



11th Plenary Assembly
Mainstreaming Sustainability
September 25-27, 2014 – Santiago, Chile

Meeting of the Group of Women Parliamentarians: *Women's Healthcare*

DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT ON WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE IN THE AMERICAS

Considering that:

Through Resolution 65/234 the United Nations General Assembly decided to extend the deadline for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) beyond 2014,

The Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, adopted at the First Meeting of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, is the regional agenda on this issue, and that its implementation not only supplements the Programme of Action of the ICPD, but it is also of essential to advancing women's health and rights,

Despite progress in furthering the objectives and goals set out in the Programme of Action of the ICPD, major challenges exist for its full implementation, many of which are related to inequalities still persistent in the region,

Gender-based violence is a persistent problem in the region, and one which has serious implications for the exercise of human rights, individual and community health, and the development of men and women suffering from such violence,

The challenges to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health are still serious, especially in regards to teenage pregnancy, maternal mortality, unsafe abortion, and the unmet need for contraceptives, including emergency contraceptive pills,

Average statistics generally conceal the realities faced by specific groups where these issues are even more serious, such as adolescents and youth and other vulnerable populations.

Investments in sexual and reproductive health education and prevention generate a large economic and social return,

Sexual and reproductive rights are an integral part of human rights, and their exercise is essential for health and development,

We are concerned about the criminalization of women who opt to terminate their pregnancy, and about the number of women who are imprisoned in our region on that account,

We commit to:

1. Contribute to the establishment of policies for comprehensive education on gender and sexuality, at both public and private schools, and at all levels of schooling.

2. Promote a sustainable development agenda that includes women's health and gender equality.
3. Pass legislation on violence including and criminalizing obstetric violence, sexual violence, and political violence.
4. Facilitate access to support and protection networks for women with at-risk pregnancies through multidisciplinary teams, physicians, psychologists, and social workers, in order to provide these women with the tools they require for their motherhood.
5. Recognize that those comprising the legislative power must be aware of their impact on women's health.
6. Open dialogue to analyze the legal frameworks on sexual and reproductive health and rights.
7. Allocate budgetary resources to increase access to public services and to strengthen prevention-based sexual and reproductive health for youth and adolescents.

Santiago, Chile, September 27, 2014