



WORK PLAN OF THE NETWORK OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS 2010–2012

In light of the objectives of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, of the President's action priorities and of the preferences expressed by the Executive Committee and the members at the last Annual Meeting, it is proposed that the Network focus on three areas for 2010–2012:

- (1) Examination of the themes adopted at the 9th Annual Meeting of the Network and follow-up on previous themes and the themes proposed by the President of COPA
- (2) Consolidation of the Network
- (3) The Network President's topical themes

(1) EXAMINATION OF THE THEMES ADOPTED AT THE 9TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NETWORK AND FOLLOW-UP ON PREVIOUS THEMES AND THE THEMES PROPOSED BY THE PRESIDENT OF COPA

2010–2012 STUDY THEMES

At the Network's 9th Annual Meeting in Mar del Plata, Argentina, on November 16, 2010, the members adopted two study themes for 2010–2012. Examination of these themes will help increase our understanding of the inherent issues. The Network will endeavour to act upon each of them with all the rigour required, in keeping with the decisions made and upheld at the Annual Meeting. The study themes are the following:

- a. Poverty, pay equity and the economic independence of women*
- b. Water, the environment and the status of women*

The participants at the Network's 9th Annual Meeting chose to address these themes by

- i. commissioning one or more reports on the various aspects of each theme and how they are interrelated
- ii. organizing seminars, lectures and workshops on the subject
- iii. publishing a backgrounder on each theme in the Network's newsletter and on the Network's website
- iv. adopting an official position by resolution at the Network's 11th Annual Meeting.



NETWORK FOLLOW-UP THEME

Changes in Women's Participation in Politics 2009–2011: Situation and Outlook

At the Network's 9th Annual Meeting, Member of the National Assembly of Québec Monique Richard presented her second preliminary report on women's participation in politics. She invited the delegates to fill out a questionnaire on the subject, the results of which she will use to draft her final report for the Network's 10th Annual Meeting in September 2011.

Activities planned:

- *Submission of the final report at the 10th Annual Meeting*
- *Adoption of a resolution at the 10th Annual Meeting*
- *Practical workshop on representation-related issues geared to reinforcing the political skills of women parliamentarians of the Network at the 10th Annual Meeting*

FOLLOW-UP ON THE THEMES PROPOSED BY THE PRESIDENT OF COPA

As a natural extension of its close, respectful ties with COPA, the Network will be contributing in a tangible way to the thematic program put forward by COPA President Jacques Chagnon, which was approved at COPA's 9th General Assembly and focuses on

- Child mortality
- School persistence
- Gender pay equity
- Water resources protection

To that end, the Network will appoint a representative from among its members to take part in all the COPA thematic working committees whose mandate is relevant to a given theme. The representative will be expected to

- i. participate in the proceedings of the COPA committee working on the theme she is assigned to and represent the Network to bring the voice of women to the table
- ii. draft a progress report on the COPA committee's work and present it to the members of the Network's Executive Committee
- iii. if warranted and following a recommendation to that effect by the Executive Committee, make a short presentation on the theme at the Network's Annual Meeting.



2. CONSOLIDATION OF THE NETWORK: ACTIONS BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Network's President, Deputy Diva Hadamira Gastelum Bajo, presented a strategic action plan as part of her campaign for the presidency and later, as President-elect, at the Network's Annual Meeting and COPA's General Assembly. The main thrusts of the action plan are to encourage the efficiency and active participation of Executive Committee members, bolster the participation of women parliamentarians of the Americas at both the local and federal levels, and promote their active presence within international forums and bodies at the regional, continental and international levels. In this way, they can share their experiences and shine a light on successful measures to draw attention to the Network's study themes and ongoing work and promote appropriate legislative action.

To that end, the Executive Committee will organize tours and activities in addition to those planned by the Network and COPA. Ties will be established as and when needed, and communications between Network members will be strengthened through the Secretariat via the media, the Network's newsletter, the Network's website, which is hosted by the National Assembly of Québec, and the Network President's website, which is hosted by the Congress of the Union of the United Mexican States.

It is proposed that measures to consolidate the Network focus on six central goals:

- (a) Consolidation of the Network's internal structure
- (b) Broadening of the Network's active membership and promotion of the Network's activities
- (c) Accountability reporting by the Network's members
- (d) Strategic positioning of the Network through the President's working tours and mandatory activities that define the Network's stance in the interparliamentary arena
- (e) Organization of regional events
- (f) Ongoing revision of the Network's legal framework and founding documents

(A) CONSOLIDATION OF THE NETWORK'S INTERNAL STRUCTURE

- Reinforce the Network's Executive Committee:
 - Send a letter to the speakers of the parliamentary assemblies and to the chairs and presidents of the interparliamentary organizations of the Americas in order to fill all the seats on the 2010–2012 Executive Committee
 - Organize tours by the Executive Committee members in their respective regions in order to fill all the seats on the 2010–2012 Executive Committee
- Improve the conduct of business during the Network's mandatory meetings:
 - Prepare draft rules of procedure for Executive Committee meetings and Annual Meetings
 - Offer a training session for Executive Committee members on the statutes and rules of procedure



(B) BROADENING OF THE NETWORK'S ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION OF THE NETWORK'S ACTIVITIES

- Consolidate the President's strategic action plan in order to attract a greater number of women parliamentarians to the Network's 10th Annual Meeting. Comments and suggestions made by the Vice-President and Executive Committee could enrich the plan presented at the Network's Annual Meeting and COPA's General Assembly.

The following points could also be broached:

- Ask the President of COPA to include information on the Network's Annual Meeting in the promotional materials prepared for COPA's General Assembly
- Promote the Annual Meeting as part of the President's and Executive Committee's working tours
- Promote the Annual Meeting in the Network's and in COPA's newsletters
- Submit articles for publication in the journals or newsletters of interparliamentary organizations of the Americas to promote the Annual Meeting
- Prepare and publish a Network newsletter:
 - Produce three issues per year (April, August and December)
 - Possible content could include sections devoted to news, the Network's study themes, the President's main campaign and articles by members; the newsletter could serve as a reference on the study themes as the dedicated section could include both a feature article and a bibliography on the issue examined
 - The newsletter's editing team would be made up of the President, the Vice-President and a Secretariat representative
- Consolidate the partnership with iKNOW Politics:
 - Plan joint activities with iKNOW Politics
 - Implement joint activities with iKNOW Politics

(C) ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTING BY THE NETWORK'S MEMBERS

- Include clauses and indicators in resolutions to facilitate monitoring of their implementation
- Systematically call on women parliamentarians at Executive Committee meetings and Annual Meetings to report on recent developments affecting the status of women in their respective regions



(D) STRATEGIC POSITIONING

- Strategically position the Network in interparliamentary affairs both through the President's working tours and through mandatory activities
- Encourage Network members to systematically promote the Network's activities at interparliamentary meetings
- Invite the members of certain networks of women parliamentarians from other regions of the world to attend the Network's Annual Meetings as observers
- Make sure that the resolutions adopted by the Network are sent to the parliaments and interparliamentary organizations that are members of COPA

(E) ORGANIZATION OF REGIONAL EVENTS

- Hold regional events on the Network's study themes or on any other theme considered to be of interest by the women in the region organizing the event
- Report on the regional events at Executive Committee meetings and the Annual Meetings

(F) ONGOING REVISION OF THE NETWORK'S LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND FOUNDING DOCUMENTS

- Statutes
- Rules of procedure
- Action strategies

3. THE NETWORK PRESIDENT'S TOPICAL THEMES

A brainchild of President Diva Hadamira Gastelum, the "Topical Themes" are meant to engage Network members in 2010–2012 in identifying the measures that must be adopted with respect to topics that require their immediate attention.

This format will allow them to express their views and adopt resolutions on current issues that are specific to the American context.

A member wishing to raise an issue must send a written proposal to the President and the Secretariat before the Executive Committee meeting or Annual Meeting during which the issue is to be broached. This is so Network members can be informed and make their own analysis of all the issues slated for discussion. The written proposal must state the grounds on which the view expressed is based so that the Network can promptly take a stance on the issue. Issues requiring urgent examination can be included in the program as general questions.

The Network members will thus have the opportunity to define where they stand with respect to a variable thematic agenda.

Proposed activities:

- Presentation of the theme at a meeting of the Network's Executive Committee and drafting of a preliminary position



- Awareness raising among the parliamentary assemblies of the Americas as part of the President's working tours
- Participation of the President and, as warranted, of other Executive Committee members in theme-related activities (2011–2012)
- Reporting on participation in theme-related activities and sharing of experiences at Annual Meetings
- Dedicated section on theme-related activities on the Network's website
- Preparation of a book celebrating the women of the bicentennial