



## ***4th Consultation of the Parliamentarians of the Americas***

### **STRENGTHENING THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM IN THE AMERICAS WITH RESPECT TO: GENDER PARITY IN PUBLIC LIFE WOMEN'S SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS**

**Salta, Argentina – October 13, 2016**

#### **CONTEXT**

The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) and the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas (Network) worked together in 2012 to strengthen the legislative program with respect to women's rights and gender equality. This collaboration has involved organizing consultations of parliamentarians throughout the Americas in the context of the Network's annual meetings.

The goal of these consultations is primarily to analyze obstacles, strategies and best practices in light of the work the CIM carries out for the parliamentarians to advance women's rights in various target areas: women's participation in politics and strengthening democracy; political violence; economic rights; sexual and reproductive rights, etc.

Against this backdrop, the CIM and the Network have organized the 4th Consultation of the Parliamentarians of the Americas, which will be held on October 13 and 14 in Salta, Argentina, and will focus on two themes: (1) gender parity in political life and (2) women's sexual and reproductive rights.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- Highlight and support the role parliamentarians play in strengthening the legal framework affecting these areas in their respective countries.
- Assess how regional organizations can support this task.
- Create a forum for debating the tools developed by the CIM in relation to the themes chosen and introduce these tools to the parliamentarians to encourage legislative changes in these areas and consolidate the parliamentary oversight role.

The CIM will present five tools in relation to the themes mentioned:

- The CIM's working model on gender parity in public life.
- Legislative recommendations, based on the studies carried out by the CIM and International IDEA, on adopting parity in Ecuador, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Mexico.
- Legislative recommendations in the area of sexual and reproductive rights, based on the Expert Committee's reports on the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI, 2012 and 2014).
- Integrated System of Human Rights Indicators concerning Women: Monitoring Sexual and Reproductive Rights (CIM, 2015).

- Declaration on Violence against Women, Girls and Teens and their Sexual and Reproductive Rights, MESECVI Expert Committee (2014).

## EXPECTED RESULTS

- Publicize the working model on gender parity established by the CIM and the legislative recommendations arising from the CIM and International IDEA's research on parity.
- Present monitoring tools and legislative recommendations in the area of women's sexual and reproductive rights to the parliamentarians of the Americas.
- Promote dialogue and discussions among the parliamentarians of the Americas on best practices and knowledge related to the consultation themes.
- Have the parliamentarians and participants approve a document containing conclusions and recommendations on the consultation themes.

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

**Thursday, October 13**

**8:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. Opening ceremony**

- Deputy Alicia Gutiérrez, Argentina, President of COPA's Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas
- Hilary Anderson, Senior Specialist, CIM/OAS
- Liliana Guitian, MP from Salta

**8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Moving Towards Gender Parity in Public Life**

**8:45 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.**

### Conference

"Strengthening democracies in the Americas. What model of political parity do we aspire to?"

- Hilary Anderson, Senior Specialist, CIM/OAS

**9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.**

### Discussion

Matilde Balduzzi, Salta, Argentina

MNA Carmen Quesada Santamaría, Costa Rica

MP Romina Pérez, Bolivia

Eyoum Minono Epoube, President of the Network of Parliamentary Women of the Francophonie

Moderator: Hilary Anderson, CIM/OAS

**10:15 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

### Group work: Legislative recommendations of the 4th Consultation

1. Legislative measures to implement electoral parity and other related measures.
2. Legislative measures to implement parity within the executive and judicial branches.
3. Legislative measures to strengthen women's leadership and political autonomy.

**12:00 noon to 12:30 p.m.**    **Reading and approval of the legislative recommendations** by the groups' spokespersons

**12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.**    **Lunch**

**1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**    **Women's Sexual and Reproductive Rights: Recommendations to Move the Legislative Program Ahead and Tools to Improve the Parliamentary Oversight Role**

**1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**    **Conference**  
"Women's sexual and reproductive rights: progress and obstacles"  
▪ Hilary Anderson, Senior Specialist, CIM/OAS

**2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**    **Discussion**  
MNA Marie Montpetit, Québec  
Silvia Ausburger, Santa Fe, Argentina  
Inés Bertero, Santa Fe, Argentina

Moderator: Mabel Bianco, President of the *Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer*

**3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.**    **Group work: Legislative recommendations of the 4th Consultation**  
1. Legislative measures to strengthen sexual and reproductive rights.  
2. Strategies to counter the opposition.  
3. Mechanisms for working with civil society.

**3:45 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.**    **Reading and approval of the legislative recommendations** by the groups' spokespersons

**4:15 p.m.**    **Closing** by Deputy Alicia Gutiérrez, Argentina, President of COPA's Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas

**4:30 p.m.**    **Press conference**  
  
Senator Miguel Ángel Chico Herrera, Mexico, President of COPA  
Alicia Gutiérrez, Argentina, President of COPA's Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas  
Hilary Anderson, Senior Specialist, CIM/OAS