



**MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE  
NETWORK OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS**

**ISLA MARGARITA, VENEZUELA  
FEBRUARY 22, 2003**

***RECOMMENDATION IN FAVOUR OF WORLD PEACE***

*RECALLING* the recommendations passed previously by the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, dealing with the violence, inequalities and injustice to which women are always subjected during conflicts;

*RECALLING* more particularly the recommendation on the contribution of women to the democratic process and to peace, passed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas held in Rio de Janeiro in 2001, according to which we are currently observing a world-wide resurgence of acts of violence and war, of which women and children are often the victims, and which reminds us that peace is founded on principles of solidarity, partnership, collaboration and the peaceful resolution of conflicts, which are visions and values shared by women;

*RECALLING* our profound conviction that the peaceful resolution of conflicts is the only way to ensure peace and security in the world;

*WHEREAS* armed conflicts create unending cycles of violence, destruction and mortality and cause our spiritual, political, ecological and economic impoverishment;

*WHEREAS* armed conflicts destroy family life, send entire communities into exile and make children into orphans;

*WHEREAS* the astronomic amounts of money devoted to war efforts could be used instead to eliminate poverty in the world;

*WHEREAS* the proliferation of biological, chemical and nuclear weapons is a threat to the security of all populations on the planet;

*WHEREAS* the central objectives of the United Nations, as set out in its founding charter, are to maintain international peace and security and to foster the resolution of disputes between countries by peaceful means;

*WHEREAS* the civil population of Iraq, especially women, children and elderly persons, are already placed under severe stress by the economic sanctions and the consequences of the Gulf War;

*WHEREAS* military action in Iraq would worsen the suffering of the Iraqi civil population, which would risk triggering a conflict with repercussions far beyond the borders of Iraq;

*WE, the members of the Executive Committee of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, gathered on Margarita Island on February 22, 2003,*

*REAFFIRM* our willingness to promote the use of peaceful methods fostering dialogue and negotiation for the resolution of global conflicts and the building of a world founded on peace, equity and social justice, the unconditional respect of human rights and the right of self-determination of peoples;

*CONDEMN*, in accordance with the principles of international humanitarian law, any attack against civil populations, as well as the recruitment of children or adolescents in wars or armed conflicts;

*URGE* the Heads of State and Government as well as Parliamentarians to do everything in their power to oppose military action against Iraq, and to seek a peaceful solution to the current problems;

*URGE* the Heads of State and Government as well as Parliamentarians to redirect the moneys destined for the conflict in Iraq to programs promoting health, education, housing and the well-being of children;

*URGE* the Heads of State and Government as well as Parliamentarians to respect the international laws and treaties, which are the basis of sovereignty and the auto-determination of peoples, and to promote multilateral mechanisms in order to vigorously reject all unilateral decisions and military aggression as means of resolving international conflicts which put in peril peace in the world;

*SUPPORT* the peaceful initiatives taken by civil societies from throughout the world and the social movements that gathered recently in Porto Alegre at the World Social Forum;

*LAUNCH* an appeal for the large-scale destruction of all biological, chemical and nuclear weapons in all countries, under the control of the United Nations;

*LAUNCH* an appeal to the authorities of the Iraqi government to cooperate with the United Nations Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and to respect Resolution 1441;

*REQUEST* that the United Nations take due notice, without further delay, of the effects of the embargo on Iraq and, more particularly, of its harmful consequences for the humanitarian situation of the civil population of Iraq, and primarily for women and children, in order that all relevant actions may be taken, urgently, with a view to lifting the embargo;

*WE COMMIT OURSELVES* to do everything in our power to contribute to bringing to an end all rationale in favour of war, as well as the hate that it engenders and the racism that it generates, particularly by informing our fellow citizens of the danger that threatens us and of the urgency of mobilizing ourselves to promote world peace.

*WE, THE WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS REJECT WAR AND SAY YES  
TO PEACE IN THE WORLD.*

*“MAY ARMS BE CONVERTED INTO BREAD”*