

Plenary Assembly Report



San José, Costa Rica August 22 – 24, 2013



Table of Contents

Ac	kno	owled	dgements	3
			ction	
2	Off	icial	Inauguration	4
3	3.1 3.2 3.3 3.4 3.5 3.6 3.7	Valida Accep Revie Annua Resol Inforn Estab Keyno	ssion of the Plenary Assembly. Intion of the Chair	6
4	Sed	cond	Session of the Plenary Assembly	.10
	4.24.3	11th F Prese Works Works Meeti Conne Offer Rema	Plenary Assembly	11 12 12 13
Ap	per	ndice		
Apr Apr Apr Apr Apr Apr	pend pend pend pend pend pend pend pend	ix 2 ix 3 ix 4 ix 5 ix 6 ix 7 ix 8	List of Participants Agenda. Annual Report of the President of ParlAmericas Resolution Adopted during the 10th Plenary Assembly Keynote Address on the Right to Food Board of Directors of ParlAmericas 2013–2014. Working Group 1: Natural Resources Development Working Group 2: Food Security	18 20 22 24 25
App	end	ix 9	Meeting Organized by the Group of Women Parliamentarians: Connecting Women's Rights to Food Security	32

Acknowledgements

The International Secretariat of ParlAmericas wishes to express its heartfelt thanks to the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica. We are especially grateful to Member of the Legislative Assembly María Jeannette Ruiz Delgado; the staff at the Department of Public Relations, Press and Protocol; and the Foreign Affairs and International Trade Permanent Commission for their collaboration in organizing the 10th Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas.

We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to the expert speakers and Chairs for their invaluable contributions to the working group sessions.



Delegates of the 10th Plenary Assembly—Official Photo

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Disclaimer: This publication presents a summary of the presentations by experts participating in the 10th Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas, as well as some interventions made by parliamentarians who attended the event. The content of this publication does not necessarily reflect the views of ParlAmericas.

1 Introduction

The 10th Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas was held on August 22 – 24, 2013 in San José, Costa Rica, with kind support from the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica.

Under the overarching theme of economic development, this event covered the topics of food security, natural resources development, and connecting women's rights to food security. It brought together 76 parliamentarians who participated as official delegates from 24 member countries of the Americas. Also present were observers representing institutions including the World Bank and the Organization of American States (OAS). In addition, the Plenary Assembly benefited from the participation of expert speakers based in five countries of the Americas.

See Appendix 1 for the List of Participants.

2 Official Inauguration

The official inauguration of the 10th Plenary Assembly was held in the *Salón de Expresidentes de la República* at the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica.

Welcoming Words by María Jeannette Ruiz Delgado, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica
Jeannette Ruiz, member of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas, welcomed the delegates, saying that it was an honour and privilege to see such diverse parliamentary representation in her country. She noted that Costa Rica has strong roots in parliamentary participation and hemispheric dialogue and that these were also the goals of the 10th Plenary Assembly. Discussions over the next few days would reinforce democratic processes and allow parliamentarians to better serve the people of the Americas.

Before concluding her remarks, Jeannette Ruiz explained the significance of the room in which the inaugural session was being held, noting that it featured portraits of all of the former presidents of the Republic of Costa Rica.



María Jeannette Ruiz Delgado (Costa Rica)

Video Message from the President of ParlAmericas, Randy Hoback, Member of Parliament of Canada

Randy Hoback sent a video message to the Plenary Assembly as health reasons prevented him from attending in person. In the video, he expressed his deep gratitude to the hosts and organizers of the plenary. Randy Hoback stated that this year's Plenary Assembly marked an important milestone for ParlAmericas, as it has served for over a decade as a forum for parliamentarians from across the hemisphere to engage in open and frank discussions about issues and practices of great importance to the Americas.

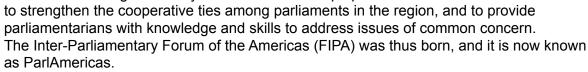
Welcoming Words by the Acting President of the Foreign Affairs and International Trade Permanent Commission of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica, Ileana Brenes Jiménez, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica Ileana Brenes welcomed her fellow parliamentarians and other guests to the inaugural session of the 10th Plenary Assembly. She highlighted the importance of the topics to be addressed.

She emphasized that women are largely responsible for the production of food around the world, yet they lack secure access—physical and economic—to food. She noted that women are disproportionately affected by poverty and food insecurity, both of which are linked to the environment and natural resources.

Ileana Brenes stated that as a woman and member of Congress, she hoped to look to the future knowing that she is doing all she can to improve conditions for all women and their families, thereby ensuring that progress is made towards a safe, egalitarian society. She closed her remarks by wishing the delegates success in the days to come.

Welcoming Words by the Secretary-Treasurer of ParlAmericas, Germán Alcides Blanco Álvarez, Vice-President of the Chamber of Representatives of Colombia

Germán Blanco greeted his fellow panelists and parliamentarians. He recounted how, 12 years ago, a group of visionaries decided to create a space for parliamentarians of the Americas to gather. They did so with a twofold purpose:



Germán Blanco noted that the number of registered parliamentarians at the 10th Plenary Assembly was one of the highest in the previous five years. He thanked the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica for the support that made this possible.

Welcoming Words by Carlos Ricardo Benavides Jiménez, Minister of the Presidency of Costa Rica

Carlos Benavides welcomed the delegates on behalf of the government and people of Costa Rica. He noted the shared concerns regarding the pressing problems—such as human insecurity, poverty, resource depletion, and climate change—to be addressed at the Plenary Assembly, and their potential to reverse advances in social development. He stressed the challenges faced by rural women in the

region, and the gap between recognition and guarantee of their rights. He expressed his desire that these concerns and the commitment to resolving them would guide the reflections of the 10th Plenary Assembly.



Ileana Brenes Jiménez (Costa Rica)

Carlos Ricardo Benavides Jiménez (Costa Rica)

Welcoming Words by Luis Fernando Mendoza Jiménez, President of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica

Luis Fernando Mendoza welcomed participants and expressed his gratitude to Jeannette Ruiz for her commitment to supporting the parliamentarians gathering in Costa Rica to share and reflect on problems facing the region.



Luis Fernando Mendoza Jiménez (Costa Rica)

In his remarks, he indicated that the legislative branch was an instrument for development and that parliaments should be the highest expression of political rights. He declared that in times of globalization, legislators must not lose sight of social well-being, which should be central in the pursuit of economic development.

3 First Session of the Plenary Assembly

The First Session of the 10th Plenary Assembly was held on Thursday, August 22, 2013.

Welcoming Words by the Secretary-Treasurer of ParlAmericas, Germán Alcides Blanco Álvarez, Vice-President of the Chamber of Representatives of Colombia

Germán Blanco welcomed the delegates to the First Session of the 10th Plenary Assembly and offered his thanks for their attendance. He noted that parliamentarians from 24 of the 35 member national legislatures of ParlAmericas had registered for the plenary.

He explained that in his role as ParlAmericas' Secretary-Treasurer, he would be acting on behalf of Randy Hoback during the President's absence.



Germán Alcides Blanco Álvarez (Colombia)

Germán Blanco signalled the great importance of the topics to be covered during the 10th Plenary Assembly, and added that both women and men were invited and encouraged to attend the meeting organized by the Group of Women Parliamentarians for the Plenary Assembly.



Ileana Brenes Jiménez (Costa Rica), Pilar Porras Zúñiga (Costa Rica), Marielos Alfaro Murillo (Costa Rica)

He acknowledged the presence of the keynote speaker, Dr. Ricardo Rapallo of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and introduced the agenda for the rest of the day.

3.1 Validation of the Chair

Germán Blanco launched the session by seeking validation of the Chair. As specified in the Regulations of ParlAmericas, the Host Country Parliament representative to the Board of Directors acts as Chair of the Plenary Assembly. Accordingly, Jeannette Ruiz, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica, was approved as the Chair upon a

motion put forward by Ignacio Urrutia Bonilla, Member of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile, and seconded by Senator Miguel Saguier of Paraguay.

3.2 Acceptance of Chair and Words by the Chair

Chair Jeannette Ruiz welcomed parliamentarians to the First Session of the Plenary Assembly and to the city of San José. She reiterated that the people of Costa Rica feel proud of the country's contribution to the world; Costa Rica is a country that invests in education over the

military, boasts a social security system worthy of emulation, prioritizes the defence of the environment, and proclaims that peace is the best path to development.



Frank Sauerbaum (Chile), Jorge Burgos (Chile), Ramón Barros (Chile)

3.3 Review of the Rules of Procedure and Approval of the Agenda

Chair Jeannette Ruiz proceeded to seek and establish approval for the Rules of Procedure that would govern the Plenary Assembly. The Rules of Procedure were adopted upon a motion put forward by Dr. Jennifer Simons, Speaker of the National Assembly of Suriname, and seconded by Stephenson King, Parliamentary Representative of Saint Lucia.

The Chair then presented the Agenda, which was approved upon a motion put forward by Jorge Burgos, Member of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile, and seconded by Adalgisa

Pujols, Member of the Chamber of Deputies of the Dominican Republic.

See Appendix 2 for the Agenda of the 10th Plenary Assembly.

3.4 Annual Report of the President

On behalf of Randy Hoback, Germán Blanco presented the *Annual Report of the President* to the 10th Plenary Assembly. The report provided an overview of the activities carried out by ParlAmericas over the past year. These included a workshop titled *Parliaments and Extractive Industries: How to Improve Oversight and Increase Collaboration* in February 2013; activities in collaboration with the OAS, including a project to strengthen capacities of legislators of Central America, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic (the first of a series of regional workshops, *Legislative Activity and New Alternatives in the Fight Against Drugs*, was held in San José the previous day); the Annual Gathering of the Group of Women Parliamentarians in May 2013; and three meetings of the Board of Directors in February, May, and August 2013 (the last meeting was held in conjunction with the 10th Plenary Assembly).

In addition, the report described how ParlAmericas has been active in other venues, including gaining observer status with the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Finally, it explained that the Board of Directors has recently approved new institutional regulations as well as a funding strategy, as the Board continually seeks to build a solid foundation for the future and diversify funding to maintain the organization's activities.

See Appendix 3 for the complete text of the Annual Report of the President.



Cheryl Bazard (The Bahamas)

3.5 Resolution of the Board of Directors

Chair Jeannette Ruiz next introduced a resolution of the Board of Directors regarding a declaration on the Arms Trade Treaty, a multilateral treaty recently negotiated at a conference held at United Nations headquarters. Martha González Dávila, Member of the National Assembly of Nicaragua, read the declaration aloud to the delegates.

Senator Miguel Saguier of Paraguay moved to pass the resolution, and Senator Cheryl Bazard of The Bahamas seconded the motion. The resolution was duly adopted.

See Appendix 4 for the full text of the adopted Resolution.

3.6 Information Regarding Elections

The Chair explained that during the 10th Plenary Assembly, elections would be held for two national legislatures in each sub-region (North America, Central America, the Caribbean, and South America) to serve on the Board of Directors.

In addition, the Chair explained that an election would be held for the position of the President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians. She also announced that ParlAmericas was



Willyam Tito Valle Ramírez (Peru)

seeking expressions of interest from member parliaments for hosting the 11th Plenary Assembly in 2014.

Parliamentarians were informed of the process to nominate a national legislature to serve on the Board of Directors.

3.7 Establishment of Working Groups

As recommended by the Board of Directors, the Chair proposed the establishment of two working groups based on the first two sub-themes of the Plenary Assembly (Natural Resources Development and Food Security). The working groups would meet separately to debate and propose recommendations. The working groups approved by the Plenary Assembly were as follows:

· Working Group 1: Natural Resources Development

Chair: Ignacio Urrutia Bonilla, Member of the Chamber of

Deputies, Chile

Invited Experts: Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, Conservation International

Gleyse Peiter, Rede Nacional de Mobilização Social e Conselho Nacional de Segurança Alimentar e Nutricional (National Social Mobilization Network and National Council on Food and Nutritional Security)

· Working Group 2: Food Security

Chair: Hugh Carl Buchanan, Member of Parliament, Jamaica

Invited Experts: Xaviera Cabada Barrón, El Poder del Consumidor

(Consumer Power)

Dr. Hugo Melgar-Quiñonez, McGill University



Ignacio Urrutia Bonilla (Chile)

The Chair also provided details on a meeting organized by the Group of Women Parliamentarians that would focus on the third sub-theme of the Plenary Assembly (Connecting Women's Rights to Food Security), as follows:

Meeting Organized by the Group of Women Parliamentarians:
 Connecting Women's Rights to Food Security

Chair: Dr. Jennifer Simons, Speaker of the National Assembly,

Suriname

Invited Experts: Dr. Cristina Tirado, Pan American Health Organization/World

Health Organization

Guadalupe Valdez San Pedro, Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Dominican Republic, and Regional Coordinator, Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in Latin America and the

Caribbean

See Appendices 7, 8, and 9 for biographies of the invited experts and summaries of their articles. For full articles, please visit www.parlamericas.org.



Expert Dr. Cristina Tirado (Pan American Health Organization/ WHO)

3.8 Keynote Address: Challenges to Realizing the Right to Food in the Hemisphere – Dr. Ricardo Rapallo



Keynote Speaker Dr. Ricardo Rapallo (FAO)

The Chair introduced Dr. Ricardo Rapallo, who expressed thanks on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for the invitation to participate in the 10th Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas. Dr. Ricardo Rapallo acknowledged the importance of including the issue of food security on the legislative work agenda in the hemisphere. He gave an overview of the problem of food insecurity in Latin America and the Caribbean and pointed out the challenges to realizing the Right to Food. He outlined the roots of the problem, drawing from the FAO and other studies on malnutrition, chronic malnutrition

in children, and the prevalence of obesity over the years. He proposed

a twofold answer to the problem: 1) public policy with a rights-based approach, and 2) legislation on the Right to Food.

After several parliamentarians shared their perspectives on the subject, the First Session of the 10th Plenary Assembly was adjourned. Delegations were invited to a meeting organized by the Group of Women Parliamentarians, and subsequently convened in workings groups to discuss their respective sub-themes.

See Appendix 5 for Dr. Ricardo Rapallo's biography and a summary of his Keynote Address.



Ada Rosa Iturrez de Cappellini (Argentina), Nora Videla (Argentina)

4 Second Session of the Plenary Assembly

The second and final session of the 10th Plenary Assembly was held on the morning of Saturday, August 24, 2013. Chair Jeannette Ruiz opened the session by remarking that the debates over the past days had been very interesting and had revealed that the member parliaments of ParlAmericas were confronting similar problems. She noted that their discussions allowed parliamentarians to reflect on models that were not working, as well as on shared strengths.



Gina Hill (International Secretariat)

4.1 Elections and Confirmation of National Legislature to Host the 11th Plenary Assembly

The Chair invited Gina Hill, Director General of ParlAmericas, to lead the proceedings for elections to the Board of Directors and for the position of President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians.

Gina Hill first reviewed the process that had taken place to fill the position of Vice-President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians. This position was for a one-year term, to complete the mandate left vacant when the previous Vice-President stepped down in order to run for the position of President of the Group. The position was filled as per the election process stipulated in the Regulations of ParlAmericas, during the meeting organized by the Group of Women Parliamentarians held on the previous day. Gina Hill announced that Martha González Dávila, Member of the National Assembly of Nicaragua, was by acclamation, the new Vice-President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians for a one-year term.

Next, Gina Hill drew attention to elections for the Board of Directors. She announced that at this Plenary Assembly, two seats on the Board of Directors were open for each sub-region. For three sub-regions, five national legislatures had been elected by acclamation while one seat remained vacant, as shown below.

SUB-REGION	NATIONAL LEGISLATURE
North America	Mexico (Vacant)
The Caribbean	Dominican Republic The Bahamas
Central America	Costa Rica Guatemala

By the deadline for nominations, five national legislatures had been nominated to serve on the Board for the sub-region of South America. When voting resulted in a tie between Argentina, Brazil, and Chile, Ignacio Urrutia made an intervention on behalf of Chile. He withdrew Chile's candidacy and announced the country's offer to host the 11th Plenary Assembly in 2014.

Following Chile's withdrawal, the election results for the sub-region of South America were as follows:

SUB-REGION	NATIONAL LEGISLATURE
South America	Argentina Brazil

Elections then took place for the position of the President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians. Dr. Jennifer Simons was elected as President from among two candidates. As President, she will also serve as Second Vice-President on the Board of Directors.

On behalf of the International Secretariat, Gina Hill stated that ParlAmericas looked forward to working with the newly elected representatives. She also gratefully acknowledged the offer of the Chilean national legislature to host the 11th Plenary Assembly.

See Appendix 6 for a full list of members on the 2013-2014 Board of Directors of ParlAmericas.

4.2 Presentation and Consideration of **Working Group Recommendations**

Chair Jeannette Ruiz again took the floor, thanking Gina Hill for her guidance during the elections. She commented that the election results reflected diversity in representation on the Board of Directors and that the elections had been carried out democratically. She congratulated the elected national legislatures, as well as Dr. Jennifer Simons and Martha González.



Marcela Revollo Quiroga (Bolivia)

She next invited the working group Chairs to summarize the debates held during the working group sessions and to present the recommendations developed by participants. The recommendations of each group were reported to the Plenary Assembly for its consideration.

Working Group 1: Natural Resources Development

Ignacio Urrutia, the Chair of Working Group 1, gave a brief overview of the discussions carried out during the sessions on natural resources development. He noted the valuable guidance received from the invited experts and presented the five recommendations agreed to by the group.

The recommendations highlight the potential of regulations and policies to guarantee environmental protection and recovery specifically, and social inclusion and economically sustainable development more broadly. The recommendations also call for action on a multiple fronts, including farming practices, tax schemes, land management plans, and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization. In addition, they call for a gender-based approach to lawmaking, whereby women are rendered more visible in environmental policies and laws.

The recommendations were unanimously adopted without amendments.



Expert Gleyse Peiter (Rede Nacional de Mobilização Social e CONSEA), Ignacio Urrutia Bonilla (Chile)

Working Group 2: Food Security

Hugh Carl Buchanan chaired Working Group 2, which discussed the serious public health issues of undernourishment, malnutrition, obesity, diabetes, and other chronic diseases in



Expert Xaviera Cabada Barrón (Consumer Power), Hugh Carl Buchanan (Jamaica), Expert Dr. Hugo Melgar-Quiñonez (McGill University)

relation to social and economic pressures. He reported to the plenary that the group had a productive series of debates with input from the invited experts. He then shared the six recommendations resulting from the discussions.

The recommendations encourage awarenessraising campaigns and mechanisms for families, schools, and communities that promote healthy eating habits and provide information on non-advisable foods. They prioritize women's and infants' right to breastfeeding and the necessity of regulations to prevent the sale and advertising of unhealthy products in schools.

The recommendations urge parliamentarians to reassert their commitment to food and nutrition security and to continue discussions within their respective national legislatures

to address the roots of the problem of food insecurity, by means such as promoting budget allocations and scientific research centres to guarantee and support the implementation of food security policies.

The recommendations were adopted with a minor amendment clarifying the Spanish phrase "comida chatarra" ("junk food").

Meeting Organized by the Group of Women Parliamentarians: **Connecting Women's Rights to Food Security**

Dr. Jennifer Simons, the Chair of the meeting organized by the Group of Women Parliamentarians, noted that discussions during the meeting revealed that barriers still exist for women in the area of food security. She presented the recommendations on the topic of food security and women's rights that were agreed to by participants.

The recommendations stress the need for a reaffirmation of political commitment, including regulatory frameworks, to the fight against hunger and the Right to Food with a special focus on women. They also recommend investing in information gathering and the development of indicators to allow policymakers to guarantee women's rights in relation to food and nutrition security.

The recommendations were unanimously adopted without amendments.

See Appendices 7, 8, and 9 for the full recommendations of the working groups.



Dr. Jennifer Simons (Suriname)

4.3 Offer to Host 2014 Annual Gathering of the Group of Women Parliamentarians

Delegates participated in an evaluation process of the Plenary Assembly, in order to contribute to the planning of future events. The Chair then gave the floor to Martha González, the new Vice-President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians, who proposed that Nicaragua host the next Annual Gathering of the Group of Women Parliamentarians in 2014. The offer was enthusiastically accepted by the delegates at the Plenary Assembly.

Dr. Jennifer Simons, newly elected President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians, also briefly took the floor in order to thank all those who had participated in the discussions over the previous days. She thanked them for their confidence in her abilities, and affirmed her commitment to the position of President of the Group.

4.4 Remarks by the Vice-President of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica, and Closing of the 10th Plenary Assembly

Claudio Perdomo (Honduras)

Chair Jeannette Ruiz made closing remarks about the pleasant experience of the entire plenary.

Germán Blanco then spoke on behalf of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas. He thanked participants and noted that the large number of parliamentarians present was a significant achievement for the organization. He agreed that the discussions carried out in the working groups had been constructive, and he wished his fellow parliamentarians success in their legislative endeavours in their home countries. Finally, Germán Blanco thanked all those who had contributed to making the plenary a success.

The Chair invited Carlos Avendaño Calvo, Vice-President of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica, to share his remarks and close the plenary on behalf of the host national legislature.

Carlos Avendaño addressed the 10th Plenary Assembly, stating that it was an honour to close the plenary. He affirmed that the work of parliamentarians should

be focused on the search for social well-being that goes hand-in-hand with economic development. After speaking about the challenges in the region concerning food insecurity and environmental destruction, Carlos Avendaño said that he firmly believed that events such as the present plenary

facilitate a reversal of these negative realities. He expressed his gratitude for the participation of his fellow parliamentarians at the plenary, saying that it filled him with hope for their countries and for all of humanity.

In conclusion, Chair Jeannette Ruiz took the floor to sincerely thank the hotel staff, all the staff at the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica, the International Secretariat of ParlAmericas, the working group experts, the translators and interpreters, observers, and finally, the parliamentarians for travelling to Costa Rica and engaging in the plenary's activities. The Chair encouraged parliamentarians to share and put into practice what they had learned at the 10th Plenary Assembly.

The 10th Plenary Assembly was officially adjourned.



Rudolf Zeeman (Suriname), Refano Wongsoredjo (Suriname), Jenny Warsodikromo (Suriname)

Appendices

Appendix 1 • List of Participants

DELEGATES

Argentina

Alicia Marcela Comelli, Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Elena Corregido, Senator
Olga Elizabeth Guzmán, Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Graciela Iturraspe, Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Ada Rosa Iturrez de Cappellini, Senator
María Cristina Regazzoli, Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Nora Videla, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

José Antonio Vilariño, Member of the Chamber of Deputies The Bahamas

Cheryl Bazard, Senator

Belize

Herman Longsworth, Member of the House of Representatives Gerardo Marconi Sosa, Senator Michael Peyrefitte, Speaker of the House of Representatives

Bolivia

Marcela Revollo Quiroga, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Brazil

Elcione Barbalho, Member of the Chamber of Deputies Vanessa Grazziotin, Senator

Canada

Earl Dreeshen, Member of Parliament Michael L. MacDonald, Senator François Pilon, Member of Parliament Lise St-Denis, Member of Parliament

Chile

Ramón Barros, Member of the Chamber of Deputies Jorge Burgos, Member of the Chamber of Deputies Celso Morales, Member of the Chamber of Deputies María Antonieta Saa, Member of the Chamber of Deputies Frank Sauerbaum, Member of the Chamber of Deputies Ignacio Urrutia Bonilla, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Colombia

Germán Alcides Blanco Álvarez, Representative César Franco, Representative

Costa Rica

Marielos Alfaro Murillo, Member of the Legislative Assembly Gustavo Arias Navarro, Member of the Legislative Assembly Ileana Brenes Jiménez, Member of the Legislative Assembly
María Julia Fonseca Solano, Member of the Legislative Assembly
Carlos Góngora Fuentes, Member of the Legislative Assembly
Luis Fernando Mendoza Jiménez, President of the Legislative Assembly
Pilar Porras Zúñiga, Member of the Legislative Assembly
María Jeannette Ruiz Delgado, Member of the Legislative Assembly
Elibeth Venegas Villalobos, Member of the Legislative Assembly

Cuba

Gladys López Bejerano, Member of the National Assembly

Dominican Republic

Yuderka De la Rosa, Member of the Chamber of Deputies Adalgisa Fátima Pujols, Member of the Chamber of Deputies Guadalupe Valdez San Pedro, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

El Salvador

Antonio Almendáriz, Member of the Legislative Assembly
Blanca Noemí Coto Estrada, Member of the Legislative Assembly
Margarita Escobar, Member of the Legislative Assembly
Benito Lara, Member of the Legislative Assembly
Silvia Ostorga, Member of the Legislative Assembly
Sigfrido Reyes, President of the Legislative Assembly

Guatemala

Aracely Chavarría Cabrera, Member of Congress Mirma Figueroa de Coro, Member of Congress Oliverio García Rodas, Member of Congress Mauro Guzmán Mérida, Member of Congress

Haiti

Jean-Baptiste Bien-Aimé, Senator Simon Dieuseul Desras, President of the Senate

Honduras

Julio César Gámez, Member of Congress Claudio Perdomo, Member of Congress

Jamaica

Hugh Carl Buchanan, Member of Parliament

Mexico

Adriana González Carrillo, Member of the Chamber of Deputies Marcela Guerra Castillo, Senator Margarita Licea González, Member of the Chamber of Deputies Cristina Olvera Barrios, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Nicaragua

Martha González Dávila, Member of the National Assembly Filiberto Rodríguez, Member of the National Assembly

Paraguay

Emilia Alfaro de Franco, Senator José Manuel Bóbeda, Senator Pablino Rodríguez Arias, Member of the Chamber of Deputies Miguel Saguier, Senator Luis Alberto Wagner Lezcano, Senator

Peru

Ana María Solórzano Flores, Member of Congress Willyam Tito Valle Ramírez, Member of Congress

Saint Lucia

Stephenson King, Parliamentary Representative

Suriname

Dr. Jennifer Simons, Speaker of the National Assembly Jenny Warsodikromo, Member of the National Assembly Refano Wongsoredjo, Member of the National Assembly Rudolf Zeeman, Member of the National Assembly

Uruguay

Graciela Cáceres, Representative

Venezuela

Jesús Cepeda, Member of the National Assembly Zulay Martínez, Member of the National Assembly

OBSERVERS

Organization of American States

Moisés Benamor, Political Affairs Specialist

World Bank

Mozammal Hoque, Senior Financial Management Specialist

INVITED EXPERTS, PRESENTER, AND KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Chamber of Deputies, Dominican Republic

Guadalupe Valdez San Pedro, Member of the Chamber and Regional Coordinator of the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean

Conservation International

Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, Senior Vice-President of Conservation Policy

El Poder del Consumidor (Consumer Power)

Xaviera Cabada Barrón, Coordinator

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Dr. Ricardo Rapallo, Food Security Officer, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

McGill University

Dr. Hugo Melgar-Quiñonez, Director of the Institute for Global Food Security

Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization
Dr. Cristina Tirado, Food Safety Adviser

Rede Nacional de Mobilização Social e Conselho Nacional de Segurança Alimentar e Nutricional (National Social Mobilization Network and National Council on Food and Nutritional Security)

Gleyse Peiter, Executive Secretary

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF PARLAMERICAS

Gina Hill, Director General
Viviane Rossini, Program Manager
Marcelo Virkel, Project Coordinator
Katie Hermon, Consultant to the Group of Women Parliamentarians
Lisane Thirsk, Communications Officer



Blanca Noemí Coto Estrada (El Salvador)

Appendix 2 • Agenda

Wednesday, August 21, 2013

18:00 - 21:00 **Official In**

Official Inauguration and Welcome Reception of the 10th Plenary Assembly at the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica

Welcome remarks

Thursday, August 22, 2013

09:15 - 10:00 First Session of the Plenary Assembly

- Approval of the agenda
- Annual Report of the President of ParlAmericas
- Introduction of the Chair of the 10th Plenary Assembly
- Presentation of Resolutions/Recommendations from the Board of Directors
- Establishment of working groups

10:00 - 10:15 Official photograph

10:30 - 11:30 **Keynote Address**

Dr. Ricardo Rapallo (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)

11:30 - 13:30 Meeting Organized by the Group of Women Parliamentarians. Session 1

Theme: Connecting Women's Rights to Food Security

Expert: Dr. Cristina Tirado (Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization)

Presenter: Guadalupe Valdez San Pedro (Chamber of Deputies of the Dominican Republic; Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean)

13:30 - 14:30 Lunch

14:30 - 17:00 Working Group Sessions. Session 1

WG1. Theme: Natural Resources Development

Experts: Carlos Manuel Rodríguez (Conservation International) / Gleyse Peiter (Rede Nacional de Mobilização Social e Conselho Nacional de Segurança Alimentar e Nutricional; National Social Mobilization Network and National Council on Food and Nutritional Security)

WG2. Theme: Food Security

Experts: Xaviera Cabada Barrón (El Poder del Consumidor; Consumer

Power) / Dr. Hugo Melgar-Quiñonez (McGill University)

19:00 - 21:30 Dinner

Friday, August 23, 2013

08:30 - 11:00	Meeting Organized by the Group of Women Parliamentarians. Session 2
11:15 - 13:30	Working Group Sessions. Session 2
13:30 - 15:00	Lunch
15:00 - 16:45	Working Group Sessions. Session 3
20:00 - 22:00	Dinner

Saturday, 24 August 2013

09:00 - 12:30 Second Session of the Plenary Assembly

- Elections
- Presentation and consideration of working group Recommendations
- Consideration of Resolutions/Recommendations from the Board of Directors and others
- Nomination of national legislature to host the 11th Plenary Assembly
- Election results
- Official Closing

12:30 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 18:00 Tourist activity



Jesús Cepeda (Venezuela), Zulay Martínez (Venezuela)

Appendix 3 • Annual Report of the President of ParlAmericas

This report is an opportunity to share with you an overview of the year 2012-2013 of ParlAmericas. We have been very busy since our last Plenary Assembly in Panama City, Panama in September 2012. Here are some of the highlights.

Training for Parliamentarians: Parliaments and Extractive Industries Workshop In February of this year, ParlAmericas held a two-day regional workshop, entitled *Parliaments and Extractive Industries: How to Improve Oversight and Increase Collaboration.* The workshop, held in Bogotá, Colombia, was attended by 17 parliamentarians from seven Spanish-speaking South American countries. The workshop was facilitated by Revenue Watch, and had the specific objective of creating a space for parliamentarians and experts on the topic to discuss the roles and actions of national legislatures with respect to extractive activities.

The discussions were rich and the workshop resulted in comprehensive recommendations developed by the parliamentarians, and subsequently shared with the parliaments of all 35 ParlAmericas countries. The full report is available on our website in Spanish.

Collaboration with the OAS

Since ParlAmericas signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the OAS in 2012, the organizations have been exploring opportunities to collaborate on programming initiatives for parliamentarians. ParlAmericas has embarked on a joint program with the OAS, to strengthen capacities of legislators of Central America, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic. This project foresees holding national workshops in each of the nine countries of the sub-region, and two regional seminars.

In fact, the first such seminar took place yesterday, here in San José, under the title *Legislative Activity and New Alternatives in the Fight against Drugs*. ParlAmericas is happy to be working with the OAS to bring parliamentarians to these important issues, and looks forward to the rollout of the remaining project activities.

Gathering of the Group of Women Parliamentarians

In May, the Group of Women Parliamentarians of ParlAmericas held a well-attended Gathering hosted in Paramaribo by the Assembly of Suriname. The Gathering had the energetic participation of 53 parliamentarians from 21 countries, at the event entitled *Women in Power: Recent Changes in the Political Arena*, with presenters from the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. The topics discussed were:

- Women Presidents of National Legislatures
- Leadership and Political Participation of Women of African Descent
- The Effects of Women's Participation in Politics

The Group of Women Parliamentarians is also hosting sessions during this Plenary Assembly, and I encourage each of you to participate.

Board of Director Meetings

Since the last Plenary Assembly, the Board of Directors has met three times: in Medellín, Colombia, in February; in Paramaribo, Suriname, in May; and here in San José, prior to this Plenary Assembly.

The Board has been focusing on ensuring ParlAmericas has a solid foundation upon which to build into the future. As such, we have completely overhauled our institutional Regulations, which were approved by the Board in May. The new Regulations are a comprehensive governance tool, and will come into effect in October 2013. They will be made available at that time.

Our Board has also taken a closer look at our financial situation, and recognizing that our funding under the current CIDA project will soon come to an end, has approved a funding strategy for ParlAmericas, which will allow us to seek and secure the financial resources required to continue the work of the ParlAmericas network.

In addition, the Board of Directors has worked to prepare for this Plenary Assembly, and carried out fundamental governance tasks such as maintaining oversight of ParlAmericas activities and finances, participating in hemispheric events and conversations, and reaching out to parliamentarians throughout the Americas.

Participation in Hemispheric Dialogue

In addition to the activities already mentioned, ParlAmericas has been active in other venues, including gaining observer status with the IPU, and attending the IPU Assembly in Ecuador in March of this year. Many members of the Board of Directors have regular interaction with diplomatic representatives of ParlAmericas member countries, and we receive and participate in bilateral meetings with colleagues from other parliaments whenever possible.

Operations and Finances

And finally, I would like to report on our operational and financial situation. ParlAmericas maintains a small office of four staff members, located in Ottawa, Canada. The team members are here in San José, so please feel free to speak with them.

Our operations and all our activities are currently funded from two main sources:

- A multi-year project financed by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)¹; and
- The membership dues paid by your Parliaments.

The project funding we currently receive from CIDA will come to an end in December 2014. With this in mind, the Board of Directors has recently passed a funding strategy, and we continue to seek a diversity of funding sources to maintain our activities. Nevertheless, the fees we receive from member countries are crucial to our operations, and we are grateful to those of you who submit your dues on time. I encourage each of you to do what you can to ensure that your parliament's dues are paid in full, for past years, as well as for the 2013-2014 cycle, as those funds support activities such as this Plenary Assembly.

We also acknowledge member parliaments who support us by hosting events. We are still accepting nominations for hosts of the 11th Plenary Assembly, and the Gathering of the Group of Women Parliamentarians in 2014. These are activities that can bring a great deal of attention to your assembly, and previous hosts have found it to be a positive experience.

ParlAmericas will become a stronger network as we bring more parliamentarians into the conversation. To do this, we need your support. I hope your participation in this meeting will inspire you to continue to engage with your colleagues from parliaments throughout the Americas.

Randy Hoback, Member of Parliament of Canada President, ParlAmericas

¹ Now known as the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD)

Appendix 4 • Resolution Adopted during the 10th Plenary Assembly

Resolution ParlAmericas/PA10/2013/RES.1: Declaration on the Arms Trade Treaty Presented by the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas on August 24, 2013:

WHEREAS

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

Recalling Article 26 of the Charter of the United Nations which seeks to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources;

Guided by Article 3, subsection i of the Principles of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which provides that "controversies of an international character arising between two or more American States shall be settled by peaceful procedures";

Considering that ParlAmericas' purposes include to contribute to inter-parliamentary dialogue regarding issues included in the hemispheric agenda, to help strengthen the legislative role in a democracy, and to contribute to the defence and promotion of human rights;

Underlining the need to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms and to prevent their diversion to the illicit market, or for unauthorized end use and end users, including in the commission of terrorist acts:

Recognizing the legitimate political, security, economic and commercial interests of States in the international trade in conventional arms:

Reaffirming the sovereign right of any State to regulate and control conventional arms exclusively within its territory, pursuant to its own legal or constitutional system;

Acknowledging that peace and security, development and human rights are pillars of the United Nations system and foundations for collective security and recognizing that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing;

Recalling the United Nations Disarmament Commission Guidelines for international arms transfers in the context of General Assembly resolution 46/36H of 6 December 1991;

Noting the contribution made by the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, as well as the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons;

Recognizing the security, social, economic and humanitarian consequences of the illicit and unregulated trade in conventional arms;

Bearing in mind that civilians, particularly women and children, account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed conflict and armed violence;

Recognizing also the challenges faced by victims of armed conflict and their need for adequate care, rehabilitation and social and economic inclusion;

Mindful also of the role regional organizations can play in assisting States Parties, upon request, in implementing this Treaty and, more specifically, of ParlAmericas' responsibility to promote the harmonization of national laws and legislative developments among member States;

Noting that on 2 April the United Nations General Assembly approved The Arms Trade Treaty by a 154-to-3 vote with several abstentions;

The Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas hereby

RESOLVES

- I. To encourage member Parliaments of ParlAmericas to adopt the Arms Trade Treaty recently approved by the United Nations, and
- II. To communicate this resolution to each member parliament.

Appendix 5 • Keynote Address on the Right to Food

Dr. Ricardo Rapallo, Food Security Officer, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Biography

Dr. Ricardo Rapallo is Food Security Officer of the Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO) at the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. He is also the Coordinator of the Hunger-Free Latin American and the Caribbean Initiative Support Project. He is an agricultural engineer and has a PhD from the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid. He started work for the FAO in 2004 as consultant in the FAO Representation in Guatemala. Since 2009 he has worked in the Sub-regional Office of the FAO for Central America as Associated Professional Officer of Policy Assistance. Shortly afterwards he started as Food Security Officer in the Management of Agricultural Development Economics Division (ESA) in Rome.

Challenges to Realizing the Right to Food in our Hemisphere

The following is a summary of the Keynote Address. For the PowerPoint presentation that accompanied this address, please visit www.parlamericas.org.

Causes of hunger are particular to each country and different within countries, depending on the community or region. When aggregate terms are considered, the situation of vulnerable populations (Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, women, peasants) becomes invisible. However, the tendency is the same in all countries of the region: there have been improvements between 1990, the first time indicators related to the Millennium Development Goals were measured, and the situation in 2012.

The region of the Americas is successful when it comes to food production; it produces much more than what is needed to feed its inhabitants. The main problem identified in the region is access, i.e., the availability of financial resources needed to obtain food. In this respect, the indexes of poverty and extreme poverty in the region are disproportionately high when viewed in the context of an economic growth atmosphere. Even though some countries show a deviation from the norm, in Latin America and the Caribbean, the correlation between extreme poverty and malnutrition is quite direct.

After analyzing progress in terms of political commitment within the region, as well as governance mechanisms and public policies in favour of food security and/or food sovereignty, we can conclude that there have been important efforts during the past 10 years. Countries making the most progress are those that support family farming, peasantry, and small producers. The growth of school lunch programs and social protection policies must also be highlighted.

It is important to stress that even though food security legislation is essential, sometimes it is insufficent to guarantee food security and/or food sovereignty. Therefore, it is necessary to develop complementary laws that manage access to resources (water laws, land laws, seed laws, and agricultural financing laws), laws that promote efficiency and transparency in the agrifood chains, and laws that encourage healthy habits and regulate advertising.

Appendix 6 • Board of Directors of ParlAmericas 2013–2014

POSITION	INDIVIDUAL ²	NATIONAL LEGISLATURE	TENURE			
Elected at the 10th Plenary Assembly						
President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians and 2nd Vice-President	Dr. Jennifer Simons, Speaker of the National Assembly	Suriname	2013-2015			
North America	Marcela Guerra Castillo, Senator	Mexico	2013-2015			
North America		Vacant	2013-2015			
Central America	María Jeannette Ruiz Delgado, Member of the Legislative Assembly	Costa Rica	2013-2015			
Central America	Mirma Figueroa de Coro, Member of the Chamber of Deputies	Guatemala	2013-2015			
Caribbean	To be confirmed	Dominican Republic	2013-2015			
Caribbean	To be confirmed	The Bahamas	2013-2015			
South America	To be confirmed	Argentina	2013-2015			
South America	Humberto Costa, Senator	Brazil	2013-2015			
Host of Plenary Assembly 11	Ignacio Urrutia Bonilla, Member of the Chamber of Deputies	Chile	2013-2014			
	Returning Members					
President	Randy Hoback, Member of Parliament	Canada	2011-2014			
1st Vice-President	Víctor Juliao III, Member of the National Assembly	Panama	2011-2014			
North America	Michael L. MacDonald, Senator	Canada	2012-2014			
Central America		Vacant	2012-2014			
Caribbean	Hugh Carl Buchanan, Member of Parliament	Jamaica	2012-2014			
South America	Germán Alcides Blanco Álvarez, Representative	Colombia	2012-2014			
Immediate Past President	Luiz Carlos Hauly, Member of the Chamber of Deputies	Brazil	2013-2014			
Director General	Gina Hill	International Secretariat				

² Individuals confirmed at the time of this report's publication

Appendix 7 • Working Group 1: *Natural Resources Development*Chair: Ignacio Urrutia Bonilla, Member of the Chamber of Deputies (Chile)

1 Focus Points

- · Energy efficiency and renewable energy resources
- · Regional management and sustainable livelihoods
- · Land use dynamics and biodiversity
- · Natural resources policy and governance

2 Invited Expert: Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, Senior Vice-President of Conservation Policy, Conservation International

Biography

Carlos Manuel Rodríguez is the former Minister of Environment and Energy of the Government of Costa Rica and is currently Vice-President of Conservation Policy at Conservation International, where he is responsible for providing strategic direction and leading a team that informs and influences bilateral, multilateral, and international policies impacting the nexus of human well-being, economic development, climate change, ecosystem management, and biodiversity conservation. In addition to this conservation work, Carlos Rodríguez has experience as a lawyer and has held various political posts in Costa Rica. He is internationally recognized for promoting the economic value of standing forests within protected areas, private forests, and indigenous reserves. This approach provides local communities with economic incentives to act as stewards of nature's bounty.

Natural Capital and Economic Growth: Policy Lessons from Costa Rica
The following is a summary of an article by the invited expert. For full article, please visit
www.parlamericas.org.

Never before in our countries' histories have we had so much knowledge about our natural environment, or as many institutions oriented towards sustainability and research, so many environmental regulations, so many organizations and professionals, or so many efforts to protect the environment as we have today. Paradoxically enough, however, never before have we had so many and such serious environmental problems. Something is definitely wrong. What is ironic about all this is that world governments have accepted and preach a sustainability discourse, but little concrete and sustainable progress has been made that reflects any change regarding the plight of environmental destruction.

The state of the environment is undoubtedly a direct result of the development model, but, in particular, of consumption and production patterns which respond exclusively to political targets for economic growth where sustainability continues to be an axiological component without any concrete implications for public policies or actions other than some minor ones, which have no incidence on the need for structural reform.

As long as we do not address these institutional and market deficiencies, all efforts undertaken to revert the high level of deterioration of our natural environment will bear no fruit with the scale and impact so persistently recommended by the scientific community. Thus, today more than ever before, we require the type of political leaders who have the ability to see "the big picture", to understand the relationship between the economy and environmental services. A good

institutional design in environmental matters is the basis of successful environmental policies and instruments in the long term and at a desired scale (goals must be national and not subnational, satisfying international commitments and with a vision for sustainability).

Change towards an economy based on renewable energy sources, a diversified transportation system, and the production of reusable and recyclable goods, is not only imperative but also urgent. We have serious market failures, which do not weigh in the indirect costs of this contemporary productive system where environmental costs and all stimuli and incentives to certain sectors are not taken into consideration, so that the market "does not tell us the whole truth". A market economy system, which ignores indirect costs in the allocation of values and prices, is irrational, inefficient, and self-destructive.

3 Invited Expert: Gleyse Peiter, Executive Secretary, Rede Nacional de Mobilização Social e Conselho Nacional de Segurança Alimentar e Nutricional (National Social Mobilization Network and National Council on Food and Nutritional Security)

Biography

Gleyse Peiter is the Executive Secretary of Rede Nacional de Mobilização Social e Conselho Nacional de Segurança Alimentar e Nutricional (National Social Mobilization Network and National Council on Food and Nutritional Security), which works throughout Brazil by mobilizing its more than 110 members in 27 states and more than 30 municipalities, and brings together partnerships to fight against poverty. Since 2004 she has been counsellor to the CONSEA, the National Council on Food and Nutrition Security, the main purpose of which is to ensure food and nutrition security and the enforcement of the human right to food for all Brazilians. She is currently coordinator of the Working Group on Climate Change, Poverty and Inequality of the Brazilian Forum on Climate Change and the Laboratório Herbert de Souza – Tecnologia e Cidadania (Herbert de Souza Laboratory – Citizenship and Technology), which works to articulate technological developments and social innovation to contribute to generating knowledge on issues related to the sustainable development model.

Vulnerability, Adaptation, and Climate Change

The following is a summary of an article by the invited expert. For full article, please visit www.parlamericas.org.

Low-income populations, social segments subject to discrimination, the marginalized, and vulnerable groups of society are the ones carrying the largest burden of the damage caused by climate change. Social/political mechanisms are at play in the global climate crisis that further perpetuate injustices. In this regard, it is therefore essential to underscore the concept of climate justice, which contributes to fighting the inequalities between countries and regions throughout the world, as well as within each country and region, and also among social groups, as a result of a growth model which ultimately led to the current climate crisis.

Food and nutrition security is an important aspect related to climate change. In addition to jeopardizing certain crops that are characteristic of some populations, climate change may completely or partly destroy harvests or render food transport unviable in the short term. Additionally, the climate crisis may be used as an argument to further increase food prices.

The differing impacts that climate change will have on the lives of men and women also need to be taken into consideration. In addition to facing more unfavourable economic conditions,

women (especially those who are poor or of African-descent) are faced with vulnerabilities different than those affecting men.

Despite the commonplace belief among skeptics, climate change is here to stay. The effects of greenhouse gas concentration accumulate over time, and they will stay in the atmosphere for many years even if emissions were to cease overnight. The formulation and enforcement of public policies to address the impact of climate change on people's lives, with an emphasis on adaptation, is therefore a widespread and pressing need.

4 Recommendations

We recommend:

- 1. Including a gender-based approach in the law-making processes, and rendering women more visible in environmental policies and laws;
- 2. Developing land management plans that include a regulatory framework for mining operations which are consistent with environmental protection practices and standards;
- 3. Developing organic farming policies, and agro-ecological farming and native seed promotion techniques to offset climate change, and warning about the use of toxic agrochemicals;
- 4. Recommending that each country's tax scheme be revised in order to establish that any royalties resulting from mining and natural resource development operations should be sufficient, and that they should be allocated to soil and natural resource recovery; and
- 5. Further strengthening the role of, and the financial contributions to, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, so that it may contribute to sustainable development, to social inclusion, and to the preservation of flora through the implementation of joint policies for the economically sustainable development and protection of the ecosystem.

Appendix 8 • Working Group 2: Food Security

Chair: Hugh Carl Buchanan, Member of Parliament (Jamaica)

1 Focus Points

- · Problems, progress, limitations, and innovations in the area of food safety
- Food-borne diseases and public health in the region
- National plans of action in emergency situations
- · Successful experiences in anti-hunger programs

2 Invited Expert: Xaviera Cabada Barrón, Coordinator, *El Poder del Consumidor* (Consumer Power)

Biography

Xaviera Cabada Barrón holds a master's degree in nutrition sciences and is a community outreach worker and nutritionist. She is the coordinator of the consumer organization El Poder del Consumidor (Consumer Power). Working primarily in the area of popular education, she has been a speaker at various courses, forums and conferences for government institutions, universities, and NGOs. She collaborates with healthcare professionals, legislators, academics, activists, and community outreach workers. She has represented Mexico at events on the following topics: consumers (El Salvador, CDC), breastfeeding (India, IBFAN), and non-communicable diseases (Switzerland, World Health Assembly with Consumers International). Her main interests include working with people to share and build practical solutions to improve their health and quality of life.

The Current Consumption Model and its Impact on Food Security

The following is a summary of an article by the invited expert and co-author Alejandro Calvillo. For full article, please visit www.parlamericas.org.

There are four dimensions of food security: suitable *availability* of and access to food; *economic and physical access*, which involves people having access to the resources necessary to buy suitable, nutritious food; *biological utilization* of food (i.e., that it is quality food); and lastly, *stability of supply*, which means that individuals should in no case risk facing lack of access as a result of sudden crises.

One of the factors preventing this has been the lack of effective public policies on the matter. Today, overweight, obesity, and diabetes are epidemics in both developed and developing nations. The situation is even more serious in developing countries, where obesity is coupled with malnutrition, as well as the diseases deriving from both.

Changes in dietary habit consisting of the replacement of traditional foods with processed foods is detrimental in many respects: at a physical level, because it affects our health; at an emotional level, since the presence of disease translates into depression or low self-esteem; at an environmental level, because of the large amount of waste being generated; and at an economic level, as the amount expended to buy these foods is high. This change also bears a cultural impact, since ancient foods and practices are being substituted with foods that do not feed our bodies, let alone our spirits. A special source of concern is the fact that this phenomenon appears wherever there is unsuitable infrastructure to mitigate the highly noxious effects of changing dietary habits.

Improved eating habits need to be truly encouraged among the population, so that they gradually permeate our homes and our society as a whole. Public policies must be in place that prioritize the interests of people over those of corporations that only wish to further strengthen their monopolistic power over the agrifood chain, ranging from production processes (patented seeds and agrochemicals) to grain and food marketing, in order to make countries viable at both a health and financial level.

3 Invited Expert: Dr. Hugo Melgar-Quiñonez, Director of the Institute for Global Food Security, McGill University

Biography

Dr. Hugo Melgar-Quiñonez is the Director of the Institute for Global Food Security and the Margaret A. Gilliam Faculty Scholar in Food Security at McGill University in Canada. He moved to McGill University in 2012, after nine years at the Ohio State University. Previously, he worked as a researcher at the University of California in Davis and at the Mexican Institute of Public Health. He holds a degree in medicine and a doctoral degree from the Friedrich Schiller University in Germany. He has worked on food security related research projects in more than 20 countries in the Americas, Africa, and Asia.

The Importance of Food Security Information for Decision-Making in the Fight against Hunger

The following is a summary of an article by the invited expert. For full article, please visit www.parlamericas.org.

Agencies, academics, and practitioners have searched for a measurement to assess at least some of the components of food security. Partly, the resulting indicators have focused on one of the so-called pillars of food security: food availability, access to food, and the use of food. As food insecurity is such a complex phenomenon, its measurement certainly goes beyond the very obvious lack of sufficient available food to meet people's most basic caloric requirements.

Responding to the need for a household-based indicator, in the mid-90s, researchers in the United States developed the Household Food Security Supplemental Module (HFSSM), which is applied on a continuous basis within the Current Population Survey. Besides allowing the classification of households in categories of food insecurity, the HFSSM allows for the identification of those who are at a higher risk of food insecurity. Since 2007, studies conducted in Latin America using the Latin American and Caribbean Food Security Scale (*Escala Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Seguridad Alimentaria – ELCSA*) show not only that household food insecurity estimates are significantly associated with poverty and food expenditure, but also with the quality of diet and with indicators of undernutrition in children.

Thanks to the encouraging results generated in Latin America, the ELCSA has been translated and adapted to other languages (e.g., Swahili, Chinese, Arabic) and has been applied by the FAO in other latitudes. The FAO has recently launched the project "Voices of the Hungry", which capitalizes on decades of research in the Americas regarding the development of experienced-based food security measurements. This project will lead to the establishment of a new FAO-certified standard for food security monitoring that can complement the current food security evaluation and that could be easily adopted by household surveys conveyed by national institutes of statistics, as is currently the case in the USA, Brazil, and Mexico.

Counting on a diverse palette of instruments to assess food insecurity, national and local food security programs in Latin America and the Caribbean will improve their ability to monitor their

performance, to evaluate their impact, to better target those at a higher risk for food insecurity, and to have a clearer picture of the phenomenon they are facing. Scientifically validated indicators, that are easy to apply, low-cost, culturally appropriate, and that cover one or more components of the food security construct, are in great demand by agencies and institutions fighting hunger across the Americas and other continents. Appropriate decision- and policy-making in the effort to eradicate hunger is fundamentally based on accurate, but also real-time, current information.

4 Recommendations

In light of the irrefutable and conclusive evidence of a worrying trend developing in the countries of our hemisphere, and of the increase in serious problems such as undernourishment, malnutrition, obesity, diabetes, and other chronic diseases, all of which are associated with poor and distorted eating habits and have become serious public health issues in all of our countries, we urge men and women parliamentarians and ParlAmericas member parliaments to reassert our commitment to food and nutrition security, as well as to seriously engage in, or continue the necessary discussions within our legislatures, in order to enact and further strengthen new and existing legal instruments that will allow us to directly address the roots of these evils by exercising our oversight role over the policies implemented by our executive branches. Our suggestions, which are the result of our concerns and of the discussions held at this forum, should also be extended to all integration processes that are currently developing in Latin America and the Caribbean.

We recommend:

- 1. Encouraging a massive and ongoing awareness-raising campaign that promotes healthy lifestyles and eating habits, in line with people's dietary requirements, and which provides information on non-advisable foods;
- 2. Promoting, protecting and respecting women's and infants' right to breastfeeding, in accordance with recommendations issued by the World Health Organization;
- 3. Establishing regulations to prevent the sale and advertising of unhealthy foods and products at public schools, and providing for the availability of and ensuring access to drinking water, so that the Right to Food may be guaranteed;
- 4. Developing mechanisms to implement family, school, and community agriculture programmes that promote the production of safe and healthy foods, with the additional support of scientific research centres that are committed to developing knowledge that may in turn be applied to further strengthening food and nutrition security;
- 5. Promoting the participation in, and implementation of, the *Codex Alimentarius*, which provides for food safety, ingredient regulation, the trade in excessively processed food (junk food), and correct and understandable food labelling, with a view to preventing the import and trade of poor-quality products; and
- 6. Promoting food and nutrition security as a high priority for states, in all our respective parliaments, further underscoring the need for budget allocations that will guarantee the implementation of policies and programs designed to fight hunger and food insecurity.

Appendix 9 • Meeting Organized by the Group of Women Parliamentarians: Connecting Women's Rights to Food Security

Chair: Dr. Jennifer Simons, Speaker of the National Assembly (Suriname)

1 Focus Points

- · Gender dimensions of natural resources management
- Strategic gender-based analysis and planning in resource development
- Women and sustainable food security

2 Invited Expert: Dr. Cristina Tirado, Food Safety Adviser, Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization

Biography

For the past 20 years, Dr. Cristina Tirado has been working on sustainable development, food, health, climate, and gender issues with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization (WHO), the FAO, governmental and nongovernmental organizations, and universities worldwide. Currently she serves as Food Safety Adviser for PAHO/WHO and is adjunct professor at the School of Public Health of the University of California Los Angeles. Dr. Cristina Tirado is a moderator of the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition's Working Group on Climate Change and Nutrition, a contributing author to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) last assessment report, and a health advocate at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conferences of the Parties. She has developed a leadership program for women to enhance their ability to address the challenges of climate change on nutrition security and health at the community and global level. She is a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and has MS and PhD degrees in environmental sciences from Cornell University. She has published numerous research and policy publications and books.

Strategies to Enhance Women's Leadership to Address Food and Nutrition Security under a Changing Climate

The following is a summary of an article by the invited expert. For full article, please visit www.parlamericas.org.

Women serve as agents of social change and development, through their unique roles in the family and childcare, agricultural labour, food and nutrition security, health, and disaster risk reduction. The promotion of their engagement and leadership is critical to addressing climate change in equitable, healthy, and sustainable ways. Integrating women's empowerment as well as food and nutrition security and health in adaptation strategies is urgently needed to ensure the well-being of communities under a changing climate.

Food and nutrition security, health, gender equality, climate change, and environmental degradation, including loss of biodiversity, are closely interlinked. Climate change and environmental degradation undermine the ability of people to move out of poverty, and compromise their full enjoyment of human rights. This has a direct impact on the health and food and nutrition security of millions of people—particularly women and their children.

In order to promote women's participation in climate change decision-making, governments must enforce gender mainstreaming in governance at the local, regional, and national levels. Women's participation can be enhanced at various levels and in different sectors through the promotion of inclusive planning, decision-making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes of climate change-related measures and initiatives. Governments should support the development of National Gender and Climate Plans and the inclusion of women in the development of National Adaptation Plans, Mitigation Action Plans, and corresponding local plans.

In order for climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies to be responsive to the needs of communities, they must be designed with the inclusion of women's voices. Gender equality begins when we empower poor and marginalized women to work together with all members of society to create a safer, more sustainable world. In turn, gender equality benefits society as a whole and can contribute significantly to better nutrition- and health-sensitive climate change strategies.

3 Presenter: Guadalupe Valdez San Pedro, Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Dominican Republic, and Regional Coordinator, Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean

Biography

Guadalupe Valdez San Pedro began her political career when she was only 15 years old, upon joining the student organization of the Popular Socialist Party and becoming a member of the Socialist Youth branch of the Socialist Party. In 1984 she joined the Dominican Liberation Party as the organization's vice-secretary, and remained active until 1991. In 1992 she led the development of the Alliance for Democracy (APD in Spanish), a political organization to which she presently belongs, forming part of its National Directive. Her political activity has been centred primarily on the incorporation of participative methodologies and political education, and towards local development, decentralization, and democratic governance. She is currently a member of the national Chamber of Deputies of the Dominican Republic (2010-2016) and is the Regional Coordinator of the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean. Guadalupe Valdez graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in economics, and she holds a master's degree in higher education from the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo and a master's degree in public administration.

The Political Commitment towards Food Security and Women's Rights
The following is a summary of an article by the presenter. For full article, please visit
www.parlamericas.org.

Women are key players in the struggle to achieve food security, since they are often the primary food producers, they are involved in the labour market and, due to the power distribution within the household and historically assigned roles, they are largely responsible for the nutritional status and general welfare of their families. These tasks cannot be successfully performed if women are not part of a society that considers them as subjects of law.

The issue of inequality in politics is a consequence of a more serious problem: inequality within society, within families themselves; inequality in culture in general; inequality in terms of attitudes. Hunger is not simply a result of a lack of food. Often, it stems from a lack of income and of adequate education to access healthy and balanced food and, in particular, from an unequal distribution of resources.

It should be borne in mind that women-led households are usually found in the poorest layers of society, where they have little access to productive resources and services, in addition to bearing a heavy, unpaid workload, which prevents them from devoting time to their training and to income-generating activities. This dimension of poverty leads to food insecurity and needs to be seriously taken into account when it comes to law- and policy-making so that, once and for all, we can break the vicious cycle of "hunger-woman-poverty-exclusion".

Women's parliamentary committees are being created in several Latin American parliaments for us to embrace the cause of women's rights. Against this backdrop, developing and encouraging an agenda on food security and women's rights is extremely important for democracy and for the development of our countries.

4 Recommendations

We recommend:

- Reaffirming our political commitment to the fight against hunger and the Right to Food by
 fostering regulatory frameworks that promote human rights, with a special focus on the role
 that women play in the fight against hunger and in food and nutrition security. Promoting a
 multi-sectoral, cross-cutting inclusion approach in fields including, but not limited to, labour,
 health, education, climate change, environment, and social security;
- 2. Promoting the drafting of legislative and oversight agendas that deal with the Right to Food, nutrition and food security, and as well as the development of regulatory frameworks on food in schools, peasant and family farm agriculture, access to land, climate change, advertising and the media, universal birth registration, and gender-sensitive budgets that guarantee women's sexual and reproductive rights as far as their social, cultural, and political dimensions are concerned:
- 3. Encouraging governments to invest in information gathering and in the development of indicators that will allow public policymakers to guarantee women's rights as they relate to food and nutrition security;
- 4. Fostering strategic alliances between the Group of Women Parliamentarians of ParlAmericas and the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean in order to promote the inclusion of human rights in the legislative agenda of the Americas, with a special focus on women's rights and on the Right to Food; and
- 5. Encouraging national agreements among all three branches of government that favour gender equality, with a view to promoting legal systems that may ensure non-discrimination against women in the administration of justice, women's full exercise of their rights and protection thereof, as well as food and nutrition security.





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