

**VIII PLENARY OF THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY FORUM OF THE AMERICAS
SEPTEMBER 8TH-10TH 2011, ASUNCIÓN, PARAGUAY**

WORKING GROUP: GENDER PERSPECTIVE ON CITIZEN SECURITY

AGENDA AND PROGRAM

1. BACKGROUND

The working group “*Gender perspective on Citizen Security*”, presented by the Group of Women Parliamentarians, is centered on human rights as a fundamental basis for assuring human prosperity and worthy conditions of life for all men and women; along with governance and democracy, they are elements that make up the work of legislators of the continent.

In this sense, participants will be introduced to the concept of security, the framework of which has been broadened by the current situation, and by threats such as international terrorism, drug trafficking and illegal weapons trade, the trafficking of persons, the global sex industry, money laundering, institutional corruption, and organized crime.

Although the time for work is brief, we aim to undertake an analysis of the new forms of violence against women – expressed as femicide, the feminization of poverty and migration, the trade of women and girls or illegal trafficking, as factors which contribute to the deterioration of citizen security and that affect all women in the hemisphere.

The main points which will be treated by the Group of Women Parliamentarians under the title “*Gender Perspective on Citizen Security*” are:

- Selling and trafficking of persons
- The justice system and the fight against impunity
- Citizen security and women’s rights
- Integration of gender perspectives in all initiatives

The expert responsible for guiding these discussions will be Teresa Ulloa, Regional Director of the Coalition against the trafficking of women and girls in Latin America and the Caribbean, A.C. (CATWLAC). [Bibliographical note in the paper summary].

2. OBJECTIVES

- Determine what is understood by mainstreaming the gender perspective in the matter of Citizen Security
- Internalize the concept of femicide
- Identify the challenges of the twenty first century in the protection of women against all forms of violence
- Examine the sale and trafficking of persons, with a particular emphasis on the situation of women and girls
- Analyze the impact of this factor on the region
- Acknowledge the challenges presented by the justice system, and the fight against impunity
- Examine the best options to design spaces for intervention at the international level, stemming from the hemispherical agenda
- Succeed in integrating the gender perspective in the working group

3. CENTRAL POINTS OF THE DEBATE

Mainstreaming the gender perspective

To start the working group it will be fundamental to understand the concept of mainstreaming the gender perspective. For that, and according to legislative practices, one should consider how drafting or amending a piece of legislation will impact the day-to-day life of both genders, focusing on the historic inequalities that still persist in our region. It means undertaking a reengineering project, in order to transform the intent and outcome of legislation, as well as to eradicate its patriarchal and sexist vision.

The challenges of the XXI century in the matter of citizen security

Another important point to further the debate is the notion of femicide. Although the concept of violence against women has existed for decades, femicide is a more recent notion; it refers to the intention to destroy, subjugate and subdue a group, in whole or in part, in this case the group composed of women and girls.

Understanding this concept is key to interrogating the arguments and the aggressors themselves, about violence based on gender differences; given that in some cases the aggressors are dismissed as “crazy”, that such crimes are presented as “crimes of passion”, or their importance diminished in situations of armed conflict by labeling them “collateral damage.”

The discussion will also focus on themes such as prostitution and pornography, as well as other forms of violence against women, insofar as their prevalence in our countries perpetuate stereotypes of a woman’s body as sex object, in addition to converting it to an immense source of profit for organized crime through the trade of women and girls, which carries much less risk than drug trafficking.

Organized crime and the trade of women and girls

Given that investigations show that drug trafficking and the trade of women and girls produce 40% of the GDP of Latin America, it is essential to discuss trans-nationalization of crime, as well as problems that stem from it.

It must be understood that domestic organized crime crosses borders, its actions relate to different types of global threats, and that it is a type of activity which has an essentially economic objective. Currently, organized crime is the main player in the trade of women and girls and the illegal trafficking of migrants, kidnappings, extortion, bootlegging, smuggling, etc.

Organized crime, with its high degree of sophistication and specialization, is one of the biggest threats to Latin American and Caribbean societies. That is why it is fundamental to combat it with the agents of the State.

Insecurity in the lives of women

The scenarios regarding the lack of security faced by women will be analyzed, starting with the home, their place in the community, and the macro levels, considering organized crime, migration, sexual exploitation, and the trafficking and trade of human beings.

4. WORK SCHEDULE

Thursday September 8, 2011 : First Session	
08h00 - 08h30	Organizes the Group of Women Parliamentarians <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome speech from the President of the Group of Parliamentary Women of the Americas, assembly member Linda Machuca Moscoso – Ecuador. - Activity report 2009-2011
08h30 - 09h00	Paper: “Citizen Safety and the Rights of Women and Girls” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teacher Teresa Ulloa, Regional Director of the Coalition against the trafficking of women and girls in Latin America and the Caribbean, A.C. (CATWLAC)
09h00 - 09h30	Question and Answer session and debate
Friday September 9, 2011 : Second Session	
11h00 - 12h30	Continuation of the debate and preparation of the recommendations (which will be presented Saturday September 10 th 2011 by the President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, Assembly member Linda Machuca Moscoso – Ecuador)
12h30 - 13h00	Approval of recommendations for presentation to the Plenary, and conclusion