



NETWORK OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS

**10th ANNUAL MEETING
Québec City, Canada, September 6, 2011**

DRAFT RESOLUTION

WOMEN'S COMMITMENT TO A BETTER FUTURE: WATER, POVERTY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CONCERNED that women constitute 70% of the 1.2 billion people living on less than a dollar a day;

NOTING that in spite of the increased number of women in the workforce, women still face a certain level of discrimination, are generally paid less than their male counterparts and occupy less secure jobs;

NOTING that the responsibility for uncompensated work stills weighs disproportionately on women, furthering the economic inequality between men and women;

KEEPING IN MIND that this feminization of poverty and insecurity in terms of living conditions makes women more vulnerable to environmental changes, to a lack of resources, and to economic and social crises;

KEEPING IN MIND that clean water is essential to surviving, health and human dignity and that in the coming years, it will become a rare resource especially for very poor families;

CONSIDERING that a society's development must be sustainable, i.e. must respond to current needs without compromising the well-being of individuals and future generations while taking into account the associated environmental, economic, social and cultural aspects supported by the International Pact on economic, social and cultural rights and by others treaties and agreements on the matter;

RECONFIRMING the importance that the sustainable human development debate include women's perspective as indicated in the Rio Declaration of 1992, which stipulates that women's full participation is essential to achieving sustainable development;

KEEPING IN MIND that the third Millennium Development Goal promises gender equality and women's empowerment at three key levels: education, employment and political involvement, as an efficient means of combating poverty, hunger, and illness, and of promoting sustainable development;

KEEPING IN MIND that we must increase the number of women in political and economic decision-making roles to ensure better consideration of their realities;

KEEPING IN MIND the widely recognized and positive impact of women's education and work in lowering and eradicating against poverty;

KNOWING that governments and parliaments are able to use laws, policies and gender-responsive programs to achieve true and actual equality among men and women.

WE, the members of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, assembled in Québec City, Canada, on September 6, 2011:

UNDERTAKE to make the necessary efforts so that women's political and economic empowerment is considered a priority issue and an effective means of fighting and preventing poverty, hunger, and illness, and of promoting sustainable development in our respective States;

WILL WORK to ensure that the improvement of women's economic and social conditions, in terms of access to education, suitable work and pay equity, is considered a condition inherent to women's empowerment;

WILL CONTINUE to work, individually and collectively, so that a critical mass of women hold positions of responsibility, politically and economically, and so that women are present in debates on key social issues such as sustainable development and water supply;

ENCOURAGE our governments to continue implementing effective measures to eradicate poverty and satisfy potable water supply needs with a view to ensuring sustainable development and taking into account the feminization of poverty;

UNDERTAKE to promote the adoption of gender-responsive budgets and laws, and to analyze and publicize legislative progress regarding the status of women, access to water and sustainable development;

UNDERTAKE to pursue a study of, first, the connection between poverty, pay equity and women's economic empowerment, and second, the connection between water, the environment and the status of women with regard to our work, paying specific attention to the directions taken by international organizations such as UN Women.