



**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation Respecting
its Participation at the 26th Meeting of the Executive
Committee and the 8th Plenary Assembly
of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation
Canadian Section of ParlAmericas**

**Asunción, Paraguay
September 7 to 10, 2011**

Report

ParlAmericas and Canada's involvement

ParlAmericas, formerly the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA), is an independent network made up of national legislatures that are also members of the Organization of American States (OAS). ParlAmericas members are committed to promoting parliamentary participation in the inter-American system and developing inter-parliamentary dialogue on issues of importance to the hemisphere. ParlAmericas seeks to encourage the sharing of experiences and best practices amongst its members, and it works to strengthen the role of legislatures in democratic development and to promote harmonization of legislation and hemispheric integration as instruments of sustainable and harmonious development in the region.

ParlAmericas was constituted at the Inaugural Meeting under the auspices of the Parliament of Canada in Ottawa in 2001. The Forum is based on three main bodies, namely: the Plenary Assembly, the Executive Committee and the Technical Secretariat. The Plenary Assembly, which is held annually, is an information exchange platform where Parliamentarians of the Americas can discuss various themes aiming to foster legislators' role in hemispheric integration, and democratic and economic development.

Canada has been strongly involved in ParlAmericas since its inception. On September 10, 2011, Randy Hoback (Prince Albert, CPC) was elected President of ParlAmericas. Mr. Hoback has been the head of the Canadian Section of ParlAmericas since April 2010. He became the second Canadian president of ParlAmericas, following Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette, who held this position from 2001 to 2006. In addition, the ParlAmericas Technical Secretariat is incorporated in Canada and is based in Ottawa. Canada is also in charge of maintaining the ParlAmericas website. This site plays a key role in the organization's activities as it hosts the Virtual Parliament of the Americas, which allows ParlAmericas' working groups to continue their discussions, as this would be done in a parliamentary chamber or committee room, using electronic communication and technical support.

Report

26th Meeting of the Executive Committee

Introduction

The ParlAmericas Executive Committee held its 26th meeting in Asunción, Paraguay, at the Crowne Plaza on September 7, 2011. The meeting was chaired by ParlAmericas Interim President Randy Hoback, Member of Parliament of Canada, who also served as the North American representative. Other participants included:

- Senator Adriana González Carillo, representing North America
- Victor Juliao, Member of the National Assembly of Panama, representing Central America
- Germán Alcides Blanco Alvarez, Member of the Chamber of Representatives of Colombia, representing South America
- Senator Alberto Grillón Conigliaro of Paraguay, representing South America and the host country of the 8th Plenary Assembly
- Linda Machuca Moscoso, Member of the National Assembly of Ecuador, President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas
- Canadian Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette, as former president of ParlAmericas
- Brazilian Deputy Luiz Carlos Hauly, as former president of ParlAmericas

The main objectives of this Executive Meeting were to:

- provide an update on recent Executive Committee activities;
- provide an update on the ParlAmericas work plan;
- finalize preparations for the 8th Plenary Assembly; and
- approve the resolution to officially replace the name Inter-parliamentary Forum of the Americas by ParlAmericas

Opening of the meeting

The ParlAmericas President welcomed the participants to this 26th meeting of the Executive Committee. He regretted the absence of Haitian Senator Edmonde Supplice Beauzile for logistical reasons, and the Speaker of the House of Assembly of Saint Lucia, Rosemary Husbands-Mathurin, who was unavailable for travel to Paraguay. He then presented the meeting agenda, which was approved, and then preceded with a report on recent Executive Committee activities.

Update by the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas

The floor was given to Assemblywoman Linda Machuca Moscoso, President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, so she could report to the Executive Committee on the recent activities of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas. Ms. Machuca Moscoso provided a detailed account of the workshop “The Political Leadership of Women: Action Plan for the Americas,” which took place in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from June 30 to July 1, 2011. Ms. Machuca Moscoso said that the workshop was attended by more than 70 legislators from 15 countries of the Americas. The issues discussed ranged from migration, the challenges of gender equality, leadership and the situation of female politicians in the Caribbean.

Report by the Director General of ParlAmericas

Gina Hill began by informing the Executive Committee that the new ParlAmericas website will be operational in late September. Ms. Hill also provided an overview of the activities of the ParlAmericas technical secretariat.

Update on ParlAmericas finances

Viviane Rossini presented the projected actual revenues and expenditures for the period from October 1, 2010, to September 30, 2011. The organization anticipated generating \$122,000 in revenues in addition to the \$684,200 contribution from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), for a total of \$806,200. Regarding expenditures, the organization anticipated spending \$119,740, in addition to \$610,894 from the CIDA contribution, for a total of \$730,634. Given current projections, ParlAmericas therefore anticipated a budget surplus of \$75,566.

The ParlAmericas President said that although the organization would be able to fund itself for the next two or three years, it should find new funding sources to ensure its long-term sustainability.

Legal name change of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas

Further to the decision made at the 7th Plenary Assembly in November 2010 in Mexico City, Mexico, to change the name of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas, the Executive Committee approved a special resolution to change the corporate name and to approve the application for the issuance of supplementary letters patent in order to confirm the proposed amendments to the corporate articles of letters patent. Under this resolution, the corporation’s new name became “ParlAmericas.”

Update on the Preparations of the 8th Plenary Assembly

The floor was given to Senator Alberto Grillón Conigliaro of Paraguay, the country hosting the 8th Plenary Assembly. The Senator summarized the upcoming activities over the following days as well as provided a list of the delegates and countries registered for the Assembly.

The ParlAmericas President confirmed the selection of parliamentarians chairing the working groups during the Plenary Assembly. It was therefore determined that Deputy Germán Alcides Blanco Alvarez of Colombia would chair Working Group 1 on the role of human rights and development in citizen security. Senator Rogelio Rueda of Mexico would chair Working Group 2 on transnational aspects of citizen security. Then Senator Edmonde Supplice Beauzile of Haiti would chair Working Group 3 on multidimensional approaches to citizen security. It was also confirmed that the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas would be chaired by Linda Machuca Moscoso, Member of the National Assembly of Ecuador.

The President reminded the different chairs of the rules of procedures they had to follow to ensure good conduct of the working sessions.

Draft resolutions to be presented at the Plenary Assembly

The Executive Committee debated a resolution amending the ParlAmericas governance structure, which provided for the creation of a Board of Directors representing a greater number of countries, a president elected by this Board of Directors, the creation of two vice-president positions and a secretary-treasurer position, a limited executive committee made up of the president, two vice-presidents and the secretary-treasurer, along with the creation of five standing committees.

The President explained that these changes were further to the recommendations of the strategic plan prepared by the Executive Committee with a view to ensuring the organization's sustainability and growth for future years.

The Executive Committee also discussed the resolution regarding the vacant position on the Executive Committee for Central America and the procedural rules for Executive Committee elections. It was agreed that these resolutions would be submitted for approval at the opening session of the 8th Plenary Assembly on September 8, 2011.

Procedural rules of elections

The ParlAmericas President informed the Members that six positions of Representatives at the Executive Committee were due to expire at the 8th Plenary Assembly: Mexico as the representative of North America; Panama as the representative of Central America; Saint Lucia as the representative of the Caribbean; Paraguay as the representative of South America, Ecuador as the representative of the Group of Women Parliamentarians, and the second position reserved for Central America, currently vacant. The term of the ParlAmericas President was also due to expire at the 8th Plenary Assembly. That said, the President indicated that if the resolution on ParlAmericas governance were adopted, new positions on the Board of Directors would be created. The President also noted that if the resolution were

adopted, the president would be chosen among the members of the new Board of Directors going forward and not elected during the Plenary Assembly.

Report

8th Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas

Introduction

The 8th Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas was held in Asunción from September 8 to 10, 2011, under the auspices of the Parliament of Paraguay. This year had a dual signification for Paraguay, as it marked the bicentenary anniversary of that country's independence.

The theme for the 8th Assembly was citizen security. This theme was approached from various angles, such as the role of human rights and development, transnational aspects, multidimensional approaches and the gendered nature of this issue.

ParlAmerica's Plenary Assembly was attended by 29 parliamentarians from 13 countries, which represented each of ParlAmericas' sub-regions (North America, Central America, the Caribbean and South America). Canada was represented by three parliamentarians:

- MP Randy Hoback (Prince Albert, CPC), Head of the Canadian delegation and ParlAmericas Interim President;
- MP Paulina Ayala (Honoré-Mercier, NDP); and
- Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette (Lib.)

Opening session

The opening session of the 8th Plenary Assembly was held within the Parliament of Paraguay and was attended by the President of the Republic of Paraguay, Fernando Armino Lugo Méndez. For the occasion, the following dignitaries delivered opening addresses:

- Senator Jorge Oviedo Matto, President of the Senate of Paraguay;
- Senator Alberto Grillón Conigliaro, Representative of Paraguay on the ParlAmericas Executive Committee; and
- MP Randy Hoback, ParlAmericas Interim President.

In their addresses, the dignitaries reminded the parliamentarians that security is a prerequisite for achieving long-term economic and social development and that they play a key role in meeting the challenges arising from security issues affecting citizens of the Americas. The dignitaries raised the importance of interparliamentary dialogue, the sharing of lessons learned and best practices, and discussions on problems and common objectives that could help strengthen democracy in the hemisphere. In this regard, they emphasized the key role of ParlAmericas in promoting interparliamentary dialogue in the hemisphere.

The ceremony ended with the declaration of the official opening of the 8th Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas.

First session of the Plenary Assembly

The first session of the 8th Plenary Assembly began with the approval of the agenda and the election of Senator Alberto Grillón Conigliaro of Paraguay as President of the Plenary Assembly. This election was followed by the annual report by the ParlAmericas President and the presentation of the resolutions submitted by the Executive Committee at the Plenary Assembly for approval.

Assemblywoman Linda Machuca Moscoso, President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, was then asked to present an update on the activities of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, particularly the workshop “The Political Leadership of Women: Action Plan for the Americas” that took place in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from June 30 to July 1, 2011.

The President of the Plenary Assembly then yielded the floor to the key note speaker, Kevin Casas Zamora from the Brookings Institute, who gave a presentation on certain proposals for dealing with citizen insecurity in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Mr. Casas Zamora said that establishing a comprehensive, complex program, which runs counter to the dominant political discourse, is required to deal with the epidemic of violence in Latin America and the Caribbean. In his view, in observing the situation in these two regions, such a program should include the following 10 components:

- Reframing the discussion to strike a balance between social prevention and a sense of urgency that acknowledges that a robust use of government coercion, within the limits of the State of law, is unavoidable in the fight against crime.
- Democratizing the discussion since security must be everyone’s business, and ensuring that this discussion is open and transparent.
- Improving the governability of criminal policy by ensuring coordination within the executive branch, horizontal coordination among the various government authorities (particularly between the police and the judiciary), vertical coordination among the various levels of government within the country, and coordination between the government and the other stakeholders.
- Modernizing law enforcement institutions and investing in information.
- Improving relations between law enforcement institutions and the community.
- Increasing coordinated government presence in problem areas, particularly in large Latin American cities.
- Regulating the purchase and possession of firearms.
- Preventing teen pregnancies, given the social vulnerability of households headed by teen mothers.

- Rethinking drug policies by ensuring that the response to the problem is multidimensional and includes a vigorous diplomatic dimension that allows for a real hemispheric dialogue on the subject.
- Investing in improving youth outlook since investment in human development is the surest route to less violent, less terrorized and safer societies.

Mr. Casas Zamora believes that such a program should help reframe the debate on insecurity in Latin America and the Caribbean and avoid the trap of the instant mirage of an “iron fist” policy.

Following Mr. Casas Zamora’s presentation, the parliamentarians attended the official photography session of the Plenary Assembly and then returned to the Crowne Plaza Hotel, where the other work sessions would take place.

Working group sessions

On September 8 and 9, 2011, the parliamentarians were invited to attend one of three concurrent sessions, according to their areas of interest. The three working groups focussed on specific aspects of citizen security in the Americas. The first group looked at the role of human rights and development in citizen security. The second group focussed on transnational aspects of citizen security. The third group discussed multidimensional approaches to citizen security. In addition to these three groups, the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas met twice in conjunction with the other meetings to discuss the gendered nature of citizen security. A summary of the discussions that took place in each group is presented below.

The sessions ended with the finalization of the resolutions that had to be submitted during the second session of the Plenary Assembly scheduled on September 10, 2011. The recommendations from the working group sessions are presented in Appendix A.

Group 1: The Role of Human Rights and Development in Citizen Security

The working group was chaired by Colombian deputy Germán Alcides Blanco Alvarez. The objectives of this working group were the following:

- identify the root causes of crime, violence and citizen insecurity;
- examine various current approaches to prevention, law enforcement, rehabilitation and reintegration;
- develop approaches to eradicate family violence;
- promote a coordinated approach to development and security;
- evaluate the concept of citizen protection;
- evaluate the concept of food security;
- study the steps needed to address extreme poverty, inequality and social exclusion; and
- manage to incorporate a gendered approach in the group’s proceedings.

In order to achieve these objectives, the Working Group heard the presentations of two experts: Carmelo Caballero, lawyer and university professor from Paraguay; and Juan Faroppa Fontana, lawyer and university professor from Uruguay.

Group 2: Transnational Aspects of Citizen Security

The working group was chaired by Mexican senator Rogelio Rueda. The objectives of this working group were the following:

- review regional initiatives and current best practices;
- determine the importance of regional cooperation for developing long-term policies in order to discuss transnational aspects of security;
- focus on what happens to victims of transnational crime;
- examine rural and urban points of view; and
- manage to incorporate a gendered approach in the group's proceedings.

In order to achieve these objectives, the Working Group heard the presentations of two experts: Eric Olson, senior associate at the Mexico Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC; and Alejandra Mohor, Crime Prevention Coordinator, Centre for Citizen Security Studies, University of Chile.

Group 3: Multidimensional Approaches to Citizen Security

The working group was chaired by Haitian senator Edmonde Supplice Beauzile. The objectives of this working group were the following:

- study opportunities for cooperation with all stakeholders, including representatives from civil society, the private sector and the media;
- develop prevention, rescue and assistance approaches in response to natural disasters;
- promote the duty of governments to develop public policies;
- assess the impact of resource extraction;
- discuss the impact of climate change;
- identify the impact of public policy; and
- manage to incorporate a gendered approach in the group's proceedings.

In order to achieve these objectives, the Working Group heard the presentations of two experts: Marco Antonio Rodriguez Corrales, Independent consultant on disaster prevention, mitigation, and assistance; and Gustavo Beliz, government modernization expert, Inter-American Development Bank.

Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas

The Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas met twice in conjunction with the other meetings to discuss citizen security with consideration to gender differences. The session was chaired by Ecuadorian assemblywoman Linda Machuca Moscoso, President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas. The objectives of this working group were the following:

- determine what is meant by a gendered approach to citizen security;
- incorporate the concept of femicide;
- identify the 20th-century challenges to protecting women from all forms of violence;
- study the issue of human trafficking, focussing specifically on women and girls;
- analyze the impact of this issue on the region;
- recognize the limits of the justice system and the fight against impunity; and
- review the best options for designing spaces for international response based on the planned program for the hemisphere.

In order to achieve these objectives, the working group heard a presentation by Teresa Ulloa Ziáurriz, Regional Director of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Special session of the Plenary Assembly

On September 9, 2011, the Plenary Assembly held a special session for the presentation and adoption of the ParlAmericas strategic plan for 2011–2014. Consultant Michel Rathier presented the strategic plan, whose objectives are as follows:

- address key challenges regarding sustainability, governance and relevance for future years;
- lay the groundwork for a renewed, updated mandate and complete a new vision for the future;
- expand the geographic scope and membership of ParlAmericas to reach all sovereign states and states governing dependent territories in the region;
- ensure the long-term sustainability of ParlAmericas through new funding strategies, and adapt its organizational processes and structures to the realities of its new environment.

The parliamentarians then debated the resolution establishing the changes proposed by the strategic plan. The resolution called for a change to the ParlAmericas governance structure and the creation of a Board of Directors representing a greater number of countries, a president appointed by this Board of Directors, two vice-president positions (also appointed by the Board of Directors), and a secretary-treasurer position. In addition to the Board of Directors, a limited executive committee would be created and would include a president, two vice-presidents and a secretary-treasurer. It also provides for the creation of five standing committees.

Following extensive debate, the resolution was adopted with amendments. Thus, the president and the vice-presidents would be elected by the Plenary Assembly, not appointed by the members elected to the Board of Directors (the position of second vice-president would be reserved for the president of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas). The position of secretary-treasurer would be elected by the Board of Directors (requiring 2/3 of votes). The outgoing president, a representative of the country hosting the following plenary assembly, and the ParlAmericas Director General would also sit on the Board of Directors, but as non-voting members. Lastly, the number of regional representatives was increased to three per region for a total of 12.

Lastly, the President explained the new election procedures based on the text of the adopted resolution and asked those countries interested in running for a seat on the new Board of Directors to apply by the end of the day.

Second session of the Plenary Assembly

The second session began with a series of elections to appoint countries that would represent each of the four ParlAmericas sub-regions on the Board of Directors: North America, Central America, the Caribbean and South America.

The session continued with a presentation of the recommendations from the various working groups (see Appendix A). These recommendations were fully received and adopted by the Assembly without amendments.

The Assembly then continued with the announcement of the election results. The new members of the Board of Directors elected during the 8th Plenary Assembly were:

- Mexico, representing North America
- El Salvador, representing Central America
- Costa Rica, representing Central America
- Honduras, representing Central America
- Cuba, representing the Caribbean
- Paraguay, representing South America
- Chile, representing South America

Randy Hoback was acclaimed as the new ParlAmericas President. Victor Juliao, Member of the National Assembly of Panama, was elected First Vice-President, also by acclamation. Given her re-election as President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, Ecuador Assemblywoman Linda Machuca Moscoso became the *de facto* Second Vice-President.

The second session of the Plenary Assembly ended with the selection of the country that will host the 9th Plenary Assembly. It was agreed that Panama will host the 9th Plenary Assembly in fall 2012.

Meetings held in conjunction with the Plenary Assembly

The Canadian delegates to the 8th Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas used their visit to Paraguay as an opportunity to meet with Canadian officials working in that country and with others working to promote Canada's interests there.

On the evening of September 8, the three Canadian delegates attended a dinner with the following guests:

- Juan Speratti
Canadian Honorary Consul in Paraguay
- Celsy Benavidez Campos
Coordinator of the Canada Fund in Paraguay
- Carlos Ruffinelli
Deputy Director, Canadian Studies Centre in Paraguay
- Madeleine Genest
Principal of the Nursing School, *Universidad Católica Nuestra Señora de la Asunción*
- Héctor Torres Báez
Member of the Canada-Paraguay Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

During this meeting, discussions focussed on current Canada-Paraguay relations, what could be done to strengthen them, and specific projects in Paraguay providing business opportunities for Canadian entrepreneurs.

On September 9, in conjunction with the working group sessions of the Plenary Assembly, Randy Hoback and the Association Secretary met with an official from Rio Tinto Alcan to discuss an investment project of over US\$3.5 billion to build an aluminum smelter in Paraguay. The project is expected to create more than 14,000 permanent jobs for over 50 years and account for 4% of Paraguay's GDP once the smelter is operational. According to the Rio Tinto Alcan official, the aluminum smelter is scheduled to come on line in 2017.

Conclusion

Although there were fewer parliamentarians attending the 8th Plenary Assembly than past assemblies, those in attendance praised the quality of the discussions and the recommendations that came out of the meetings during the final days. At the end of the various sessions, they were able to come up with relevant resolutions that were approved by the Assembly without amendments.

The 8th Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas represented renewal in light of the major amendments adopted regarding the organization's governance and its strategic vision for the future.

The success of the 8th Plenary Meeting is due in part to the work and dedication of the organizers on site in Paraguay. The Canadian Section would also like to acknowledge

the support provided by the Secretariat of the Association as well as the Technical Secretariat of ParlAmericas.

The Canadian section would also like to acknowledge the support of the Association advisor and the other analysts from the Library of Parliament who assisted in drafting support documents and for their assistance and availability to the Canadian delegation on site in Paraguay.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Hoback, M.P., Chair
Canadian Section
of ParlAmericas

Travel Costs

ASSOCIATION	Canadian Section, ParlAmericas
ACTIVITY	26th Meeting of the Executive Committee and the 8th Plenary Assembly
DESTINATION	Asunción, Paraguay
DATES	September 7 to 10, 2011
DELEGATION	
SENATE	Hon. Céline Hervieux-Payette, Senator
HOUSE OF COMMONS	Mr. Randy Hoback, M.P., Head of Delegation Ms. Paulina Ayala, M.P.
STAFF	Leif-Erik Aune, Executive Secretary Alexandre Gauthier, Analyst
TRANSPORTATION	\$36,666.75
ACCOMMODATION	\$5,267.78
HOSPITALITY	\$685.13
PER DIEMS	\$2,264.26
OFFICIAL GIFTS	\$227.70
MISCELLANEOUS / REGISTRATION FEES	\$105.42
TOTAL	\$45,217.04

APPENDIX A

WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

Working group recommendations on the role of human rights and development in citizen security

The Working Group recommended the following:

1. Contribute, as part of our duties as parliamentarians, to developing and implementing government policies on citizen security and public policy by focussing on human rights and on preventing and addressing violence and crime;
2. Consider incorporating the directives established in the reports of the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights on citizen security and human rights (2009) and on juvenile justice (2011) into the American States' legal frameworks;
3. Strengthen government officials' respect at all times of human rights as an indispensable tool for improving citizen security. This implies that the State is responsible for preventing, investigating and, as needed, prosecuting all violence and offences and preventing any impunity in this regard;
4. Establish rules that guarantee systems for selecting, training and upgrading officials working within government institutions involved in citizen security (judges, prosecutors, security forces personnel and correctional staff);
5. Legislate with a view to overseeing and supervising private businesses in the security industry by requiring that their employees have university and/or vocational training and by requiring human rights guarantees;
6. With government support, establish policies on early child care, children's personal development at home or in a group setting with child care workers, with a special attention toward single-parent families;
7. Together with interdisciplinary working groups, strengthen correctional systems for minors and adults through programs based on successful experiences with rehabilitation and recidivism prevention;
8. With support, encourage civil society organizations specializing in citizen security to allow them to implement legislative programs as well as projects and programs that respect human rights;
9. Encourage the operations of national and international crime and violence observatories that will produce and analyze well-documented information with a view to developing public policies on citizen security; and
10. Give priority to development issues within legislative programs in order to help form more dignified, inclusive and just societies. Encourage and supervise the approval of budgets that reflect human rights development processes.

Working group recommendations on transnational aspects of citizen security

Whereas, as parliamentarians, we are to use the various prerogatives available to us such as:

- The legislative prerogatives themselves, in order to refine our legal frameworks;
- Prerogatives to oversee the work of senior managers to ensure that they apply legislation effectively and observe government objectives with a view to improving and protecting citizen security; and
- Organizational prerogatives by hosting or participating in analysis and discussion forums on the divergent and similar visions of social, academic and parliamentary organizations,

The Group recommends the following:

1. Review our legal frameworks in order to account for the transnational aspects specific to criminal organizations (drug trafficking, human trafficking, money laundering, cybercrime, etc.) and, in harmonizing our legislation, facilitate transnational operations to prosecute and punish crime;
2. Demonstrate that fighting crime must obviously be combined with prevention efforts; and, through the necessary territorialization of prevention, consider the unique circumstances of each region and community;
3. Review our legal frameworks to make crime prevention, particularly with respect to drug use, a local government responsibility;
4. Ensure that adequate resources are allocated to local governments so they can effectively carry out their prevention responsibilities;
5. When assigning budget resources to prevention programs, ensure that a percentage is earmarked for their evaluation;
6. Lastly, aware of the need to pursue and enhance research, evaluation and dissemination of effective prevention practices, we recommend that the OAS establish an authority tasked with identifying and analyzing those factors that influence problem drug use in order to help develop, implement and evaluate local prevention programs.

Working group recommendations on multidimensional approaches to citizen security

The Working Group recommended the following:

1. Incorporate all public policy on citizen security, disaster risk management and climate change in order to achieve synergy among normative, institutional and social matters;
2. Strengthen co-operation between countries in sub-regions and regions to develop common instruments, horizontal cross-border cooperation and knowledge and information transfer on safety and security matters, disasters and climate change;

3. Establish or strengthen the institutional framework for managing risks and disasters in order to ensure that human rights are respected, and contribute positively to entrenching the principles of personal security;
4. Promote citizen participation by encouraging social conscience and a culture of prevention and protection in civil society based on solidarity, while still taking into account the State's responsibility in this area;
5. Take into account the elements that will strengthen social capital and human security when planning the recovery and rebuilding process after disasters;
6. Promote statistical database systems and comparative indicators on crime and violence from a variety of sources that would allow for permanent monitoring and the evaluation of public policy by involving civil society;
7. Reinforce special parliamentary committees by giving them more stability and encouraging working relationships with academics and with interdisciplinary specialists in violence prevention in order to ensure an integrated interventionist approach by reinforcing the institutions of family, education and public health through the teaching of values such as the moral and ethical dimensions of policies;
8. Carefully consider the analysis of public budgets for violence prevention—both the quantitative and qualitative aspects—according to the various social causes by reinforcing the institutions of family, education and public health and by encouraging concrete action through the ethical pedagogy of political action;
9. Promote legislation that introduces effective control and repression mechanisms regarding the flow of funds associated with organized crime;
10. Encourage the reinforcement of institutions so that they fulfill their roles and carry out actions useful to social prevention and preparing countries to confront natural disasters by encouraging the use of science and technology and by maximizing the use of existing resources in our countries;
11. Adapt, in a timely manner, national and regional legislation to address new forms of crime and violence;
12. Take into consideration in public policy the matter of food security in the fight against hunger and malnutrition;
13. Recommend a resolution to submit to the OAS and the UN about establishing an Environmental Compensation Fund that would be funded by countries that cause serious damage to the environment (e.g., climate change) to assist more vulnerable countries;
14. Ensure that multinational corporations working in developing countries comply with the same environmental standards that they would in developed countries, while also ensuring that developing countries establish their own standards; and
15. Promote the organization of multidisciplinary social workers who contribute to preventing the social causes that lead to violence.

Recommendations from the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas

Whereas the Group of Women Parliamentarians, as an integral part of ParlAmericas, promotes respect for human rights as a cornerstone of human prosperity and conditions allowing all persons to live with dignity;

And whereas the Group of Women defends and advocates for effective governance, democracy and ethics in the performance of parliamentary duties, since these aspects form part of the work of legislators across the continent;

The Working Group recommended the following:

1. Pass legislation to achieve parity and equality and to ensure that these principles are entrenched in lawmaking in all countries. Gender mainstreaming must clearly appear in the drafting of all standards;
2. Create, within ParlAmericas, proposed framework legislation or proposed model legislation on citizen security that member States can share among themselves. The OAS and the UN have already used this work method to address certain issues;
3. [That] the Working Group on Gender Mainstreaming regarding citizen security promote and encourage the idea of creating, within ParlAmericas, framework legislation or specific model legislation to deal with human trafficking;
4. Draft a bill on victim and witness protection, in accordance with the Istanbul Declaration;
5. Encourage the creation of technical committees specialized in gender within each parliament, with the assistance of international cooperation;
6. Renew the commitment to draft a bill on victim and witness protection;
7. Encourage current and former parliamentarians to form partnerships so they can benefit from the experience of seasoned parliamentarians and that the experience and knowledge gained is not lost;
8. Create common work programs among parliamentarians, rising above ideological or partisan bents, to encourage an inclusive, diversified and respectful approach that provides the necessary conditions for gender mainstreaming in all standards;
9. Encourage our parliamentarians to form communication teams that are sensitive to gender issues and that will help provide visibility to the work of women and the work programs referred to in item 8;
10. Advocate for political will to incorporate parity and alternating between men and women within parties, thereby encouraging equality within the political organizations we belong to, which will then be reflected in the public space;
11. Encourage the imposition of sanctions against anyone who, through advertising, promotes the sex trade and sexual exploitation and against any advertising messages that demean women and girls. Along these lines, acknowledge and reward good practices that fight against human trafficking; and

12. Fight slavery, sexual exploitation and human trafficking by incorporating the nature of the demand (clients) into our legislation.