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 21st 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

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| The Savannah Hotel, Hastings Conference Room | Deputy Executive Secretary
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# 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

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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
  - 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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www.e-fipa.org
As well as our partners:

Bureau of Gender Affairs, Ministry of Social Transformation, Barbados
www.barbados.gov.bb

The Caribbean Association of Small and Medium Enterprises
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Corporate Communications Consultants, Barbados cccinc@caribsurf.com

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations
www.eclac.cl

The Inter-American Commission of Women at the Organization of American States (OAS)
www.oas.org/CIM/

The Parliamentary Centre
www.parlcent.ca

And thank you to all our participants!

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