



**IInd ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE NETWORK OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS**

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, November 18, 2001

***RECOMMENDATION ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF WOMEN TO THE DEMOCRATIC
PROCESS AND TO PEACE***

WHEREAS there is currently a worldwide upsurge in acts of violence and of war, and women and children are often the victims thereof;

WHEREAS women remain under-represented in decision-making bodies, and are excluded from decision-making processes;

WHEREAS peace is founded on the principles of solidarity, partnership, collaboration and the peaceful resolution of conflicts, and women share that vision;

WHEREAS women parliamentarians are committed to the defense of human rights, of women's political, social, gender-related, work-related and educational rights, and they have the capacity to translate these concerns into a change in the priorities of parliaments;

WHEREAS equitable representation of women within decision-making bodies would have a decisive impact on the quality of governance and of representative and participatory democracy;

WE, the women representatives of the parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal, federated and associated states, regional parliaments and interparliamentary organizations of the Americas, on the basis of the agreements and decisions adopted at the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Network of Women Parliamentarians in Québec City on April 17, 2001:

AGREE TO:

CONDEMN all types of acts of violence that are perpetrated worldwide;

PROMOTE the use of peaceful methods fostering dialogue and negotiation to resolve worldwide conflicts and the building of a world founded on peace, equity and social justice, the unconditional respect of human rights and of the right of self-determination of peoples;

RECOMMEND actions making it possible to renegotiate the foreign debts of countries on a fair and humane basis, which would make it possible to combat inequalities, hunger and poverty;

RECOGNIZE that the leadership of women must be put to full use within the decision-making bodies in order to propose laws and initiatives in our respective parliaments aiming to stimulate leadership and development among women of rural areas, aboriginal and black women;

UNDERTAKE concrete actions within our respective countries in order to eliminate racism, intolerance, xenophobia, gender-inequality and any other form of oppression or discrimination, in order to fully strengthen democracy;

UNDERTAKE initiatives, within our parliaments and within our respective political parties, to stimulate women's leadership and development, in order to increase the representation, within the decision-making bodies in society, of women with a gender based approach;

MAKE KNOWN the work of women parliamentarians through mass media;

REPORT, at the next Annual Meeting of the Network, on the initiatives taken in our respective regions;

MAKE CONCRETE, through gender-oriented public policies, the legislations of the different parliaments protecting human rights, labour rights, political, social, educational and gender rights, with a special emphasis on reproductive health;

PARTICIPATE in the deliberations of the different decision-making bodies and Networks of COPA;

CREATE associations of women parliamentarians and former parliamentarians in order to strengthen the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas;

ENDORSE the *Declaration on the Impacts of the FTAA and Hemispheric Integration on the Lives of Women* adopted in April 2001 by the Executive Committee of the Network of Women Parliamentarians, with the aim of ensuring that the FTAA negotiations and the process of the Summits of the Americas will reflect the needs and concerns of women, will be conducted in transparency and will take into account the voice of the parliamentarians of the Americas.