



**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary delegation
to the
Special Parliamentary Dialogue held prior to the
5th Summit of Heads of States and
Governments of the Americas**

**Canadian Section of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum
of the Americas (FIPA)**

**Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
April 16 and 17, 2009**

Report

A delegation from the Canadian Section of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA) attended the Special Parliamentary Dialogue held prior to the 5th Summit of Heads of States and Governments of the Americas, at the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on April 16, 2009. The delegation was led by the Honourable Céline Hervieux-Payette, Senator, and was accompanied by Mr. Leif-Erik Aune, Association Secretary.

The theme of the Special Parliamentary Dialogue was “Engaging Parliaments in the Summits of the Americas Process” and the event brought together representatives from parliaments of some 45 countries, government representatives from Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Grenada, Haiti, Paraguay, the United States of America and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, as well as representatives from the Organization of American States and the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption.

In a statement adopted at the end of the Special Parliamentary Dialogue, parliamentarians of the Americas called for “an increased parliamentary participation in the Summit Process as a means to ensure accountability and transparency.” In the declaration, parliamentarians encouraged a partnership between the legislative and executive branches in the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain and expressed their will to participate on a continual basis in the Summit of the Americas Process, through FIPA.

The Special Parliamentary Dialogue opened with addresses by the Honourable Stanford Callender, M.P., Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the International Executive Committee of FIPA, Mr. Luiz Carlos Hauly, Member of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies and President of FIPA, the Honourable Barendra Sinanan, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Trinidad and Tobago, the Honourable Danny Montano, President of the Senate of Trinidad and Tobago, and His Excellency José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the Organization of American States. The Honourable Paula Gopee Scoon, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago, presented the keynote address and stated that support from parliaments would be needed in order to legislate in areas such as arms trafficking and cybercrime.

Senator Hervieux-Payette moderated interventions by the participants, including Congressman Gregory Meeks, Member of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere of the United States House of Representatives. Congressman Meekes’ attendance and intervention marked the return to FIPA participation by the United States Congress since the Forum’s inauguration in 2001. The fruitful discussions underscored the importance placed on creating and preserving the permanent involvement of parliaments from the Americas in the Summit of the Americas process.

Mr. Hauly, praised the “open and honest” dialogue that “set an example of parliamentary democracy between the legislative and executive branches.” Senate

President Danny Montano called for parliaments to help governments set foreign policy and also to have a say over the conditions that are imposed on countries by development agencies. OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza stressed the need to strengthen FIPA as an instrument of cooperation.

On Friday, April 17, Senator Hervieux-Payette met with Mr. Luis Carlos Haully, President of FIPA, and members of the International Executive Committee of FIPA, to review the upcoming 6th FIPA Plenary Assembly, which will be held from September 13-15, 2009. The Executive Committee considered subject matter experts for the Plenary Working Groups as well as possible keynote speakers for the Opening Session of the Plenary Meeting.

The Canadian delegation would like to thank the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and High Commissioner Karen McDonald. The delegation was strongly supported by Dr. Patrick Theriault, MD., Regional Medical Officer of the High Commission in Trinidad and Tobago.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. James Bezan, M.P.
Chair
Canadian Section
of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum
of the Americas (FIPA)

Travel Costs

ASSOCIATION	Canadian Section of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA)
ACTIVITY	Special Parliamentary Dialogue held prior to the 5th Summit of Heads of States and Governments of the Americas
DESTINATION	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
DATES	April 16 and 17, 2009
DELEGATION	
SENATE	The Honourable Céline Hervieux- Payette, Senator
STAFF	Mr. Leif-Erik Aune Association Secretary
TRANSPORTATION	\$ 5,437.51
ACCOMMODATION	\$ 2,001.17
HOSPITALITY	\$ 774.18
PER DIEMS	\$ 644.05
OFFICIAL GIFTS	\$ 32.50
MISCELLANEOUS / Medical Evaluations	\$ 6.48
TOTAL	\$ 8,895.89

**SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY FORUM OF THE AMERICAS (FIPA)**

OTTAWA, CANADA
SEPTEMBER 13 - 15, 2009

prosperity and cooperation: a new agenda for the americas

Draft Recommendation

**Outcome of the Special Parliamentary Dialogue held prior to the
5th Summit of Heads of States and Governments of the Americas**

To be considered by the FIPA Plenary Assembly on September 15, 2009

RECOGNIZING the importance of the pre-Summit Special Parliamentary Dialogue held by the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago and the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA) on April 16, 2009 and the adoption of a final statement;

THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF FIPA:

1. ENDORSES the Final Statement adopted by parliamentarians gathered at the Special Parliamentary Dialogue, annexed to the present recommendation;
2. RECOMMENDS that similar parliamentary dialogues be held as part as regular pre-Summit activities held in the framework of future summits of Heads of State and Government of the Americas.

Annex

Special Parliamentary Dialogue “Engaging Parliaments in the Summits of the Americas’ Process”

Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago
April 16, 2009

FINAL STATEMENT

Adopted on April 16, 2009

We, Parliamentarians, gathered at the Special Parliamentary Dialogue hosted by the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and FIPA on April 16, 2009 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago:

1. Encourage partnership between parliamentarians and the Executive branch in the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain, to be adopted by Heads of States and Governments of the Americas at the Fifth Summit.
2. Encourage Governments to recognize the great diversity of the various countries of the hemisphere in the implementation of the Declaration.
3. Assert that increased parliamentary participation in the Summits of the Americas’ Process will lead to accountability and greater transparency.
4. Call on Governments to ensure that the Organization of the American States will be supported financially in order to monitor the implementation of the Summit Declaration and carry out the mandates entrusted to it.
5. Express our will to participate on a continual basis in the Summit of the Americas’ Process through FIPA.