



**9th ANNUAL MEETING  
Mar del Plata, Argentina  
November 16, 2010**

**DRAFT MINUTES**



Some 30 participants attended the 9th Annual Meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas held on November 16, 2010, in Mar del Plata, Argentina.

**1. Welcome**

COPA president Edda Evangelina Acuña opened the meeting with a word of welcome.

Flor Ríos, President of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, gave the opening speech.

**2. Approval of the agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**3. 2009–2010 Activity Report**

The President of the Network presented the 2009–2010 Activity Report and handed out a document highlighting the main activities that took place during her two-year term:

- ✓ The Network's main campaign during the 2008–2010 period: "The Eradication of all Forms of Violence against Women";
- ✓ Development of and follow-up on work themes;
- ✓ Network Executive Committee meetings on January 24, 2009, in El Calafate, Argentina, and July 20, 2010, in Querétaro, Mexico;
- ✓ Annual Meetings on September 16, 2009, in Salta, Argentina, and November 16, 2010, in Mar del Plata, Argentina;
- ✓ Meeting of the President with representatives from the National Assembly of Québec from June 2 to 4, 2009;
- ✓ Various training, dissemination, promotion and information activities.



#### 4. Secretariat's report

Monique Richard presented the Secretariat's report. The Secretariat's 2009–2010 activities focused mainly on

- (1) implementing the President's action plan;
- (2) developing tools related to the Network's themes of study;
- (3) preparing and following up on the Annual Meetings and the Executive Committee meeting, in collaboration with the President;
- (4) supporting the President in her activities representing and promoting the Network;
- (5) considering amendments to the Network's statutes and rules of procedure; and
- (6) managing the Network's website.

#### 5. Round table on “The Political and Economic Empowerment of Women”

Women parliamentarians and guest speakers gave talks on

- **Gender-Responsive Budgets** – Dr. Lorena Barba, Latin-American Program on Gender-Responsive Budgets, UNIFEM.
- **iKNOW Politics** – Rossana Andía, Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean, iKNOW Politics.
- **Women and Productivity** – Estela Mendez de De Micheli, Deputy of the Chamber of Deputies of the Province of Santa Fé.
- **The Participation of Women in Politics** – Monique Richard, Member of the National Assembly of Québec.
- **Comparative Legislation** – Maria Elena Torresi de Mercuri, Deputy of the Chamber of Deputies of the Province of Buenos Aires and Diva Hadamira Gastelum Bajo, Deputy of the Chamber of Deputies of the United Mexican States.



#### 6. Presentation of study theme reports

**(a) *The impact of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA) on women in the region***

**Rapporteur: Flor Ríos, Member of the National Assembly of Venezuela and Network President**

Ms. Ríos tabled her final report on the impact of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA) on women in the region.



**(b) *Changes in Women's Participation in Politics 1999–2009: Situation and Outlook***

**Rapporteur: Monique Richard, Member of the National Assembly of Québec**

To gather input for a report to be presented during the Network's 10th Annual Meeting in Québec in 2011, Ms. Richard invited the participants to fill out a questionnaire on the theme of women's participation in politics.

**7. Presentation and adoption of draft resolutions**

The following draft resolutions were presented and unanimously adopted:

- A draft resolution on the political and economic empowerment of women (Appendix I).
- A statement of support in connection with legal proceedings concerning parental authority in the case of the Paraguayan child Matías (Appendix II)<sup>1</sup>.

**8. Presentation and adoption of amendments to the Network's statutes and rules of procedure**

Draft amendments to the Network's statutes and rules of procedure, submitted by the Québec Section and the Mexico Section and recommended by the Executive Committee, were approved by a consensus of the attendees at the Network's Annual Meeting.

The objectives of the Québec proposal were to update the Network's statutes to bring them in line with COPA's statutes, which were amended in 2008, and consolidate the Network. It was proposed, not only that responsibility for the presidency of the Network be held by the parliamentary assembly of the representative elected as President, but also that the term of office of the members of the Executive Committee be extended from one to two years and that the President not be allowed to serve two consecutive terms of office. The proposal also suggested setting a quorum for Executive Committee meetings, determining the President's and members' responsibilities during the Annual Meeting and establishing how often the Executive Committee must hold its ordinary meetings.

The proposal of the Mexico Section was essentially to create the office of Vice-President of the Network. The Vice-President's main duties would be to assist the President, assume responsibility for the work themes, in collaboration with the President and the rapporteurs, and co-represent the Network, with the President, at the meetings of COPA's Executive Committee. The proposal also suggested a two-year term for the Vice-President, without the possibility of a second consecutive term, and due consideration for the principle of regional representation.

<sup>1</sup> Este caso hace referencia el litigio concerniendo la patria potestad de un menor paraguayo llamado Matías, que ha movilizado la opinión pública paraguaya.



## 9. Choice of study themes and designation of rapporteurs



Due to lack of time, this point was not discussed during the Annual Meeting. The members of the Executive Committee did, however, approve the following study themes during a meeting held prior to the Annual Meeting:

- Poverty and the economic empowerment of women (Appendix III);
- Water and the environment.

## 10. Election of the Members of the Network's new Executive Committee

The following parliamentarians were elected for the 2010–2012 period:

### **President**

Diva Hadamira Gastelum Bajo, Chamber of Deputies of the United Mexican States

### **Vice-President**

Emilia Patricia Alfaro de Franco, Chamber of Deputies of the Republic of Paraguay

### **Regional representatives:**

#### Central America

Hortensia Margarita López Quintana, Legislative Assembly of El Salvador

#### North America

Norma Esparza Herrera, Chamber of Senators of the United Mexican States

#### The West Indies

Elsa Rojas Hernández, National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba

#### Southern Cone

Maria Elena Torresi, Chamber of Deputies of the Province of Buenos Aires

### **Interparliamentary organizations and regional parliaments**

#### Mercosur Parliamentary Union

Estela Rosa de De Micheli

#### Parliament of Patagonia

Doralisa Mercedes Aravena

### **Founding Assembly and Network Secretariat host**

Monique Richard, National Assembly of Québec



## **Next Assembly to host the Network's Annual Meeting**

The two representatives from the next Assembly to host the Network's Annual Meeting have not yet been designated.

The following positions remain vacant:

- Central America (1)
- North America (1)
- Antilles (1)
- Andean Region (2)
- Southern Cone (1)
- Interparliamentary organizations and regional parliaments (2)

## **11. Election of the second representative on the COPA Executive Committee**

On a proposal by Diva Hadamira Gastelum Bajo, the office of second Network representative at the meetings of COPA's Executive Committee was combined with the office of Vice-President. The position will thus be occupied by the Network's Vice-President.

## **12. Varia**

The Mexico Section asked the Network members attending the 9th Annual Meeting to authorize the appointment of Norma Esparza Herrera, federal senator of the Congress of the United Mexican States, as North American representative for 2010–2012. This appointment was an exception to the rule which stipulates that the Network's Executive Committee may include only one representative per country, regional parliament and interparliamentary organization.

The Annual Meeting attendees accepted the proposal for 2010–2012, although this did not result in an amendment to the rules in force.

The next Executive Committee meeting will take place in March 2011 in Valle del Bravo, Mexico.

## **13. Closing of the meeting**

The meeting ended with the election of the members of the Executive Committee for 2010–2012 and the swearing-in of the new President, Diva Hadamira Gastelum Bajo, Federal Deputy of the Congress of the United Mexican States.

