



# Report

Panama City, Panama

30 August – 1 September 2012



## Plenary Assembly



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All photos by Simón Martínez, National Assembly of Panama.

## Acknowledgements

The International Secretariat of ParlAmericas wishes to express its heartfelt thanks to the National Assembly of Panama, to Member of the National Assembly of Panama Víctor Juliao III, and to the staff of the International Relations Unit and the Protocol Unit of the National Assembly of Panama for their collaboration in the organization of the 9th Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas.

We would also like to express our sincere thanks to the guest speakers and the working group chairs for their invaluable contribution to the working sessions.



*Delegates of the 9th Plenary Assembly—Official Photo*



# 1 Introduction

At the kind invitation of the National Assembly of Panama, the 9th Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas was held from 30 August to 1 September 2012 in Panama City, Panama.

This event, which covered the topics of weak rule of law, the economic crisis, and climate change, brought together 46 parliamentarians who participated as official delegates from 14 member countries of the Americas. Also in attendance as observers were 12 parliamentarians from two countries and three territories, and representatives of five institutions. In addition, experts from eight countries of the Americas participated as speakers during working group sessions.

*See Appendix 1 for the List of Participants.*

## 2 Opening Session

The opening ceremony of the 9th Plenary Assembly was held in the Miraflores room of the Sheraton Panama Hotel & Convention Center, on Thursday, 30 August 2012.

### 2.1 Welcoming Words by Host Country Parliament Representative to the Board of Directors, Víctor Juliao III, Member of the National Assembly of Panama

Víctor Juliao III stressed that Panama has historically been a strategic territory, not only for world trade but also for developing mutual understanding and conciliation. He mentioned the big security, economic and climate challenges faced today, and noted that these would be discussed during the upcoming sessions. He called for a return to agriculture as a way to address potential food scarcity problems in the future. Víctor Juliao pointed out that ParlAmericas builds bridges of



*Víctor Juliao (Panama) addressing the Opening Session of the Plenary Assembly*

peace, fosters good relationships among nations, and promotes the strengthening of Parliaments. He thanked the former president of the National Assembly of Panama, Héctor Aparicio; the current president, Sergio Gálvez Evers; and the President of the Republic of Panama, Ricardo Martinelli, for their support for the organization of the Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas.

### 2.2 Welcoming Words by President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians, Linda Machuca Moscoso, Member of the National Assembly of Ecuador

The President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians, Linda Machuca Moscoso, welcomed participants and spoke of her concern about the effects of the economic crisis on women.

She explained that women work as caretakers, but their work is not properly quantified and valued, as they are not considered part of the formal labour force. According to Linda Machuca, it is false that economic growth implies economic development.



*Linda Machuca (Ecuador)*

In Latin America, for instance, growth occurred without development.

Linda Machuca exhorted countries to change the structure of their investments in order to prioritize education and health care. She argued for a gender perspective in reviewing the relationship between the state, the market and society.



*Randy Hoback (Canada)*

Finally, the President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians noted that the eighth meeting of the group, to be held during the Plenary Assembly, would address the topic “Financial Crisis and its Effects on Women in the Region.” This working session would provide a space for parliamentarians to comprehensively consider the economic phenomenon, its historical and political context, and its financial structure. The group’s recommendations would lay the groundwork for the drafting of legislative measures, political actions, and state policies in favour of women.

### **2.3 Welcoming Words by President of ParlAmericas, Randy Hoback, Member of Parliament of Canada**

President Randy Hoback expressed his gratitude to Víctor Julio III, and to the President of the National Assembly of Panama, Sergio Gálvez, for their generosity in organizing and hosting the Plenary Assembly.

Citing his personal experience, President Hoback commented that when he was a farmer, one of the important lessons he learnt was the value of commerce for the well-being of the entire country’s economy. He exclaimed that open and positive dialogue between the countries of the Americas is especially important because our geography makes us natural trading partners.

He went on to note that it is through dialogue promoted by organizations such as ParlAmericas that we can listen to one another, learn, exchange, and commit to the positive interactions that will allow us to improve not only the economic, social and cultural conditions of our own countries, but those of our hemisphere as a whole.

Finally, President Hoback highlighted the work accomplished at meetings during the past year, and invited parliamentarians to participate in future activities organized by ParlAmericas.





## 3 First Session of the Plenary Assembly

### 3.1 Validation of the Chair of the Plenary Assembly

President Randy Hoback launched the session by welcoming parliamentarians, observers, and other guests to the meeting. He presented an overview of important achievements since the last Plenary Assembly, and highlighted the keynote speaker for this year's Plenary Assembly, Major Pricilla de Oliveira Azevedo.

Subsequently, President Hoback sought validation of Víctor Juliao III as the Chair of the Plenary Assembly. The Chair was approved upon a motion by Member of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile Ignacio Urrutia Bonilla, seconded by Linda Machuca Moscoso.

### 3.2 Acceptance of Chair, and Words by the Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of Panama

Víctor Juliao III assumed the role of Chair and invited Miguel Ángel Fanovich, Second

Vice-President of the National Assembly of Panama, to address the plenary.

Miguel Ángel Fanovich highlighted how exchanges made in parliamentary forums help to consolidate the unity of peoples and promote common objectives such as general welfare and respect of human rights. He said that informed, constant, and pertinent intervention of parliamentarians can affect the international agenda, and can influence the setting of goals, choice of means, and resource assignation in all institutional spheres where solutions to regional and global problems are debated.

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

After thanking Miguel Ángel Fanovich for his words, Chair Víctor Juliao III proceeded to seek approval for the rules of procedure that would govern the Plenary Assembly. Linda Machuca Moscoso moved for approval, and Germán Blanco Álvarez, Member of the Chamber of Representatives of Colombia, seconded. The rules of procedure were adopted.

The Chair then presented the Agenda. It was approved on a motion put forward by Ignacio Urrutia Bonilla and seconded by Canadian Senator Michael L. MacDonald.

*See Appendix 2 for the Agenda of the 9th Plenary Assembly.*

### 3.4 Annual Report of the President

President Randy Hoback began his annual report by reminding the audience that the new name for the organization, ParlAmericas, had been introduced at the last Plenary Assembly in Paraguay. Since then, a formal transition has been made to the new brand. The new website ([www.parlAmericas.org](http://www.parlAmericas.org)) and the newsletter, *ParlAmericas Express*, were important tools during the transition process and beyond.

President Hoback then presented an overview of the events carried out by ParlAmericas in 2012.



*Miguel Ángel Fanovich (Panama)*



*Víctor Juliao (Panama), Randy Hoback (Canada) and Héctor Aparicio (Panama)*

These included the Caribbean Workshop on Strengthening Parliamentary Oversight in January, the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between ParlAmericas and the Organization of American States (OAS) in February, the inter-parliamentary dialogue prior to the Summit of the Americas in April, the Gathering of the Group of Women Parliamentarians in May, and three meetings of the Board of Directors, in February, May, and August.

Among other points, the report of the President stressed the work done to update the regulations of the organization, improve oversight of the organization's activities and finances, and secure diverse sources of funding.

*See Appendix 3 for the complete Annual Report of the President of ParlAmericas.*

### **3.5 Resolutions of the Board of Directors**

#### **3.5.1 Resolution regarding Staggering the Election Cycles**

Chair Víctor Juliao III gave the floor to Germán Blanco Álvarez to introduce and move a resolution of the Board of Directors on staggering the election

cycles of three key positions on the Board. Germán Blanco explained that due to the changes made to the composition of the Board of Directors at the 8th Plenary Assembly in 2011, the three directly elected positions of President, First Vice-President and President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians (who also serves as the Second Vice-President) were currently all elected on the same cycle. He explained that the Board believed that it would be a better practice to stagger some of the terms to minimize the risk of having three newly elected senior leaders at the same time. Hugh Buchanan, Member of Parliament of Jamaica, seconded the resolution.

After some debate, there was a vote. Seven countries voted in favour while three countries voted against. The resolution was adopted.

#### **3.5.2 Resolution regarding Declaration on International Migration**

Linda Machuca Moscoso moved a resolution regarding a declaration on international migration. The declaration recognizes international migration as an essential item on the agenda of ParlAmericas member countries, and one that Parliaments must not ignore. Among other points, the declaration encourages a public discussion on international migration that underscores the shared responsibility of all members of the international community and the respect of human rights. Mexican Senator Adriana González Carrillo seconded the resolution, and it was adopted.

*See Appendix 4 for the full text of both adopted resolutions.*

### **3.6 Report of Activities by the President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians**

Linda Machuca Moscoso took the opportunity to thank the Chamber of Deputies of Chile and specially two of its members, Alejandra Sepúlveda





*Mónica Zalaquett  
(Chile)*

Orbenes and Mónica Zalaquett Said, for having hosted the Gathering of the Group of Women Parliamentarians in May 2012. She then presented a video with an overview of the goals of ParlAmericas, the specific objectives of the Group of Women Parliamentarians, and a summary of the activities the group has carried out since 2009.

### 3.7 Establishment of Working Groups

As recommended by the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas, the Chair proposed the establishment of three working groups that would meet separately to deliberate and propose recommendations to the Plenary Assembly. The working groups approved by the Plenary Assembly were as follows:

- **Working Group 1: *Weak Rule of Law, a Threat to Citizen Security***

Chair: Germán Blanco Álvarez,  
Member of the Chamber of  
Representatives (Colombia)

Invited Experts: Marco Castillo, Director General,  
Grupo Ceiba

Howard Fenton, Director,  
Democratic Governance and  
Rule of Law LL.M. Program, and  
Professor of Law, Ohio Northern  
University

- **Working Group 2: *The Impact of the Global Economic Crisis on the Americas***

Chairs: María Jeannette Ruiz Delgado,  
Member of the Legislative  
Assembly (Costa Rica)



*Expert Howard Fenton  
(Ohio Northern University)*



*Expert Ottón Solís  
(University of Costa Rica)*

Michael L. MacDonald, Senator  
(Canada)

Invited Experts: Ottón Solís Fallas, Professor,  
University of Costa Rica

Laura Gómez-Mera, Residential  
Fellow, Woodrow Wilson  
International Center for Scholars

- **Working Group 3: *Climate Change and the Environment***

Chair: Ignacio Urrutia Bonilla, Member  
of the Chamber of Deputies  
(Chile)

Invited Experts: Michelle Michot Foss, Chief  
Energy Economist, Center for  
Energy Economics, University  
of Texas

Margarita Astrálaga, Regional  
Director, United Nations  
Environment Programme (UNEP)  
— Regional Office for Latin  
America and the Caribbean

In addition to the three working groups established by the Plenary Assembly, the Group of Women Parliamentarians also held its eighth meeting.



- **Eighth Meeting of the Group of Women Parliamentarians: *Financial Crisis and its Effects on Women in the Region***

Chair: Linda Machuca Moscoso,  
President of the Group of Women  
Parliamentarians, and Member of  
the National Assembly (Ecuador)

Invited Expert: Mayra Buvinic, Senior Fellow,  
United Nations Foundation

*See Appendices 7, 8, 9, and 10 for biographies  
of the invited experts and summaries of their  
presentations. For full articles, please visit  
[www.parlAmericas.org](http://www.parlAmericas.org).*

### **3.8 Keynote Address: *Weak Rule of Law and Citizen Security* — Major Pricilla de Oliveira Azevedo, Coordinator of Strategic Programs for Police Pacification Units (UPPs), Rio de Janeiro State Secretariat of Security, Brazil**

Prior to the working group sessions, the Chair introduced Major Pricilla de Oliveira Azevedo, who gave a powerful talk about weak rule of law and citizen security. She focused on the State of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, where she has been working for the past few years.

Pricilla Azevedo stated that during the nineties, both youth participation in criminal activities and the general level of violence increased. At this time, citizens did not identify with the community and there was an absence of security policies. In this context, Police Pacification Units were created to ensure a long-lasting presence for the state, and to take specific actions geared towards pacification and restoring public order.

The police pacification program is based on local management and community policing principles, and is implemented by recently graduated police



*Keynote Speaker Pricilla Azevedo (Rio de Janeiro State Secretariat of Security)*

officers focusing on low-income neighbourhoods in which criminal groups have installed themselves.

According to projections, by 2014 there will be 40 Police Pacification Units with 12,500 police officers involved, and the program will have benefited 860,000 people in 165 communities.

*See Appendix 5 for background information on this topic.*

## **4 Final Session of the Plenary Assembly**

The second and final session of the 9th Plenary Assembly was held on the morning of Saturday, 1 September 2012. The Chair, Víctor Juliao III, opened the session by pointing out how interesting the debates held during the past days had been. Before calling the working group chairs to present their conclusions, he let the Plenary Assembly know the new composition of the Board of Directors.



## 4.1 Board of Directors

Chair Víctor Juliao III shared election results with participants.

Three positions were filled by acclamation, while one position remained vacant, as follows:

SUB-REGION	ELECTED NATIONAL LEGISLATURE
North America	Canada
The Caribbean	Jamaica
Central America	Vacant
South America	Colombia

The Chair congratulated the elected national legislatures and thanked members who were finishing their mandates.

*See Appendix 6 for the list of the new Board of Directors.*

## 4.2 Presentation and Consideration of Working Group Recommendations

The Chair of the Plenary Assembly then invited the working group chairs to present the summaries of the deliberations held during working group sessions. The recommendations brought forward by

each group were reported to the Plenary Assembly for consideration.

*See Appendices 7, 8, 9 and 10 for the overview and recommendations of the working groups and the Eighth Meeting of the Group of Women Parliamentarians.*

### 4.2.1 Working Group 1: *Weak Rule of Law, a Threat to Citizen Security*

Germán Blanco Álvarez, Chair of Working Group 1, gave a brief overview of the topics that were addressed by the experts, and presented the recommendations agreed to by the group. Eleven parliamentarians from seven member countries participated in this working group. There were also six observers.

The group's recommendations highlighted the important role respected community leaders can play in fulfilling social needs through legitimate structures, and the necessity of setting out clear rules so citizens can better hold public officers to account. The recommendations also called for an increase in participatory budgeting and the development of capacity for public audits.

The recommendations were unanimously adopted without amendments.

### 4.2.2 Working Group 2: *The Impact of the Global Economic Crisis on the Americas*

María Jeannette Ruiz Delgado and Michael L. MacDonald chaired the debate of this working group, which discussed the impact of the global economic crisis on the Americas. Fifteen parliamentarians from nine member countries participated in the working group sessions. Six observers were also present.

María Jeannette Ruiz shared highlights of the working group's debate with the plenary. She explained how a potential slowdown in China's economy could affect the Latin American commodity sector negatively, and then presented the



*Germán Blanco (Colombia)*





*Michael L. MacDonald (Canada), in the forefront and María Jeannette Ruiz (Costa Rica), in the background.*

conclusions and final recommendations resulting from the sessions.

The group concluded that laws that promote macroeconomic and structural management tools are key elements in protecting countries against external threats to their economies. The group recommended promoting legislation to improve competitiveness, and strengthening the independence of oversight bodies to enhance transparency. The importance of fostering industrial development and distributing wealth, and the potential advantages of integrating returning migrants in the economy were also mentioned.

The recommendations were unanimously adopted without amendments.

#### **4.2.3 Working Group 3: *Climate Change and the Environment***

Ignacio Urrutia Bonilla, Chair of Working Group 3, told the plenary that the debate in the working group sessions had been very lively, with opposite points of view presented by each expert. Nine parliamentarians from six member countries

participated in this working group. In addition, there was one observer.

Ignacio Urrutia presented the recommendations of the working group. The group recommended that each state should, according to its possibilities, aim for the diversification of energy sources that are compatible with protecting the environment. The group also recommended promoting sustainable development through the exchange of technology and knowledge between developed and developing countries, and seeking supranational support to promote a green economy.

The recommendations were unanimously adopted without amendments.

#### **4.2.4 Eighth Meeting of the Group of Women Parliamentarians: *Financial Crisis and its Effects on Women in the Region***

The President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians, Linda Machuca Moscoso, was given the floor to report on the eighth meeting of the group. The two sessions of the meeting were attended by 36 delegates from 13 member countries. There were also 11 observers.



*Ignacio Urrutia (Chile) and Michelle Foss (University of Texas)*





President Machuca expressed her pleasure at announcing a newly created Executive Committee for the Group of Women Parliamentarians. She welcomed the Group's new Vice-President, Speaker of the National Assembly of Suriname, Jennifer Simons, and the Group's new Secretary, Member of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile, Mónica Zalaquett Said.

President Machuca then presented the recommendations brought forward during the two sessions. The group recommended that in times of economic contraction, the private sector be encouraged to hire women, and that more and better centres for people who need care be established so women are able to work outside their homes. The group also pointed out the importance of making available financial services for low-income women, and public funded job-training program for girls.

The recommendations were unanimously adopted without amendments.

#### 4.3 Remarks by the President of ParlAmericas

The President of ParlAmericas, Randy Hoback, addressed the plenary, thanking everyone for their attendance. He highlighted the achievements of the working group chairs, and praised them for having kept the sessions focused. President Hoback also



*Randy Hoback (Canada), Víctor Juliao (Panama) and Linda Machuca (Ecuador)*



*Linda Machuca (Ecuador), Mónica Zalaquett (Chile) and Jennifer Simons (Suriname)*

noted his appreciation of the way parliamentarians had worked among themselves, showing respect, listening to each other, and engaging in discussion. He also acknowledged the experts' contribution in setting the tone for the debate.

After thanking all the staff involved in the organization of the Plenary Assembly, and the interpreters, President Hoback gave Chair Víctor Juliao III an aboriginal native print from Canada as a token of appreciation.

#### 4.4 Closing

The Chair, Víctor Juliao III, thanked President Randy Hoback and the staff of ParlAmericas, the team of the National Assembly and the International Relations Unit of Panama, the Sheraton Hotel, and the interpreters.

Víctor Juliao also expressed his happiness at the success of the 9th Plenary Assembly, and gave special thanks to parliamentarians for continuing to strengthen ParlAmericas through their participation. He stressed the value of the new friendships that had been created and closed the meeting.



# Appendices

## Appendix 1 • List of Participants

### Delegates

#### President of ParlAmericas

Randy Hoback, Member of Parliament, Canada

#### Argentina

Alicia Marcela Comelli, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Olga Elizabeth Guzmán, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

María Cristina Regazzoli, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Mariana Alejandra Veaute, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

José Antonio Vilariño, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Walter Raúl Wayar, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

#### Canada

Scott Andrews, Member of Parliament

Hélène Laverdière, Member of Parliament

Michael L. MacDonald, Senator

James Joseph Rajotte, Member of Parliament

Pierrette Ringuette, Senator

#### Chile

Germán Becker Alvear, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Guillermo Ceroni Fuentes, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Javier Hernández Hernández, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Jorge Sabag Villalobos, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Alejandra Sepúlveda Orbenes, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Ignacio Urrutia Bonilla, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Mónica Zalaquett Said, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

#### Colombia

Germán Blanco Álvarez, Member of the Chamber of Representatives

Adolfo León Rengifo Santibáñez, Member of the Chamber of Representatives

#### Costa Rica

María Jeannette Ruiz Delgado, Member of the Legislative Assembly

#### Cuba

Armando Torres Aguirre, Member of the National Assembly

#### Ecuador

Linda Machuca Moscoso, Member of the National Assembly

Patricio Quevedo Quiróz, Member of the National Assembly

#### El Salvador

Félix Agreda Chachagua, Member of the Legislative Assembly

Blanca Noemí Coto Estrada, Member of the Legislative Assembly

Silvia Ostorga de Escobar, Member of the Legislative Assembly

Mario Antonio Ponce López, Member of the Legislative Assembly

Guadalupe Antonio Vásquez Martínez, Member of the Legislative Assembly

#### Jamaica

Hugh Carl Buchanan, Member of Parliament

#### Mexico

Adriana González Carrillo, Senator

#### Panama

Dalia Mirna Bernal Yáñez, Member of the National Assembly

Elías Ariel Castillo González, Member of the National Assembly

Irene Gallego, Member of the National Assembly

Raúl Hernández, Member of the National Assembly



Víctor Juliao III, Member of the National Assembly  
Luis Lay Milanés, Member of the National Assembly

#### **Paraguay**

Hugo Estigarribia Gutiérrez, Senator  
Amancio López Irala, Senator  
María Digna Roa Rojas, Senator

#### **Suriname**

Martha Djojoseparto, Member of the National Assembly  
Ramses Kajoeramari, Member of the National Assembly  
Jennifer Simons, Speaker of the National Assembly  
Lekhram Soerdjan, Member of the National Assembly

#### **Venezuela**

Dinorah Jaxilda Figuera Tovar, Member of the National Assembly

#### **Observers**

##### **Canada**

Carl Tyler Hageraats, Political Intern at the Canadian Embassy in Panama

##### **Organization of American States (OAS)**

Moisés Benamor, Secretariat for Political Affairs

##### **Panama**

Luis Dávila, Alternate Member of the National Assembly  
Vicente Gálvez Gómez, Alternate Member of the National Assembly  
Zaida González, Alternate Member of the National Assembly  
Julio Luque Garay, Alternate Member of the National Assembly

##### **Russian Federation**

Andrey Klishas, Senator  
Georgy Polin, Representative of the Russian Embassy in Panama  
Alexander Savenkov, Senator  
Irina Zolotareva, Foreign Affairs Department

#### **The Netherlands (Sint Maarten)**

Gracita Regina Arrindell, Member of Parliament  
Romain Jules Laville, Member of Parliament  
George Cleophus Pantophlet, Member of Parliament

#### **United Kingdom (Bermuda)**

Patricia Gordon-Pamplin, Member of Parliament

#### **United Kingdom (Falkland Islands)**

Barry Elsby, Member of the Legislative Assembly  
Richard Sawle, Member of the Legislative Assembly

#### **World Bank**

Mozammel Hoque, Senior Financial Management Specialist

#### **Invited Experts and Other Guests**

##### **Argentina**

Laura Gómez-Mera, Residential Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and Assistant Professor, Department of International Studies, University of Miami

##### **Brazil**

Pricilla de Oliveira Azevedo, General Coordinator of Strategic Programs for the Police Pacification Units, Rio de Janeiro State Secretariat of Security

##### **Canada**

Jason Spensley, Head of the Climate Change Adaptation Unit, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) — Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

##### **Chile**

Mayra Buvinic, Senior Fellow, United Nations Foundation

##### **Colombia**

Margarita Astrálaga, Regional Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) — Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

##### **Costa Rica**

Ottón Solís Fallas, Professor, University of Costa Rica



### **Guatemala**

Marco Castillo, Director General, Grupo Ceiba

### **United States of America**

Howard Fenton, Director, Democratic Governance and Rule of Law LL.M. Program, and Professor of Law, Ohio Northern University

Michelle Foss, Chief Energy Economist, Center for Energy Economics (CEE), University of Texas

### **Accompanying Staff**

#### **Canadian Section of ParlAmericas, Parliament of Canada**

Leif-Erik Aune, Association Secretary

Andre Barnes, Analyst at the Library of Parliament

Guyanne Lalande-Desforges, Association Secretary

### **El Salvador**

Orquídea Judith Zepeda Suriano, Parliamentary Assistant to Silvia Ostorga de Escobar

### **International Secretariat of ParlAmericas**

Gina Hill, Director General

Thaïs Martín Navas, Project and Communications Officer

Michel Rathier, Consultant

Viviane Rossini, Program Manager

Eufemia Sánchez Borja, Consultant to the Group of Women Parliamentarians

Marcelo Virkel, Event Logistics and Administration Officer

### **Suriname**

Reina Raveles, Policy Expert



*Germán Blanco (Colombia), Adriana González (Mexico), Michael L. MacDonald (Canada), Ignacio Urrutia (Chile) and Gina Hill (ParlAmericas)*

## Appendix 2 • Agenda

### Thursday, 30 August 2012

- 08:30 - 09:45 **Opening Session of the 9th Plenary Assembly**
- 09:45 - 10:00 Official Photograph
- 10:00 - 10:15 Coffee break
- 10:15 - 11:15 **First Session of the Plenary Assembly**
- 11:15 - 12:00 **Keynote Address**  
Major Pricilla de Oliveira Azevedo (Rio de Janeiro State Secretariat of Security)
- 12:00 - 13:30 Lunch at the hotel
- 13:30 - 15:30 **Financial Crisis and its Effects on Women in the Region. Session 1**  
Expert: Mayra Buvinic (UNF)  
Organized by the Group of Women Parliamentarians
- 15:30 - 15:45 Coffee break
- 15:45 - 18:15 **Working Group Sessions. Session 1**  
**Group 1: Weak Rule of Law, a Threat to Citizen Security**  
Experts: Marco Castillo (Grupo Ceiba) / Howard Fenton (Ohio Northern University)  
**Group 2: The Impact of the Global Economic Crisis on the Americas**  
Experts: Ottón Solís Fallas (University of Costa Rica) / Laura Gómez-Mera (Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars)  
**Group 3: Climate Change and the Environment**  
Experts: Michelle Michot Foss (CEE) / Margarita Astrálaga (UNEP)
- 19:00 - 21:30 Dinner at Casa Amarilla, Presidencia de la República

### Friday, 31 August 2012

- 08:30 - 10:00 **Financial Crisis and its Effects on Women in the Region. Session 2**
- 10:00 - 10:15 Coffee break
- 10:15 - 13:15 **Working Group Sessions. Session 2**
- 13:15 - 14:45 Lunch at the hotel
- 14:45 - 16:45 **Working Group Sessions. Session 3**
- 17:00 - 19:30 Touristic activity: Canal de Panamá (Miraflores)
- 20:00 - 22:30 Dinner. Miraflores Restaurant

### Saturday, 1 September 2012

- 09:00 - 12:30 **Second Session of the Plenary Assembly**
- 12:30 - 14:30 Lunch at the hotel
- 13:00 - 15:00 **Meeting and Lunch of ParlAmericas Board of Directors**



## Appendix 3 • Annual Report of the President of ParlAmericas

*As parliamentarians, we are becoming more aware that the concerns and issues faced by our countries cannot be seen in isolation, but must be approached from a shared perspective. It is through dialogue promoted by organizations such as ParlAmericas that we can learn from one another, and commit to the positive interaction that will allow us to improve not only the economic, social and cultural conditions of our own countries, but those of our hemisphere as a whole.*

I am delighted to share with you an overview of the year 2011–2012 of ParlAmericas. We have had an eventful year since we were last together at the Plenary Assembly in Asuncion, Paraguay in September 2011. Here are some of the highlights.

### **New Brand, Website, and Newsletter**

At the last Plenary Assembly, we introduced the new look of ParlAmericas — which in itself was a new name for the organization. We have since formally made the transition to the new brand, and have received very positive feedback.

In addition, in late 2011 we launched the new website. It is a comprehensive site, giving access to information about the organization's events and activities, as well as providing feeds of current news on the Americas in all four languages of ParlAmericas. We have almost completed uploading historical material from the organization's ten years in existence, and I encourage you to visit the site to learn more about ParlAmericas and to stay up to date on our activities.

Since the last Plenary Assembly, we have produced two issues of the new newsletter, *ParlAmericas Express*. This electronic publication brings news of the organization, and links to resources on current hemispheric issues, right to the email of virtually all

parliamentarians in the hemisphere. *ParlAmericas Express* is a good avenue for sharing news from your parliament with others in the Americas. I hope you have had the chance to enjoy the newsletter — if you have not seen it yet, it is also accessible on our website.

### **Training for Parliamentarians: Budget Oversight Workshop**

In January, ParlAmericas held a two-day regional workshop, the Caribbean Workshop on Strengthening Parliamentary Oversight, which was attended by Parliamentarians and Auditors General from 13 Caribbean countries and two territories in the region. The workshop was hosted by the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda, and had the following objectives: sharing best practices from the Public Accounts Committees (PACs) of larger Caribbean legislatures, considering ways to strengthen the relationship between the Auditor General and the PAC, discussing how to strengthen the committee system, and increasing regional knowledge sharing around budgetary oversight.


ParlAmericas partnered with the Caribbean Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (CAROSAI), the Canadian Comprehensive Auditing Foundation (CCAF-FCVI Inc.), the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and the World Bank to broaden participation and increase the richness of the discussion and resulting recommendations for regional work in the area.

### **MOU with OAS**

In February, member parliaments and staff celebrated the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between ParlAmericas and the OAS regarding a framework to enhance cooperation and interaction in areas of common concern, in particular, democracy, legal systems, and the rule of law. The document is the highly anticipated result of almost two years of negotiations between the two organizations and much effort from ParlAmericas coordinators.







The MOU identifies areas of cooperation between the two institutions relating to databases, ParlAmericas' role as a legislative forum for the OAS, parliamentary exchanges, women's rights and gender issues, and sub-regional communications hubs. The two organizations are now considering how partnership activities can be best implemented.

### **Summit of the Americas**

We were pleased to support the efforts of the Parlamento Andino in hosting an inter-parliamentary dialogue prior to the Summit of the Americas in Cartagena, Colombia, in April. There was participation from eight countries and several regional parliamentary associations of the hemisphere. A final declaration of 11 points was submitted to the Heads of State gathering for the Summit of the Americas.

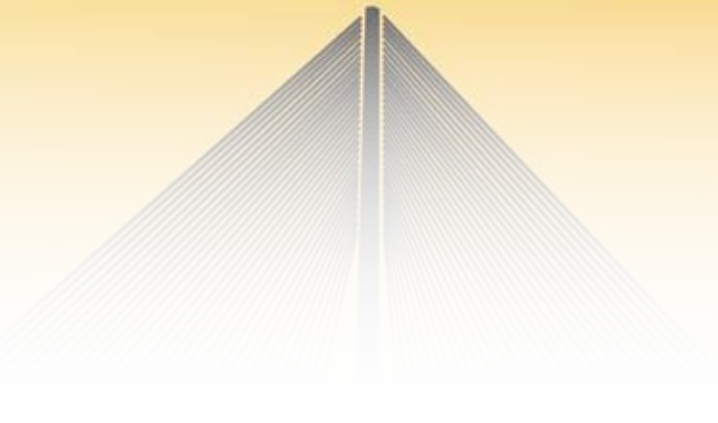
### **Gathering of the Group of Women Parliamentarians**

In May, the Group of Women Parliamentarians of ParlAmericas held a well-attended Gathering hosted by the Chamber of Deputies of Chile in Valparaiso. We were delighted to have the participation of 47 Parliamentarians from 23 countries at the event entitled "Citizen Security for Women, a Parliamentary Task." The topics discussed were:

- Comparative study of gender-based violence in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Femicide
- How national budgets are adjusted to the needs of security issues
- Political participation of women in Chile (special panel)

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

### **Board of Directors Meetings**



Since the last Plenary Assembly, the Board of Directors has met three times: in Manzanillo, Mexico, in February; in Valparaiso, Chile, in May; and here in Panama City prior to this Plenary Assembly.

One of the key elements of the Strategic Plan approved by the Plenary Assembly last year is reviewing and updating the organization's Regulations. This has been a major focus of the Board of Directors over the past year, and I am pleased to tell you that we are very close to finalizing a much more comprehensive governance tool, which will stand ParlAmericas in good stead far into the future. Once these Regulations are finalized, they will be made public for the information of all ParlAmericas members and stakeholders.

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 participating as observers at the FOPREL Inter-Parliamentary Commission on Security and Justice, and being invited to speak at the Regional Conference on Open Government and Transparency in Extractive Industries in Latin America and the Caribbean. 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 Director General, Gina Hill, is sitting beside me, and the other team members are also here in Panama City, coordinating this event.

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), and
- the membership dues paid by your Parliaments.

While we continue to seek to diversify our funding, the fees we receive from member countries are crucial to our operations. I thank those countries who regularly pay their fees, and those who support ParlAmericas in other ways. I take this opportunity to 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 2012–2013 cycle.

With your support, we can bring more Parliamentarians into the ParlAmericas family, as we seek to fulfill our mission of improving and enhancing national and hemispheric democratic processes by providing a leadership forum that channels a continuous conversation on key issues of common concern throughout the Americas.

I wish you a productive and stimulating Plenary Assembly.

**Randy Hoback, M.P.**  
**Parliament of Canada**  
**President, ParlAmericas**



*Randy Hoback (Canada)*



## Appendix 4 • Resolutions Adopted during the 9th Plenary Assembly

### Resolution ParlAmericas/PA9/2012/RES.1: Staggering Terms of the Directly Elected Members of the Board of Directors

*As adopted at Plenary Assembly of 30 August 2012*

**Whereas** the current election cycle of the ParlAmericas Board of Directors has the President, the First Vice-President, and the President of the Women's Group / Second Vice-President all elected on the same two-year cycle;

**Given** that good governance practice would be to have a staggered cycle of elections for the three directly elected senior positions of the Board of Directors; and

**Further given** that there is a stated presumption in the Regulations that the First Vice-President may succeed the President when the latter completes his/her mandate and does not seek re-election;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the current mandates of the President and the First Vice-President scheduled to end in 2013, be extended by one year, so as to end in 2014; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that both mandates then revert to two-year cycles, that is, the subsequent cycle would be from 2014 to 2016.

### Resolution ParlAmericas/PA9/2012/RES.2: Declaration on International Migration

*As adopted at Plenary Assembly of 30 August 2012*

#### CONSIDERATIONS

**Aware** of the fact that international migration is an essential item of the agenda of our organization's member countries;

**Underscoring** that migration is an issue of hemispheric importance that carries implications for the development of our peoples;

**Recognizing** that our countries are witness to different manifestations of international migration that turn them into countries of origin, transit, destination and return for migrants;

**Considering** that, according to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM),<sup>1</sup> "... there has been increasing global awareness of the different forms of movement — regular and irregular, voluntary and forced — and the impact of this movement on social, economic, and political sectors of all countries";

**Noting** that our Parliaments may not ignore the migration agenda, and that our organization should ascribe to it a far more important role in the inter-parliamentary dialogue on hemispheric issues;


**Acknowledging** and welcoming the general trend towards the strengthening of migrants' human rights irrespective of their nationality, ethnicity, gender, age and migratory situation, further underscoring the attention to be given to vulnerable groups such as women, children and adolescents, elderly people and victims of organized crime;

**Knowing** that, as per IOM figures, the estimated number of international migrants globally has increased in recent years to almost 214 million people, i.e. 3.1% of the global population (if brought together, migrants would constitute the fifth most populated country in the world);

**Aware** of the importance of immigrants for all countries of the Hemisphere, where they have become a significant population segment;

1 International Organization for Migration: <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/about-migration/developing-migration-policy/lang/en/pid/269>





**Underscoring** that millions of undocumented immigrants are estimated to live in various countries of our Hemisphere, with the great majority of them coming from Central America, South America and the Caribbean;

The Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas hereby

**RESOLVES**

- I. To urge candidates to the various elective positions, in all countries, to responsibly partake in the public discussion on international migration. We favour a discussion that underscores the shared responsibility of all members of the international community, and the need to have a legal framework in place that respects the human rights of migrants.
- II. To acknowledge the efforts made in some member countries at both a federal and local level, to favour laws that recognize the commercial, political, cultural and intellectual contribution that migrants make to our societies.
- III. To salute and support the process whereby some member States have invested in the human capital offered by immigrants through schemes such as the Dream Act in the USA, and have supported the establishment of mechanisms to regularize the situation of immigrants that contribute their intellectual and human capital to our countries.
- IV. To share the best practices implemented in ParlAmericas member countries through initiatives for the discussion and harmonization of policies as they relate to constitutional, legislative and public policy reforms in favour of a legal, safe and orderly immigration.
- V. To bear in mind the need to promote the adequate management of labour migration, further acknowledging the complementarity of labour markets, and to facilitate labour mobility while recognizing the contribution that migrants make to their societies of origin and destination.



## Appendix 5 • Keynote Address

### **Pricilla de Oliveira Azevedo, General Coordinator of Strategic Programs for the Police Pacification Units, Rio de Janeiro State Secretariat of Security (Brazil)**

Pricilla Azevedo is a military police officer, currently working as Coordinator of Strategic Programs for the Police Pacification Units (UPPs), the *favela* (slum) pacification program of the Rio de Janeiro State Secretariat of Security. In 2007, she demonstrated extreme courage and commitment to her duties by successfully arresting a gang of criminals who had kidnapped her. Between 2008 and 2010, she shut down drug dealing operations in the favela of Santa Marta, established conflict mediation models, worked with state and local government institutions to improve garbage collection and health care, broadened education and technical training opportunities, and developed successful community arts and crafts fair. In 2012, she was awarded the International Women of Courage Award by the U.S. State Department.

### **Background Information on Police Pacification Units**

The Police Pacification Units (Portuguese: *Unidades de Polícia Pacificadora*, acronym UPPs) represent a new public security and patrolling model that promotes closer ties between people and police, and transform the latter into an ally for the strengthening of social policies within communities. By taking back areas that were occupied for decades by drug traffickers and lately by paramilitaries, the UPPs have brought peace to dozens of communities.

Each UPP is an important “weapon” used by the government of the State of Rio de Janeiro and the Secretariat of Security to recover territories from traffickers and to bring social inclusion to the most disadvantaged segment of the population. Presently, UPPs benefit approximately 280,000 people.

Established by the current administration of the Secretariat of Security, the UPPs follow the principles of community policing. Community policing is a concept and a strategy based on the collaboration between people and public security institutions. The State of Rio de Janeiro is investing 15,000,000 Brazilian Real (US\$7,410,000) in its Police Academy in order to train approximately 60,000 police officers within the state before the end of 2016.



*Pricilla Azevedo (Rio de Janeiro State Secretariat of Security), Víctor Juliao (Panama) and Randy Hoback (Canada)*

## Appendix 6 • Board of Directors of ParlAmericas 2012–2013

POSITION	INDIVIDUAL <sup>1</sup>	NATIONAL LEGISLATURE	TENURE
<b>Elected at 9th Plenary Assembly (positions were filled by acclamation)</b>			
<b>North America</b>	To be confirmed	Canada	2012-2014
<b>Central America</b>		Vacant	2012-2014
<b>South America</b>	Germán Blanco Álvarez, Member of the Chamber of Representatives	Colombia	2012-2014
<b>Caribbean</b>	Hugh Carl Buchanan, Member of Parliament	Jamaica	2012-2014
<b>Returning Members</b>			
<b>President</b>	Randy Hoback, Member of Parliament	Canada	2011-2014
<b>1st Vice-President</b>	Víctor Juliao III, Member of the National Assembly	Panama	2011-2014
<b>President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians and 2nd Vice-President</b>	Linda Machuca Moscoso, Member of the National Assembly	Ecuador	2011-2013
<b>North America</b>	Adriana González Carrillo, Senator	Mexico	2011-2013
<b>North America</b>		Vacant	2011-2013
<b>Central America</b>	To be confirmed	El Salvador	2011-2013
<b>Central America</b>	María Jeannette Ruiz Delgado, Member of the Legislative Assembly	Costa Rica	2011-2013
<b>Caribbean</b>	Armando Torres Aguirre, Member of the National Assembly	Cuba	2011-2013
<b>Caribbean</b>		Vacant	2011-2013
<b>South America</b>	Alberto Grillón Conigliaro, Senator	Paraguay	2011-2013
<b>South America</b>	Ignacio Urrutia Bonilla, Member of the Chamber of Deputies	Chile	2011-2013
<b>Host of the 10th Plenary Assembly</b>		Vacant	2012-2013
<b>Immediate Past President</b>		Vacant	
<b>Director General</b>	Gina Hill	International Secretariat	

<sup>1</sup> Individuals confirmed as at time of report publication.



## Appendix 7 • Working Group 1: *Weak Rule of Law, a Threat to Citizen Security*

**Chair: Germán Blanco Álvarez, Member of the  
Chamber of Representatives (Colombia)**

### 1. Objectives

- Analyze how administrative justice and security are related
- Study current programs (public benefits, individual licensing and permitting, regulatory programs with individual impact)
- Study the application of the rule of law to administrative justice
- Analyze the adaptation of local microstructures in the democratic rule of law
- Study social microstructures and new leadership systems
- Study social microstructures that weaken the rule of law

### 2. Marco Antonio Castillo, Director General, Grupo Ceiba (Guatemala)

Marco Castillo holds a Baccalaureate in Pedagogy, a Master's Degree in Curricular Education and a Postgraduate Degree in Alterity and Education. He has worked in the fields of popular education, educational curriculum and social research since early in his career. He conducts research and activities in the fields of construction of urban peace, mediation, and transformation and resolution of community disputes, and received the Today's Peacemakers Award from the American Friends Service Committee in 2010 for his work in communities facing a significant number of conflicts and disputes.

## From Local Microstructures to Democratic Rule of Law (Summary)

For complete article visit [www.parlamerica.org](http://www.parlamerica.org).

The Rule of Law appears a necessary requirement for a free, distributive society, but it is not enough. We assume that political institutions do not restrict political action and projects, but rather provide the ground to debate social reform and act upon it. Today, legitimacy and legality, two values inherent to democratic citizenry, face politics with the pressing need to develop social networks. These in turn should acknowledge their role as the social foundation for change, and as the true representatives of citizens in a state of democracy (citizens who are sunken in violence, neglected by government, silently preserving the very essence of democracy within their communities).

Contemporary (or post-modern) democracies are necessarily participatory and representative political systems. The dilemma therefore lies in building a Rule of Law that acknowledges local social structures at a micro level and respects the very essence of participatory democracy, and which acts as the right forum to allow the emergence of those leaders who remain hidden and invisible for fear of punishment and repression, and also as a passive defence mechanism.

Voting does not suffice in today's democracy; social networks must be urgently reorganized and provided with legality and political legitimacy. This means that participation in and the construction of a Democratic State must be based on grass roots organized as microstructures within the community with sufficient representation and a space of their own, so that they do not fall victim of clientelism, of loyalty buying or simply remain silent for fear of repression.



*Dinorah Figuera (Venezuela)*

Putting forward the idea that one of the core principles of modern democracies must be the recognition and defence of the fundamental rights of minorities in group decisions implies the Rule of Law guaranteeing the right of any man (even if he is the only one) to oppose a majority decision. As a result, both democracy and the Rule of Law acknowledge local structures at a micro level represented by individual citizens.

### **3. Howard N. Fenton, Director, Democratic Governance and Rule of Law LL.M. Program, and Professor of Law, Ohio Northern University (USA)**

Howard Fenton is Professor of Law and the founding Director of the Democratic Governance and Rule of Law LL.M. Program at Ohio Northern

University. He received his B.S. and J.D. degrees with honours from the University of Texas. He practiced international trade law in Washington, D.C. for nine years before becoming a law professor in 1984. He teaches Public Law and Legal Process, Comparative Administrative Law and the Rule of Law Seminar. He is an active consultant on administrative law reform for USAID, and has served on seven dispute settlement panels under the North American Free Trade Agreement.

#### **How Administrative Justice and Security are Related (Summary)**

For complete article visit [www.parlAmericas.org](http://www.parlAmericas.org).

Defining citizen security in the context of the rule of law can embrace a number of different concerns. If we posit that the rule of law, at its core, is a set of democratically achieved laws administered in a fair and transparent manner, three categories of justice and security can be identified. Criminal justice, civil justice, and administrative justice all directly affect the lives and security of citizens.

Administrative justice is the most neglected manifestation of the rule of law but in many ways is also the most pervasive. Arbitrary application of government procedures for individual benefits such as employment, unemployment, pensions, and medical services, as well as individual business and professional licenses and permits deprives citizens of fair protection of their livelihoods. Failure of the rule of law in the administration of government not only threatens the wellbeing of citizens, it undermines their confidence in the government and creates openings for petty corruption to secure benefits denied by failed administrative systems.

Administrative justice also involves more state actors than either criminal or civil justice. While the judiciary plays a pervasive role in sustaining the rule of law in all three sectors and shares that responsibility with the prosecutors in the criminal justice context, in the provision of administrative



justice the role of the courts has less impact than in the other two areas. Administrative justice combines the efforts of the legislators, the executive and government, as well as the judiciary. Thus, it is the domain that is most vulnerable to weaknesses in the functioning of all three branches of government under the rule of law, while at the same time being the area that has the broadest impact on the citizenry.

#### 4. Recommendations

- Identify and recognize local social microstructures even if they have not achieved institutional recognition; i.e., leaders who have earned respect in their local social structures through their informal activities, and therefore are able to meet social needs through legitimate structures.
- Strengthen citizen security through participatory budgeting, in the understanding that the community itself can identify its main needs for social investment.
- Develop the capacity for citizens to engage in social auditing (social monitors, public watchdogs, etc.) as a process of continuing improvement in which all community sectors are involved, and which results in recommendations for corrective or remedial actions.
- Establish clear and understandable regulations and descriptions of responsibilities in the public sphere, in order for citizens to readily understand and assess the adequacy and quality of public services, and compel the local authority to consider and respond to citizens' claims.
- Strengthen law enforcement by establishing adequate systems of audit, control, and limits, towards efficient functioning and benefit to the community.

#### 5. Working Group Participants

COUNTRY	PARTICIPANT	POSITION
Argentina	Alicia Marcela Comelli	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Argentina	María Cristina Regazzoli	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Canada	Scott Andrews	Member of Parliament
Chile	Mónica Zalaquett Said	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Panama	Víctor Juliao III	Member of the National Assembly
Paraguay	Hugo Estigarribia Gutiérrez	Senator
Paraguay	Amancio López Irala	Senator
Paraguay	María Digna Roa Rojas	Senator
Suriname	Martha Djojoseparto	Member of the National Assembly
Suriname	Lekhram Soerdjan	Member of the National Assembly
Venezuela	Dinorah Jaxilda Figuera Tovar	Member of the National Assembly





## Appendix 8 • Working Group 2: *The Impact of the Global Economic Crisis on the Americas*

**Chairs:** María Jeannette Ruiz Delgado, Member of the Legislative Assembly (Costa Rica) and Michael L. MacDonald, Senator (Canada)

### 1. Objectives

- Analyze the political and social consequences of the global economic crisis
- Study to what extent and how the global crisis affected political dynamics and democratic governance in the Americas
- Study current fiscal and social policy responses to the crisis
- Analyze the “China effect” in mitigating the impact of the global economic crisis in the Americas

### 2. Laura Gómez-Mera, Residential Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (Argentina)

Laura Gómez-Mera holds a Ph.D. in International Relations and Politics from Oxford University and a Master's Degree in International Political Economy from the London School of Economics. She has been visiting professor at the Columbia University Institute of Latin American Studies (2004-2005), and has lectured at the Metropolitan College in New York, and at New York University. She has also been a consultant for the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme/Asia-Pacific. Her research includes regional trade agreements, trade conflict policy and international relations in developing countries, with a special emphasis on foreign economic policy decisions in Latin America.

### The Social and Political Consequences of the International Financial Crisis in Latin America (Summary)


For complete article visit [www.parlamerica.org](http://www.parlamerica.org).

The latest international financial crises began with the collapse of the mortgage market in the United States in 2007, expanding first to investment markets and subsequently to the real side of the economy. Turmoil in financial markets led to a marked decline in levels of consumption, investment and growth expectations. Although the epicentre of the crisis has been in the advanced industrial economies of North America and Europe, Latin American countries began to feel its adverse effects in 2009. In particular, the effects of the global financial and economic crisis reached Latin America and the Caribbean through three main mechanisms: a decline in the price of commodities and its resulting impact on export revenues, the irregular access to credit markets, and the interruption in foreign capital inflows.

These mechanisms, however, have affected individual countries in the region in different ways and to varying extents. After several years of expansion, 2009 saw many Latin American countries, including Mexico and Brazil, experiencing negative growth. Yet, in contrast to previous episodes of international crisis, Latin American countries experienced a quick rebound from the recent global downturn. Average growth rates, which had fallen to -1.7% in 2009, reached 5.7% in 2010.

An economic crisis of this magnitude typically generates high levels of uncertainty, weakening consumers' and investors' confidence and increasing social demands on the state. Growing pressures on political actors in a context of limited resources may weaken the legitimacy of institutions in democratic systems. How have Latin American





governments responded to the political and social dimensions of the global economic crisis? To what extent and in what ways has the crisis affected the stability of democratic governance in the region?

### **3. Ottón Solís Fallas, Professor, University of Costa Rica (Costa Rica)**

Ottón Solís Fallas is an Economist with degrees from the Universities of Costa Rica and Manchester (UK). He lectured at the Universities of Manchester and Reading in the United Kingdom, as well as in several Costa Rican higher education institutions. He has also been visiting professor at Florida and Notre Dame Universities in the USA. He has published academic papers, and has authored hundreds of editorials. He has also been Minister for Economic Policy and Planning, Deputy at the Costa Rican Parliament, and member of the Central Bank Executive Board. He was co-founder of the Partido Acción Ciudadana, which became the No. 2 political force in Costa Rica. He ran for the Presidency on three occasions, and was the second most voted candidate in two elections.

#### **Impact of the Economic Crisis in the Americas: the China Effect (Summary)**

For complete article visit [www.parlamericas.org](http://www.parlamericas.org).

Between 2003 and the economic crisis of 2008–2009, the main economies South of the Rio Bravo capitalized on the growth of the global economy through their exports. The downturn in the economy brought this “boom” to a sudden stop. However, the counter-cyclic fiscal and monetary measures that were taken in the region helped to mitigate the crisis.

At the beginning of the 21st Century, Latin America has had an acceptable economic performance. Prior to the global crisis, there were high growth rates and the economies in the region were improving through the reduction of inflation, the balance of payments equilibrium (or surplus), the

accumulation of international reserves, and the reduction of unemployment, inequity, and poverty.

Most analysts agree that this was possible due to macroeconomic and structural measures taken within the framework of the Washington Consensus. However, this explanation does not suffice since countries that have favoured a new sort of statism and have opposed free-market globalization also had a satisfactory economic performance.

Therefore, to better understand the behaviour of the economies in Latin America it is necessary to analyze other factors. The most important of these factors is the increasing role the Chinese economy has been playing in the demand of products, especially raw materials, from this region. But this primarization of the export structure that resulted from the intensification of the commercial relations with China presents a new set of challenges.

### **4. Recommendations**

- Promote internal legislation so that our countries have macroeconomic and structural management tools that strengthen them to better face potential changes in the world's state of affairs, in a way that makes it possible to take defensive action in case of external threats that could destabilize our economies.
- Legislate to promote – through public policies – management of knowledge of human resources, science and technology in order for our countries to become competitive, in local and international markets, in fields such as education, agriculture, health and industry.
- Legislate to strengthen the independence of the entities responsible for prosecuting corruption that causes an unfair distribution of wealth, and decreases confidence in democratic states, increasing political instability and social unrest.

- Create a legal framework that promotes the strengthening of domestic production, to satisfy internal demand and stop the commoditization of exports; this could be achieved through incentives for those producers who add value to their products, and also through legislation that causes an equitable distribution of wealth.
- Promote legislation that would turn the reintegration of migration flows into a positive factor for our economies.

## 5. Working Group Participants

COUNTRY	PARTICIPANT	POSITION
Argentina	Walter Raúl Wayar	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Canada	James Joseph Rajotte	Member of Parliament
Canada	Pierrette Ringuette	Senator
Chile	Alejandra Sepúlveda Orbenes	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Colombia	Adolfo León Rengifo Santibáñez	Member of the Chamber of Representatives
Ecuador	Linda Machuca Moscoso	Member of the National Assembly
Ecuador	Patricio Quevedo Quiróz	Member of the National Assembly
El Salvador	Félix Agreda Chachagua	Member of the Legislative Assembly
El Salvador	Blanca Noemí Coto Estrada	Member of the Legislative Assembly
El Salvador	Silvia Ostorga de Escobar	Member of the Legislative Assembly
El Salvador	Marco Antonio Ponce López	Member of the Legislative Assembly
El Salvador	Guadalupe Antonio Vásquez Martínez	Member of the Legislative Assembly
Mexico	Adriana González Carrillo	Senator
Panama	Raúl Hernández	Member of the National Assembly
Suriname	Jennifer Simons	Speaker of the National Assembly





## Appendix 9 • Working Group 3: *Climate Change and the Environment*

**Chair: Ignacio Urrutia Bonilla, Member of the Chamber of Deputies (Chile)**

### 1. Objectives

- Analyze extractive industries policy issues such as fiscal regimes and health, safety, environment (HSE) oversight
- Analyze the impacts of extractive industries on the environment and climate change (the “clean energy,” “green jobs” debates)
- Study current best practices in capacity building (how to improve poorly equipped government institutions and bodies)

### 2. Margarita Astrálaga, Regional Director, United Nations Environment Programme — Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (Colombia)

Margarita Astrálaga is a biologist, specialist in environmental management from the Danish Water Institute, and holds a Master's Degree in Regional Planning and Development. She has over 25 years of experience in the environment and sustainable development sector, and has held a wide range of responsibilities at the national and international levels. Among others she has worked at the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi, Kenya, and the Latin American and Caribbean Region of the Oceans and Coastal Areas Programme (1988), as Head of the Capacity Building Unit of the Secretariat of the Convention of Trade on Endangered Species (CITES) (1994-1997), as consultant for the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank on institutional strengthening of the Ministry of Environment and designing a biodiversity strategy for Patagonia,

and the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands as the Americas Senior Advisor (1999). Until April 2010, she worked for the International Union for Conservation of Nature as the Director of the IUCN Mediterranean Cooperation Centre in Spain, and now works for United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) as the Regional Director in the Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.


### Environment and Climate Change: Challenges and Trends with a Regional Perspective (Summary)

*For complete article visit [www.parlamerica.org](http://www.parlamerica.org).*

On the eve of the UN Conference for Sustainable Development Rio+20, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has submitted its fifth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-5). GEO-5 provides a scientific review of a selected set of environmental challenges, as well as of solutions available to respond to them, including their social and environmental costs, and the associated benefits. This report shows that the world continues to speed down an unsustainable path despite over 500 internationally agreed goals and objectives to support the sustainable management of the environment and improve human wellbeing.

GEO-5 assessed ninety of the most important environmental objectives and found that significant progress had only been made in four. These are eliminating the production and use of substances that deplete the ozone layer, removal of lead from fuel, increasing access to improved water supplies, and boosting research to reduce pollution of the marine environment.

Some progress was shown in forty goals, including the expansion of protected areas such as National Parks and efforts to reduce deforestation.



Little or no progress was detected for 24 — including climate change, fish stocks, and desertification and drought. Further deterioration was posted for eight goals including the state of the world's coral reefs, while no assessment was made of 14 other goals due to a lack of data.

### **3. Michelle Foss, Chief Energy Economist Expert, Center for Energy Economics of the University of Texas (USA)**

Michelle Foss holds a Ph.D. from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, the Colorado School of Mines and the University of Houston. She has over 30 years' experience in oil, gas, liquified natural gas (LNG), and energy prospects and scenarios. She is advisor to the USA and to several international power companies. She has developed and managed private, WB, USAID, and US Department of Energy projects. She is an Executive Trainer at the UT McCombs School of Business. She has been a Senior Fellow (USAEE-US Association for Energy Economics) (2006), selected as one of the Key Women in Energy-Americas (2003), member of the Scientific Council, 50th Anniversary of ENI (2003), President of IAEE (2003), and President of USAEE (2001), among others.

#### **The Extractive Industries Today: Climate Change and the Environment (Summary)**

*For complete article visit [www.parlAmericas.org](http://www.parlAmericas.org).*

The global commodity cycle has pressured both net producing and net consuming countries. For the former, high commodity prices generate windfalls but also high costs for raw material inputs and human resource skills, contributing to inflation in some locations, squeezing profit margins for producers, and creating other impacts that can erode benefits. For net consuming countries substantially higher prices for fuel and non-fuel minerals impacts customers and consumers, creates a drag on economic performance, and

contributes to budget and trade deficits, which in turn dilute resources that could otherwise be deployed for human advancement.

The commodity super cycle and robust economic rents discouraged economic diversification by producing/exporting countries or, equally troubling, spurred government investment in sectors and activities that have no clear net benefit for longer-term growth and development.

Successful fiscal regimes largely balance the respective interests of host governments and investors. They also allocate responsibilities of the parties, guide distribution of revenue from resource production, and often incorporate specific national mission goals and objectives such as development of expertise and industrial competence. Notably, and increasingly, HSE (health, safety, and environment) is considered a crosscutting goal for both resource owning host governments and extractive industry investors.

It is popular for governments to pursue “clean” or “green” investments to diversify away from, or invest economic rents from, extractive industries. However, the concept of “green jobs” is generally poorly defined and burdened by measurement problems, and environmental impacts associated with alternative energy schemes are largely unknown.

Resource rich countries, even small ones, need to be diligent about devoting portions of their resource wealth as well as assistance from international development partners to prepare people and organizations for the demands placed on them.

### **4. Recommendations**

- Aim for the diversification of energy sources that are compatible with protecting the environment. Each State should adopt the most appropriate energy matrix, from the point of environmental, social, economic and energy security, so that a coherent energy policy exists.



- Encourage the creation of public policies or the design of national strategies that stimulate energy savings.
- Seek international support among countries, international and regional financial institutions and development agencies, incorporating the concept of a green economy through a more equitable and balanced distribution of the global carbon market.
- Recommend to States that they increase their investment in research and technology in the energy sector as an engine of sustainable development through the exchange of technology and knowledge between developed and developing countries.
- Improve, implement and monitor national and international environmental law (whether treaties, agreements, protocols or conventions) that has been approved and ratified by each State, abolishing subsidies, taxes and incentives that are unhelpful or counterproductive to the environment, and ensure its implementation.

## 5. Working Group Participants

COUNTRY	PARTICIPANT	POSITION
Argentina	Olga Elizabeth Guzmán	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Argentina	José Antonio Vilariño	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Chile	Germán Becker Alvear	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Chile	Guillermo Ceroni Fuentes	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Chile	Javier Hernández Hernández	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Cuba	Armando Torres Aguirre	Member of the National Assembly
Jamaica	Hugh Carl Buchanan	Member of Parliament
Panama	Irene Gallego	Member of the National Assembly
Suriname	Ramses Kajoeramari	Member of the National Assembly





## **Appendix 10 • Eighth Meeting of the Group of Women Parliamentarians: Financial Crisis and its Effects on Women in the Region**

**Chair: Linda Machuca Moscoso, President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians, Member of the National Assembly (Ecuador)**

### **1. Objectives**

- Reflect upon the economic crisis and its impact on women
- Identify the unique characteristics of women as vulnerable subjects in the economic crisis
- Define the social and historical context giving rise to the economic crisis, as well as its financial components
- Identify potential government policies to protect women and support them in an economic downturn

### **2. Mayra Buvinic, Senior Fellow, United Nations Foundation (Chile)**

Mayra Buvinic holds a Ph.D. in Social Psychology from University of Wisconsin-Madison. She led the World Bank's Gender Action Plan (4 years, US\$70 million), positioning gender equality as "profitable economy," including an initiative for adolescents and the promotion of gender as a priority in loans to poor countries. In her capacity as head of the Social Development Division with IADB, she shaped the Bank's work in violence prevention, coordinated the Social Development Strategy, and launched the Social Inclusion Trust Fund. As founding member (and President for 19 years) of the International Center for Research on Women, she built an internationally renowned centre that is committed to improving the situation of poor women in developing countries.

### **How Do Women Weather Economic Shocks? What We Know (Summary)**


For complete article visit [www.parlamerica.org](http://www.parlamerica.org).

Do women weather economic shocks differently than men? First-round impacts of economic crises on women's employment should be more prominent in this recent economic downturn than historically because of women's increased participation in the globalized workforce. Second-round impacts result from the strategies that vulnerable households use to cope with declining income, which can vary by gender. In the past, women from low-income households have typically entered the labour force, while women from high-income households have often exited the labour market in response to economic crises.

Evidence on the impacts of the 2007–2009 financial crisis on women and families is not yet available. It is expected that some women in developing countries will be "protected" from the short-term impacts of this financial downturn because they do not have access to global markets (and are solely involved in subsistence or home production). In other cases, however, women dominate employment in export manufacturing and in high-value agriculture. Women employed in these industries will likely suffer direct employment losses from the contraction of industrial countries' demand for developing country exports.

Evidence also suggests that women defer fertility during economic crises and that child schooling and child survival are adversely affected, mainly in low-income countries, with girls suffering more adverse health effects than boys. These impacts underscore the need for providing income to women in poor countries to help households better cope with the effects of economic shocks.





Workfare programs, when designed appropriately, have captured some of the added supply of female labour during past economic downturns. But there are many unanswered questions regarding this added-worker effect and the impact of workfare programs on poor women. Do female added workers stay in the labour market or do they eventually revert to pre-crisis status? Do they have more or less trouble than their male counterparts exiting from workfare programs? Is the stigmatization associated with these programs a concern for women as it is for men?

### 3. Recommendations

- Encourage the private sector to hire a female labour force in times of economic contraction. (This goes against the normal presumption that it is the man who needs employment). Finance, with state funds, quality job-training programs for young people.
- Promote positive initiatives so that the banking system offers financial services to women with limited resources. Promote, along with these banking services, credit policies that also encourage saving.
- Legislate to build, create, improve and support with human, technical, and financial resources, quality of care centres geared towards the elderly, children, people with disabilities, and those in other care situations that have traditionally been assigned to women. Providing care is the reason that women are impeded from leaving their homes to work.
- Legislate so that public investments have rigorous and periodic impact evaluation systems, and monitor to ensure that the results of these evaluations define the content and direction of future investments.
- Monitor and ensure that conditional fund transfer policies encourage the cultural change necessary to advance our people out of the cycle of poverty (health, education, formal employment, etc.).

## 4. Working Group Participants

COUNTRY	PARTICIPANT	POSITION
Argentina	Alicia Marcela Comelli	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Argentina	Olga Elizabeth Guzmán	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Argentina	María Cristina Regazzoli	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Argentina	Mariana Alejandra Veaute	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Argentina	José Antonio Vilariño	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Argentina	Walter Raúl Wayar	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Canada	Scott Andrews	Member of Parliament
Canada	Randy Hoback	Member of Parliament
Canada	Hélène Laverdière	Member of Parliament
Canada	James Joseph Rajotte	Member of Parliament
Canada	Pierrette Ringuette	Senator
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Chile	Guillermo Ceroni Fuentes	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Chile	Javier Hernández Hernández	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Chile	Jorge Sabag Villalobos	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Chile	Alejandra Sepúlveda Orbenes	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Chile	Ignacio Urrutia Bonilla	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Chile	Mónica Zalaquett Said	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Colombia	Germán Blanco Álvarez	Member of the Chamber of Representatives
Colombia	Adolfo León Rengifo Santibáñez	Member of the Chamber of Representatives
Costa Rica	María Jeannette Ruiz Delgado	Member of the Legislative Assembly
Ecuador	Patricio Quevedo Quiróz	Member of the National Assembly
El Salvador	Félix Agreda Chachagua	Member of the Legislative Assembly
El Salvador	Blanca Noemí Coto Estrada	Member of the Legislative Assembly
El Salvador	Silvia Ostorga de Escobar	Member of the Legislative Assembly
El Salvador	Guadalupe Antonio Vásquez Martínez	Member of the Legislative Assembly
Jamaica	Hugh Carl Buchanan	Member of Parliament
Mexico	Adriana González Carrillo	Senator
Panama	Dalia Mirna Bernal Yáñez	Member of the National Assembly
Panama	Víctor Juliao III	Member of the National Assembly
Paraguay	María Digna Roa Rojas	Senator
Suriname	Martha Djojoseparto	Member of the National Assembly
Suriname	Ramses Kajoeramari	Member of the National Assembly
Suriname	Jennifer Simons	Speaker of the National Assembly
Suriname	Lekhram Soerdjan	Member of the National Assembly
Venezuela	Dinorah Jaxilda Figuera Tovar	Member of the National Assembly





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This event received financial support from the Government of Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).



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