

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Quito, Ecuador, June 1, 2016

Parliamentarians convene for ParlAmericas' 8th annual gathering on gender equality

From June 2 to 3, the eighth annual gathering on gender equality will take place in Quito, Ecuador, with the theme of ***Diversifying Political Power to Build Inclusive Societies***. This meeting is being organized by ParlAmericas' Group of Women Parliamentarians. ParlAmericas is a network of national legislatures of the member states of the OAS. Parliamentarians from 29 countries across the Americas and the Caribbean will participate in the gathering with the objective of exchanging experiences and promising legislative practices in support of the rights, political participation, and social equality of women.

During the gathering, co-organized with the National Assembly of Ecuador, parliamentarians will participate in various sessions addressing topics of relevance, including parity democracy, the representativeness of parliaments, Indigenous women's leadership, labour rights and women's economic empowerment, as well as the participation of men in efforts to promote gender equality.

Ms. Otilia Lux de Cotí, a Guatemalan educator, human rights activist and former minister will deliver the gathering's keynote address. Members and representatives of ParlAmericas (*Parlamento Latinoamericano y Caribeño*), UN Women, and Promundo, and other national and international experts will also participate in the event.

The meeting will provide opportunities to engage with community leaders from across Ecuador, in keeping with ParlAmericas' commitment to building civil society dialogue and participation.

When asked about the expected results of the gathering, Member of the National Assembly of Ecuador and President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of ParlAmericas, Gina Godoy stated, "At this gathering at the centre of the earth, we seek to motivate the parliaments of the Americas and Caribbean to legislate with full recognition of women's rights. We look forward to their commitments to banish exclusionary practices that infringe, violate, denigrate population that have historically been victim of sexist, male- and adult-centric societies in which everyone loses. We are sure that following these working days, we will build an American continent with the face of a woman."
