



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

**San Juan, Puerto Rico  
September 24, 2004**

**RESOLUTION ON THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PARLIAMENT  
(PARLACEN)**

**WHEREAS**

The decision adopted by the heads of state and government of the countries of *Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana* (SICA, Central American Integration Process) at meetings held this year to proceed to an integral reconsideration of *Institucionalidad Centroamericana* (the creation of institutions for Central America) with a view to equipping the region's countries with a modern, integrated regional structure adapted to present-day needs;

**CONSIDERING THE FACT**

That the Central American integration process has not kept up with the glaring needs of the populations in question and that not only must it be reviewed in depth, but the region's organizations and institutions must also be strengthened to ensure the process continues independently from the uncertainties of politics;

**HAVING BEEN INFORMED**

That following the last initial decision made in Belize in December 2003 regarding the reform, the Central American Parliament (PARLACEN) developed its own draft in February of this year and submitted it in the form of a document to the heads of state and government of SICA countries for consideration, which they did not welcome because it aimed to prevent them from being represented on the Special Committee appointed by the governments to develop the reform draft;

## BEING OF THE VIEW

That PARLACEN has conducted a vast consultation of the main sociopolitical actors of each of the region's countries, notably on

1. The *Tegucigalpa Policy Declaration* drafted on May 26, 2004, which contains a resolution requiring that the reform guarantee "the running of powerful community organizations likely to directly influence the course of the process;"
2. The *Nicaragua National Assembly Declaration* adopted on June 29, 2004, in which the National Assembly members expressed their unconditional support for the proposal presented by PARLACEN and any other resolution aimed at strengthening it and not allowing its legitimacy to be diminished in any way on the grounds that its members are not elected directly by the population;
3. The *Managua Parliamentary Declaration* adopted on July 27, 2004, in which the parliamentarians expressed their support for PARLACEN and other SICA organizations, such as the Congress and Legislative Assembly Committees on Integration and External Relations;
4. The *Declaration of the Forum of Presidents of the Legislative Branch of Central America* (FOPREL) drafted in Guatemala last July, in which the presidents ask that SICA's legitimacy be asserted and its efficiency ensured;
5. The *Managua Declaration on the Occasion of the Commemoration of the 17 Years of Existence of the Esquipulas Agreements II* signed on July 12, 2004, by presidents Azcona, Cerezo, and Ortega, respectively from Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua, who also signed the Esquipulas I and II Agreements. In this declaration, they openly support an in-depth review of the integration process and of the content of the Tegucigalpa Policy Declaration and ask the presidents of Central American countries to convene a new **Esquipulas III** that takes into account the urgency of taking action because of growing social needs in the region;
6. The *El Salvador National Assembly Resolution* adopted on August 12, 2004, asking that real powers to control SICA democratic, political, administrative, legislative, and budget duties be conferred on PARLACEN;
7. The Resolution of the IVth Regional Meeting of Women from Political Parties on "Women and Integration in Central America and the Caribbean and Reforms to the Community System" issued in El Salvador and calling for reform "guaranteeing the legitimate and exclusive representation of the region's peoples by parliamentarians directly elected through general elections..."

## WHEREAS

The *position of the Central American Court of Justice (Corte Centro-Americano de Justicia - CCJ)* was presented in June of this year, in which the Court judged insufficient the framework of intergovernmental cooperation that has existed up to now and noted that the nonfulfillment by a country or group of countries of the treaties concluded within the institutional framework of SICA risks hindering the integration process;

## BE IT RESOLVED

1. That the legislative bodies of our respective countries be urged to vote in favor of strengthening the Central American Parliament (PARLACEN) at this crucial time for the future of the region's integration process and the strengthening and consolidation of the Central American Integration Process;
2. That the region's parliaments be requested to express their support for PARLACEN and confer upon it the attributes it needs to efficiently fulfill its role as the legitimate representative of the Central American people;

That the heads of state and government of SICA countries be urged to responsibly deal with the current situation, which requires integration of the region and a strengthening of its institutional process more than ever before;

3. That the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) be urged to officially support the institutionalization of the Central American Integration Process (SICA) and demand an in-depth review of the process, and in particular the strengthening of PARLACEN;
4. That all women parliamentarians, members of this Confederation, be requested to urge their respective political parties to stand by PARLACEN as a legitimate, democratic body of SICA;
5. That this Resolution to Support the Central American Integration Process be adopted, especially in regard to supporting the strengthening of PARLACEN, as women parliamentarians are convinced that the integration of the Central American people and their institutions is the only means to successfully meet today's challenges and assure the populations in question the future they deserve.
6. To adopt this Resolution of support for the Central American integration process, notably the strengthening of PARLACEN, given the conviction of women parliamentarians that the integration of Central America's peoples and institutions is the sole means of meeting contemporary challenges and ensuring a decent future for the populations concerned.