



## **NETWORK OF WOMEN PARLIAMENARIANS OF THE AMERICAS**

### **MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**MEXICO CITY, MAY 1st 2002**

#### ***CONCLUSIONS***

The meeting of the Executive Committee of the Network of Women Parliamentarians brought together approximately 20 participants from about a dozen different countries and four regional parliaments. During their proceedings, the members of the Executive Committee:

- took turns presenting the most recent laws and initiatives related to women's rights that had been adopted by their respective parliamentary assemblies;
- admitted two new members to the Executive Committee:

- Ms. Maria Antonieta Botto Handal de Fernandez, of the Congreso Nacional of Honduras, as the second representative for Central America;

- Ms. Deborah Hudson, member of the State legislature of Delaware, U.S.A., as the second representative for North America.

- announced the launching of the document bank on women on the COPA Website. This bank contains the women's rights legislation of the members' home countries as well as a variety of links and resources in connection with women's status in the Americas and the world.
- agreed to set up an internship program in their respective parliamentary assemblies in order to enable female students to become familiar with legislative processes and give thought to the possibility of a political career, in keeping with the long-term objective of increasing the number of women active in politics.

The members of Brazil, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Puerto Rico, El Salvador, the Andean Parliament and the Central American Parliament showed interest in implementing this project.

According to the anticipated timelines, this internship program would begin in spring or fall 2003.

- determined the theme of the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Network, scheduled to take place in Mexico City in late November 2002. The meeting would centre on a training workshop respecting the tools that parliamentarians may draw on in order to ensure that gender-specific issues are taken into consideration by governments during the budget preparation process. In particular, this measure would make it possible to achieve compliance with laws respecting women's rights adopted in the various parliamentary assemblies.
- adopted a declaration of support for Ingrid Betancourt, the Colombian Senator and candidate for the country's presidency, who was kidnapped on February 23, 2002.

In this declaration, the members of the Network Executive Committee pledged to make their stand publicly known, promote the creation of parliamentary support committees for Ingrid Betancourt in their respective assemblies, and promote this group in their national media.

This declaration was also submitted to the members of the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) so that they may also adopt it in the name of the principle of parliamentary solidarity governing this organization.

- adopted a recommendation respecting the restoration of the rule of law and parliamentary and democratic institutions in Venezuela.