



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
NETWORK OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS**

**San Juan, Puerto Rico
September 24, 2004**

***DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE VIOLATION OF
WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN DARFUR***

We, the members of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas gathered in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on September 24, 2004,

WHEREAS since the 1980s the Darfur region in Northwest Sudan has been the scene of various conflicts caused notably by economic problems (desertification, fighting for agricultural land, demographic growth) and rivalry between certain tribes and ethnic groups;

WHEREAS the situation in Darfur is related to the Sudan civil war that has pitted the North against the South since 1983;

WHEREAS since February 2003, this conflict has provoked a humanitarian catastrophe, with the International Red Cross and other organizations counting 10,000 dead, 200,000 refugees in Chad, and nearly a million Sudanese left homeless

WHEREAS for several years militiamen known as "Janjaweds" have led attacks against Darfur's civilians that continue to escalate and go unpunished;

WHEREAS many tens of thousands of women and children suffering from famine have been slaughtered or forced into exile following an alarming number of razings of villages, systematic pillaging, and group rapes of women and girls;

WHEREAS in March 2004, United Nations agencies decided to openly denounce the "ethnic cleansing" occurring in Darfur, with UN secretary general Kofi Annan raising the possibility of armed intervention and that, in light of this pressure, Sudanese president Omar El-Bechir agreed to sign a new ceasefire with rebels on April 8, 2004;

WHEREAS on July 30, 2004, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1556 on the situation in Darfur and has planned sanctions if its terms are not obeyed;

WHEREAS for months the Sudanese authorities have denied all foreigners access to Darfur, including UN members and humanitarian aid workers, making it extremely hard to provide food and refugee aid;

WISH to show our solidarity with Darfur civilians who are suffering as victims of violence, women and children in particular,

DEMAND an immediate end to the massacres, pillaging, and violence in Darfur to allow populations to safely return to their villages;

CALL ON the Sudanese government to give humanitarian organizations and international observers access to allow them to provide emergency aid to those who are homeless, refugees, or suffering from famine and help return peace and security to the region;

ASK that international observers be allowed to visit the entire region to investigate all human rights violations and publish the results of their investigations;

ASK that an international commission of inquiry be created in accordance with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' (HCR) wishes to shed light on human rights violations since the start of the conflict;

ASK that Sudanese authorities recognize the human, political, and socioeconomic rights of all citizens, regardless of their origin, gender, age, race, language, or religion;

RECOMMEND that women and girls be protected against any sexual violence and discrimination, that the perpetrators of violence be found and brought to justice, and that local and international authorities take into account both the rights of minorities and gender-related issues;

ASK that the parties involved seek a peaceful solution to the conflict in Sudan in order to commence the process of national reconciliation;

ASK that the governments of the Americas and international organizations devote more funding to emergency humanitarian aid in Darfur, while working to solve the problems that led to the current crisis.