



PRESS RELEASE

***Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas
International Women's Day***

Caracas, March 6, 2009 – As the president of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, I would like, on the occasion of International Women's Day, to acknowledge the contribution of the women who work so hard to advance the cause of women and to salute, in particular, the efforts of women parliamentarians in promoting our fundamental rights. These efforts have led to the adoption by our parliaments of laws to combat discrimination and violence in order to create conditions conducive to true and effective equality between women and men. I also wish to applaud all the women who, through their daily involvement in the social, political and cultural arenas, in education, and at home and at work, foster the development of humankind. The signature of the international treaties currently in force has had a major impact in improving women's status. And so on this March the 8th, I would invite you, dear colleagues in parliament, to step out boldly and forge ahead with courage so that women throughout the Americas and around the world can fully enjoy their rights and the basic freedoms that are all too often forgotten.

The Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas undertakes to earnestly pursue its objectives of encouraging the representation and action of women in parliament, ensuring that all parliamentarians take women's rights and demands into consideration with a view to encouraging respect for human rights and a better distribution of wealth, and initiating all possible measures to support the participation of women in the Parliaments of the Americas.

Our best wishes on this International Women's Day!

President of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas,

Flor María Ríos

Member of the National Assembly of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

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