



Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas

QUERÉTARO DECLARATION ***Querétaro, Mexico – July 20, 2010***

CONSIDERING that celebrations commemorating the 200th anniversary of the independence of several Latin American States are the perfect opportunity to RECOGNIZE the key role played by women in creating a free, democratic and prosperous world;

CONSIDERING that gender equality and the recognition and respect of the rights of women are essential for consolidating democracy in the Americas;

DEMONSTRATING our concern in the face of continued discrimination and violence against women in the Americas;

HIGHLIGHTING the vital role women parliamentarians can play in achieving gender equality;

RECALLING the results of the Network's work and the resolutions it has adopted since 2003 on gender-based budget analysis, migration, the effects of trade agreements on women, human trafficking, the implementation of the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW), violence against women and the participation of women in politics;

We, the members of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas gathered in Querétaro, Mexico, on July 20, 2010, DECLARE:

That in the democratic societies of the 21st-century Americas, it is unacceptable for women to be seen as anything but equal to men and that all necessary steps must be taken to guarantee this recognition by the different components of the State;

That the contribution of women to the independence of Latin American States must be officially highlighted during the bicentennial celebrations, in particular by the special delegation of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas charged with the task;

That we, in our congresses and our national, regional, federal and provincial Parliaments, firmly pledge to fight violence and discrimination against women, as well as exclusion and social inequality and the factors that promote them;

That the place of women in politics must continue to grow, notably through ongoing individual and collective efforts within our respective Parliaments;

That the Network must remain a privileged space for women parliamentarians throughout the Americas to study issues related to the status of women, share their experiences and strengthen their solidarity;

That we recognize the instrumental role played by women in the struggle for the independence of our States, from anonymous heroines to those whose names have gone down in history;

That we recognize the key role played by Manuela Saénz in consolidating the democratic process in Latin America, especially her fighting spirit and political and emancipatory vision.