



IV ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NETWORK OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS

**Caracas, Venezuela
November 24, 2003**

SUMMARY

Some 40 women parliamentarians from some 15 countries met during the IV Annual Meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, held November 24, 2003 in Caracas, Venezuela. During this meeting, the President of the Network, Ms. Ileana Rogel, Representative of the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador, presented a report on the Network's activities in 2002-2003. The Network Secretariat and the elected representatives on the Executive Committee also filed their reports. An amendment to Network statutes was adopted.

A thematic workshop concerning the impact on women of the creation of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) was led by Ms. Graciela Rodriguez, Coordinator of the *Red Internacional de Género y Comercio* and Executive Director of the *Instituto Equit* of Brazil. This workshop also provided an opportunity for adopting the recommendation respecting the impact on women of the creation of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), which also sets out the main actions to be carried out by parliamentarians in connection with this issue.

Gender analysis was the main topic of discussion at the Network meeting this year. Ms. Nidia Diaz summarized the work accomplished at Seminar on Gender Budgets which, with the very active contribution of the Network, was held in San Salvador, El Salvador, on September 19 and 20, 2003. Participants also attended a presentation of the GAIA document databank, which has pooled the main studies, analyses, and tools used to perform gender analysis. This databank can be accessed on the Network's webpage. Following this presentation, a resolution was adopted urging parliamentarians to send the Secretariat any text that would help enrich the GAIA document databank. At the end of the meeting, new members of the Executive Committee were elected to office.