

The President and members of the Executive Committee of the
Women Parliamentarians of the Americas participate in the
Second Hemispheric Forum "Women's Full Citizenship for Democracy"
hosted by the Inter-American Commission of Women of the OAS
in Santo Domingo from July 18 to 21, 2012

As part of the Forum, the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) invited the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas to moderate the "Status and current perspectives on legislative-level reforms for real equality" panel. Moderated by Diva Gastélum, President of the Network and Deputy from Mexico, the panel enabled Network representatives Norma Esparza Herrera, Senator of Mexico, Alicia Gutiérrez, Deputy of the province of Santa Fe in Argentina, Mireya Zamora, Deputy of Costa Rica, and Danielle Doyer, Member of the National Assembly of Québec to present laws and good practices for gender equality in their respective governments.

In parallel with the Forum, the Network organized the "Consultation with Parliamentarians of the Americas" in cooperation with the CIM and the Commission on Gender Equality Issues of the Chamber of Deputies of the Dominican Republic. The main objective of this Consultation was to develop a hemispheric initiative to strengthen the capacity for incidence and for fiscalization of legislative commissions and parliamentary groups on women and gender equality. The Consultation was held on July 18, in the presence of the presidents of the Commissions on Gender Equality in the legislative assemblies of the 34 member States of the OAS and parliamentarians concerned with the promotion of women's rights. Within the framework of that event, the President moderated a debate on laws and programs for gender equality.

The Second Hemispheric Forum "Women's Full Citizenship for Democracy" was a high-level event that brought together representatives from the executive, legislative and judicial branches of all levels of government of the Americas, from international organizations concerned with gender issues, and from academia and civil society, for the purpose of identifying and discussing the political and state reforms necessary in order to expedite the exercise of women's full citizenship in the Americas by promoting the creation of pluralistic dialogues, synergies and concerted actions.

The Forum helped to consolidate the relationship between the Network and the CIM and to identify the next possible stages of cooperation between our organizations. Moreover, this event allowed the President to heighten the awareness of political representatives from a number of American states and international organizations about the activities of the Women Parliamentarians of the Americas and to plan future collaborative efforts.