



## **WORK PLAN OF THE NETWORK OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS FOR 2013–2015**

In light of the general objectives of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, namely, (1) to encourage the representation and action of women in the Parliaments of the Americas, to foster the sharing of experience among them, and to promote solidarity among women in general, (2) to ensure that both men and women parliamentarians take into consideration the rights and demands of women, from the viewpoint of the respect of human rights and a better distribution of wealth, and (3) to support the participation of women in the Parliaments of the Americas, the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas intends to work toward the following specific objectives in 2013–2015:

- Use the Network as a means of reinforcing women's potential in the exercise of their parliamentary functions;
- Use the Network as a means of mobilizing women parliamentarians and of taking a stand in favour of women, so that the Network becomes the primary voice of women on the continent.

To achieve these objectives, it is proposed that work be carried out in four main areas:

### **(1) MOBILIZING THE NETWORK FOR THE MAIN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS OF 2015**

In 2015, the international community will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Also in that year, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Post-2015 Development Agenda will be adopted. Parliamentarians of the Americas must mobilize now in order to ensure that their voices are heard leading up to these events.

#### Secondary areas:

- Participate in the Interparliamentary Seminar on the 20th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, to be held in Québec City in January 2014;
- Define the priority themes for the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas as well as the actions required for the themes to be taken into account at the international level.



## **(2) 2013–2015 STUDY THEMES**

It is proposed that the themes studied by the Network be geared to international gender-equality priorities. This will make the Network's work more relevant, encourage the mobilization of women and facilitate cooperation with other women's networks and international organizations (UN Women, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPALC), the Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU)), etc.

- See Appendix for proposed themes

## **(3) FOSTERING COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ENTITIES**

This area is general in nature and intended to reinforce implementation of the previous two areas as well as the Network's general objectives.

### Secondary areas:

- Strengthen ties with the Inter-American Commission on Women (CIM):
  - Implement the cooperation agreement signed with the CIM.
  - Develop an activity plan with the CIM.
- Further develop collaborative ties with UN Women, the CEPALC, etc.
- Establish collaborative ties with other international entities and with the political parties of different countries in order to further contribute to consolidating the Network and enhancing the visibility of its activities.
- Establish contacts with institutions and individuals specializing in the themes studied by the Network in order to promote collaborative publications, conferences, etc.



#### **(4) CONSOLIDATING THE NETWORK**

It is essential to continue consolidating the Network as a continental organization of women parliamentarians. It is proposed that tools be developed to encourage increased attendance at Network meetings and to enhance the visibility of the Network's activities.

Specific objectives:

- Publicize the Network's activities (website, Network newsletter, etc.);
- Consolidate and increase the number of active Network members;
- Fill all positions on the Executive Committee;
- Draw up a list of Network activities to be publicized;
- Appoint rapporteurs for each study theme.

#### **APPENDIX**

Theme suggestions for point 2, inspired by regional priorities (of the CIM, the CEPALC, etc.) and international priorities (UN Women) with regard to gender equality.

- Women's access to justice and legal protection;
- Violence against women;
- Women's sexual and reproductive rights;
- Women migrants (studied by the Network between 2003 and 2005);
- The impacts of climate change on women (particularly with regard to agriculture and food security).

**Other themes proposed at the meeting of the Executive Committee on October 13, 2013:**

- Review of local programs from a gender perspective;
- Maternal mortality;
- Unsafe abortions.