First Plenary Meeting of FIPA, by acclamation.

3.2 Approval of the Working Agenda

The Chair of the meeting reviewed the preliminary agenda and the duties of the working groups. On a motion by the delegation from Canada, the delegates approved the working agenda (*see agenda in Annex 3*).

3.3 Report of the Chair of FIPA to the Plenary Meeting

The Interim Chair submitted the annual report of activities of FIPA, summarizing the work done by the Executive Committee and paying particular attention to progress on the Virtual Parliament of the Americas project.

3.4 Election of the New Chair of FIPA

The Plenary Meeting considered the resignation of the Hon. Bill Graham as Chair of FIPA and proceeded to elect a new chair, pursuant to Article 2.3(g) of the Regulations. On a motion by the delegation from Argentina, seconded by St. Lucia, Peru, El Salvador, Haiti, Mexico, Belize, Brazil and Chile, the Plenary Meeting elected Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette of Canada the new Chair of FIPA for a two-year term, by acclamation.

3.5 Amendments to the Regulations of FIPA

The motions proposed by the Executive Committee were submitted to the Plenary for consideration. After debate, the Plenary Meeting unanimously adopted seven motions and asked the Executive Committee to revise the motion concerning changes to procedures and submit it to consideration the following day. (*see texts of motions in Annex 4*)

3.6 Formation of Working Groups

The Chair of the meeting explained the composition of the working groups, which are as follows:

Working Group 1 – Legal Instruments for Security

Chair: Senator César Camacho (Mexico)

Facilitator: Carmen Oñate (Ministry of External Relations of Mexico)

Rapporteur: Angela Crowdy (OAS)

Working Group 2 – The Problem of Organized Crime

Chair: Louis Tull, Member of Parliament (Barbados)

Facilitator: Jorge Mario Eastman (OAS)

Rapporteur: Rodrigo Silva (OAS)

Working Group 3 – Migration and Borders

Chair: Deputy Carlos Santiago Nájera (Guatemala)

Facilitator: Rodolfo Tuirán (National Population Council of Mexico)

Rapporteur: Estela Cárdenas (Mexico)

Working Group 4 – Negotiating Process for Free Trade Area of the Americas

Chair: Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette (Canada)

Facilitator: Thomas J. Oommen (Canada)

Rapporteur: Cesar Parga (OAS)

3.7 Other Business

The Chair of the meeting read a letter from the United States Senate Majority Leader, the Hon. Thomas Daschle, who sent greetings to the participants and expressed support for the First Plenary Meeting of FIPA, but apologized for not being able to attend (*see text of letter in Annex 5*).

3.8 Update on Issues of Summit of the Americas and FTAA Negotiating Process

Marc Lortie, personal representative of the Prime Minister of Canada to the Summit of the Americas, made a presentation to the Plenary to inform legislators on the process to implement the Summit of the Americas, as well as the FTAA negotiation process. Mr. Lortie also spoke about the role that legislators can play in the process of implementing decisions of the Summit of the Americas and stressed the importance of FIPA as an integral part of the inter-American system and a cornerstone of the cooperation process (*see full text of presentation in Annex 6*).

4. Final Session of the Plenary Meeting

After the working groups deliberated, the Plenary Meeting had its final session in the afternoon of Friday, March 15, 2002. The Plenary agreed to change the order of the agenda of the meeting and to start with the presentation on the Virtual Parliament project.

4.1 Presentation of the Project for the Virtual Parliament of the Americas

Riff Fullan, representative of Bellanet International, presented the project for the Virtual Parliament of the Americas to the Plenary. He stated the project objectives and explained the role of the various institutions responsible for implementing the project. He also distributed a survey to obtain suggestions on how the system should run and to ascertain the information needs of parliamentarians.

4.2 Adoption of a Motion to Amend Procedures

As agreed at the first session of the Plenary, a new version of the motion to amend the Regulations with respect to procedures was considered. Deputy Marcelo Stubrin of Argentina presented and explained the new wording of the document. The proposal was seconded by the delegations from Uruguay, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Paraguay, El Salvador and Canada and was finally passed unanimously (*see text of motion in Annex 7*).

4.3 Presentation of Reports from Working Groups

The chairs of the working groups presented the reports on their deliberations and the related recommendations to the Plenary Meeting.

Working Group 1 – Legal Instruments for Security

Working Group 1 was chaired by Senator César Camacho of Mexico. The first session of this group focused on security. The second session analyzed the existing international legal instruments on security and those pending ratification and discussed the threat of terrorism as well as appropriate policies to deal with this problem.

After debate, the Meeting approved the report and adopted the nine recommendations made by this group (*see text of report and recommendations from Working Group 1 in Annex 8*).

Working Group 2 – The Problem of Organized Crime

Working Group 2 was chaired by Louis Tull, Member of Parliament from Barbados. This working group focused on the issues of terrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking and money laundering. The participants shared their experiences in fighting these scourges and emphasized the need to ratify the international conventions on them.

After debate, the Meeting approved the report and adopted the eleven recommendations made by this group (*see text of report and recommendations from Working Group 2 in Annex 9*).

Working Group 3 – Migration and Borders

Working Group 3 was chaired by Deputy Carlos Santiago Najera of Guatemala. The participants in this group discussed the general causes of population movements and the consequences for the countries of origin and destination. They also stressed the importance of updating regulations on population movement as part of the process of economic integration in the region (*see text of report and recommendations from Working Group 2 in Annex 10*).

Working Group 4 – FTAA Negotiating Process

Working Group 4 was chaired by Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette of Canada. This group discussed the process of economic integration in the hemisphere and said that national legislatures must participate actively and effectively in the process of creating the FTAA. The group covered the various chapters of the summary of the basic document on the FTAA negotiations. The delegates also expressed their concern about the economic crisis in Argentina.

In considering the recommendations, the Plenary Meeting unanimously decided to add to the recommendation on intellectual property rights. The delegation from Brazil, for its part, expressed concern about the issue of steel in the FTAA negotiations through a unilateral statement that it asked to be included in the report (*see full text of the unilateral statement by the Brazilian delegation in Annex 12*).

After debate, the Meeting approved the report and adopted the recommendations made by this group (*see text of report and recommendations from Working Group 4 in Annex 11*).

4.4 Election of the Executive Committee

The Plenary Meeting proceeded to elect the members of the Executive Committee. Each of the four subregions elected its representatives on the Committee by consensus and announced them to the Plenary. The following countries were elected to the Executive Committee for a term of two (2) years:

North America — Canada
Central America — Guatemala
Caribbean — Jamaica
South America — Brazil

(See composition of Executive Committee in Annex 13).

4.5 Host of the Next Plenary Meeting

The delegation from Panama reiterated the invitation made last year in Ottawa and submitted its proposal to be the host country for the next meeting of the Forum. The Plenary unanimously accepted this invitation and decided that the Plenary Meeting of FIPA in 2003 would be held in Panama.

Pursuant to Article 2.3(b) of the FIPA Regulations, Panama as host country will have a representative on the Executive Committee for one year.

5. Closing of the Plenary Meeting

Senator Hernández thanked the members of the Executive Committee for their contributions to the organization of the meeting, the administrative staff of Mexico and Canada for their cooperation during the event, and the delegates for their participation. Finally, the Chair declared the First Plenary Meeting of FIPA closed.

Respectfully submitted,

The Honorable Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette, p.c.
Chair of FIPA

ANNEX 1

COUNTRIES AND DELEGATES ATTENDING

Argentina

Senator Juan Carlos Maqueda, President of the Senate (Head of Delegation)
Senator Cristina Perceval
Deputy Marcelo Stubrin
Deputy Rodolfo Terragno

Bahamas

Senator John Henry Bostwick, President of the Senate

Barbados

Deputy, Louis R. Tull

Belize

Hon. Sylvia Flores, President of the Chamber of Representatives
Deputy Clara Zetina

Bolivia

Senator Félix Alanoca González

Brazil

Federal Deputy Luiz Carlos Hauly
Federal Deputy Milton Temer
Federal Deputy Sergio Barros
Senator Roberto Freire
Federal Deputy Antonio Jorge
Federal Deputy José Francisco Das Neves
Federal Deputy José Fogasa

Canada

Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette (President of FIPA)
Deputy John Godfrey (Head of Delegation)
Senator John Lynch-Staunton
Senator Lorna Milne
Deputy Bill Casey
Deputy Pierre Paquette
Deputy Bernard Patry
Deputy Svend Robinson
Deputy John Williams

Cuba

Ricardo Alarcón Quezada, President of the National Assembly (Head of Delegation)
Deputy José Luis Toledo
Deputy Leonel González

Chile

Senator Rafael Moreno Rojas

Ecuador

Deputy Hugo Moreno Romero

El Salvador

Deputy Carmen Elena Calderón de Escalón
Deputy Alfonso Arístides Alvarenga
Deputy Ruben Orellana
Deputy Blanca Flor Bonilla
Deputy Mauricio López Parker

United States of America

(Trough video-conference)
Senator Christopher Dodd

Guatemala

Deputy Carlos Santiago Nágera (Head of Delegation)
Deputy Elsa Leonora Cú Isem
Deputy Clodomiro de León
Deputy Ricardo Rosales Román
Deputy Jorge Rolando Barrientos Pellecer
Deputy José Alfredo Cojtí Chiroy

Haiti

Deputy Étienne Lionel
Deputy Ulrick Saint Cyr
Deputy Lamour Gesner
Deputy Joseph Kessède

Honduras

Deputy Virgilio Umanzor
Deputy Hugo Gamica



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MEXICO 2002

FIPA/PA/2002/REP/s/FV

Jamaica

Deputy Dorren Chen

Mexico

Senator Silvia Hernández (Chair of FIPA Plenary Meeting)

Senator Fernando Margáin

Senator Germán Sierra

Senator Cecilia Romero

Senator Jorge Lozano

Senator Sara Isabel Castellanos

Senator Lydia Madero

Senator Héctor Osuna

Senator César Camacho

Deputy Idefonso Guajardo

Deputy Silvia Alvarez

Deputy Raúl Cervantes

Deputy Tarcisio Navarrete

Deputy Enrique Herrera

Deputy Olga Patricia Chozas

Deputy Gregorio Urias

Nicaragua

Deputy René Herrera Zúniga

Deputy Nelson Artola Escobar

Panama

Representative José Isabel Blandón

Representative Felipe Cano

Paraguay

Senator Luis Alberto Mauro

Peru

Senator Judith de la Mata

Senator José Luis Risco

Senator Luis Javier González

Saint Lucia

Hon. Matthew Vernon Roberts (President of the Assembly)



FIPA

MEXICO 2002

FIPA/PA/2002/REP/s/FV

Venezuela

Deputy Benita Araujo (Head of Delegation)

Deputy Desirée Santos

Deputy Amalia Saéz

Deputy José Gregorio Briceño

Deputy Ricardo Gutiérrez

Deputy Elías Matta

Deputy Ezequiel Vivas

Special Observers

Andean Parliament

Deputy Jhannet Madriz, President of the Andean Parliament

Senator Honorio Gálvis

Deputy Luis Díaz Laplace

ANNEX 2

**Address by the Honorable Céline Hervieux-Payette
Senator of Canada
Chair of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas**

(Address given in French, English, and Spanish)

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank President Vicente Fox for honoring us with his presence, as well as the Honorable Bill Graham, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. César Gaviria of the Organization of American States, and Speaker of the Senate Fernández de Cevallos. I also wish to thank Senator Silvia Hernández for organizing this second meeting.

On behalf of FIPA's members, I wish to take this opportunity to thank our new Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honorable Bill Graham, for the excellent work he did during the year on the preparations for this meeting. In addition, as the interim chair, I wish to convey to him, on your behalf our warmest congratulations and best wishes on his important new functions. We already know about his personal, and now ministerial, commitment to support the cause of FIPA with his counterparts in the Americas, and I thank him for his support in promoting dialogue between parliamentarians.

I am delighted to be back among you for a second plenary meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas, and to see again this year a very large number of parliamentarians from throughout the Americas.

Last year, FIPA was officially constituted and approved its regulations. Since then, the Organization of American States and the Summit of the Americas have officially recognized our organization as the voice of voters in the Americas and the most effective forum for their interests and their aspirations.

We all share common interests, which are based on the principles of democracy, the rule of law, and respect for individual rights. In addition, we are all here as official representatives of our respective countries, having been chosen by the speakers of our parliaments.

Security is the theme that will guide the discussions at this 2nd meeting. This concern, which has invaded the political arena since the terrible events of September 11, deserves all our attention, as we search for solutions that will protect our nations and respect their fundamental rights.

As interim chair, I therefore urge you to consolidate the ties that unite us and to engage in constructive dialogue, so that we can find solutions to our common problems.

In closing, I wish to thank our host country, Mexico, for its warm invitation and fine job of organizing this event.

**Address by the Honorable Bill Graham
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada**

(Address given in English and French)

It's with a great deal of pleasure and I must say, however, with some regret that I meet with you today. (Text in Spanish) I say I have great pleasure because I have so many friends in this room that we made in Ottawa last year, and working with all of you during the course of the year, and because we are having such a successful meeting here in Mexico, which holds so much promise for us in the hemisphere. I say regret because I've looked forward to serving with you at this meeting and having the opportunity to serve another year as the chair of this important organization, working with you on issues that are of such relevance to the Americas.

I was very proud last year when you elected me to be chair of FIPA for a two-year period and I'd hoped that I would continue to serve with you in that important role because I'm also proud of the fact that Canada played such an important role in establishing this institution that will serve to link our parliaments and peoples throughout our hemisphere. I'm firmly convinced that the role of this institution will increase in significance as the forces of integration continue to bring us closer and closer together from the north to the south poles.

Of course you, too, in this room are all politicians and parliamentarians. So I would be less than honest if I did not say that I was pleased that the prime minister asked me to take on the role of foreign minister, thus requiring my resignation from FIPA. But believe me, I will remain interested in your work as it represents an important dimension of our foreign policy particularly since the Quebec Summit of last year. Each and every one of us in fact is engaged in promoting good governance and consolidating democratic institutions throughout our hemisphere, probably the central goal announced at the summit. In democratic societies like ours parliamentarians serve as the conduit between the citizens and their governments. They ensure that the preoccupations of the people are taken into consideration, that the rule of law is respected and that governments are held accountable. Parliamentarians play a key part in the development of domestic agendas and their participation is crucial to the development of cohesive and constructive foreign policies. This is the cornerstone of representative democracy.

Only last week *The Economist* ran a series of articles in which they said "Has Latin America lost its way?" I believe that our presence here today sends a clear "no" to that question. Nowhere has the democratic ideal been consolidated so effectively and so thoroughly in such a short period of time as it has in the Americas in recent years, as is reflected in the entrenchment of the democratic clause in the declaration of Quebec City and in the adoption of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

The inter-American system is founded on the principle that, although they are independent, the countries would benefit from closer and official ties. It is based on the shared conviction that only democracies can supply the conditions essential to the development of just and fair

societies. The inter-American system continues to evolve, however. The many institutions, especially the OAS, were stimulated by the introduction of the Summit of the Americas process in 1994 and have since then enjoyed a considerable increase in attendance at continental meetings at the ministerial level in a whole range of sectors.

For this gathering, though, the most significant addition to the inter-American family has to be the creation and development of our Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas. The creation of this forum was contemplated in OAS resolutions going back to 1998. Indeed we must recognize that the Organization of American States and its Unit for the Promotion of Democracy provided the crucible from which FIPA would emerge. Moreover, through voluntary contributions from member states, we continue to count on their technical support and I would like to thank Secretary General Gaviria for his support of FIPA and the work that we seek to accomplish.

Still, while these origins clearly tie us to the inter-American system, let us not forget that the end product, FIPA itself, could only have been the fruit of the clear vision and obstinate will of Sylvia and some others, and the relentless efforts of this hemisphere's parliamentarians. It is due to the passion and determination of many of the people in this room today, and some who unfortunately are unable to be with us, that we now have an association that brings together representatives of national parliaments for the purpose of contributing to the hemispheric agenda. We are the only ones to do so from a parliamentary and legislative perspective. I'm sure that you will all agree that this can only strengthen the inter-American system.

You will recall that at the third Summit of the Americas heads of state and government adopted a plan of action in which they vowed to encourage cooperation and exchange experiences and parliamentary best practices between national legislatures of the hemisphere through bilateral, sub-regional and hemispheric vehicles such as FIPA. As parliamentarians, it now behooves us to recognize that the Quebec City Summit set out a balanced and coherent agenda for the Americas, an agenda grounded in the values of democracy, economic prosperity, social stability and hemispheric security - an agenda that recognizes the ever increasing interdependence of the states and peoples of this hemisphere, an agenda that is forward looking, flexible and can respond swiftly to situations, even those as extreme as the terrorist attacks of September 11th.

As foreign minister I now play a different role in summit follow-up but I can pledge the implementation of summit initiatives is well underway in the hemisphere, as Marc Lortie, personal representative of the prime minister of Canada at the Summit of the Americas, will tell you in a few minutes. My new vantage point, however, only sharpens my perception of the importance of the role that parliamentarians must assume in ensuring the successful fulfillment of summit mandates.

After all, at last year's meeting, we had intended to expand the dialogue begun among the legislators of the Americas, whose files on continental co-operation will pool best practices, to share our experiences and to learn from each other. You have a lot of work ahead of you

this week, a heavy program that addresses among other things, the FTAA, organized crime, immigration and borders. Following the events of September 11, your job will be all the more critical, since you must ensure that the right legislation is in place to provide protection against both internal and external threats and to manage the flow of goods and people at our borders.

Our hemisphere has responded well to the tragic events of September 11th. We moved swiftly to accelerate the work of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism. A practical program focused on cooperation and training has been endorsed by the committee and is now underway. Foreign ministers also agreed to accelerate the hemispheric security review process that will culminate in a special conference on security to be held in 2003. Furthermore, to facilitate cooperative action against terrorism, foreign ministers mandated the negotiation of an inter-American convention against terrorism, a task that should be completed in time for the OAS General Assembly in June. Let me express the appreciation of all of us to Mexico, Mr. President, for chairing the negotiations on the convention. Parliamentarians will be expected to play a vital role when the time comes to ratify it.

I think that it is obvious to all that FIPA's work has just begun. There is a lot to be done to ensure that citizens of the Americas benefit from the hemispheric integration process. FIPA is still only a year old. The work started last year in Ottawa will be taken a step further at this meeting. I am fully confident that you will be bringing back to your national parliaments a fresh perspective on matters of hemispheric importance and that you will be attacking them with renewed vigor. This in turn should inspire all of us to come back to the next FIPA meeting with new ideas for how we can meet the challenges that face us collectively throughout the hemisphere.

I would like to congratulate the Mexican Senate for organizing this meeting. I know that it will be a resounding success given the presence of so many dynamic people here this week. As I said at the beginning, I personally intend to remain engaged in the process. Sylvia made it clear, as politicians always do, that while they're grateful for past services, future attention is the most important thing that we are always looking for and I guarantee that although my current responsibilities require me to step down as presiding officer, my heart remains with FIPA and with all of you, its participants. I can pledge also to you that Canada will continue to be a fierce supporter of, and an active participant in, this forum. And I urge all of you to become strong promoters of hemispheric cooperation in your own parliaments. I look forward to meeting you in your own country one day and to carrying on the dialogue that we have been able to begin through this great initiative that we have started together.

Thank you. Merci. Gracias. Obrigado.

**Address by the Honorable Diego Fernández de Cevallos
Senator of Mexico
President of the Senate**

(Address given in Spanish)

The Senate of Mexico is indeed proud to host this first plenary session of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas, and I extend to one and all a most fraternal welcome.

The processes of globalization and economic integration have greatly intensified multilateral activities, so that it is imperative we find more and better means for strengthening parliamentary diplomacy to guarantee that the benefits of these negotiations are distributed equally among the people of all our countries.

We in Mexico's Senate share the position stated by your delegations that attended the inaugural forum held last year in Canada. For us, FIPA is not just another parliamentary forum. To the contrary, it makes a vital contribution to the world of parliamentary relations in the Americas, providing support and enhancing multilateral activities by exploring and analyzing topics and social requirements that are common to us all.

It worth noting how closely the agenda for this Forum approximates that which the Organization of American States is currently grappling with. And this by way of demonstrating that formal and parliamentary diplomacy are in harmony wherever people work seriously for the common good.

With the celebration of this first session we are strengthening the links between the congresses of our hemisphere. I am confident that you will succeed in creating streamlined procedures for the exchange of information on topics of fundamental interest, as well as adopting common strategies that benefit all.

The topic of security, while always present in our hemisphere, has taken on new connotations today. World peace and stability are increasingly threatened by phenomena such as drug trafficking, organized crime, and now escalating terrorism, which has reached horrific and unheard-of levels.

For this reason, ladies and gentlemen, we must be both thoughtful and decisive in developing uniform legal instruments that are both consistent with the legal framework in each of our nations and effective in overcoming these evils.

And again, from the standpoint of both hemispheric security and furthering the development of our societies, it is essential that we achieve economic integration on terms that are seen to be fair.

There are already free trade agreements and conventions in effect among many regions and countries in our area of the world. And for some time now we have been discussing the creation of a Free Trade Area of the Americas, which will enable us to integrate trade throughout our hemisphere.

In our opinion, it is time to show wholehearted support for all such projects that will enable our region to compete successfully with those areas that have already joined similar agreements.

Ladies and gentlemen, we can all agree that authentic trade integration which respects our separate identities, cultures, human rights and sovereignties will represent a strengthening of --and not a threat to-- our countries, and will in fact help each nation extend the very tangible benefits of development.

Dr. César Gaviria, your words will surely hasten the work of this Forum.

And President Vicente Fox, your presence for the inauguration of this First Plenary Meeting of the Forum is proof of the willingness of our executive and legislative branches to work together for the benefit of Mexico and the Americas.

The Senate of Mexico earnestly hopes that the work you perform here will generate social benefits and help us to bring about more humane living conditions for our peoples throughout the Americas.

Thank you so much.

**Address by the Honorable Silvia Hernández Enríquez
Senator of Mexico
Chair of the First Plenary Meeting of FIPA**

(Address given in Spanish)

The topic that brings us together on this occasion is nothing less than the security of our nations.

Most people believe that subject is part of the mandate of the executive branch and its agencies, whereas in truth international security is a highly complex matter that falls within the responsibility of the state as a whole: security of the state and its institutions, and of the state and society itself. Moreover, it is a topic that requires the broadest possible cooperation between nations; and within nations, the broadest possible cooperation between the branches of government.

In our region, the Americas, there are many international treaties that have been signed by our government, yet remain to be ratified.

In matters as vital as international security, surely it is time for us to act as our constituents demand and abandon the obsolete notion that the greater the distance between the executive branch and the legislature, the better.

New times and the mature democracies we have put in place in this hemisphere unquestionably auger cooperation between the divisions of government, based on full respect for the powers inherent in each branch. Where the law is good, so much the better that it be quickly introduced and placed at the service of society.

So how is this conference to deal with the topic of national security?

It has been a wise move on the part of governments to do nothing to hinder the advance of their negotiations, but rather to hasten the search for a definition that will satisfy everyone.

It is abundantly clear to us that the term “national security” has moved well beyond national defense, and has now come to embrace phenomena such as poverty, including health risks where these threaten the stability of our institutions.

New dangers have arisen to threaten the security of nations, dangers that can be summarized in the expression “international crime”, whatever its form. Trafficking in children, smuggling of weapons and narcotics, money laundering, financing of terrorism. Our Forum will try to penetrate these phenomena in order to find formulas for defeating them through the law.

We are using the opportunity presented by this splendid event to conduct a novel exercise. We are going to analyze the point reached in negotiations for an inter-American convention

on terrorism, in order to explore the positions taken by our governments and become active participants, offering opinions, suggesting and recommending, in order that this joint participation in the drafting of a treaty that is clearly vital to us all will, from this point forward, include representation of people other than those necessarily connected with government itself. Government and opposition alike, majorities and minorities, all working together to produce an agreement for fighting terrorism. What better way to produce a Treaty, which at the end of the day will be returned to Congress for ratification?

Ratification means reaffirming what one has already affirmed. Let our actions be our affirmation! Thanks to the support of the Canadian delegation, we are also going to examine, in the clearest manner possible, this shelf full of material representing the multifaceted negotiations aimed at establishing a Free Trade Area of the Americas.

This will take time, we realize, but if we as parliamentarians come to know its chapters, its requirements and timetable, the manner and speed with which our goods and services can be incorporated and the benefits this will bring for our countries, we can be certain that within the four or five years it will require for the governments to complete their work, we legislators will be ready to affirm and reaffirm that agreement, and ratification will come as the culmination of that constitutional process defined by our nations.

Our legislatures of course have an active role to play in the international affairs of our nations, and in working to defend our national security as well.

We are going to take a few minutes, or more likely several sessions, to examine the topic of migration. Many perceive this to be a threat to national security where it involves massive numbers of people, and when it is the result of a crisis or natural disaster, one must see it from that side. But it is also part of the structural definition of economies.

It is our job as legislators to deal with and to review that threat and its timing: how it looks from this side of the desk. Does Congress or Parliament have anything to say in the matter? Or do we have to just wait for security measures at our borders? Measures which, to keep out the bad elements, may also stop good people from entering.

Last year, at our first meeting, the Mexican delegation had the pleasure of proposing that FIPA create a virtual Parliament using cybernetics, enabling us to discuss and debate, perhaps even hold regular meetings from the comfort of our own parliamentary offices, partaking of the indispensable communication network between parliamentarians and, at the same time, eliminating entirely the cost of transportation and accommodations for meeting. A virtual Parliament would make a qualitative contribution to our international work.

At the plenary session of the last day of this meeting we will learn about the status of this project, the progress made and the need for feedback. I am certain that among us we will be able to carry this project to the next and immediate stage.

They say that all politics is local, and indeed it is. However, it is increasingly difficult to find solutions for what is happening on the local level. We should not be afraid of thinking internationally. We must step forward confidently, modernizing our parliamentary attitude as well to include local, national, and international issues – soon it will become difficult to differentiate among these levels.

I am certain that FIPA as a forum, a network or a method of working is coming to serve a useful role as a place in which, whether speaking English or French, Portuguese, or Spanish, we all manage to speak the same language and to understand each other.

Mr. President, I cannot tell you how much we appreciate your being here with us today. We recognize the appropriateness of meeting in Mexico, whose climate is marked by such stupendous coordination between the branches of government.

The renewed democratic life of the hemisphere is thriving here as in many other countries where government and opposition, executive branches and legislatures have joined together to seek solutions to matters so near our hearts as the security of our families.

To Dr. César Gaviria, I wish to thank you as well for the support that the OAS has shown for this, our fledgling organization, watching over us in our discussions and early development.

My fellow parliamentarians, welcome to Mexico.

**Address by the Honorable Vicente Fox Quesada
President of Mexico**

(Address given in Spanish)

The Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas was founded one year ago to strengthen the role of legislatures in economic and democratic development, through dialogue and the exchange of experiences.

Today, at the inauguration of this the First Plenary Meeting, we recall the important role that our lawmakers have played in defining political change within our hemisphere, just as we recognize that they speak for us today in working to define the processes of international integration.

Democracy requires—today more than ever—a dynamic and responsible parliament.

In recognition of this, the nations that make up the Organization of American States have joined together in this Forum to harmonize our agendas and develop common procedures and strategies in support of our legislative institutions.

We are convinced that only by sharing our successful experiences can we establish a unified approach to the solution of our problems, and we are doing so through the practical cooperation that has been the hallmark of the countries in our hemisphere since the 19th century.

I applaud the effort of this organization, and of this Inter-Parliamentary Forum, which brings together—without distinction of any kind—all representatives of the legislative branches from countries throughout the hemisphere.

And I applaud as well the fact that our purpose is to establish an exchange of proposals and ideas that will help us to find legislative solutions for the well-being of our societies.

The topic that brings us together on this occasion is not only of special importance to the world at large, but is particularly relevant in today's circumstances.

Indeed, our coming together to reflect on security—or better yet “securities” in the plural—in the new millennium, and the role that legislators play in defining legal instruments to provide the best possible guarantee our security, will permit us to establish a common front in our hemisphere.

One of the threats to security that plagues us all is that of organized crime, an area in which the exchange of experiences and alternative solutions will enable us to design more effective policies to combat drug trafficking, the arms trade, money laundering and terrorism.

With the greatest respect for the peculiarities of each country, a policy of this nature must become the model for multilateral reference, within the framework of an agreement concerning our shared legal codes.

The proliferation of problems of this type –as in the case of terrorism—requires us to reflect on the controls and surveillance mechanisms needed along our borders.

We have also to consider legal strategies that will guarantee freedom and protection of the rights of persons crossing our borders.

Another aspect that is closely linked to earlier points and to the “securities” that are required in our region is that of migration. Its economic and social impact, and the increased flow of migration between countries forces us to rethink the ways in which we have traditionally handled this phenomenon.

This Forum is the ideal place to work out the proposals that will allow us to find a balance between actions aimed at facilitating the movement of persons, and legitimate concern over security at our national and hemispheric borders, and to ensure that we provide real opportunities for those whose very reason for migrating is the lack of opportunity.

Economic insecurity is the child of economic disparities. This raises the need to design proposals for multilateral cooperation that will enable us to achieve greater balance in the degree of development between the countries making up this Forum. At the same time, we have an obligation to improve the standard of living in each of our countries.

Today more than ever it is necessary to further the process of integration under the Free Trade Area of the Americas which is already in progress, and to involve our legislative representatives in the negotiation process.

Only in this way will we be able to guarantee a transparent exchange based on clear, consistent and mandatory rules for the benefit of all.

Ladies and gentlemen:

Those of us who are committed to the tasks of government and representation, as conferred by our citizenry, know that the processes needed to produce and ensure strict compliance with a nation’s laws are vital for stability and good government.

We know as well that in a dynamic world marked by converging interests and the constant search for new channels of communication, initiatives such as the one that brings us here today are essential for making our voices heard in international deliberations.

The hemispheric reach of this parliamentary network promotes dialogue on legislative issues of the greatest importance. Its work will enhance the efforts of other parliamentary

bodies to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of legislative activities being carried out in their respective countries.

I welcome you all to Mexico City, to our country, and to a new pillar for the strengthening of democracy in this hemisphere. Through your networking with professional colleagues, a process that has been going on since FIPA's first meeting, you are reinvigorating the legislative function under our respective political regimes.

May you continue to mirror the ties of friendship, solidarity, brother and sisterhood, and reflect that confidence in the future that unites all of our peoples. With these words, and while wishing you full success in your meetings, I declare the work of this Meeting formally begun and, if I may ask you to stand, we will proceed to the formal inauguration.

Today, March 14, 2002, I am especially honored to declare this First Plenary Meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas officially open. Let the work begin.

I wish you the greatest success and many thanks for being with us here in Mexico.

**Speech by Dr. César Gaviria Trujillo
Secretary General of the Organization of American States**

(Address given in Spanish)

I would like to begin by thanking the Congress and people of Mexico as always for their hospitality, demonstrated once again in the warm welcome they have extended to this meeting of parliamentarians, the elected representatives of our peoples, who have come from the most distant parts of the Americas. We are all united by shared ideals and values, which make us brothers and sisters in spirit and ensure the exercise of democratic principles throughout America.

The democratic transformation that Mexico is experiencing today is being observed throughout the Hemisphere with hope and admiration for its essentially peaceful approach, for its ability to evolve within the rule of law, because it espouses democratic values acquired in a process of debate and controversy and not as the result of the imposition of some people's ideas on others. Mexico was at the forefront of struggles for social justice and today it champions the aspirations of its millions of citizens to live in a state that protects public freedoms. I should also like to thank the Mexican Senate and Don Diego Fernández de Cevallos for their hearty welcome and magnificent organization of this great American meeting.

On behalf of all of us that have participated and followed the course of this laudable initiative of bringing together the members of parliament of the Hemisphere, I should like to pay tribute to the indisputable leadership exercised by the outgoing President of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA) Bill Graham, who has fought doggedly and tirelessly for this idea to gather enough strength to materialize in the form of this meeting that has brought us together today. I am sure that in his new job as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, he will continue to promote the consolidation of this important hemispheric forum. I would also especially like to thank the interim President, Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette.

There are two particularly important aspects of the main topic put forward for this meeting that I would like to underscore. The first is the fact that the people's representatives from all over the Americas are getting together to discuss a subject that, until a few years ago, was reserved exclusively for our military leaders. That, to me, has enormous democratic significance. What better evidence could there be of the progress we have made in institution-building than this meeting of civilians, whose rank and seniority is measured by the support of their peoples, to contribute their views on the path we should follow to ensure hemispheric security.

The second aspect I wish to underline is the relevance of the topic chosen. The atrocious terrorist acts of September 11, in which citizens from the vast majority of our countries were

numbered among the victims, confirmed, with all their barbarity and cruelty, the importance of security issues for our daily lives and how closely democracy, peace, and security are intertwined in our concerns for the future.

Terrorist acts, such as these, represent an enormous challenge to our civilization, values, human rights, public freedoms, and the principles of tolerance and pluralism by which we all abide. They have also brought about the gravest threat to our collective security since the inter-American institutions were founded, a little over half a century ago. They constitute the most serious violation of the rights of citizens from all over the Americas.

If they think we will yield to their barbaric behavior, that they can intimidate us with their terror, the terrorists and those who aid and abet them are sorely mistaken. Within minutes of the attacks, it was clear that all of us citizens of the Americas felt totally at one in our solidarity with the people and government of the United States and we identified with the grief of the victims' families. It was clear, too, that we would act in unison, effectively, out of solidarity; that we would take steps on every front, be it diplomatic, economic, financial, law enforcement, or military; that we would make no concessions in combating terrorism, and that we would not allow the public freedoms we enjoy in the Americas to be used to destroy our rights.

Over these past six months, there has been considerable discussion of the problem of reconciling the extraordinary measures needed to combat terrorism and the respect for citizens' rights that are at the heart of democracy. Even given the exceptional nature of the procedures required to combat terrorism, many of the steps we take in the inter-American system have to aim at strengthening the values threatened, rather than restricting them. We need more rule of law, more respect for pluralism, more collective action.

The OAS, for a number of reasons, has made more headway in the fight against terrorism than any other multilateral organization. The first reason is that terrorism was not first drawn to the attention of the Organization by the events of September 11. Back in 1971, we adopted a Convention on the subject, albeit, we must admit, one that was very limited in scope. Moreover, in the OAS framework, two fairly recent Specialized Conferences had taken place, in Lima in 1996 and Mar del Plata in 1998. They resolutely condemned all terrorist acts and methods, without exception, wherever they are committed, regardless of who commits them and of how they are committed, and irrespective of the pretexts adduced to justify them. No time was lost, moreover, in creating the institutional framework needed to combat terrorism effectively.

We were able, finally, to react simultaneously on three different levels—political, juridical, and operational—which meant that we could overcome the institutional paralysis that is sometimes associated with multilateral decisions. Let me therefore explain the three levels at which the OAS is tackling this issue.

At the political level, the unity felt by the states of the Hemisphere with regard to combating terrorism manifested itself within minutes of the terrorist acts of September 11, when 34

ministers of foreign affairs of the Western Hemisphere, meeting in Lima to adopt the Inter-American Democratic Charter roundly condemned those infamous acts and rejected outright the practice of targeting innocent people in order to pursue ideological goals. All the American states undertook to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers, and sponsors of terrorist acts, along with those providing them with assistance and funds. They also made it abundantly clear that we would use every legal and democratic means at our disposal to defend ourselves and our right to live in peace and democracy.

Within a few days of the tragedy, at their meeting of consultation in connection with the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (Río Treaty), the ministers of foreign affairs of the Americas emphatically declared that those terrorist attacks were attacks on all the American states and agreed on collective actions to consolidate and strengthen hemispheric cooperation directed at fighting terrorism more effectively. The ministers of foreign affairs were equally adamant that our resolve to combat terrorism had to be implemented with full observance of our domestic laws, human rights, and democratic institutions. They also called upon all the states to promote tolerance of other people's ideas and social harmony, recognizing the racial, cultural, ethnical, and religious diversity in the Americas.

As the decisions taken by the ministers of foreign affairs were put into effect at the operational level, that political resolve was reflected in the strengthening of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE). This Committee already has an approved Plan of Action covering a wide range of cooperation activities designed to destroy the terrorists' sources of funding, disrupt their logistics, eliminate their havens, enhance intelligence data and analysis, make it harder to forge documents, reinforce border security, extend the scope of mutual legal assistance, strengthen legal and judicial cooperation, and expedite extradition procedures.

The CICTE is already a powerful instrument of cooperation with those responsible for public policies related to the police, intelligence, and research. It already disposes of a wide network for data gathering and transmission and has set in motion a vigorous program of technical assistance for countries with weak international structures, with an emphasis on development and training. CICTE will be supported by the substantial progress made by CICAD, our hemispheric body for evaluating anti-drug policies, toward limiting money laundering and drug cartel financing.

In recent work, CICTE has focused in particular on border and customs controls, and on the importance of facilitating the flow of information on suspects in order to stop them traveling and detain them.

This work has highlighted the urgent need for all governments and congresses to adopt the American Convention on Illicit Trafficking in Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives, as well as the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters. The need for all states to ratify the U.N. Convention against transnational crime has also become apparent.

Another finding underscores the need to develop ways of tracking terrorist groups through the financial system, obliging financial institutions to disclose data in accordance with the provisions contained in international instruments. All countries should set up financial intelligence units with unlimited access to any information related to the financing of terrorist activities.

Finally, at the juridical level, the OAS is currently preparing an Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, which will, above all, allow us to strengthen cooperation. And in their meeting which concluded yesterday in Trinidad, the ministers of justice and attorneys general of the Americas intensified their efforts to find ways of achieving more extensive and effective legal and judicial cooperation against terrorism and all forms of transnational crime, which on many occasions converge and complement each other because they know no borders. These forms of crime seek to take advantage of our freedoms, our political systems, our rule of law, as well, we must admit, of our shortcomings or institutional weaknesses.

All this work and information will be channeled, moreover, to the great Inter-American Security Conference that the governments have ordered for 2004 and which will be the first meeting of this kind since the Rio Treaty was signed over half a century ago.

Congresses will then be faced with numerous tasks, such as examining the 24 inter-American treaties that have to do with juridical and judicial cooperation and which address issues such as extradition, mutual assistance in criminal matters, letters rogatory, admission of evidence abroad, compliance with precautionary measures, or extraterritorial enforceability of judgments. Congresses and governments should jointly point out which of the treaties that have not been ratified deserve to be ratified in order to ensure the kind of cooperation that today's complex circumstances require.

Undoubtedly, members of congress will look into the circumstances that have hampered or prevented ratification of treaties and how the treaties have been applied in specific cases. It will also be incumbent upon them to examine the effectiveness of the instruments and to determine which need to be developed, how, and with what implications.

A further task facing parliaments is to streamline the red tape and requirements for the extradition of transnational criminals, standards to allow the seizure of the proceeds of criminal acts, and other acts of mutual legal assistance. All of us—governments, congresses, judiciaries, and multilateral institutions—have to make headway in devising a collective strategy to consolidate the rule of law, put an end to impunity, and bring transnational criminals to justice.

And as regard the Convention currently being negotiated in the OAS, it is important to point out that it is you parliamentarians who will have the last say with respect to various aspects.

First, that the Convention should avoid getting into the highly complex area of definitions. For that, there exist numerous UN Conventions that have managed to pinpoint the types of

action that the international community considers to be terrorism. The point today is to create a powerful instrument of cooperation to help track funding for terrorist activities and tighten border controls. This is where most effort is currently being focused at both the United Nations and the OAS.

Second, in ensuring that governments pursue a real strategy resulting in effective policies to prevent further terrorist acts. You, with your questions and observations, will test the mettle of the new policies. In fact you will be guaranteeing the effectiveness of instruments such as the conventions adopted in the framework of the OAS in areas such as transparency in arms purchases or to combat the illicit manufacturing and trafficking of arms.

Third, it will be incumbent upon you to strike the proper balance between the exceptional measures required by the fight against terrorism and the protection of the rights of individuals, in accordance with the UN Conventions, the American Convention, and the constitutional standards of your countries.

Fourth, it will be your task to monitor and exercise political oversight vis-à-vis government actions, from the point of view of their legality and with respect to operational aspects without thereby sacrificing the confidentiality and speed required if actions against terrorism are to be effective. It is undoubtedly essential that Congresses get involved in the design of this grand strategy to ensure efficient financial control, customs, and border control mechanisms, as well as in the ratification of the UN and OAS conventions that form an indispensable part of this collective enterprise.

At this stage, too, it is worth pondering whether the exceptional nature of our fight against terrorism might not have distorted our vision of how to attain a new paradigm of hemispheric security. In my view, the answer to that question is that even in the midst of the ineluctable tasks imposed by the struggle against terrorism there is still ample room to search for factors that will lay the foundations for hemispheric security.

I am sure, too, that our states would greatly welcome a preventive approach to security. The first thing we should do is go back to the recommendations of the two Regional Conferences on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures held in Santiago, Chile, and San Salvador. Basically, they see hemispheric security as a by-product of mutual trust, of communication between armed forces, of the principles of reciprocal confidence, regulation of military capacity, harmonious collaboration, transparency in defense and security policies, and the predictability of the actions of all parties involved.

But, going beyond the implementation of these recommendations, which have undoubtedly contributed to a reduction in tensions and helped solve some disputes definitively, today we need to put forward a paradigm of security that is founded upon the values we all share and which are enshrined in the OAS Charter: observance of international legal norms, non-intervention, the legal equality of all states, self-determination, the peaceful settlement of disputes.

All that has, moreover, to be compatible with the defense of the American conventions on human rights, with all those conventions that have arisen during almost a century and a half of inter-American lawmaking, with the declarations of the hemispheric Summits of Heads of State and Government, and now with their public statements that hopefully will strengthen the inter-American system.

I believe we have grasped the fact that our collective security depends on a powerful surge in cooperation at every level: political, commercial, social, and cultural, as well as military. The concept of security should be based on recognition of the close ties between security, development, and the consolidation of democracy, and on the historic relation between peace and democracy.

The security of the Hemisphere is tied, inextricably, to the strengthening of democracy in the Hemisphere. Whereby it must be said, first and foremost, that today democracy is not conceived to consist merely of free, fair, and transparent elections and observance of human rights. It refers also to the independence of the powers of state and checks and balances; transparent governance; citizen participation and accountability; the strengthening of local governments; consolidation of political parties; access to information; freedom of the press and freedom of expression.

Second, democracy also implies a properly functioning state. Citizens construe shortcomings of public institutions with supervisory, regulatory, and oversight functions, and those of public utilities, as defects of the democratic system. Democratic institutions, particularly in Latin America, have borne much of the brunt of inefficient states weakened by the debt crisis and overwhelmed by their budget constraints.

We must also bear in mind that today economic performance is much more closely tied in to democratic issues. Social peace, political stability, observance of the rule of law, or legal security are as important for growth as savings or investment.

Third, globalization has created global awareness with respect to the quest for social justice, the defense of democracy, and protection of the rights of all citizens. Until recently, our countries could opt for a political system that functioned poorly. Whatever happened, the alternative of having an authoritarian regime was worse. Now, however, political globalization has put an end to that. Thanks to the development of the media, the global dissemination of news, and access to the Internet, problems such as electoral fraud, abuse of power, discrimination against women or indigenous people, or violations of human rights anywhere in the world stir us all to protest.

Members of Parliament:

It is incumbent upon you to see that the Americas are at the forefront of the fight against terrorism as a key ingredient in hemispheric security. It is likewise incumbent upon you to ensure that our democratic system is capable of fully meeting its commitments to citizens throughout the Americas. And just as we have committed ourselves to the most ambitious



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FIPA/PA/2002/REP/s/FV

integration effort ever undertaken in the history of our countries, to defend the right of our peoples to live in democracy, to eradicate poverty from the face of the Americas, and to make education our most powerful weapon in the war on inequality, we will unite with vigor, faith, and determination to defend our security, our freedom, and our and our children's right to enjoy the full exercise of our rights, our right to live in peace.

Thank you very much.

ANNEX 3

Working Agenda First Plenary Meeting of FIPA

“Security in the New Millennium: The Role of Legislators in enhancing Security in the Hemisphere”

Date: 13–16 March, 2002
Place: Mexico City
Venue: Hotel Fiesta Americana Reforma, Av. Paseo de la Reforma No. 80

Wednesday 13 March, 2002

Arrival of participants

10:00 – 18:00 Registration of participants and distribution of documents
19:00 – 20:00 Welcome Cocktail, Room Stelaris, 25th floor
20:00 - 21:30 Dinner - Executive Committee Meeting – Room Quintana Roo

Thursday 14 March, 2002

09:00 - 10:00 Registration of participants and distribution of documents

10:00 – 10:50 Opening Session, Room Mexico II

1. Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette, Interim Chair of FIPA
2. Honorable Bill Graham, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada and former chair of FIPA
3. Senator Diego Fernández de Cevallos, President of the Mexican Senate
4. Senator Silvia Hernandez, Chair of the Meeting
5. Vicente Fox Quesada, President of Mexico

11:00 – 11:30 Lecture
César Gaviria, OAS Secretary General

11:30 – 13:00 **Plenary Meeting**

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Report of the Chair to the Plenary, Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette
3. Election of the Chair of FIPA
4. Amendments to the Regulations
5. Establishment of Working Groups
6. Update on the Summit of the Americas and the FTAA by Mr. Marc Lortie, personal representative of the Prime Minister of Canada to the Summit of the Americas

- 13:00 – 14:30 Sessions of Working Groups
- 14:30 – 16:00 Lunch hosted by the President of the Executive Board of the Mexican Senate
- 16:30 – 18:00 Sessions of Working Groups

Friday 15 March, 2002

- 9:00 – 12:00 Sessions of Working Groups
- 12:00 – 13:30 Recommendations and reports in the Working Groups
- 13:30 – 14:30 Press conference on the advances made by the First Plenary Meeting of FIPA
- 14:30 – 16:00 Lunch hosted by the Executive Board of the Chamber of Deputies
- 16:30 – 19:00 Plenary Meeting
1. Presentation of the Reports of the Working Groups
 2. Election of the members of the Executive Committee
 3. Selection of site for the next Plenary Meeting
 4. Other business (FIPA)
 5. Closing Ceremony

Saturday 16 March, 2002

- 09:00 - 10:30 Breakfast - Executive Committee Meeting –Campeche Room
- Departure of Delegates

ANNEX 4
Motions presented by the Executive Committee
for consideration and approval by the Plenary Meeting

Motion 1

To change the FIPA regulations regarding the participation of members on the Executive Committee

As recommended during the second meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Bridgetown, Barbados, on November 23 and 24, 2001, it is moved that:

In the Regulations of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas, Chapter III, section 2.3, add a new paragraph (h) as follows:

“(h) The national parliament, legislature or congress of each country elected as a member of the Executive Committee shall be required to provide, by written communication to the Chair, the name of the parliamentary delegate who shall serve as its member on the Executive Committee, within 30 days following that country’s election to the Executive Committee. This delegate shall serve on the Executive Committee, subject to paragraph (i), for the entire term.”; and

redesignate paragraphs (h) to (l) as (i) to (m) accordingly.

Adopted unanimously by the Plenary Meeting on March 14, 2002.

Motion 2

To change the FIPA Regulations regarding the size of delegations attending the Plenary Meeting

As recommended during the second meeting of the Executive Committee held in Bridgetown, Barbados, on November 23 and 24, 2001, it is moved that:

In the Regulations of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas, Chapter III, paragraph 2.1(a), substitute the words:

...“have up to five members of parliament/congress (this limit does not apply to the host parliament),”

with the words

...“have up to twelve (12) members of parliament/congress (this limit does not apply to the host parliament),”.

Adopted unanimously by the Plenary Meeting on March 14, 2002.

Motion 3

To change the functioning of the technical secretariat

As recommended during the first meeting of the Executive Committee held in Querétaro, Mexico, on August 3 and 4, 2001, it is moved that:

In the Regulations of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas, Chapter III, Section 2.4, substitute paragraph (b):

“(b) In order to carry out these functions, the Technical Secretariat shall receive ongoing technical and logistical support from the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (UPD) of the Organization of American States.”

with the following:

“(b) In order to carry out these functions the Technical Secretariat shall be composed of the Secretary of the Executive Committee, as appointed by the Chair of the FIPA, and the coordinator of the next plenary meeting, with support of the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy of the Organization of American States, which shall provide ongoing administrative research, technical and logistical support.”;

and add the following paragraph:

“(c) The Executive Committee may also request the support of other organizations in dealing with issues.

Adopted unanimously by the Plenary Meeting on March 14, 2002.

Motion 4

To approve the official logo of FIPA

It is moved that the logo, as recommended during the first meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Querétaro, Mexico, on August 3 and 4, 2001, be adopted. The FIPA logo will be the revolving globe depicting the Americas, including the letters FIPA.



Adopted unanimously by the Plenary Meeting on March 14, 2002.

Motion 5

To confer special observer status to the Latin American Parliament - PARLATINO

As recommended during the second meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Bridgetown, Barbados, on November 23 and 24, 2001, it is moved that the Plenary confer special observer status to the Latin American Parliament - Parlatino, pursuant to the FIPA Regulations, Chapter II, (c).

Adopted unanimously by the Plenary Meeting on March 14, 2002.

Motion 6

To confer special observer status to the Andean Parliament

As recommended during the third meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Mexico City on March 13, 2002, it is moved that the Plenary confer special observer status to the Andean Parliament, pursuant to the FIPA Regulations, Chapter II, (c).

Adopted unanimously by the Plenary Meeting on March 14, 2002.

Motion 7

To confer special observer status to the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas - COPA

As recommended during the third meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Mexico City on March 13, 2002, it is moved that the Plenary confer special observer status to the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas – COPA, pursuant to the FIPA Regulations, Chapter II, (c).

Adopted unanimously by the Plenary Meeting on March 14, 2002.

ANNEX 5
Letter from the Honorable Thomas Daschle
Majority Leader of the United States Senate

March 12, 2002

The Honorable Silvia Hernández
Chair of the First Plenary Assembly of the
Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas
Senado de la República
México D.F., México

Dear Senator Hernandez:

I am writing to congratulate you and the other legislators from the hemisphere for convening this week's Plenary Assembly dedicated to "Security in the New Millennium: The Role of Legislators in Enhancing Security in the Hemisphere". It is an important and timely meeting.

I regret that I will not be able to attend the meeting. We are in the middle of a critical legislative work week in our Congress and, as a result, it is impossible for me and my colleagues to participate in the Assembly. I will, however, look forward to hearing about the results of the Assembly.

The war against terrorism will be a long fight and it will demand that the international coalition against terrorism remains strong. Your gathering this week is an important step in that process, especially since you will discuss how to strengthen national laws in order to prevent and eradicate terrorism.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful Assembly.

Sincerely,

Tom Daschle
Senate Majority Leader

ANNEX 6

Update on topics of the Summit of the Americas and the process of negotiations for the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)

By Mr. Marc Lortie, representative of the Prime Minister of Canada to the Summit of the Americas

(Speech given in English)

It is a great pleasure for me to be with you here today to mark this important occasion. I want to thank the host of this meeting, Senator Diego Fernández de Cevallos, President of the Mexican Senate, for inviting me here to participate in this event.

I am here today to emphasize the importance of the Quebec City Summit of the Americas implementation and the role legislators can play to support this process in the challenging times ahead.

Many predicted that, as result of the tragic events of September 11th and the exacerbated economic downturn that followed, countries of the region would shift their focus away from the hemispheric agenda.

We now know that this did not happen. Those who predicted that hemispheric cooperation would be put in abeyance have been proven wrong.

THE SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS IS ON TRACK

Results speak for themselves:

In Lima, Peru on September 11th, the very day that democratic values were under attack by terrorists, OAS Foreign Ministers adopted and signed an Inter-American Democratic Charter aimed at strengthening protection of democracy in the hemisphere.

Based on the principle of hemispheric solidarity, OAS Foreign Ministers also passed, by acclamation, on September 21st a resolution against terrorism under the Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (Rio Treaty).

On the same day, they adopted a resolution calling for the convening of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE) to identify urgent actions aimed at strengthening hemispheric cooperation to prevent, combat, and eliminate terrorism.

The resolution also called upon the OAS to prepare a draft Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism for adoption at the next OAS General Assembly in June 2002. This initiative is in the very capable hands of Mexico, which is now chairing the OAS Committee responsible for the negotiation of the Convention.

Finally, the resolution asked the OAS to accelerate the hemispheric security review to integrate the strengths of the various instruments of security in the hemisphere and improve communication between them. Mexico will play a leading role in this process as it offers to host the Special Conference on Security in 2003 in which the review is to culminate.

In fact, no hemispheric meetings on Summit implementation have been cancelled or postponed as result of the terrorist attacks.

The Free Trade Area of the Americas negotiating process has been progressing steadily since April 2001:

At Quebec City Leaders agreed, amongst other things, to conclude the negotiations by January 2005 and to implement the Agreement by December 2005.

Leaders also agreed to release the draft text of the FTAA Agreement to the public, and strengthen the mandate of the FTAA Civil Society Committee.

They set precise negotiating instructions and time lines for the Negotiating Groups for the next phase of the negotiations, as well as to ensure that the smaller economies receive the technical and capacity-building assistance they require to enable their full participation in the negotiations.

In late September 2001, FTAA Vice-Ministers held a successful meeting in Managua.

Negotiating Groups are currently drafting recommendations to present to Vice-Ministers by the deadline of 1 April 2002 on methods and modalities for market access negotiations.

FTAA market access negotiations in five areas (industrial goods, agriculture, investment, services and government procurement) are to begin no later than 15 May 2002.

Ecuador will host the next Ministerial in Quito in October 2002, at which time the United States and Brazil will take over jointly as chairs of the FTAA process.

However, progress achieved thus far goes well beyond our trade agenda.

The Institute for Connectivity in the Americas, to which Canada contributed \$20 million, is underway. It provides guidance and support to all Summit countries of the Americas in establishing and developing sustainable national and regional strategies for connecting their citizens.

Two weeks ago Ministers of Health and Environment of the Americas met in Ottawa to explore ways of moving the environmental health agenda forward with a view to contributing to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Justice Ministers and Attorneys General of the Americas are meeting this week to discuss legal and judicial cooperation in fighting terrorism and transnational organized crime.

Other important ministerial and sectoral meetings have also been held in the fields of labor, education, culture, local governance, natural disaster and environment.

The fact that we are meeting in here today is the successful fulfillment of another Summit mandate. The Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas has become an integral part of the Inter-American system, and your participation and input is key to the development of the cooperation process.

How the hemisphere will shape up in the future will depend to a large extent on your commitment and vision, together with your dedication and wisdom.

THE MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS REMAIN ENGAGED

Continued engagement by the multilateral development banks will be key to maintain the momentum for implementation.

As you know, at the time of the Quebec City Summit, both the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank pledged to make resources available to support the Summit process.

The IDB announced that its entire lending program for the next 5 years is in support of Summit commitments (some \$US 40 billion). For its part, the World Bank has proposed loans and credits to its Board worth \$US 12 to \$US 16 billion for the region over three years.

Other MDBs such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Central American Bank for Economic Integration and the Andean Development Corporation are now also supporting the Summit process.

A distinct feature of the Quebec City Summit is that countries of the region and the MDBs decided to adopt a more coordinated approach in their implementing strategies.

As a result, governments are taking a comprehensive look at the mandates and institutional strategies of each of these institutions and are comparing them with their own domestic development policies and priorities to determine areas where funding and their domestic objectives intersect.

FTAA AS A MEANS FOR RESTORING CONFIDENCE

Economic difficulties in the region risk giving fuel to all those who are questioning the value of market-based reforms and freer trade.

If anything, the events of September 11th and the exacerbated economic downturn that followed made the FTAA even more critical as an engine for economic growth and as a means to restore the confidence of foreign investors throughout the hemisphere.

The recent history of summitry can inform our judgment ...

Since the First Summit of the Americas in Miami in 1994, each Summit has been followed by serious financial crises in the region. This happened in Mexico in 1994, in Brazil in 1999, and now in Argentina in 2001-2002. Each time it tests national resolve to sustain sound economic reforms.

Interestingly, responses to these crises strengthened the ability of our hemispheric counterparts to carry on with major domestic reforms.

The most potent example of the potential benefits of the FTAA for the Hemisphere can be found right here in Mexico. It has benefited immensely from NAFTA, not only in terms of increased trade and investment but in its solid anchoring into a North American economic space.

This powerful image of Mexico's future being intertwined with that of its North American partners has not only brought the long-term stability that is so important to attract foreign investments, it has also given its citizens and political leaders the will to accelerate the pace of political, economic, judicial and social reforms.

The same benefits await the rest of the Hemisphere if we are all willing to rise up to the challenge of building a hemispheric house that would be powered on by the FTAA.

STABILITY, GOOD GOVERNANCE, AND SECURITY

Although we have a solid agenda in front us, it is not the time to be complacent.

Today, strengthening governance and democracy is more important than ever in the Americas.

The democratic clause in the Summit Declaration and the Inter-American Democratic Charter now serve as a strong incentive to all of us in the region to keep to the democratic path in the face of the inevitable challenges that will arise.

The situation in Haiti is one such challenge.

At the time of the Summit, the hemispheric community recognized that the problems faced by Haiti continued to limit its democratic, political, economic, and social development.

Since then, and especially following the attempted coup d'état and ensuing mob violence in Haiti in December 2001, the OAS and other regional bodies have made various attempts to address the crisis of democracy in Haiti.

A few weeks ago, on March 1, an agreement was signed between the OAS and the Government of Haiti, giving a newly mandated OAS mission a green light.

While crises such as the one in Haiti will not be easily resolved, it is our hope that democratic fora such as FIPA will help in promoting democratic dialogue among governments and parliamentarians to strengthen democracy in the hemisphere.

Because some of the major challenges I just referred to do not apply to Haiti alone. They adversely affect our democratic institutions and our economies one way or another.

We need to devote special attention to the multifaceted nature of organized crime, which is reflected in a number of interlaced social sores such as drugs, corruption, illegal migration issues, hi-tech crime, and money laundering.

Let me comment on some of these issues and underline the importance of your engagement as we take up the challenges associated with increased hemispheric cooperation.

First money laundering ...

Preventing the laundering of the proceeds of crime by international criminal groups has proven to be an extremely important anti-crime tool for police and law enforcement.

After the tragic events that took place in the United States last year, a number of governments called for a rapid and coordinated effort to detect and prevent the misuse of the world financial system by terrorists.

Sub-regional initiatives in the hemisphere such as the South American Financial Action Group Against Money Laundering and the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force help in developing effective strategies tailored to the specific needs of the region by providing regional classification of money laundering and engaging local lawyers to assist in ongoing anti-money laundering efforts.

Parliamentarians can enhance their role in national review processes of anti-money laundering efforts and in suggesting measures to combat this illegal activity.

Secondly, drugs

Drug trafficking instills corruption and violence and undermines legitimate authorities and the rule of law. It also contributes to financing terrorist activities.

Under Canadian chairmanship the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) was developed by the 34 member countries of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the OAS in response to a mandate given by Leaders at the Santiago Summit of the Americas in 1998. The first round of the MEM was completed in December 2001.

Leaders at the Quebec City Summit recognized the progress made by the MEM, and identified combating the drug problem and addressing transnational organized crime as priorities for the hemisphere.

As legislators, you should continue to build on the successes and the findings of the first round as they develop and improve domestic legislation.

Thirdly, corruption

Corruption is more than an economic issue. It should also be treated as a governance and criminal issue.

Its pernicious effects go beyond smothering economic development: they also corrode public confidence in democratic institutions, reduce the capacity of the state to provide basic public services and prevent the establishment of a professional, reliable, merit-based civil service.

It is both a cause and a consequence of dysfunctional systems and institutions.

There is a greater understanding of the social and economic costs, and more willingness to discuss it.

However, international efforts to deal with corruption and transparency are gaining momentum.

The OAS has played a leading role in ensuring the development of tools to address the problem. The Inter-American Convention Against Corruption, adopted in 1996, was the first international instrument of its kind, and has laid the foundation for future efforts in this area.

Canada firmly believes that the establishment of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption as a result of the Quebec City Summit is an important step to promoting the effective implementation of the Convention.

At the inaugural meeting of FIPA, held a year ago in Ottawa, some of you discussed the issue of corruption, identifying it as a serious threat to the legitimacy and efficacy of all countries and highlighting the importance of cooperation in the fight against cooperation.

I hope that you will continue to contribute to this fight by ensuring that the legislative measures in place are implemented and respected.

Finally, migration

Migration comprises both positive and negative aspects. We must enhance our work to reap the benefits of the former while minimizing the disruptive dimensions of the latter.

Our attempts to curb illegal migration should be matched by our resolve to promote sound management of our borders and orderly migration. This is even more so since September 11. We have to reconcile the need to maintain the free flow of people and goods with the necessity to bring about the conditions for a secure environment for our citizens—free from terror.

The Regional Conference on Migration, which we know as the Puebla Process, provides valuable information and input to our work at the hemispheric level and, in particular, in the Summit of the Americas context.

This regional migration forum demonstrates that countries can rationally discuss serious migration problems and arrive at constructive and positive actions, despite their often sharply divergent views. Through an informal and frank dialogue, it has created a 'goodwill approach' and helps defuse and diminish the rhetoric and emotion attached to problem of migration.

We must focus our attention on the positive agenda by fostering the protection of human rights of migrants, promoting the use of migrant's remittances for investment initiatives and technical assistance on migration management, as well as establishing partnerships through cultural contacts.

Let me conclude by saying that ultimately, the credibility of the Summit process itself rests on the realization of the commitments made by the Heads of State and Government at the Third Summit of the Americas, and on our capacity to take up these challenges.

The first eleven months after Quebec City have been encouraging in this respect.

Progress achieved at this meeting will be reported to the Summit National Coordinators at the 25th Meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group, which will take place in Washington on March 25-26, 2002.

Again, your role, as legislators and as the representatives of the people, will be fundamental in promoting good governance and consolidating democratic institutions.

As such, you remain the ultimate guarantors who will ensure that the preoccupations of the people are taken into consideration, that the rule of law is respected and that governments are held accountable.

Thank you.

ANNEX 7

Motion 8

To amend the FIPA Regulations relating to procedures

In accordance with the suggestions of the Plenary Meeting on March 14, 2002, and with the recommendations of the Executive Committee at its special meeting held in Mexico City on March 15, 2002, it is resolved that:

In Section 3, Procedures, of Chapter III of the Regulations, the following amendments and additions be adopted:

“(e) The Plenary Meeting shall issue recommendations and resolutions. The former shall be pronouncements on topics of political or general interest and the latter shall relate to institutional actions. The recommendations and resolutions shall be submitted to the Plenary Meeting as proposals from the Executive Committee, the Working Groups, or the delegates. The recommendations and resolutions shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the delegates present, with the exception of amendments to the Regulations, which shall require the approval of two-thirds of the delegates present.

(f) Draft recommendations and resolutions shall be presented to the Technical Secretariat in advance of the Plenary Meeting. The Technical Secretariat shall delegate these proposals, according to their content, to the Working Groups or to the Executive Committee in the event that their subject matter does not coincide with that of the Working Groups as constituted. The Executive Committee shall invite the authors of the proposals being considered to its meeting before the Plenary Meeting. If the Executive Committee considers the topic relevant, it shall recommend its adoption to the Plenary Meeting.

(g) Delegates may also submit proposals to the Plenary Meeting. The proposals cannot be longer than half a page and delegates shall have two (2) minutes to address them verbally. They shall only be considered by the Plenary Meeting if they have the support of two-thirds of the delegates present.”;

eliminate paragraphs e), g) and h) of the Regulations; and

redesignate paragraph (f) as (h) and paragraphs h) to k) as i) to l).

Adopted unanimously by the Plenary Meeting on March 14, 2002.

ANNEX 8

Working Group 1—Legal Instruments on Security Report and Recommendations

Both sessions of the Working Group were carried out in a friendly and enthusiastic atmosphere with the active participation of more than 15 parliamentarians and the intervention of a senator via satellite.

The first session focused on security and its objectives. During the second session, existing international legal instruments and those pending ratification, as well as the serious threat of terrorism, were discussed. Participating legislators referred to measures in favor of security in their domestic legislation, as well as the great responsibility they have to defend the rights of those whom they represent and the stability and proper functioning of their countries.

It was commented that the concept of security is much broader than the concept of defense, which mainly considers military criteria and military activities. Therefore, there is a need to broach the subject of security from a point of view that takes into account the problems faced by the countries of the hemisphere, such as: the illegal traffic of drugs, weapons and persons, human rights violations and crimes against humanity, corruption, terrorist acts and organized crime.

It was pointed out that underdevelopment, poverty, weak and unstable economies, as well as unemployment are elements that threaten internal and hemispheric peace and security. It is therefore necessary to consider aspects such as the fostering of democracy, social and economic development, the fight against poverty and education, as a new vision of hemispheric security.

The legislators agreed to review the international legal instruments that are pending signature or ratification on the subject, and to promote pertinent legal reforms in each country in order to effectively fight terrorism and contribute to the establishment of a hemispheric legal shield based on a collective strategy for security and peace.

They also mentioned the possible categorization of security and terrorism problems, such as military threats from outside and within the hemisphere; new concepts of security based on internal problems and in particular socioeconomic factors; and terrorism in all its manifestations, including State terrorism.

Each of these categories requires the development and implementation of specialized policies that will lead to appropriate solutions to threats of insecurity and terrorism.

Nations must have legal instruments that guarantee their security. Therefore, they must continue to create and design international agreements and pertinent national measures.

The parliamentarians unanimously rejected all expressions of terrorism, notwithstanding their form, origin, or purposes.

Recommendations:

1. To declare absolute and forceful condemnation of terrorist acts in any of their manifestations, come where they may, that infringe upon universal human rights and the international community.
2. To urge FIPA's member parliaments to sign and ratify regional and international instruments containing provisions aimed at fighting terrorism and on security matters as soon as possible.
3. To ask FIPA members to promote the adoption of measures within their own national legal frameworks that prevent, combat, and punish terrorism.
4. To assist the work of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism of the Organization of American States.
5. To urge international organizations responsible for the development of international legal instruments to ensure the timely involvement of the parliamentarians of the countries of the Americas.
6. To urge member states to include language in both the preambular and operative sections of the Convention to require that all prescribed actions are taken with full respect for both human rights and fundamental freedoms and for all relevant international human rights conventions, including the Geneva Conventions.
7. Emphasize that enhanced security and the promotion and protection of human rights are not mutually exclusive, especially after September 11, 2001. We must remain aware of the inherent value of integrating a human rights perspective into all our work.
8. We invite all the parliamentarians of the hemisphere to encourage the speedy approval of the Inter-American Convention for the Prevention and Elimination of Terrorism of the Organization of American States.
9. To support the Resolution to Strengthen Hemispheric Cooperation to Prevent, Combat and Eliminate Terrorism of the Third Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the OAS held on September 21, 2001, with particular regard to the article that urges all member states to promote the broadest possible tolerance and peaceful coexistence within their societies; acknowledge political, racial, cultural, ethnic, sexual and religious diversity in the communities that make up our hemisphere and whose rights and fundamental freedoms were recently reaffirmed in the Inter-American Democratic Charter

ANNEX 9

Working Group 2 The Issue of Organized Crime

Working Group 2 “The Issue of Organized Crime” was chaired by Mr. Louis Tull from Barbados. Mr. Jorge Eastman from the Organization of American States (OAS) acted as facilitator.

The Working Group engaged in a cordial and well-informed debate on terrorism and organized crime, money laundering and their effects in their respective countries. The participants related their experiences in their fight against drug trafficking, money laundering and terrorism with emphasis on finding newer approaches to fight these problems rather than concentrating on current policies that emphasize control measures. They also highlighted the legislative work undertaken in their countries to combat organized crime and their efforts at ratifying pertinent international conventions.

Recommendations:

The Working Group reached consensus on the following recommendations on the theme of organized crime, drug trafficking and terrorism:

1. There is a need to gain a better and deeper understanding on the causes and motivations for the actions by terrorists. Causes such as poverty, corruption, bad governance, fanaticism and social injustice and inequality all contribute to the rise in terrorism and thus lead to insecurity.
2. Human rights should not be violated in the zeal to tackle terrorism.
3. The countries should consider creating a network of cooperation for sharing intelligence information to prevent these crimes.
4. Efforts should be undertaken to harmonize criminal law so that differing treatment does not occur that could affect extradition matters.
5. There should be a concentrated effort to attack the source of terrorism financing.
6. Attention should be paid to the consequences that disproportionately affect small countries as a result of these strategies to fight terrorism.
7. Strengthening democratic government institutions is fundamental to the protection of fundamental human rights.
8. Universal education is critically important for attacking the causes of poverty and consequently the criminal activity that arises from this.

9. They expressed their solidarity in the reestablishment of dialogue and cessation of hostilities in Colombia. Likewise, there is concern about the negative consequences that affect the neighboring countries through the expansion of this conflict.
10. The strategies to combat drug trafficking should be constantly examined. With the failure of so-called “zero-tolerance” policies to decrease consumption in developed countries, the difficulties in substituting drug-producing crops by farmers in the producing countries, as well as the weakness in controlling the international financial system to avoid money laundering and the financing of drug trafficking networks, it is necessary to consider other strategies that will allow for a multi-faceted approach to tackle this problem.
11. A forum should be created to discuss new and novel approaches to combat drug trafficking.

After a lengthy discussion, the Working Group decided to include the following point as an issue to be included in this report, although it did not reach consensus to be included as a recommendation.

1. Persons deported to their country of origin for criminal activities are often forced to continue such activity in order to survive. The sending country should provide financial resources to the deportee’s country to assist in the rehabilitation and training of deportees.

ANNEX 10

Working Group 3 Migration and Borders

Working Group 3, “Migration and Borders” was chaired by Mr. Carlos Santiago Nájera, from Guatemala, and facilitated by Mr. Rodolfo Tuirán from Mexico, who made a presentation on migration in Latin America.

During the meeting of Working Group 3, the delegates gave a brief explanation of migration in their countries. Migration is a global phenomenon with many diverse causes including, more commonly, the economic asymmetry among countries, differences in salaries, socioeconomic polarization, poverty, internal conflicts and natural disasters. In each country these causes differ.

Several of the consequences of migration were raised: the loss of human capital, the “brain drain” and the altered balance of costs and benefits to the economies of origin and of destination; and the receipt of currency through remittances, among others. In this regard, the productive use of remittances could become an instrument for development in the countries of origin of migration.

Group 3 noted that the Latin American migrants to the United States enrich the society in the economic, social and cultural senses.

Mention was made that government action is carried out at several levels:

- I. At the national level, migration is regulated by the establishment of laws and policies to control the flow of migration. It is important to point out the need to modernize the administration of migration.
- II. Opportunities for dialogue have been created at the bilateral and multilateral level between the countries of origin and destination of migration; consulting mechanisms have been established; programs to regulate migration have been created and cooperation in this regard has been strengthened.

Group 3 indicated the convenience of accompanying the economic integration process within the countries of the region regarding the updating of migration policies; the importance of advancing the standardization of domestic legislation in order to combat migration traffic; the significance of ratifying international instruments that guarantee the protection of human rights and combat the trafficking of persons and foster cooperation among countries.

A proposal was made to strengthen the work of FIPA’s Migration and Borders Group with the executive and judicial branches of each member country and with international

organisms such as the IOM, WTO, UNICEF, UNIFEM, human rights organizations, the European Union, among others.

FIPA must be a forum that allows the analysis of international resolutions on migration with the objective of enriching the work of this group so parliamentarians can adopt said resolutions in their own countries in order to legislate on the respective subjects.

The lack of participation of the parliamentarians of the United States of America was deeply regretted since they are a fundamental party in the search for solutions for all countries.

Recommendations:

We, the delegates of the national legislatures represented at the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA), currently in session in Mexico City,

Conscious that migration is a global phenomenon that has many diverse causes, including, more commonly, the economic asymmetry among countries, differences in salaries, socioeconomic polarization, poverty, internal conflicts, and natural disasters,

RECOMMEND:

1. To strengthen, at the bilateral and multilateral levels, the creation of opportunities for dialogue among the countries of origin and destination of migration. To this end, it is necessary to establish consultation mechanisms to create norms and programs that foster secure, legal and orderly migration.
2. To advance the standardization and harmonization of national legislation to prevent and eradicate illegal trafficking in human beings and the forgery and adulteration of documents.
3. To promote the creation and ratification of international instruments that protect the human rights of migrating persons, with special emphasis on the rights of children, adolescents and women.
4. To promote the critical analysis of the responsibilities of the countries of origin of migration together with those of the countries of destination.
5. To strengthen the cooperation and coordination of nations in the fight against terrorism and to guarantee the careful balance between the objectives of security and those that facilitate the international movement of people.
6. To encourage the production and circulation of information and knowledge in order to achieve greater reliability and effectiveness in the policies and norms relating to migration.

ANNEX 11

Working Group 4 Free Trade Area of the Americas Negotiation Process

Working Group 4 “Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)” was chaired by Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette from Canada. Mr. Tom Oommen acted as facilitator.

The group addressed the issue of economic integration in the Hemisphere highlighting the need for an active and effective participation by national legislatures in the process to establish FTAA. Delegations from all regions in the hemisphere discussed a wide range of topics based on a summary of the draft chapters produced by the nine Negotiating Groups of the FTAA. These draft chapters were published after the Third Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec City, Canada, in April 2001.

The Working Group took note of a presentation by the Mexican delegation and the distribution of a Draft Model Law on the Role of National Legislatures in trade negotiations. The Group thanked the Mexican delegation and agreed to study the model law in the context of their own systems and practices.

The Delegations of Canada and Mexico agreed to create a working group to develop a study on the effects of NAFTA after 7 years from its entry into force, including Chapter 11.

Recommendations:

Free Trade Area of the Americas

Aware that poverty and inequality limit the possibilities of economic integration of the Americas, and

Convinced that the integration of the hemisphere should not be limited to commercial aspects but should take into account the social and environmental dimension of trade agreements,

We Parliamentarians of the Americas

Recommend that the FTAA negotiating process should be part of a broader effort to create prosperity and expand economic opportunities while fostering social justice, the realization of human potential, and environmental sustainability.

Situation in Argentina

FIPA expresses concern over the economic crisis affecting Argentina and the effects that this crisis may have on other economies of the region. The Forum highlights the importance of facilitating increased exports from Argentina as a means of stabilizing its currency and generating income from international sources. During the discussions it was noted that elimination of subsidies that distort international prices as well as tariffs, quotas, and non-tariff barriers could effectively assist Argentina and would represent an advance in the process of trade liberalization.

Role of Parliaments

Certain of the significance of an effective participation of Parliaments in trade negotiations as representatives of people in the Americas, and

Realizing the crucial responsibility for enhancing understanding of the implications of the creation of the Free Trade Area of the Americas,

We Parliamentarians of the Americas

Recommend the introduction of the FTAA negotiating process as a topic of permanent discussion in all national legislatures as a matter of priority for all countries in the Hemisphere;

Recommend the exchange of information and experiences between national legislatures regarding the negotiation and implications of trade agreements.

We Parliamentarians of the Americas,

Recognizing the impact of international trade on the peoples of the Americas,

Recognizing that international trade is not only a matter of interest to corporations but impacts also on employment, income, standard of living and the welfare of the population, and

Considering that national legislatures are the legitimate representatives of the interests of the population,

Recommend that national legislatures of the Americas have decisive participation in the development of trade agreements of any nature.

Transparency

Convinced of the need for a permanent commitment to transparency and to increasing and sustained communication with civil society, and

Noting the decision to make public the preliminary draft text of the FTAA Agreement after the Third Summit of the Americas,

We Parliamentarians of the Americas

Call on our governments to ensure that civil society has a clear perception of the development of the FTAA negotiating process and to consider the regular publication of the draft text of the FTAA Agreement.

Market Access

Recognizing the value of a rules-based multilateral and regional trading system, and

Concerned with unilateral actions not in accordance with international trade rules, which privilege local or domestic interests,

We Parliamentarians of the Americas

Call on our governments to avoid unilateral policies or measures that limit market access and adversely affect international trade and investment, and

Recommend that the FTAA negotiating process establish clear, transparent, and effective rules to prevent protectionist trade practices and facilitate trade in the hemisphere.

Agriculture

Cognizant of the utmost importance of Agriculture for most countries in the Hemisphere, and

Recognizing the particular vulnerability, sensitivity, and structural difficulties of the agricultural sectors in developing countries,

We Parliamentarians of the Americas

Recommend that the development needs of countries be taken into account and made an integral part of the FTAA negotiations in Agriculture, including traditional methods of farming, food security, and rural development;

Recommend the elimination of agricultural export subsidies and other trade-distorting practices for agricultural products affecting trade in the hemisphere; and

Recommend that sanitary and phytosanitary measures not be applied in a manner that would constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination between countries or a disguised restriction to international trade.

Investment

Recognizing the complex political and technical issues in the area of investment, including definition of investment, expropriation, performance requirements and investor-state dispute settlement mechanisms,

We Parliamentarians of the Americas

Consider that the rule of law is the best guarantee for foreign direct investment, and

Recommend that the FTAA negotiating process establish transparent, just, stable, and predictable conditions, particularly for foreign direct investment, to prevent the possibility of using provisions or interpretation of provisions in trade agreements to pursue frivolous lawsuits against national governments.

Intellectual Property

Certain that ownership and policies for the use of natural and cultural resources are part of the sovereign rights of each of the countries in the hemisphere,

We Parliamentarians of the Americas

Recommend that the FTAA negotiating process take into account all the concerns of countries in issues of intellectual property related to access to genetic resources, indigenous and traditional knowledge, and the right of each country to protect public health and access to medicines for all.

Services

Acknowledging that services constitute a key sector for the economies of the hemisphere, and

Aware of the complexities and breadth of the different sectors covered in services trade negotiations,

We Parliamentarians of the Americas

Recommend that the FTAA negotiating process take into account all the concerns of countries, in particular those related to public and/or sensitive services such as health and education, which are closely linked to national and cultural identity.

Smaller economies

Aware of the differences in the level of development and size of the economies in the hemisphere and the challenges that a process like the FTAA represents to all participating countries, and

Believing that economic integration cannot be fully realized without fair trade rules that take into account the level and differences in the level of development and size of the economies,

We Parliamentarians of the Americas

Recommend that smaller economies receive the treatment that they require to ensure their full participation in the negotiations for the construction of the FTAA, including consideration of cooperation mechanisms.

Sub-regional Trade Agreements and WTO consistency

Aware of the numerous trade agreements in force and ongoing negotiations in the hemisphere and the need for consistency with rules and disciplines of the WTO,

We Parliamentarians of the Americas

Call on our governments to avoid provisions that are inconsistent with WTO rules and disciplines, and ensure that an eventual FTAA Agreement can coexist with existing sub-regional and bilateral trade agreements.

CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT IN MONTERREY, MEXICO, MARCH 2002

We, the delegates to the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA), representing the national legislatures of the hemisphere, commend the Mexican Congress for their initiative to convene the institutions that represent the freely elected parliaments of the world.

The United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Monterrey, Mexico, from March 18 to 22, 2002, is an ideal opportunity to work towards satisfying the demands of many countries and peoples of the world to combat poverty, reduce social and economic inequality, and promote sustainable economic growth.

FIPA supports and endorses the objectives of the U.N. Conference in Monterrey. FIPA intends to study closely the conclusions and the decisions of the Monterrey Conference. FIPA wishes to consider and integrate these conclusions and decisions in our own future deliberations on economic growth in the Americas, in order that we may work in close cooperation and partnership with all other international organizations dedicated to the same objectives.

FIPA proposes to the Monterrey Conference the establishment of funds that will permit the creation of mechanisms to correct inequalities between countries and guarantee equality of opportunity as a first step in the integration of the Americas.

ANNEX 12

Unilateral Statement by Brazil to the Plenary Meeting of FIPA

DIALOGUE FOR FREE TRADE IN THE AMERICAS

The recent decision by the United States government to impose restrictions on trade in steel, which affects mainly Brazil, demonstrates that we need to establish clear parameters for our political, trade, social, and cultural relations.

While we are enthusiastic about integrating the peoples of the Americas, we cannot forget that the first step must be made by those who seek our participation in the development of a FREE-TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS (FTAA) but who do not make it effective or take steps to modernize our trade relations.

The rhetoric of protectionism is frank and open. It is translated into acts, treaties and legislation that protect the domestic market, at the expense of the theory of free trade.

On the other hand, we are getting used to seeing two different postures, even when our peoples are clamoring to participate as economic partners and unconditional allies in the struggle against poverty and social inequality.

As builders of the future PARLIAMENT OF THE AMERICAS, we cannot hide our concern over the dubious positions of the United States, which, on the one hand, claims to promote the FTAA, while, on the other hand, it maintains its protectionist rules and demands that other countries follow a prescription that it does not follow or implement itself.

If there is no effective change in the positions taken by the United States in its trade relations with the other countries of the Americas, providing new and favorable solutions to the disputes indicated, Brazil sees little chance of achieving a FREE-TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS. Therefore, in this Forum, it is voting against any decision that involves support for continuing actions to implement the FTAA.

BRAZILIAN DELEGATION TO FIPA

ANNEX 13

Executive Committee of FIPA

Representation	Parliamentarian	Country	Period
Chair	Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette	Canada	2002 – 2004
North America	Senator Silvia Hernandez	Mexico	2001 – 2003
	Mr. John Godfrey, Member of Parliament	Canada	2002 – 2004
Central America	Deputy Ciro Cruz Zepeda	El Salvador	2001 – 2003
	Deputy Carlos Santiago Najera	Guatemala	2002 – 2004
Caribbean	Mr. Louis Tull, Member of Parliament	Barbados	2001 – 2003
	Ms. Doreen Chen, Member of Parliament	Jamaica	2002 – 2004
South America	Deputy Marcelo Stubrin	Argentina	2001 – 2003
	Deputy Luiz Carlos Haully	Brazil	2002 – 2004
Host Country	Legislator José I. Blandón	Panama	2002 – 2003

Secretary

Mr. Mateo Barney