



**Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas of FIPA**  
First Regional Forum (Caribbean & North America)

***“Enhancing Women’s Leadership to Strengthen Democracy”***

**Bridgetown (Barbados), March 20-22, 2005**

**Objectives:**

- To create a forum for women parliamentarians of the Americas to advance the regional gender-equality agenda, for shaping the direction and character of emerging societies of the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- To build the capacity of parliamentarians to promote and implement gender-equity policies, through the sharing of experiences and best practices
- To assess the advancement of women thus far and identify key growth areas and tools for their participation in leadership and decision-making
- To submit recommendations to the Plenary Assembly of FIPA, with a view to the Fourth Summit of the Americas

**Contact Information**

**Barbados**

**Conference Location:**  
**The Savannah Hotel, Hastings**  
**Conference Room**  
Hastings, Christ Church, Barbados  
Tel: 1 (246) 228-3800  
Fax: 1 (246) 228-4385  
[www.gemsofbarbados.com](http://www.gemsofbarbados.com)

**Lynette Holder, Barbados Coordinator**  
Corporate Communications Consultants  
Tel: 1 (246) 434-0756  
Fax: 1 (246) 434-0756  
Email: [cccinc@caribsurf.com](mailto:cccinc@caribsurf.com)

**International/Canada**

**Sabra Ripley, International Coordinator**  
Deputy Executive Secretary  
Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA)  
Tel: 1 (613) 943-2802  
Fax: 1 (613) 947-8010  
Email: [info-fipa@e-fipa.org](mailto:info-fipa@e-fipa.org)

**Emmanuelle Pelletier**  
Executive Secretary  
Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA)  
Tel: 1 (613) 947-8787  
Fax: 1 (613) 947-8010  
Email: [info-fipa@e-fipa.org](mailto:info-fipa@e-fipa.org)



## ***Program***

### **Sunday, March 20, 2005:**

7:30pm Welcoming Cocktail (Savannah Hotel, Courtyard)

### **Monday, March 21, 2005:**

9:00am Registration of Participants

9:30am Opening Ceremony

- The Honourable Sandra Husbands, Senator of Barbados, Member of the Executive Committee of FIPA
- The Honourable Céline Hervieux-Payette, Senator of Canada, President of FIPA
- The Honourable Elizabeth Thompson-McDowald, Minister of Housing and the Environment of Barbados

10:00-10:15am Introduction: *Moving forward on the Regional and International Agenda for Gender Equality.*

- Mrs. Jeanette Bell, Coordinator for the Canada Caribbean Gender Program for Barbados and the OECS

10:15-10:40am Coffee Break

### **First Session: *Women in Power and Decision-Making***

10:40-11:30am Presentations

- 10:40-11:00am *Representation of Women in Parliaments of the Region: Recognition and Removal of Obstacles*
  - Mrs. Gaietry Pargass, Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- 11:00-11:30am *National Experiences*
  - The Honourable Leslie Ann Seon, President of the Senate, Grenada
  - The Honourable Joseph Baden Allain, Speaker of the House of Assembly, St. Lucia
  - Trinidad and Tobago

11:30am-12:30pm Discussion

12:30-12:40pm Wrap-Up



12:40-2:00pm Lunch (Boucan Wine Bar and Restaurant, Savannah Hotel)

**Second Session: *Women, Poverty and HIV/AIDS***

2:20-3:10pm Presentations

- 2:20-2:40pm *The Role of Legislators in Advancing the HIV/AIDS Regional Strategy*
  - Mrs. Nalita Gajadhar, Program Officer for the Bureau of Gender Affairs, Barbados, and Past-President of the National Organization of Women
- 2:40-3:10pm *National Experiences*
  - The Honourable Hamilton Lashley, Minister for Social Transformation and Gender Affairs, Barbados
  - The Honourable Pana Merchant, Senator of Canada

3:10-4:10pm Discussion

4:10-4:20pm Wrap-Up

4:20-4:30pm Coffee Break

**Third Session: *Human Rights of Women & Violence Against Women***

4:30-5:30pm Presentations

- 4:30-4:50pm *Ratification and Implementation of International and Regional Agreements on Women's Human Rights*
  - Mrs. Carmen Lomellin, Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)
- 4:50-5:30pm *National Experiences*
  - The Honourable Dr. Jacqui Quinn-Leandro, Minister of Labour, Public Administration and Empowerment, Antigua and Barbuda
  - Diputada Blanca Gámez Gutiérrez, *Cámara de Diputados*, Mexico : « Femicide in Ciudad Juárez »
  - The Honourable Marcella Liburd, Speaker of the House of Assembly, St. Kitts and Nevis
  - The Honourable Syringa Marshall-Burnett, President of the Senate, Jamaica

5:30-6:30pm Discussion

6:30-6:40pm Wrap-Up

**7:30pm Dinner Hosted by H.E. Michael C. Welsh**

High Commissioner of Canada for Barbados

Location: Canadian High Commission in Barbados (Near the People's Cathedral)



**Tuesday March 22, 2005:**

*Open to Civil Society Representatives and Business Leaders*

9:00-9:30am Registration of Civil Society Organizations and Business Sector Representatives

**Fourth Session: *Enhancing Women's Leadership for the XXI Century***

9:30-9:50am Presentations

- Senator Sandra Husbands, President of the Caribbean Association of Small and Medium Enterprises
- The Honourable Alix Boyd-Knights, Speaker of the House of Assembly, Dominica

9:50-10:00am Break

10:00-11:30am Simultaneous Round-Tables

- Enhancing Women's Leadership in Politics
- Enhancing Women's Entrepreneurship

11:30am-12:00pm Presentation of results and wrap-up of round table meeting

12:00pm-12:30pm Presentation of final conclusions and recommendations

12:30-2:00pm Lunch (Boucan Wine Bar and Restaurant)

2:00-2:30pm Press conference



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**As well as our partners:**



**Bureau of Gender Affairs, Ministry of Social Transformation, Barbados**

[www.barbados.gov.bb](http://www.barbados.gov.bb)



**The Caribbean Association of Small and Medium Enterprises**

[casme@caribsurf.com](mailto:casme@caribsurf.com)



**Corporate Communications Consultants, Barbados** [cccinc@caribsurf.com](mailto:cccinc@caribsurf.com)



**The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations**

[www.eclac.cl](http://www.eclac.cl)



**The Inter-American Commission of Women at the Organization of American States (OAS)**

[www.oas.org/CIM/](http://www.oas.org/CIM/)



**The Parliamentary Centre**

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**And thank you to all our participants!**

[www.e-fipa.org](http://www.e-fipa.org)