



**VI Annual Meeting  
of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas**

**REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT  
FOR MAY 7, 2005, TO MAY 30, 2006**

**Presented by Ms. France Hamel  
Member of the National Assembly of Quebec**

**Quito, Ecuador  
May 30, 2006**

## Role of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas Secretariat

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The Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas Secretariat has been located at the Québec National Assembly since its inception in 1999.

The Québec National Assembly assumes the salary of a full time advisor to the Network and provides webmaster services to develop and update the Network's website.

It also makes available to the Network the research services of its Library, as well as the technical and administrative support of its Interparliamentary and International Relations and Communications branches.

The Network advisor's duties consist of carrying out the regular tasks of the Secretariat; circulating information and coordinating communications within the Network, notably with regard to the organization of annual and Executive Committee meetings; having official Network documents translated into English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French; and overseeing the development and updating of the website and document databases.

The Secretariat is responsible for the president's general correspondence relating to Network activities. It must draft letters, respond to requests for information on the Network, and send information to Network Executive Committee members.

The Secretariat is responsible for updating and developing the Network website by...

- Coordinating and grouping information and documentation from members or organizations with which the Network works
- Announcing Network activities
- Preparing documents in followup to meetings
- Developing document databases

To this end, with the support of a number of Québec National Assembly service branches, the Secretariat developed specialized electronic document databases on...

- *Gender budget analysis*
- *The impact of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) on women*
- *Women and migrations in the Americas*
- *The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its implementation in the Americas*

## **A – Organizing and supporting Network activities**

The Secretariat played an important role in preparing, organizing, and following up on Network meetings.

### **1. Follow-up to the 6th Annual Meeting held in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil, on May 7, 2005**

The Secretariat provided follow-up for the annual meeting, including...

- Compiling the minutes
- Translating the minutes and the recommendation *The Impacts of Migration on Women in the Americas*
- Posting the information on the website and sending it to Executive Committee members of the Network and COPA

### **2. Network Executive Committee Meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on October 5, 2005**

In preparation for the Executive Committee meeting, the Secretariat...

- Prepared, translated, and sent the meeting agenda and invitation letter
- Worked together with the meeting's host organization
- Prepared required meeting documents

The Secretariat provided follow-up for the Executive Committee meeting, including:

- Compiling and translating the minutes
- Translating and distributing the recommendation to support the Republic of El Salvador
- Forwarding said recommendation to legislative assembly authorities in the Republic of El Salvador
- Preparing and sending a letter from the president to all assembly presidents of the Americas to promote the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas website and ask that a link to the Network website be added to the website of each assembly (replies to this request for Network visibility are included in Appendix I)

### **3. Network Executive Committee Meeting in Puebla, Mexico, on March 1, 2006**

In preparation for the Executive Committee meeting, the Secretariat...

- Prepared, translated, and sent the meeting agenda and invitation letter
- Translated the program and registration form into English and French
- Posted information on this meeting on the Network website
- Worked together with the meeting's host organization, mainly on logistics
- Prepared required meeting documents

Following this meeting of the Network Executive Committee, the Network Secretariat...

- Prepared, translated, and forwarded the minutes of the meeting
- Translated the resolution on human trafficking adopted by the Network Executive Committee
- Followed up on the proposals and decisions made in the meeting

### **4. Preparation for the 6th Annual Meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, in Quito, Ecuador, on May 30, 2006**

In preparation for the Annual Meeting, the Network Secretariat...

- Prepared and translated the meeting agenda, invitation letters, and other documents needed for the meeting
- Sent invitations to all parliaments and interparliamentary organizations in the Americas
- Designed the event promotional materials
- Identified and invited speakers
- Helped reporters prepare and translate their respective reports
- Prepared and presented the "CEDAW" document databank

## **B – Other activities**

### **1. Visit of the president of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas to the Québec National Assembly on September 15 and 16, 2005**

The Network Secretariat made preparations for the visit of the president of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas to the Québec National Assembly by...

- Setting the agenda for the visit
- Organizing work meetings and discussions, notably with the president of the Québec National Assembly, the representative of the Network's founding assembly and Secretariat host, representatives of the Québec Section of COPA, Québec's Minister of Families, Seniors, and the Status of Women, and the president of Conseil du statut de la femme
- Preparing required documents

### **2. Organizational assistance for the International Forum of Women Parliamentarians in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on October 6 and 7, 2005**

The Network Secretariat provided organizational assistance for the International Forum of Women Parliamentarians, co-organized by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Rio de Janeiro and the National Union of State Legislatures of Brazil (UNALE), notably by...

- Preparing, translating, and sending the invitation and supporting materials to all members of the Network Executive Committee
- Preparing, translating, and sending the invitation and supporting materials to all presidents of assemblies of unitary, federal, federated, and associated states, regional parliaments, and interparliamentary organizations of the Americas, except for Brazil, as well as all presidents of parliamentary committees dealing with the status of women in the Americas

### **3. Further work on the annual topic “Analysis of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol”**

To support the work of the designated reporter for the annual topic, the Secretariat...

- Set up a website section for this topic to make this information available to parliamentarians and site users
- Translated and distributed the questionnaire and progress report on the Network website
- Drafted, translated, and posted an article presenting CEDAW on the Network website

- Produced and translated the CEDAW document databank and posted it on the Network website

**4. Organizational support for the 13th Latin American Congress on Sexology and Sexual Education, in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, from April 19 to 22, 2006**

As part of the *13th Latin American Congress on Sexology and Sexual Education*, the Network Secretariat...

- Translated and sent out invitations to all members of the Network Executive Committee

**5. Network website**

The Network website ([www.feminamericas.org](http://www.feminamericas.org)) has been online since September 2004. It is now referenced on certain sites, mainly those on the status of women and gender issues. Its thematic document databanks are also cited.

A list of websites that point to [feminamericas.org](http://feminamericas.org) is included in Appendix II, together with a report on Network website traffic since its online launch.

**C – Conclusion**

The Secretariat plays a vital role in strengthening the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas. By coordinating and providing support for the various activities and initiatives that proceed from the Network Executive Committee and annual meeting attendees, the Secretariat contributes to the development of solidarity among women parliamentarians of the Americas and the circulation of information on major issues affecting the women of our hemisphere.

## Appendix I

### **Promotion of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas Website to Legislative Assemblies of the Americas**

To promote the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas to women parliamentarians in all countries of the Americas, a letter from the Network president was sent to legislative assembly presidents to ask that a link to the Network website be added to the website of each assembly.

This letter was sent in stages, since the directory of parliaments of the Americas first had to be updated.

#### **Parliamentary assemblies of unitary and federal states**

Number of parliamentary assemblies contacted	43
Number of replies received	4
Number of positive replies	2 (4.6%)

Positive replies<sup>1</sup>:

Mexico – Lower House of the Mexican Congress

Paraguay – Chamber of Deputies

#### **Parliamentary assemblies of federated and associated states**

Number of parliamentary assemblies contacted	201
Number of replies received	3
Number of positive replies	1 (0.5%)

Positive reply:

Québec, Canada – National Assembly of Québec

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<sup>1</sup> Positive replies include legislative assemblies that already had a link to the Network website.

### **Regional parliaments and interparliamentary organizations**

Number of parliamentary assemblies contacted	4
Number of replies received	1
Number of positive replies	1 (25%)

Positive reply:  
Andean Parliament

### **Total of parliamentary assemblies of unitary, federal, federated, and associated states and regional parliaments and interparliamentary organizations**

<b>Number of parliamentary assemblies contacted</b>	<b>248</b>
<b>Number of replies received</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Number of positive replies</b>	<b>4 (1.6%)</b>



## Appendix II

### NETWORK OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS WEBSITE

[www.feminamericas.org](http://www.feminamericas.org)

#### **List of websites that have added a link to [www.feminamericas.org](http://www.feminamericas.org)**<sup>2</sup>

##### *International organizations*

###### **World Bank**

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTABOUTUS/PARTNERS/EXTPARLIAMENTARIANS/0,,contentMDK:20227786~menuPK:478534~pagePK:64165880~piPK:64165858~theSitePK:464534,00.html>

Language: English

A link to the Network website is included on the World Bank site for parliamentarians.

###### **INSTRAW – United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women**

<http://www.un-instraw.org/en/index.php?option=content&task=blogcategory&id=176&Itemid=237>

Languages: Spanish, English, French

INSTRAW is a United Nations institute that seeks to promote research and training programs to contribute to the advancement of women and gender equality. It includes a link to the Network document databank on the political representation of women in the Americas.

##### *National or regional portals*

###### **Mujer Analítica**

<http://www.analitica.com/>

Language: Spanish

This site features an online publication, Analítica.com, on general interest topics. This publication is mainly aimed at Venezuelans and the Spanish speaking community. A link to the “Women and FTAA” document databank was incorporated in March 2006.

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<sup>2</sup> This list is not exhaustive. Some links were added following promotional initiatives by the Network Secretariat, while others were added at the initiative of the organizations listed. In 2006, the Secretariat plans to continue efforts to promote the site to organizations throughout the Americas to improve geographic and linguistic representation.

### **Siyanda – mainstreaming gender equality**

[www.siyanda.org](http://www.siyanda.org)

Language: English

This British site was developed by Briefings on Development and Gender (BRIDGE) of the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, England. A link to the three Network thematic document databanks (Women and Migrations, Women and FTAA, Gender Budgets) was added on June 29, 2005.

### **Cybersolidaire – Femmes de la Francophonie**

[http://cybersolidaire.typepad.com/francophonie/continent\\_amriques/index.html](http://cybersolidaire.typepad.com/francophonie/continent_amriques/index.html)

Language: French

This Cybersolidaire partner website posts news on women from around the world, particularly francophone women. It promoted the Network website and its document databanks in September 2005 in an article now included in its archives.

### **Réseau canadien pour la santé des femmes/Canadian Women's Health Network**

<http://www.rcsf.ca/>

Languages: English and French

This Canada-wide volunteer network is aimed at improving the health and lives of girls and women in Canada. A link to the "Women and Migrations" document databank was added.

### **ORÉGAND**

<http://www.oregand.ca/sites.html#>

Language: French

ORÉGAND (Observatoire sur le développement régional et l'analyse différenciée selon les sexes) is affiliated with Université du Québec en Outaouais (Québec, Canada). The Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas website was featured as the "site of the month" for May 2005. This page is still available in the site archives.

### **Comité Femmes et développement régional**

<http://www.femmesdemontreal.org/fr/1036/index.php>

Language: French

Comité Femmes et développement régional is linked to the Conférence régionale des élus de Montréal (Québec, Canada). It seeks to improve the living conditions of women in this area. A link to the Network website is included in the "International" section.

### **NetFemmes**

[http://netfemmes.cdeacf.ca/les\\_ressources/sites/voir\\_cat.php?categorie=33](http://netfemmes.cdeacf.ca/les_ressources/sites/voir_cat.php?categorie=33)

Language: French

NetFemmes was set up by Centre de documentation sur l'éducation des adultes et la condition féminine, whose mission is to make information, particularly on the status of women, available to women in Québec and francophone communities in Canada. The Network website is listed in the directory of links.

**Genre en action**

[http://www.genreenaction.net/article.php3?id\\_article=3633](http://www.genreenaction.net/article.php3?id_article=3633)

Language: French

Genre en action is an information and resource portal on gender and development launched in 2003 by France's foreign affairs ministry. It includes a link to the GAIA Network document databank on budgets analyzed according to gender.

**Rinoceros – réseau international d'échanges d'informations pour un développement responsable et solidaire**

[http://www.rinoceros.org/mot2\\_sites.php3?id\\_mot=1106&lang=fr](http://www.rinoceros.org/mot2_sites.php3?id_mot=1106&lang=fr)

Language: French

The Rinoceros project was launched in March 2002 by Réseau des centres de documentation pour le développement durable et la solidarité internationale (France). The Network website is listed as a recommended site, and a special pitch is made for the "Women and FTAA" and "Women and Migrations" document databanks.

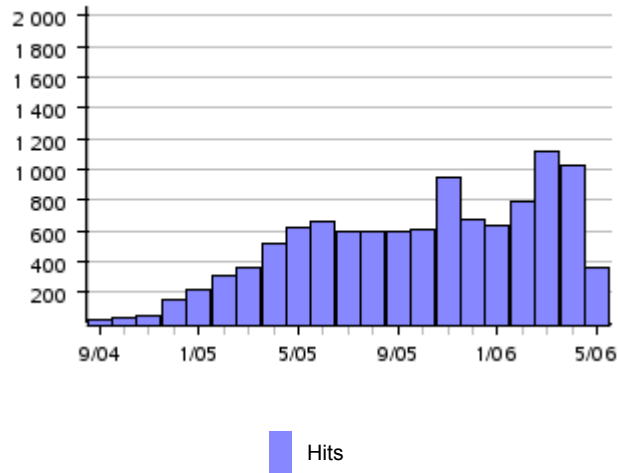
**Conseil du statut de la femme du Québec**

<http://www.csf.gouv.qc.ca/fr/autres/?ma=67>

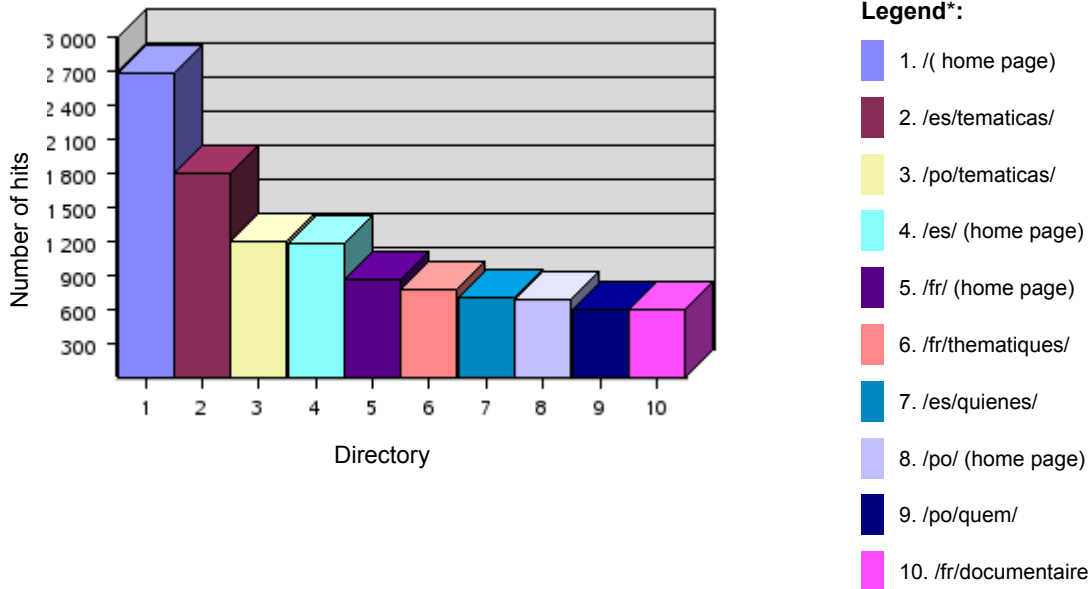
Language: French

Conseil du statut de la femme is a government consultation and study council that has promoted and defended the rights and interests of women in Québec since 1973 (Québec, Canada). A link to the Network website was added recently.

Hit Trends by Month



Directories with the Most Hits



\* The first two letters refer to the language in which pages were viewed. Note that no page from the English version of the website is among the top ten directories.