

Mexico City, 23 June 2014

### **Opening Press Conference: 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering of the Group of Women Parliamentarians**

Members of the Executive Committee of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of ParlAmericas; Jennifer Simons, President of the National Assembly of Suriname and President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians; Randy Hoback, Member of Parliament of Canada and President of ParlAmericas; and Marcela Guerra, Senator of the Republic of Mexico and Host of the Gathering, jointly with Ambassador Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo, Undersecretary of Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights in the Secretary of External Relations of Mexico; Member of the Chamber of Deputies Maricela Velázquez Sánchez, Vice-president of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Deputies of Mexico; and Raúl Cervantes Andrade, President of the Senate of the Republic of Mexico, will announce in press conference the opening of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering of the Group of Women Parliamentarians, which will be held from June 24 to 25, 2014 in Mexico City. The press conference will take place on Tuesday, June 24, at 9:45 am (local time) in the Octavio Paz room of the Marriott Reforma Hotel in Mexico City.

This event will provide preliminary information on the Annual Gathering of the Group of Women Parliamentarians that will be held that same Tuesday, June 24, and the following day, Wednesday, June 25, 2014. Parliamentarians from North America, Central America, the Caribbean, and South America will meet to discuss, along with experts in the field, how to take action to achieve not only formal laws that guarantee gender equality but also political commitments to achieve real equality.

More than 50 parliamentarians from 25 countries of the hemisphere will hold debates on the main topic and participate in strategic planning sessions, in which they will identify priority areas for future action and training required for legislative work with a gender perspective.

On the first day there will be two working sessions led by specialists in the field. The first session, "Achievements in Guaranteeing Equality: Experiences Promoting Legislation and Programs Benefiting Women," will be presented by Teresa Incháustegui (Mexico), while the second session, "Barriers to Real Equality," will be hosted by Ramona Biholar (Romania). Each session will include a panel discussion among regional rapporteurs.

The second day will include strategic planning sessions in which, among other things, participants will review the main issues addressed in the recommendations resulting from previous meetings, discuss and identify strategies and/or actions that could be developed to promote said issues, and identify training needed for future programming of the Group of Women Parliamentarians.

**WHAT:** Opening Press Conference: 6th Annual Gathering of the Group of Women Parliamentarians

**WHEN:** Tuesday, 24 June 2014, at 9:45 am (local time)

**WHERE:** Octavio Paz room of the Marriott Reforma Hotel in Mexico City

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ParlAmericas is an independent network composed of the national legislatures of the 35 states of North, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. ParlAmericas members are committed to develop inter-parliamentary dialogue on issues relevant to the hemisphere through training workshops and other activities closely aligned with current issues of hemispheric importance.

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