



PRESS RELEASE
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Michelle Bachelet to be the keynote speaker at ParlAmericas' Parliamentary Forum "Gender Equality and the Media"

Her Excellency the President of the Republic, Ms. Michelle Bachelet, will be in attendance for the inauguration of the 3rd Parliamentary Forum on Beijing +20: *Gender Equality and the Media*, to take place on January 12 and 13 in Santiago, Chile.

This forum, organized by ParlAmericas and the Chilean Chamber of Deputies, will address gender equality and the media, in reference to Section J of the Beijing Platform for Action, and will bring together parliamentarians from Latin America and the Caribbean along with national and international experts and journalists. Participants will engage in dialogue and exchange best legislative practices for promoting and strengthening the inclusion of marginalized voices and non-stereotypical representation of women and men in the media.

Member of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile, Claudia Nogueira, Vice-President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians and host of the event, affirmed, "important progress has been made in Latin America concerning equal rights and dignity for both men and women. Today women are better represented, participate more, and have better access to the media. Nevertheless, significant biases must be corrected before the media can be considered to be truly inclusive and raise awareness of women's rights."

Member of the National Assembly of Ecuador, Gina Godoy, President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of ParlAmericas, stated, "as legislators, we have a responsibility to ensure communication does not reproduce sexist stereotypes in our communities. Through ParlAmericas, we promote initiatives that strengthen legislation in order to achieve the objectives of the Beijing Platform."

The Parliamentary Forum on Beijing +20 originated in the National Assembly of Ecuador as a follow-up mechanism to the commitments made during the Fourth World Conference on Women, which took place in Beijing, China, in 1995.

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ParlAmericas is the network of the national legislatures of member states of the Organization of American States (OAS). It serves as an independent forum for parliamentarians of the Americas and the Caribbean committed to cooperative political dialogue and participation in the inter-American system. For more information, visit www.parlAmericas.org.