



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

**Ixtapan de la Sal, Mexico, November 24, 2002**

***RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING GENDER-SPECIFIC BUDGETS***

At its annual meeting on November 24, 2002, in Ixtapan de la Sal, Mexico, the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas,

*NOTING* that the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 issued a call for gender issues to be taken into consideration in budget decisions and policies;

*NOTING* that women assume nearly all responsibilities relative to reproduction, child rearing, health care, and the family, which are underestimated and underappreciated;

*NOTING* that the failure to recognize the many contributions of women to national development perpetuates discrimination and gender inequality while reinforcing obstacles to the right of women to equal access to economic goods and services; and

*WHEREAS* local and national budgets are tools for determining people's access to goods, resources, and services;

*WHEREAS* budget and resource allocation reflects priority areas for action, and when the said budgets are unable to meet the needs and demands of the poor and of women, this calls into question the true commitment toward achieving objectives and creating programs centered on equality and equity, such as eliminating violence toward women, as well as providing proper services to support the unpaid labor of women and promoting equal opportunities for women in the economy;

*WHEREAS* the establishment of a gender-specific budget can be key to alleviating discrimination and inequality, as well as promoting the more effective use of public resources;

*WHEREAS* gender-specific budgets are one of the tools public authorities can use to act on their commitments toward gender equality and human development;

*WHEREAS* gender-specific budget initiatives are appropriate at a time when more attention is being paid to decentralization, the effective administration of public affairs, and people's right to information;

*WE, the women of parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal, federated and associated states, regional parliaments, and interparliamentary organizations of the Americas meeting in Ixtapan de la Sal for the III Annual Meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians, agree to:*

*URGE* the Heads of State and Government of the Americas to gauge the extent of disadvantages for women and remaining gender inequality;

*URGE* the Heads of State and Governments of the Americas to take the necessary steps to implement the gender-related commitments, recommendations, and action plans stemming from international conferences;

*RECOMMEND* that the training of parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, and committee chairpersons include public policy and budget analysis from a gender standpoint;

*RECOMMEND* that parliaments become aware of the need to account equally for the concerns of men and women in the budget process and in public policy development, such that all parliament and government decisions pay equal attention to the concerns of both genders;

*RECOMMEND* the increase and inclusion of women in committees where budget repartition is decided;

*CALL* for all parliaments and governments of the Americas to establish gender-specific budget programs, strategies, and initiatives to give women and men fair and equal access to opportunities, goods, resources, and services;

*URGE* all parliaments and governments of the Americas to evaluate all their policies and budgets from the standpoint of their discriminatory impact on individuals of both genders and to develop the state budget based on the principle and results of this comparative gender analysis, such that fiscal policy better meets the needs of women.