



**24TH MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS  
A MEETING OF THE NETWORK OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS  
SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA, MARCH 6–8, 2012**

**MOTION TO DRAW ATTENTION TO  
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

1. NOTING that equality between men and women and the recognition of and respect for women's rights are indispensable conditions if the rule of law and democracy are to prevail in the Americas;
2. DRAWING ON the principles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which came into force on September 3, 1981, and on the principles of the Bélem do Pará Convention (Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women);
3. NOTING that the third Millennium Development Goal promotes gender equality and the empowerment of women in three spheres of activity—education, employment and political participation—as an effective means of combating poverty, hunger and disease and of promoting sustainable development;
4. CONSIDERING that much work remains to be done to change attitudes, and that there are still many obstacles preventing women's full empowerment and true equality;
5. **We, members of COPA's Executive Committee, gathered for our meeting held in San José, Costa Rica, on March 7, 2012, the day before International Women's Day, and acting on a proposal from the Executive Committee of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, do hereby:**
6. EMPHASIZE the importance of celebrating International Women's Day annually on March 8, as officially proclaimed by the United Nations in 1977, in order to honour women who struggle each day to improve their condition;
7. REITERATE the necessity of remembering the many struggles that have advanced the condition of women, and the need for continued efforts in order to guarantee that equality between women and men is achieved and maintained in every sphere of life;
8. REAFFIRM the importance of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, which, since its creation in 1999, has given women parliamentarians a voice through the crucial debates it has initiated, and has ensured that COPA's agenda includes themes that are essential for the improvement of women's lives;
9. PLEDGE to work individually and collectively to ensure that women's needs and realities are taken into account, particularly in the laws and national budgets adopted by our parliaments.