

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
Ottawa, Canada
September 13-15, 2009

REPORT

Foro Interparlamentario de las Américas
Fórum Interparlamentar das Américas



Forum interparlementaire des Amériques
Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas



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Acknowledgements

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We would also like to express our sincere thanks to the guest speakers and working group secretaries for their invaluable contribution to the working sessions.

* * * * *

1. Introduction



Parliament of Canada, Centre Block

At the kind invitation of the Parliament of Canada, the Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA) was held on September 13, 14 and 15 in the city of Ottawa.

This important event brought together over 75 parliamentarians, who participated as official delegates from 22 countries of the Americas, as well as representatives from two permanent observer countries. *(See Appendix 1 for a list of participants)*

The overall theme of the event was “Prosperity and Cooperation: a New Agenda for the Americas”. At the first plenary session, the Assembly formed three working groups to look at the global economic and financial crisis, the issue of food security and challenges related

to international migrations and human rights, respectively. In addition, the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas held its fifth meeting.

2. First Session of the Plenary Meeting

2.1 Consideration of the Agenda

FIPA President Luiz Carlos Hauly, Member of the Chamber of Deputies of Brazil, launched the Sixth Plenary Meeting with the presentation of the draft agenda. The agenda was adopted unanimously by the Plenary Assembly. *(See Appendix 2 for the Plenary Meeting program and agenda)*

2.2 Election of the Sixth Plenary Meeting Chair

The FIPA President then presided over the election of the Chair of the Sixth Plenary Meeting. Canadian Member of Parliament James Bezan, Chair of the Canadian Section of FIPA, was elected by acclamation.

2.3 Annual Report

At the request of the newly elected Chair the FIPA President presented the annual report of FIPA, summarizing the work of the Executive Committee and Technical Secretariat throughout 2008-2009.

The President started his report by sharing the results of major FIPA activities. This included the Special Parliamentary Dialogue hosted by the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago prior to the Fifth Summit of Heads of States and Governments of the Americas, the workshop for parliamentarians “Trade Liberalization: the WTO, the Doha Round and Development Challenges” hosted by the Costa Rican Legislative Assembly and the Congress “Towards a Gender-Sensitive Legislative Agenda for Development in the Americas” organized by the President of FIPA’s Group of Women Parliamentarians of the

Americas, Colombian Senator Cecilia López. He also reported on the participation of a Women’s Group delegation in a training program for women candidates to the elections in Haiti and on meetings held with the Organization of American States (OAS) and with the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA).

The President then turned to administrative matters, reporting in particular, on the creation of new FIPA chapters in member parliaments, and on regular fees and special contributions received from member parliaments and other organizations.

The report was approved by the Plenary Assembly.

(See Appendix 3 for an integral version of the Annual Report)

2.4 Set-up of Working Groups

As recommended by the FIPA Executive Committee, the Chair of the Plenary Meeting proposed the establishment of the following working groups:

Working Group 1: the Economic and Financial Crisis

Chair: Mr. Luiz Carlos Hauly, FIPA President, Member of the Chamber of Deputies of Brazil

Guest speaker: Ms. Vinita Watson, Executive Director for Canada, Inter-American Development Bank

Working Group 2: Food Security

Chair: The Honourable Joan Purcell, President of the Senate of Grenada

Guest speakers: Mr. Juan Carlos García Cebolla, Coordinator of the Project “Initiative Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean”, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago, Chile

Dr. Maximo Torero, Latin America Coordinator and Director of the Markets, Trade, and Institutions Division, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington D.C., USA

Dr. Michael Bedoya, Representative, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, Ottawa, Canada

Working Group 3: International Migrations and Human Rights

Chair: The Honourable Ricardo García Cervantes, Vice-President of the Senate of Mexico

Guest speakers: Dr. Demetrios G. Papademetriou, President, Migration Policy Institute, Washington, DC, USA.

Ms. Agueda Marin, Head of Program Unit, International Organization for Migration, Office for North America and the Caribbean, Washington D.C., USA.



Mr. Mario López Garelli, Senior Human Rights Specialist, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Washington D.C., USA.

Mr. Bezan also invited participants, both men and women, to take part in the second work session of the **Fifth Meeting of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas** to be held the morning of September 14, 2009 under the chairmanship of Canadian Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette, past President of FIPA – in replacement of the President of the Women’s Group.

2.5 Other Business

The Chair advised participants that elections would take place to fill in the following positions:

- President of FIPA;
- President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas;
- Host country of the Seventh Plenary Meeting; and
- One representative for each of the four sub-regions: the Caribbean, Central America, North America and South America.

He invited delegates to read the rules of procedure and nomination forms that had been distributed earlier.

The Chair also informed that the Executive Committee would be presenting a draft resolution to amend Article 6.1 of the FIPA Regulations on the composition of the Executive Committee, as well as two recommendations on the results of the Special Parliamentary Dialogue and on the Influenza A (H1N1) Pandemic, respectively, for consideration by the Plenary Assembly at the last Plenary session.

Following these announcements, delegates from Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Panama, Guatemala, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic requested the floor in order to share proposals and views. The Chair asked that these be discussed in further detail during the working group sessions in order to keep on schedule.

The Plenary session was adjourned.

3. Special Presentation: After the Crisis – Economic and Financial Reform in the Americas

Ms. Sheryl Kennedy, Chief Executive Officer of Promontory Financial Group Canada and former Deputy Governor of the Bank of Canada, was invited to the podium in order to present an address on economic and financial reform in the Americas in the aftermath of the crisis. Ms. Kennedy began her presentation with an overview of the origins of the crisis. She described, in particular, the “bubble environment” and “global imbalances” in the levels of domestic demand and savings, between industrialized and emerging economies, which had characterized the world economic situation before the economic collapse and had led, among other factors, to the crisis.

She then turned to opportunities for reform, focussing on the following policy areas: avoiding protectionism by pursuing Doha Round negotiations and integration; promoting a sound fiscal and monetary framework, which would contribute to an adequate balance between domestic demand and export-led growth; supporting the provision of public goods such as education, health and infrastructure while promoting environmentally sound economic activity; and having efficient and safe financial systems with effective risk-mitigations services. While insisting that all these priorities should be part of the policy agenda for parliaments and governments, Ms. Kennedy argued that there was now a momentum for reform in the financial sector that would likely fade quickly with economic recovery given that this area of policy-making is not traditionally seen as “populist”.

Possible reforms in the financial sector include, Ms. Kennedy suggested, implementing actions that improve the integrity and transparency of the financial system by ensuring that “rules of the game” are understandable for all and rigorously enforced. She also highlighted the importance of good governance at the corporate level, complemented by strong regulatory authorities at the national and global levels so that there can be a good oversight of financial institutions. She emphasized, throughout her presentation, the importance of “promoting all things in moderation”, including having rules that encourage an adequate balance between local and international investment.

The presentation was followed by a lively question and answer period, during which delegates from the Dominican Republic, Chile, Brazil, Mexico, Bolivia, Argentina and Paraguay intervened. The discussion focused on the value of trade liberalization in light of internal market size, on investment policy and on fiscal policy. The need for increased cooperation between industrialized and developing economies and among the latter was emphasized.

(See Appendix 4 for an integral version of the presentation)

4. Opening Ceremony and Keynote Address by the OAS Secretary General



Opening ceremony at the Senate Chamber

The opening ceremony of the Sixth Plenary Meeting took place on Sunday, September 13, 2009 at the Senate chamber of the Canadian Parliament.

The session began with an address by the **Honourable Marjory LeBreton, Leader of the Government in the Senate of Canada**. Senator Lebreton highlighted FIPA’s role in promoting dialogue and sharing best practices on important hemispheric issues, ranging from the role of women in Parliament to the role of legislatures in enhancing hemispheric security and economic development. She underscored the importance of having a collaborative approach in order to face regional challenges related to the current economic conditions, and encouraged delegates to learn from each other’s experiences and success stories throughout the three days of the event.



The ceremony proceeded with remarks by **Mr. Andrew Scheer, Deputy Speaker of the Canadian House of Commons**. Mr. Scheer conveyed the best wishes of the Speaker of the Canadian House of Commons, the Honourable Peter Milliken, and congratulated parliamentarians in attendance for their willingness to address challenging subject matters during the meeting, including the issues of the economic and financial crisis, food security, migration and human rights and gender equality.

He was followed by **Canadian Member of Parliament James Bezan, Chair of the Sixth Plenary Meeting and Chair of the Canadian Section of FIPA**. Mr. Bezan spoke to the growing robustness of inter-American relations, visible, notably, in the growing number of bilateral or regional trade agreements signed or in negotiation. He noted the value, in that context, of FIPA's commitment to contribute to the inter-American agenda in a manner that complements the role of inter-American forums such as the OAS and the Summits of the Americas.

Mr. Luiz Carlos Hauly, President of FIPA and Member of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies, was then invited to speak. Mr. Hauly shared a reflection on the evolution of FIPA since its creation in 2001 and on the role of parliamentary diplomacy in the Americas. He highlighted the importance of this particular Plenary Meeting in establishing common guidelines and measures to face the regional challenges in the management of the economic and financial crisis, in the promotion of food security, and in addressing international migration and human right policy. He also took the opportunity to promote an increased role for FIPA in advocating the peaceful resolution of conflicts, democracy, the rule of law and human rights.

The opening ceremony's **keynote speaker** was **His Excellency José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS)**. The Secretary General's remarks focussed on the political crisis in Honduras and on lessons learned for the OAS and inter-American institutions – with the objective of launching a debate on means to further strengthen democracy in the hemisphere. Mr. Insulza commented, in particular, on the “imperfections” of the Inter-American Democratic Charter – notably the lack of clarity in defining what constitutes a rupture of democratic order and the absence of mechanisms for all the powers of the state, not only the governing executive branch, to be able to invoke its application. He insisted on the need to have democracies that go beyond “free, fair and transparent elections” in order to create a real system of checks and balances, encompassing transparency, ethics, responsibility in the handling of state affairs, strong political parties, access to information, freedom of the press, freedom of expression and “effective citizenship”. The Secretary General highlighted the role of the legislative branch in this democracy-strengthening process and the value of FIPA as a forum for having this type of debate.

(See Appendix 5 for an integral version of the opening addresses)

5. Special Presentation: the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009

A special presentation on the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 took place in the morning of September 14, with the participation of Dr. Luis Gerardo Castellanos, epidemiologist with the Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), as guest speaker.

Dr. Castellanos started his presentation with a review of the current state of the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009, from an epidemiological point of view. He explained the criteria which had led the WHO to raise its alert

to Level 6 and declare a pandemic for the first time in its existence, in June of 2009, meaning that at least two different countries from two different continents had by then confirmed community-based transmission of the virus. He then presented the situation of the pandemic, which, he reminded, was qualified as “moderate” by the WHO in countries of the Americas. Dr. Castellanos referred to PAHO/WHO quality indicators such as geographical dispersion, trend, intensity and impact on health case system. He also referred to indicators such as attack rate in enclosed environments and transmissibility rate, which can be as much as three times higher than seasonal influenza, he said.



Photo: FIPA

Dr. Luis Gerardo Castellanos

Dr. Castellanos highlighted the differences between seasonal influenza and the (H1N1) 2009 virus in terms of high risk populations, saying that, whereas small children and elders were the most vulnerable groups in seasonal flu, young adults – especially pregnant women and people with cardiovascular or respiratory diseases and immune suppressive conditions (including cancer) – were more at risk with the (H1N1) virus. He also noted the vulnerability of aboriginal, minority and other neglected groups of populations. He further added that there were also some “unknowns”, in particular with regards to the second wave of the pandemic, although it was expected that the pandemic would persist for several months.

Dr. Castellanos then emphasized the importance of the International Health Regulations, a legal instrument agreed to by all WHO members in 2005 in order to enhance national, regional and global public health security by encouraging, in particular, international information-sharing and communication. He encouraged participants to monitor the implementation of the Regulations in their respective countries.

The last part of the presentation focussed on PAHO-WHO recommendations regarding vaccination and non-pharmaceutical measures. In addressing the vaccination issue, Dr. Castellanos reminded participants that the overall purposes of the vaccine were to protect the integrity of health care systems and critical infrastructure in each country, to reduce morbidity and mortality and to reduce viral transmission at the community level. He further stated that the vaccine should be considered as “one component of an integrated response to fight the pandemic”. Regarding the accessibility of vaccine doses, he indicated that countries would have to define which priority group would receive the vaccine given that it is unlikely that any country would have a sufficient number of doses to vaccinate its whole population. He mentioned, however, that preliminary clinical trials had shown that only one dose of vaccine might provide sufficient immunity to an individual, which would enable the vaccination of a larger portion of the population. He also said that PAHO was working to facilitate the access of developing countries to vaccines.

In closing his presentation, Dr. Castellanos insisted on the importance of implementing non-pharmaceutical measures such as hands hygiene and social distancing. He also underscored the value of international solidarity and cooperation.

The presentation was followed by a short period of questions and answers, during which delegates from the Dominican Republic, Brazil and Haiti intervened.

(The PowerPoint presentation of Dr. Luis Gerardo Castellanos is available on the FIPA website at www.e-fipa.org)

6. Final session of the Plenary Meeting

The final session of the Sixth Plenary Meeting was held in the morning of Tuesday, September 15, 2009, at the Parliament of Canada.

6.1 Reports of the Working Groups and Consideration of Recommendations

The Chair of the Plenary Meeting, Mr. James Bezan, M.P., invited working group chairs to present summaries of deliberations held within their respective group and the recommendations being submitted to the Plenary Assembly for consideration.

6.1.1 Working Group I: the Economic and Financial Crisis



Chairs of working groups report back to the Plenary Assembly

The FIPA President, Luiz Carlos Hauly, took the floor to present the report and recommendations of the Working Group on the Economic and Financial Crisis, attended by 31 parliamentarians from 18 member countries and one observer country.

He highlighted the participation of Ms. Vinita Watson, Executive Director for Canada at the Inter-American Development Bank, as a presenter.

Mr. Hauly then presented the recommendations approved by the working group as a result of its two-day discussion, which were submitted to the consideration of the Plenary Assembly. After a short discussion, the recommendations were adopted by the Plenary Assembly without amendment.

It was also agreed that all Plenary Assembly recommendations and resolutions should be seen as a whole given the overlap between the issues analyzed.

(See Appendix 6 for the report and recommendations of this working group; the PowerPoint presentation of Vinita Watson is available on the FIPA website at www.e-fipa.org)

6.1.2 Working Group 2: Food Security

The Chair then gave the floor to the President of the Senate of Grenada, the Honourable Joan Purcell, who had chaired the proceedings of Working Group 2, on food security, with the participation of 18 parliamentarians from twelve countries of the hemisphere. Senator Purcell presented key points from the presentations of Mr. Juan Carlos García Cebolla, of the Food and Agriculture Organization, Dr. Maximo Torero, of the International Food Policy Research Institute and Dr. Michael Bedoya, of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture.

Recommendations adopted by the working group were then submitted to the Plenary Assembly for consideration. Following a discussion, recommendations were adopted with two amendments including, in particular, stronger wording on the need for environmentally sustainable food production. It was also agreed that the request from the Dominican Republic for a moratorium on the payment of interests on the foreign debt would be stated more clearly in the report section.

(See Appendix 6 for the full report and recommendations of this working group. PowerPoint presentations prepared by the guest speakers are available on the FIPA website at www.e-fipa.org)

6.1.3 Working Group 3: International Migrations and Human Rights



Photo: FIPA

Senator Ricardo García Cervantes, Vice-President of the Mexican Senate, then took the floor to present the recommendations of Working Group 3, on international migrations and human rights, which was attended by 21 parliamentarians from 13 countries. He highlighted the work of the three expert presenters: Agueda Marin, of the International Organization for Migration, Mr. Mario López Garelli, of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and Dr. Demetrios Papademetriou, of the Migration Policy Institute.

Delegates during the final plenary session

Working Group recommendations were then submitted to the Plenary Assembly for consideration. An amendment was introduced to stress the importance of promoting peace, in addition to a few minor changes.

(See Appendix 6 for the full report and recommendations of this working group; PowerPoint presentations and background documents prepared by the guest speakers are available on the FIPA website at www.e-fipa.org)

6.1.4 Fifth Meeting of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas

The Honourable Céline Hervieux-Payette, Canadian Senator and former President of FIPA, was given the floor for a report of the Fifth Meeting of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, which had taken place in the mornings of September 13, 14 and 15. Senator Hervieux-Payette highlighted the participation of the Honourable Lynn Holowesko, President of the Senate of the Bahamas, as guest speaker during the first work session.

She then presented the recommendations approved by the working group noting that these included all the recommendations adopted at the Congress “Towards a Gender-Sensitive Legislative Agenda for Development in the Americas” hosted by the President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, Colombian Senator Cecilia López, in November of 2008.

The recommendations were adopted by the Plenary Assembly with two minor amendments.



(See Appendix 6 for the full report and recommendations of this working group; the presentation of Senator Lynn Holowesko is available on the FIPA website at www.e-fipa.org)

6.2 Consideration of Recommendations and Resolution submitted by the Executive Committee

Following examination of the working group reports, the Plenary Assembly considered a number of resolutions and recommendations presented by the FIPA Executive Committee.

6.2.1 Recommendation FIPA/PA6/2009/REC.1: Outcome of the Special Parliamentary Dialogue held prior to the 5th Summit of Heads of States and Governments of the Americas

The Chair presented a draft recommendation to endorse the final statement of the Special Parliamentary Dialogue held prior to the 5th Summit of Heads of States and Governments of the Americas in April of 2009 at the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago in Port-of-Spain.

The recommendation was unanimously adopted.

(See Appendix 7 for the full text of Recommendation FIPA/PA6/2009/REC.1)

6.2.2 Recommendation FIPA/PA6/2009/REC.2: the Influenza A (H1N1) Pandemic

The Chair then introduced a draft recommendation on the Influenza A (H1N1) Pandemic based, essentially, on recommendations made by the WHO.

The recommendation was adopted with minor amendments to the English version.

(See Appendix 7 for the full text of Recommendation FIPA/PA6/2009/REC.2)

6.2.3 Resolution FIPA/PA6/2009/RES.1: Amendment to Article 6.1 of the FIPA Regulations on the Composition of the Executive Committee

Finally, the Chair of the Sixth Plenary Meeting presented a draft resolution to amend the Article 6.1 of the FIPA Regulations on the Composition of the Executive Committee, with the objective of allowing all past presidents of FIPA to sit on the Executive Committee.

In response to questions raised, members of the Executive Committee of FIPA clarified that the purpose of the amendment was to ensure that corporate memory would be maintained in spite of the turn-over of parliamentarians on the Committee. The resolution was adopted with one objection, expressed by a member of the Canadian delegation.

(See Appendix 7 for the full text of Resolution FIPA/PA6/2009/RES.1; the Regulations of FIPA updated as of September 15, 2009 are available on the FIPA website at www.e-fipa.org)

6.3 Election of FIPA Executive Committee Members

6.3.1 FIPA President

Upon a proposal from Chile, seconded by Paraguay, Member of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies Luiz Carlos Hauly was re-elected unanimously to serve as President of FIPA for the 2009-2011 period.

In his remarks, the President expressed his satisfaction about the results achieved by working groups and reiterated his thanks to the Parliament of Canada for organizing such a successful Sixth Plenary Meeting. He also encouraged delegates to institutionalize their respective parliament's membership to FIPA through resolutions or the creation of national sections following the Brazilian and Canadian examples.

6.3.2 Host Country of the Next Plenary Meeting

Following a consideration of existing offers, the Plenary Assembly accepted, by consensus, the offer of the Congress of Mexico to host the Seventh Plenary Meeting of FIPA in 2010, and the offer of the Congress of Paraguay to host the Eighth Plenary Meeting of FIPA in 2011, in conjunction with their respective bicentennial anniversaries. The Assembly also welcomed the offer of the National Assembly of Ecuador to host the next event of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas.

6.3.3 Sub-Regional Representatives

The Chair then invited delegates representing each sub-region of FIPA to put forward nominations for the election of the country that would represent their respective sub-region on the Executive Committee for the 2009-2011 period.

Upon a nomination made by Grenada on behalf of Caribbean delegations, the Parliament of Saint-Lucia was elected to succeed the Parliament of Grenada as representative for the Caribbean;

Upon a nomination by Peru supported by all the attending South American delegations, the Congress of Paraguay was elected to succeed the Chilean Congress as representative for South America.

With the support of Central American delegations, the National Assembly of Panama was elected to succeed the Congress of Guatemala as representative for Central America.

Upon a nomination by Canada, and with the support of Mexico, the Congress of the United States of America was elected to succeed the Congress of Mexico as representative for North America.

(Appendix 9 contains a list of the members of the Executive Committee for 2009-2010)

6.3.4 President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas

The Plenary Assembly applauded the election of Ms. Linda Machuca Moscoso, Member of the National Assembly of Ecuador, as President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas for the 2009-2011 period. The election had taken place during a special session of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas that same morning.

6.4 Other Business

Some other issues were raised during the final plenary session.



In particular, a proposal was made by Mexico to introduce the issue of the situation in Honduras on the agenda of the Plenary Meeting.

A delegate from Paraguay asked that the Assembly consider addressing the issues of corruption and of terrorism at the next Plenary Meeting.

In turn, the Colombian delegate reiterated the proposal she had made during the first plenary session that the issue of peace and human rights be addressed.

In compliance with FIPA Regulations, and following consultation with the Executive Committee, the Chair indicated that no new item would be accepted on the already approved agenda given that these matters had been covered – in an Executive Committee Declaration in the case of the Honduran situation and, with regards to the Colombian proposal, in an amendment to the recommendations of the Working Group on Migrations and Human Rights. Regarding the agenda of the next Plenary Meeting, the Chair indicated that it would be up to the Executive Committee, of which Paraguay was now part, to make recommendations in this regard.

Upon a suggestion of Canada, the Plenary Assembly endorsed Declaration FIPA/EC/2009/DEC.1 issued by the Executive Committee of FIPA on July 1, 2009, to “Condemn the Coup d’Etat in Honduras”. The Declaration calls, in particular, “for the internal crisis to be resolved by means of dialogue among political and social actors involved”.

(See Appendix 8 for the full text of Declaration FIPA/EC/2009/DEC.1)

7. Closing

The Chair congratulated newly elected members of the Executive Committee and thanked the event’s organizing and support team for the quality of services provided. He then declared the meeting closed.

* * * * *

8. Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1 – List of Participants

DELEGATES

President of FIPA (Brazil)

Luiz Carlos Hauly, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Argentina

Susana Mercedes Canela, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

The Bahamas

Lynn Holowesko, President of the Senate

Bolivia

María Silvia Baldomar, Senator

Guido Guardia Flores, Senator

Brazil

Eduardo Azeredo, Senator

Antonio Carlos Mendez Thame, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Mauricio Rands, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Carlos Eduardo Vieira Da Cunha, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Canada

Marjory LeBreton, Senator – Leader of the Government in the Senate

Raynell Andreychuk, Senator

Céline Hervieux-Payette, Senator

Pierrette Ringuette, Senator

Terrance Stratton, Senator

Andrew Scheer, Member of Parliament, Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons – Host

James Bezan, Member of Parliament – Chair of the Plenary Meeting

Ed Holder, Member of Parliament

Peter Julian, Member of Parliament

Francine Lalonde, Member of Parliament

Larry Miller, Member of Parliament

Pierre Paquette, Member of Parliament

Mario Silva, Member of Parliament

Chile

Sergio Romero Pizarro, Senator

Iván Moreira Barros, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Jose Francisco Encina Moriamez, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Roberto Sepúlveda Herмосilla, Member of the Chamber of Deputies



Eugenio Tuma Zedán, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Colombia

Gloria Inés Ramírez, Senator

Dominican Republic

Mauro Piña Bello, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Josefa Castillo, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Juan Gilberto Serulle, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

El Salvador

Luis Roberto Angulo Samayoa, Member of the Legislative Assembly

Ecuador

Fernando Cordero Cueva, President of the National Assembly

Lídice Vanesa Larrea Viteri, Member of the National Assembly

Linda Machuca Moscoso, Member of the National Assembly

Grenada

Joan Purcell, President of the Senate

George Prime, Senator

Roland Bhola, Member of Parliament

Guatemala

Edgar Leonel Arévalo Barrios, Congressman

Oswaldo Iván Arévalo Barrios, Congressman

Edgar Caín González Aguilar, Congressman

Félix Adolfo Ruano de León, Congressman

Haiti

Jean Ricaud Bélizaire, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Jean Beauvois Dorsonne, Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Jamaica

Shahine Robinson, Member of Parliament

Mexico

Ricardo García Cervantes, Senator

Adriana González Carrillo, Senator

Rogelio Humberto Rueda, Senator

Rubén Fernando Velázquez López, Senator

Panama

Iracema Ayarza de Dale, Member of the National Assembly

Francisco Brea, Member of the National Assembly
Fernando Carrillo, Member of the National Assembly
Dana Castañeda, Member of the National Assembly
Víctor Juliao, Member of the National Assembly
Tito Rodríguez, Member of the National Assembly

Paraguay

Carlos Roger Caballero Fioro, Senator
Alberto Grillón Conigliaro, Senator
Amancio López Irala, Senator

Peru

Karina Juliza Beteta Rubín, Congresswoman
Eduardo Espinoza Ramos, Congressman
Gustavo Espinoza Soto, Congressman
Guido Ricardo Lombardi Elías, Congressman
Juan David Perry Cruz, Congressman
Rolando Reátegui Flores, Congressman
Carlos Alberto Torres Caro, Congressman
Rafael Yamashiro Ore, Congressman

Saint Lucia

Rosemary Husbands-Mathurin, Speaker of the House of Assembly

Suriname

August Bado, Member of Parliament
Frankel Brewster, Member of Parliament
Ortwin Cairo, Member of Parliament
Soedeshchand Jairam, Member of Parliament
Chanderdath Tilakdharie, Member of Parliament

Trinidad and Tobago

Adesh Nanan, Senator
Stanford Callender, Member of Parliament

United States of America

Gregory Meeks, Representative

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Bing Lu, Member of the National People's Congress



Russian Federation

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Paulo Cordeiro de Andrade Pinto, Ambassador, Embassy of the Federative Republic of Brazil in Canada

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chile

Javier Becker, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Chile in Canada

Fidel Coloma, First Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Chile in Canada

Eugenio Luis Ortega Riquelme, Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Chile in Canada

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Organization of American States

Adam Blackwell, Secretary for External Affairs
José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General

Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization

Luis Gerardo Castellanos, Epidemiologist

Parliamentary Centre

Amelita Armit, President
John Wood, Program Director

Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (Quebec Secretariat)

Christiane Bérubé, Inter-Parliamentary and International Relations Counsellor

Promontory Financial Group Canada

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FIPA TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

Cora Capurro, Public Relations and Communications Officer
Emmanuelle Pelletier, Executive Secretary

* * * * *



Participants at the Sixth FIPA Plenary Meeting

8.2 Appendix 2 – Sixth Plenary Meeting Program

FIPA/PA6/2009/PRG/e



SIXTH PLENARY MEETING OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY FORUM OF THE AMERICAS (FIPA)

OTTAWA, CANADA
SEPTEMBER 13 TO 15, 2009

PROGRAM

PROSPERITY AND COOPERATION: A NEW AGENDA FOR THE AMERICAS

Saturday, September 12, 2009

Arrival of participants
Transfer from the Ottawa Macdonald-Cartier
International Airport to the
Fairmont Château Laurier Hotel

15:00 – 21:00 Registration and distribution of documents
Lobby of the Fairmont Château Laurier Hotel

18:00 Reception for members of the Executive Committee of FIPA
*Executive Boardroom, Mezzanine Level
Fairmont Château Laurier Hotel*

18:50 Departure on foot for the Government Conference Centre

19:00-20:30 Meeting of the members of the Executive Committee of FIPA
Sussex Room, Government Conference Centre

Sunday, September 13, 2009

08:00 - 09:45 Registration continues
Lobby of the Fairmont Château Laurier Hotel

08:15 Departure on foot for the Government Conference Centre

08:30 - 09:45 **BREAKFAST MEETING OF THE GROUP OF
WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS - Session 1**
Sussex Room, Government Conference Centre

Address by Guest Speaker:

	<p>The Honourable Lynn Holowesko President of the Senate of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas</p> <p>All delegates are welcome</p>
09:45	<p>Departure on foot for Parliament Hill from the Government Conference Centre and the Fairmont Château Laurier Hotel</p>
10:00 – 10:40	<p>FIRST SESSION OF THE PLENARY MEETING <i>Senate Chamber, Centre Block</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Adoption of the draft agenda- Election of the Chair of the Sixth Plenary Meeting- Annual Report of the FIPA President- Set-up of Working Groups- Consideration of other business
10:40 – 11:10	<p>Address by Guest Speaker:</p> <p>Ms. Sheryl Kennedy Chief Executive Officer, Promontory Financial Group Canada and former Deputy Governor of the Bank of Canada</p> <p><i>After the Crisis: Economic and Financial Reform in the Americas</i></p> <p>Question and Answer Session</p> <p>Official photograph</p>
11:10 – 11:30	<p>Health Break <i>Senate Foyer, Centre Block</i></p>
11:30 – 12:00	<p>OPENING SESSION OF THE PLENARY MEETING</p> <p><i>Prosperity and cooperation: a new agenda for the Americas</i></p> <p>Welcoming remarks by:</p> <p>The Honourable Marjory LeBreton, P.C., Senator Leader of the Government in the Senate</p> <p>Mr. Andrew Scheer, M.P. Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada</p> <p>Addresses by:</p> <p>Mr. James Bezan, M.P. Chair of the Canadian Section of FIPA</p> <p>The Honourable Luiz Carlos Hauly</p>



	Member of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies and President of FIPA
12:00 – 12:20	Keynote address by: His Excellency José Miguel Insulza Secretary General of the Organization of American States
12:30 – 14:30	Lunch hosted by the Honourable Marjory LeBreton, P.C., Senator Leader of the Government in the Senate and Mr. Andrew Scheer, M.P. Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada <i>Room 274-F, Senate Speaker's Salon, Centre Block</i> Departure on foot for the Government Conference Centre
15:00 – 18:00	WORKING GROUP SESSIONS <i>Government Conference Centre</i> Presentations by experts and initiation of discussions - <i>Group 1 – Economic and Financial Crisis</i> - <i>Group 2 – Food Security</i> - <i>Group 3 – International Migrations and Human Rights</i>
18:30	Participants assemble in the hotel lobby
18:40	Departure by bus for Jacques Cartier Park Wharf, Gatineau
19:00 – 21:30	Reception and dinner hosted by the Honourable Luiz Carlos Hauly Member of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies and President of FIPA and His Excellency Paulo Cordeiro de Andrade Pinto Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil <i>Aboard the Empress of Ottawa on the Ottawa River</i> Departure for the Fairmont Château Laurier Hotel
Monday, September 14, 2009	
08:15	Departure on foot for the Government Conference Centre
08:30 – 09:45	BREAKFAST MEETING OF THE GROUP OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS - Session 2 All delegates are welcome <i>Sussex Room, Government Conference Centre</i>

10:00 – 13:00	<p>WORKING GROUP SESSIONS Continuation of discussions Preparation of recommendations</p> <p>- <i>Group 1 – Economic and Financial Crisis</i> - <i>Group 2 – Food Security</i> - <i>Group 3 – International Migrations and Human Rights</i></p> <p>Departure on foot for the Fairmont Château Laurier Hotel</p>
13:00 – 14:45	<p>Lunch hosted by Mr. James Bezan, M.P. Chair of the Canadian Section of FIPA <i>Laurier Room, Fairmont Château Laurier Hotel</i></p>
14:45	<p>Departure on foot for the Government Conference Centre</p>
15:00 – 18:00	<p>WORKING GROUP SESSIONS Finalization and approval of recommendations for presentation to the Plenary</p>
18:45	<p>Departure from the hotel by bus for Lester B. Pearson Building</p>
19:00 – 20:30	<p>Reception and dinner hosted by the Honourable Peter Kent, P.C., M.P. Minister of State of Foreign Affairs (Americas) of Canada <i>9th floor, Tower A, Lester B. Pearson Building</i> <i>125 Sussex Drive</i></p> <p>Departure for the Fairmont Château Laurier Hotel</p>
Tuesday, September 15, 2009	
08:50	<p>Departure on foot for Parliament Hill</p>
09:15 – 10:00	<p>Special presentation on the Influenza A (H1N1) by:</p> <p>Dr. Luis Gerardo Castellanos, Epidemiologist Mexico-USA Border Field Office World Health Organization / Pan-American Health Organization <i>Room 237-C, Centre Block</i></p>
10:00 – 12:00	<p>SECOND SESSION OF THE PLENARY MEETING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Presentation and consideration of working group- Recommendations and other draft resolutions/recommendations- Election of new Executive Committee- Election of new President- Selection of host country for next Plenary Meeting- Closing session
12:30 – 13:30	<p>Luncheon meeting of the new Executive Committee of FIPA <i>Room 601, Parliamentary Dining Room, Centre Block</i></p>



8.3 Appendix 3 – Annual Report of the FIPA President, the Honourable Luiz Carlos Hauly, Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Brazil

Original: French - Portuguese

It is a very proud moment for me to share with you the achievements of this year that is drawing to an end for the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas. We have indeed managed to carry out those projects and long-term aims that clearly demonstrate the direction that we wanted to adopt during this past year.

Special Parliamentary Dialogue on the Fifth Summit of the Americas

One of the major events that will truly be a hallmark of 2009 was the Fifth Summit of the Americas that took place in Trinidad and Tobago in April. For the first time, thanks to the work of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago and FIPA, a major parliamentary event took place on the eve of a summit.

In addition to parliamentarians from a number of countries of the Americas, as well as the Secretary General of the OAS, the meeting brought together many government officials, including the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, who shared their frank and open views on the role of parliaments. It was truly impressive to see the quality of the dialogue among participants and the resulting proposals. The meeting clearly showed that a great engagement by parliamentarians in the lead-up to future Summits of the Americas would make the process more transparent and governments more accountable to their commitments.

The success of the meeting was also a clear indication that FIPA's Executive Committee is producing positive results through different mechanisms to ensure parliamentary representation in key inter-American forums. The OAS Secretariat and FIPA's Executive Committee agreed to sign a cooperation agreement to promote greater collaboration in various areas of mutual interest.

Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas

I would now like to recognize the work accomplished by the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas under the leadership of Senator Cecilia López of Colombia. In Bogota, in November 2008, an important congress was organized for women parliamentarians under the theme "Towards a Gender-Sensitive Legislative Agenda for Development in the Americas." We have the report from this very wonderful meeting. It is available in all four languages for our delegates. It describes the outcomes of that important event.

In my view, that meeting was important for two reasons. First, it reflected the great diversity of peoples of the Americas. In fact, we received the support of both male and female parliamentarians, including Aboriginal parliamentarians of the Americas, as well as representatives of civil society organizations. The recommendations that were adopted do truly reflect that diversity.

Second, it was also one of the first regional parliamentary meetings to be held following the onset of the economic crisis. We therefore decided to talk about the consequences of the crisis, in particular for women because they are the first to suffer. What was interesting is that in addition to talking about the crisis, the discussions also reflected much hope for renewal and change.

Delegates from the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, headed by Deputy María Estela de la Cruz, participated as coaches in a training workshop in Haiti offered by the Parliamentary Centre of

Canada and MINUSTAH to share their experiences in public life and their electoral campaigns with candidates for the elections to take place in Haiti in 2009-10. Once again, this was an example of concrete efforts made by FIPA to increase the representation of women in our parliaments.

Training Program for Parliamentarians

A second regional trade workshop was held to discuss the Doha Round and development challenges. The intensive, three-day training workshop was co-sponsored by the Costa Rican Legislative Assembly, the World Trade Organization and FIPA, and brought together parliamentarians from Central and South America, as well as international trade experts.

Furthermore, I am pleased to announce that the Senate of Mexico offered to host our next trade workshop to be held in March 2010. We can therefore say that FIPA now has a true training program for parliamentarians that will expand gradually to cover other areas of interest.

Executive Committee and Inter-Institutional Relations

On a totally different level, I would like to update you on the work of the Joint Working Group between FIPA and the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas, COPA. The group was created in response to a resolution by FIPA's Plenary Assembly and COPA's General Assembly in 2006 and comprises Executive Committee members of both organizations. The group met for the first time in Quebec City in October 2007 and established the basis of a working plan for the potential integration of our two organizations. For different reasons, there were some delays in the progress of their work, but we hope that the debates may be launched once again following this assembly and COPA's General Assembly that is taking place in Argentina next week.

Institutional Strengthening and Financial Issues

Before concluding, I would like to talk about our institutional progress. First of all, FIPA created a national section in Brazil and a FIPA-Dominican Republic Friendship Group, which we also consider as a section. I would like to remind all participating parliamentarians that you are encouraged to create similar structures within your respective parliaments in order to ensure your country's ongoing presence within FIPA, regardless of changes that occur in a parliamentary administration from one election to the next.

On the financial front, the amount of contributions paid to FIPA by member parliaments has doubled since the last plenary meeting in November 2006. You will recall that FIPA's contribution system was established in 2004 to provide the forum with stable funding. Therefore, I encourage each and every one of the delegations present here to check with the Secretariat to ensure that your contributions are up to date.

In order to launch special projects, we have received financial contributions from the following organizations: the Inter-American Development Bank, Scotiabank, General Motors Corporation, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, and the World Trade Organization. Furthermore, we have submitted a request for funding to the Canadian International Development Agency, which was approved a few days ago. According to the report from the president of the Canadian section, James Bezan, it has already been earmarked. We are very grateful for the efforts undertaken to approve this project, which will cover the next five years.

This support is crucial in that most of our parliaments face financial constraints because budgets earmarked for international activities are usually the first to be cut.

I would like to remind you, however, that a lack of funding should not become an obstacle to pursuing FIPA's mandate. We also have forums of exchange that are practically free of charge, such as FIPA's blog, the quarterly bulletin *ParlAmericas*, the FIPA portal and other virtual communications tools that allow us to continuously strengthen relations between our parliaments.

I will conclude this report by stating that these accomplishments could not have been achieved without the support of my colleagues, the members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee met three times in the past year — in Miami in December; in Washington, D.C., in June, where we were welcomed very kindly by Congressman Gregory Meeks; and now here, at the twentieth meeting of the Executive Committee of FIPA in Ottawa.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my colleagues and to all FIPA member parliaments. I hope that we continue to accomplish great things together.

8.4 Appendix 4 – Special Presentation by Guest Speaker Sheryl Kennedy, Chief Executive Officer of Promontory Financial Group Canada: After the Crisis – Economic and Financial Reform in the Americas

Original: English

Photo: HOC-CDC



Ms. Sheryl Kennedy talks about financial reform

It is a great pleasure for me to be here with you today.

I am most honoured to have been invited to join the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas as you meet to devise a new agenda for prosperity and cooperation in the Americas. It is a particular privilege for me to address you in this magnificent Senate chamber, a very important place — a place of what we call sober second thought and very intense consideration of important legislative and parliamentary initiatives in Canada.

It has been one year now since Lehman Brothers investment bank collapsed. It is a little more than two years since BNP Paribas in France indicated they could not value three of their funds that contained structured products. Some might say that those are two small events, but not really. I have lived and worked in the eye of a financial storm that has swirled around these and other related events with quite wide-ranging, unprecedented dramatic consequences.

Many of us are from countries where financial systems have actually come through this all rather well. The strength of our supervisory system has been evident. Still, our record is not unblemished. Here in Canada, where the World Economic Forum has declared that we have the soundest banking system in the world, one third of our asset-backed commercial paper market seized up in 2007, and several financial institutions face significant losses, although none of that threatens their survival or requires direct public investment.

I happened to have been in Mexico last month and Brazil last week, and there was talk there of difficulties in certain aspects of those markets and of certain institutions. I had coffee with a friend of mine who is in the financial industry in São Paulo. He had an analogy for me when I asked him how Brazil had fared so well. His story went that a party was under way and everyone was getting drunk. Brazil, who used to party all the time, and in fact was always a little bit drunk, had been busy cleaning up its house from the last party, so it arrived late. Soon, the party was getting out of hand and someone called the police. Most everyone was thrown in jail, but Brazil was not because the police noticed that they were not drunk. If the police had arrived a few hours later, Brazil would have been as drunk as the other partygoers and would have landed in jail, too.

This analogy immediately resonated with me. I have made similar remarks on the public record about the state of the Canadian real estate market. There are many good reasons why we did not face the same real estate bubble here in Canada as in the United States. There are things to learn from that example, but that is not to say that some bad practices were not creeping into our markets. We could easily have been in worse shape if we had more time to party before the financial crisis erupted.

Compared to the eradication of poverty, human migration and job creation — to name a few of the issues that I am sure you will be tackling in your working groups over the next few days — many of you, especially those who were late to the party or did not know it was taking place and so missed it entirely, may not think that promotion of sound financial systems globally and financial market development locally should be a big priority. Even if you think it might be important, you might consider it is best left to technical experts to deal with and that it is not a parliamentary issue.

However, the extraordinary financial and economic crisis we have been living through over the past two years has put the spotlight on financial reform. The global reach and the rapidity and longevity of the crisis have been shocking. The economic toll and the human suffering that has been traced back to the crisis have been heart-wrenching. It has probably been all the more difficult to deal with coming on the heels of such an extended period of global economic expansion that was, in fact, led by developing countries. It was a period when it appeared that we may have finally gotten the formula for economic prosperity right.

Therefore, today, some of us might be feeling a bit rudderless, as the crisis has raised questions about the market-based economic growth model that was seen to have underpinned the global expansion. Others who had not bought into that growth model may actually now feel more certain that it was entirely wrong.

I am in neither of these two camps. I believe that many of the errors were more in the execution than in the actual framework for growth and prosperity. For that reason, I think the way forward and the priorities for action are actually quite clear, although still incredibly complex.

In the financial sphere, it will take some time and careful analysis and deliberation to sort through all the details and strengthen the institutions necessary to do a better job of supervision, oversight and leaning against excesses and human greed. In the economic sphere, development models that lie solely on export-led growth or import substitution at the expense of consumers and growth in domestic demand also need to be reconsidered. In both spheres, excessive leverage and unsustainable debt finance consumption need to be curbed.

In my view, it is imperative that we tackle all of these issues and especially not let the nascent signs of recovery and improvement in confidence globally in the economy lull us into complacency. First, we



need to understand how we came to all this grief and then determine what must be done to avoid it happening again.

Most blame our current economic difficulties on the financial crisis that originated in the United States and in Europe. It was brought on by the collapse of excessive credit growth and leverage. We learned once again that you cannot keep blowing up a bubble forever. There was also insufficient supervision, inadequate corporate governance and risk management, and, of course, greed.

However, it did not actually start there. The origins of the financial crisis were in the build-up of global imbalances. There was too much debt finance consumption and inadequate savings in industrialized economies, and too little domestic demand and an extraordinary build-up of savings in many emerging economies.

It did not end there, either, and that is why this is all so troublesome. The financial crisis destroyed wealth and sharply reduced credit availability in the industrialized world, which restricted economic activity. This, in turn, reduced the global demand for exports, which has been the driver of much of the growth in emerging economies over the past 10 years. The financial crisis also shook consumer, business and investor confidence.

That is when we had an abrupt global downturn. The world economy stopped in the fourth quarter of last year. No one knew what was going on and how we were going to get out of this mess.

High commodity prices and monetary policy, which was acting against the inflationary forces that inevitably arise in a bubble environment, also contributed to the severity of the global recession.

Since this financial crisis was most intense in the developed world and many of those countries had to intervene to prop up their financial systems, they clearly have felt compelled to reconsider their regulatory frameworks and how they are enforced. However, countries in the rest of the world were not unaffected. They were impacted indirectly by the financial crisis, with higher costs of borrowing, reduced investor appetite — not wanting to invest at any price — and changes in behaviour of the foreign institutions operating in their jurisdictions.

Furthermore, many countries had to deal with serious isolated difficulties. Firms or segments of their marketplace were burned by involvement in complex derivatives or structured products where the risks were not fully understood and came home to roost.

There is an old saying in political and policy formulation circles: Do not let a good crisis go to waste. Just because many of our countries were not as badly affected as those at the centre of the crisis does not mean that we should not also be reconsidering and taking action to improve our regulatory frameworks. For example, the G20, a group that was actually championed by Canadian Finance Minister Paul Martin a decade or so ago, has truly come into its own in this crisis as a forum in which to work through global economic and financial regulation issues, reflecting this recognition that there are times when we all have an interest in cooperating, devising solutions and taking concerted action. This is one of those times.

For the business cycle downturn, which has affected most countries in the world directly, where no one was immune, the international focus has been on addressing this crisis through expansionary fiscal and monetary policy. Equally important are steps to avoid trade protectionism and in fact go further in an

effort to revitalize the Doha Round of multilateral trade talks to increase free trade in areas such as services, where there are still serious protectionist restrictions globally.

It is now generally understood that trade is a positive contributor to growth and a country's well-being. Yes, globalization does carry with it the risk of being infected by problems from other countries, but it also contributes to economic prosperity and cannot be unwound without severe long-term reversal of people's standards of living. It was debilitating trade restrictions that worsened the Great Depression in the 1930s, and a repeat of that is something to avoid at all costs.

If one of your objectives is to eradicate poverty and redistribute wealth to those most in need, you first have to create that wealth on a continuous, sustainable basis. Trade is incredibly helpful in this regard, but in addition to facilitating it, what else can parliamentarians do? I would suggest four measures.

The first is to ensure that you have a sound fiscal and monetary framework. This is necessary to get the right balance of domestic demand and export-led growth within an economy and to ensure that you are not inappropriately overly dependent on one or the other.

The second is to support the provision of public goods that are essential to growth, such as education and infrastructure, ensuring that economic activity is environmentally sound and that your population is healthy.

The third is to recognize that there is merit in promoting all things in moderation. Bubbles do end in tears. You cannot inflate forever.

The fourth is to have an efficient and safe financial system that can intermediate fairly, that can extend credit wisely and that provides risk-mitigation services that truly work.

Looking around our regions in the Americas, countries that have proved most resilient are not those that were not integrated into the world economy. They do have actively developed local currency markets, but they also have sound monetary and financial sector supervisory policies. This is not to say that they avoided a severe negative hit to their economies, but they avoided a full-blown financial crisis that could have exacerbated the business cycle's downturn and caused solvency problems across their own banking and financial systems.

I have noticed as I have travelled throughout the regions over the past few months that economies are suffering, but the sense of crisis-related chaos that I have felt at other periods when I have been in the regions over the past two decades is absent, creating a relatively stable basis for economic policies to address the real economic issues.

Most countries in the Americas face a variety of development challenges: education, training and social development needs, and personal security concerns, for example. In this context, supporting financial market development and globalization initiatives might be far down the list of priorities for parliamentary attention and it may feel like catering to elites at the expense of dealing with more broadly based challenges. However, the crisis has shown us that this can be short-lived, short-sighted thinking; that in fact in a highly integrated world, with abundant opportunity for innovation and growth, development of sound and efficient financial markets that facilitate cross-border flows is a necessary condition for effectively addressing many other economic development challenges. It is an important step to help ensure that a country does not lurch from crisis to crisis and that it maintains, as much as possible, an open channel to continue financing a reasonable fiscal agenda and supporting economic and social investment.



Perhaps financial market development should be re-characterized and recast as a populist issue because ordinary people suffer the most from economic and financial crises, while many of the financial elites — even though we might put a few in jail — seem to continue to profit by pursuing opportunities in underdeveloped and mispriced markets elsewhere.

At the heart of any financial framework reform, the focus has to be on integrity. As we have seen so clearly in the past two years, a financial system cannot function without confidence in the integrity of the system, the soundness of the counterparties, the people that you are dealing with, and fairness in the treatment of all investors, big and small. To achieve this requires not only a clear understanding of the rules of the game and that they will not be changed retroactively and that they will be applied to everyone, but also transparent information and a fair price discovery process so that participants believe they will not be disadvantaged, that they are paying the same as the next guy, and so are encouraged to participate.

There is another saying — liquidity breeds liquidity. What we learned when everything seized up a year ago is that lack of liquidity means no liquidity. It is really the two extremes.

Clear rules of the game alone are not sufficient. Confidence can only be achieved and sustained if there is competent and rigorous enforcement of the rules. The incentives of the financial system, and indeed in economic matters more generally, must be properly aligned. Here we must not overestimate the ability of individual investors and savers to do all the due diligence necessary. Of course they have to do it, but when there is insufficient transparency, inadequate financial literacy and a regulatory system that relies only on “my father” or “your sister” knowing and understanding and making decisions in the marketplace, that is not going to do the job.

In my view, the first focus should be more on good governance, with boards that are independent, take responsibility for risk management in the firm and in the fair representation of the financial position of the firm, and ensure that incentives such as the compensation regime are properly aligned with the interests of all stakeholders.

At the national and global level, central banks, together with financial authorities and regulators, also need to be able to monitor systemic risk — not just the incentives within the firm but also how they interact across the economy and society — and to take action to prevent their build-up, or advise others who have authority to take the necessary action to prevent their build-up, not just wait and be the cleanup corps after the crisis.

There also needs to be good regulatory oversight of financial institutions, with a professional supervisor. New capital measures and other risk-mitigation techniques are needed to lean against during excessive periods of enthusiasm and pessimism through the economic and financial cycle. We need to have a supervisor that has powers — and this is, I think, missing in many countries in the region — enabling early intervention arrangements to deal with troubled institutions and the ability to wind up systemically important institutions over a weekend, while there is still value in the bank or insurance company or asset manager and the customers can still get their money back. International colleges of supervisors are required to ensure sufficient information sharing and concerted action for financial firms operating in several countries.

The last element is that we need local players, such as pension funds, with diverse views, to form the core of the local investor base. However, at the same time, we need sufficient competition from

international investors to create the checks and balances in the local system. To do that, we need investment regimes, taxes, an ability to act on collateral and an internationally connected payment infrastructure. These are all important considerations.

This must seem to be a very extensive list of requirements, but actually it is just the framework. There is much work remaining on the part of technical experts to flesh out the details. It is important that we do flesh out the details and get it right, as opposed to creating knee-jerk measures that we may later find are not sufficiently robust. There is also much work required in terms of building and enhancing the institutions, reducing regulatory fragmentation and increasing regulatory cooperation in order to adequately implement it all.

I hasten to add that it is important to not overreact in the regulatory reform agenda. It takes great judgment and courage for legislators to get that balance right when they are cleaning up after a crisis, particularly if the public simply wants to penalize those who have wrought such havoc.

Clearly, reform is required to re-establish confidence in the financial industry, but when considering increased capital measures and new compensation measures, the industry's long-term viability must also be in the forefront of our analysis if we want financial firms to be able to continue to support economic activity and social progress.

The exciting point for me about this reform agenda is that although it is focused on flaws that we have discovered in the financial system, tackling these matters could have important spinoff benefits for economic activity and society more generally. The investment tax bankruptcy policies — those windup provisions I mentioned — necessary to promote financial system stability and development of local financial systems can also suggest new approaches for business regulation that can further promote economic growth. A focus on integrity and enforcement in the financial system can have equally important spinoffs in society by reinforcing people's confidence in the rule of law and their willingness to make investments and to grow businesses.

Most important, however, will be the ability to put the financial crisis and global contagion behind us so we can devote more energy to the fundamentally important priorities of ensuring human dignity, personal security, eradication of poverty, confident that it will not be side-swiped by unforeseen financial calamity with serious economic and social consequences, at least not in the near future, if we are successful.

Thank you.

8.5 Appendix 5 – Addresses made at the Opening Ceremony

8.5.1 *Address by the Leader of Government in the Senate of Canada, the Honourable Marjory LeBreton*

Original: English

Excellency, President of FIPA, Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, ambassadors and high commissioners, honourable parliamentarians, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: On behalf of my colleagues in the Canadian Section of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas, it is my privilege as Leader of the Government in the Senate of Canada to welcome you to the Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas.



At the outset, I want to thank FIPA's Executive Committee, as well as all of the organizers of this event, for the work that you have done in preparation for the meeting. Without your tireless efforts, this event would not have been possible.

Since the inauguration assembly in the year 2001, hosted right here in Canada's capital, FIPA's role in the Americas has expanded considerably. The first plenary assembly was attended by representatives of 26 countries. Today, FIPA includes the national legislatures of the 35 states of the Americas. It is the only state-focused parliamentary association for national legislatures to encompass all states of the Americas. This is a significant achievement and something of which all members should be proud.

It is a unique organization not simply because of its size but also because of its impact. Since its creation, FIPA has worked to promote parliamentary cooperation throughout the Americas and has engaged in dialogue on important hemispheric issues.

Through its ongoing working groups, members have discussed issues ranging from the role of women in Parliament to the role of legislatures in enhancing hemispheric security and economic development. In addition, FIPA members have been instrumental in encouraging the sharing of best practices among parliamentarians in the region and in strengthening the role of legislatures in the process of democratic development.

These are significant accomplishments that would not have been possible without the determined work of FIPA's most important contributors: each one of you as parliamentarians. You recognize that this organization has a vital role to play in shaping the policy agenda of the Americas. This includes making representations to our respective governments on how best to address domestic and regional challenges, as well as providing ideas on how to successfully capitalize on future opportunities.

You also recognize that FIPA is at its best when parliamentarians collaborate to address difficult challenges of the day. When members get together, they recognize that all member countries face similar problems. By comparing the ways in which we address these problems, we can learn how to effectively adjust our responses; by meeting face to face, we learn to understand each other's points of view.

Learning from one another is even more important in light of the economic and financial challenges many of our countries have faced over the past year. It has been a difficult time for many countries in the Americas, with a significant rise in unemployment across the region.

However, out of the economic downturn there have also been success stories, and this plenary assembly presents an opportunity for us to learn about these successes. Throughout the course of the meetings, I am confident that solutions to the economic challenges we face can be identified. By working closely together, we will be able to better confront not only today's challenges but also those of tomorrow.

In closing, let me welcome you once again to Ottawa. I know the discussions will be both positive and productive.

Thank you very much.

Photo: HOC-CDC



Senator Marjory LeBreton

8.5.2 Address by the Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada, Mr. Andrew Scheer, Member of Parliament

Original: English - French

Photo: HOC-CDC



Mr. Andrew Scheer, Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons

Honourable parliamentarians, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning and welcome to the Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas. On behalf of my Canadian colleagues in the House of Commons, I would like to wish you a warm welcome to Canada's capital city.

I would like to begin by thanking my colleague, the Honourable Senator LeBreton, for her comments. I would also like to thank all of the organizers and participants in this plenary meeting.

My colleague and I are deeply appreciate of all of the work that you have done in advance of this meeting.

I would also like to pass on the appreciation and best wishes of the Speaker of the Canadian House of Commons, the Honourable Peter Milliken. Speaker Milliken is disappointed that he could not be in attendance today, but he would like to extend a warm welcome to all of FIPA's participants.

It is fitting that we meet today in Canada's Senate chamber. In this place, many of the country's most important issues are debated and Canadian senators rise to bring local, national and international issues into the spotlight. It is therefore appropriate that we open FIPA's Sixth Plenary Meeting in this chamber.

As an organization made up of parliamentarians, FIPA supports the role that legislatures play in promoting democratic development and pursuing cooperation within the Americas. Through its plenary meetings and ongoing working groups, FIPA has played — and, no doubt, will continue to play — a crucial role in facilitating the sharing of information amongst parliamentarians of the Americas.

In previous plenary assemblies, FIPA discussed important issues such as social development, fiscal reforms, and terrorism and security. FIPA has demonstrated leadership by focusing on subjects such as poverty and inequality in the Americas, and by providing solutions as to how these problems can be addressed. These are important issues and FIPA deserves credit for its willingness to confront these challenges.

During this plenary assembly, FIPA has again elected to address challenging subjects in its working group sessions. Participants will focus on three topics: the economic and financial crisis, food security, and migration and human rights. While these are challenging issues, they are also subjects of crucial importance for our hemisphere. While it has been a difficult economic year for many of our countries, these sessions provide an opportunity to work together to find solutions to common challenges.

Along with the three working groups, FIPA's Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas will be meeting with participants to address gender equality in the Americas. FIPA has long been interested in gender equality and has worked hard to strengthen the leadership role of female politicians across the hemisphere. This is an important objective, and we are very pleased that FIPA's Group of Women Parliamentarians will be discussing their experiences during this plenary assembly.

This assembly provides parliamentarians from across the hemisphere with a forum to discuss these and other issues. Parliamentary exchanges such as this can help us to better understand our similarities and differences and help us work toward mutually beneficial goals.

Parliamentary exchanges also present an opportunity to learn from one another. By working together throughout this plenary assembly, my hope is that FIPA will become stronger as an organization and will be better placed to confront its challenges.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you once again for participating in the sixth plenary meeting of FIPA. Parliamentarians separated by vast distances can communicate in an instant with one another thanks to today's electronic communications technologies. However, there is nothing that compares to the relationships that can be forged through personal contacts. I know that you are eager to forge these relationships with one another in the coming days. Thank you.

8.5.3 Address by the Chair of the Plenary Meeting, Mr. James Bezan, Member of Parliament, Canada

Original: English

Photo: HOC-CDC

General Secretary Insulza, Your Excellencies from the foreign missions, honourable senators, members of your respective Houses of Commons, honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen: Welcome to Canada and the Sixth Plenary Meeting and the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas.

As Chair of the Canadian Section of FIPA, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the historic chamber of the Senate of Canada for the opening session. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to Senator Marjory LeBreton and my friend, the Deputy Speaker, Mr. Andrew Scheer, for joining us today and for sharing their words of welcome.

It has been over two years since our last plenary meeting, and this year's meeting is especially important for the revitalization of FIPA and to renew our commitments to one another for regional cooperation and dialogue.

This year's plenary meeting also serves to remind us that we represent the law-making bodies of the Americas, and we must work hard to ensure that our future will prosper and that we must work together for the benefit of our entire region.

Inter-American relations are growing stronger. Today there are some 23 bilateral and regional trade agreements within the Americas. Seven of these have come into force since our last plenary meeting back in 2006, and four more have been signed but not yet implemented. These agreements are designed to marshal the growth of trade between our countries and to ensure that relations remain healthy and robust. The responsibility falls on the shoulders of legislators to closely scrutinize the agreements that will bind us in the years to come. This scrutiny is expected by the citizens that elect us, that we represent and serve, on whose behalf we are assembled here today.



Mr. James Bezan, M.P., Chair of the Sixth Plenary Meeting

Our practice for freely exchanging ideas on issues that matter to the Americas is in keeping with the spirit of FIPA and the practices of other assemblies in the inter-American system, particularly the Summit of the Americas and the OAS General Assembly.

The theme of the Fifth Summit of the Americas was “Securing Our Citizens' Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy, Security and Environmental Sustainability.” The theme of the Thirty-ninth OAS General Assembly was “Towards a Culture of Non-Violence.” These are key transnational values for our region. The ties that bind these themes are prosperity and cooperation, which are inextricably linked to one another, and this FIPA assembly testifies to the commitment we are making to cooperate with one another in a spirit of solidarity toward a more prosperous future.

This plenary will address three very important issues: the economic and financial crisis that so deeply impacted every country in the Americas; food security, an issue that has presented challenges to which we have risen but also where some regional policy objectives have been left unmet; and, lastly, international migration and human rights, which also raises many policy issues regarding the movement of people across our region.

As with previous plenary meetings, the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas will meet to consider the issue of strengthening the role of women in society and in Parliaments, an issue which remains a pillar for FIPA.

To each delegation present here today, I ask you to do your utmost to ensure that your country is represented in each of our working groups so that your voices may be heard on all items in our program of activity. Your questions, queries and concerns will all be noted and will form final resolutions that we, as the plenary assembly, will adopt during our closing session on Tuesday and which we, as individual parliamentary delegations, will take back to our respective legislatures.

Moreover, by actively participating in the working group sessions, each of us will make our mark on this process and be better able to carry on our work back home.

In closing, I wish you productive and fruitful sessions and look forward to collaborating with you during your working groups. This year's plenary meeting is very well intended indeed, and I thank each and every one of you for the efforts you have made to join your colleagues here at the Parliament of Canada.

Thank you.

8.5.4 Address by the FIPA President, the Honourable Luiz Carlos Hauly, Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Brazil

Original: Portuguese

Honourable Marjory LeBreton, Leader of the Government in the Senate; His Excellency José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the OAS; Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, Mr. Andrew Scheer; Excellencies, Ambassadors and High Commissioners; delegations and representatives; Mr. James Bezan, Chair of the Canadian Section of FIPA; honourable parliamentarians; former President of FIPA; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen: Thank God we have a beautiful day. It is so pleasurable to be here in Ottawa in this wonderful climate. I am very grateful for the hospitality and the warm welcome of our Canadian hosts. They have cordially received us to this important Sixth Plenary Meeting

of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas, FIPA, with the theme “Prosperity and Cooperation: A New Agenda for the Americas.”

Photo: HOC-CDC



FIPA President Mr. Luiz Carlos Hauly

We begin our deliberations to demonstrate how important it is for the countries of the Americas to meet and to establish guidelines in order to overcome political and social challenges and to seek opportunities for integration, cooperation and the economic development of our hemisphere.

I also welcome the participating delegations from all countries of the Americas. They have made efforts to participate with larger representations at this assembly. I wish as well to welcome the observer countries and all of the entities who are present today.

Since our foundation in 2001 in this very city of Ottawa, we have met at annual assemblies in Mexico City, Mexico; in Santiago, Chile; in Panama City,

Panama; in Brasilia, Brazil; in Bogota, Colombia; and now we meet here again in Ottawa for our sixth plenary meeting. This is, therefore, the seventh time that we have gathered at meetings such as this. Over the course of these

nine years, the Executive Committee of FIPA has held 20 meetings in a number of countries of the Americas in an effort to strengthen the importance of our entity in the global arena.

I have great hope and optimism regarding the results and the decisions we will make at this, our sixth assembly. Every day, FIPA meets its institutional objective of increasing parliamentary dialogue in the Americas, where governments are not so involved. This meeting offers an opportunity to strengthen that objective, as we will be analyzing the recommendations of the Special Parliamentary Dialogue that took place before the Fifth Summit of the Americas.

Without a doubt, the presence here today of the Secretary General of the Organization of American States strengthens our position on the issues that affect our continent. Since the Quebec Summit, we parliamentarians have advanced our understanding of the political, economic and social questions that affect our hemisphere. Now, once again in Canada, we have an opportunity to consolidate our understanding of parliamentary diplomacy.

The role of FIPA is to consolidate its position as a negotiator, giving first priority to seeking consensual solutions to conflicts between nations and to reinforcing the defence of the democratic rule of law and respect for individual and collective rights and guarantees.

In the economic area, we have an opportunity to discuss the economic crisis that has afflicted all countries, provoking a fallback and reduction in world trade and an increase in measures that restrict free trade worldwide. Since the Doha Round, FIPA has increased its participation at economic fora, especially in promoting free trade amongst nations.

In the social area, we will discuss problems that affect the adoption of measures regarding food security, as well as our permanent activity directed toward ensuring gender equality in our hemisphere. We will be debating issues pertaining to international migration and defence of human rights. In addition, we will be talking about the effects of the measures being adopted to combat the avian flu pandemic.

Our agenda demonstrates the importance of FIPA on the world stage as well as the growth of our participation in current and relevant themes of a political, social and economic nature on the world scene.

As I mentioned in my report, a five-year agreement was recently signed between FIPA and the Canada International Development Agency. I should like to thank Canada very much for investing in this parliamentary activity in an effort to promote dialogue amongst our peoples. We thank you for the generosity of your friendly nation. Once again, we will seek the technical and professional improvement of all parliamentarians of the Americas, and here I refer to the 35 countries.

I wish you all success at this Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas, confident in God and each one of you that we can attain the objectives established for this event.

Thank you very much.

8.5.5 Keynote address by the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, His Excellency José Miguel Insulza

Original: English

Senator LeBreton, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Mr. President of FIPA, Mr. Chair

of the Canadian Section of FIPA, distinguished senators, congressmen, members of Congress for the Americas, distinguished ambassadors, ladies and gentlemen: Thank you for the opportunity to address this very important conference. FIPA was created, as was remembered here, in this same Parliament eight years ago following the important decisions of the Third Summit of the Americas in Quebec City. It is destined to play a major role, as the president has said, in promoting peaceful conflict resolution, a dialogue among the nations of the Americas, and the promotion of democracy, a value we all share in this region.

Today, the Americas face a full host of exciting opportunities and challenges. I am certain that the deliberations of this prestigious forum will help us work together towards strengthening the community of the Americas for the benefit of all of our people.

Democratic progress in Latin America and the Caribbean has been significant in recent years, especially when we compare it to the situation in the region only a couple of decades ago, when dictatorships were all too frequent, as were violations of human and civil rights. Although we still share many challenges, the situation has changed. At the Fifth Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago, every OAS country that was represented there had elected their leaders and authorities through competitive democratic processes under the rule of law, and, in most cases, with a team of OAS observers present to attest to the transparency of the electoral process. Some of these free and fair elections had close and contested results, but in all cases the outcomes were accepted by all parties.

Photo: HOC--CDC



OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza during his keynote address



This very important new situation is pointing us in the right direction, although many of our states continue to struggle and are imperfect in the exercise of their democracies. This is why it is fundamental for you in the legislatures of the region, whether you come from the government or the opposition, to help us meet the challenges of deepening and strengthening democratic processes, democratic policies and strong democratic institutions. This can be done through not only legislative debate but also through the formulation of relevant policy, through the application of adequate financial resources aligned with national priorities, and through the formulation of consensus and consensual policies throughout the region.

Legislators also have a key role to play in shaping long-range visions and strategies for sustainable democratic governance and development. We must all tackle together the challenges addressed by our heads of states and governments at the summit in Trinidad and Tobago: inequity, energy security, productivity, public security, democratic governance, and establishing and restoring trust in the political process.

Without stable democracies, it is difficult to encourage the necessary investment in our people, and our economies will fail to be competitive in this interconnected world. As we slowly come out of what observers have called the worst recession since the Great Depression, there are some warning signs that we need to draw from this. While it is true that for the first time ever Latin America and the Caribbean seem bound to come out of the crisis in a situation that is similar to the world average and not in a worse situation, we still live in a hemisphere with serious inequities in terms of income distribution, productivity and innovation. A recent study by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC, shows that the social effects of a recession take twice as long to fix as the economic ones. We are in danger of losing the many advances that we have made in recent years. Governments have to be able to take measures to narrow the gaps or we risk serious forms of social upheaval due to the return of many people who will be below the line of poverty.

That is why our leaders gather at these summits; that is why we share experiences and discuss policies; and that is why we have to bring all the powers of our democratic governments, and certainly legislative powers, into the common goal of improving the condition of our people.

Of course, we continue to face political troubles and threats, which must be addressed continually to prevent backsliding into an uncertain society. Undoubtedly, recent events have demonstrated the need for a stronger, more vibrant Organization of American States and inter-American system. All of our institutions have critical roles to play to ensure the appropriate follow-up of our commitments. The OAS has played an important role in helping to find peaceful resolutions to crises in countries such as Bolivia and Nicaragua, and in helping to implement confidence-building measures in the unfortunate conflict between our brother nations of Colombia and Ecuador. These successful endeavours merit to be addressed separately to fully understand and appreciate the individual complexity of each case. Haiti continues to be a very troublesome situation for all of us. In several countries, the economic crisis has created problems that we might face in the next few months or years.

However, for the sake of time and to address just one issue, I would like to focus on the recent setback that we have suffered in Honduras, the lessons we have learned and what needs to be done in the future to avoid other similar crises.

The overthrow of governments by force is a setback not only for the country that suffers it and has to watch armed forces do away with democratic rule; it is also a setback for a whole region, which cannot be allowed to happen again. All of us felt that this was not going to happen again in our region.

Actually, I must confess that the day after what happened in Honduras, I received a paper from the OAS. The first sentence read, “Military coups are a thing of the past in Latin America.” Of course, I gave it back and said, “Draft it again and put it in another context.” They are a rare thing in Latin America, I hope.

When an elected president, who was not formally charged with a crime or given any opportunity to face his accusers, is taken away by military force and exiled to another country, it is difficult to argue, although some people do argue, that something other than a coup has taken place. Of course, we all feel that sensation of loss and impotence. We recall the tanks in the street, the shootings, the presidents in exile, the violation of human rights, et cetera. That is why it is important to not allow the progress and the regional stability that we have worked diligently to secure in the past few decades to be thwarted, unconstitutionally or unilaterally, by deposing elected leaders.

That is exactly what we did, first in the Permanent Council on the same day of the coup and later in our Special General Assembly in which we condemned the coup without any qualifications and with the agreement of all OAS member states, without exception. We moved swiftly to ensure that no one would recognize the de facto government, and we were completely successful in that. To this day, no government or institution in the international community has recognized the de facto undemocratic government. By the way, we were not the first to do that. The European Union was meeting on the same day that the coup occurred and was the first to condemn it and call for the restoration of democracy in Honduras.

Thanks to this, we have been able to push legitimately for negotiation. Through the offices of the President of Costa Rica, Óscar Arias, we are all behind what is called the “San José proposal,” which is a multilateral effort to propose a path of reconciliation absent of violent conflict and to strengthen democracy in this Central American nation.

We think that this is a balanced proposal. It restores the legitimate president in his position, and it also addresses — because we must be realistic about this — the concerns of many people and the problems that led to this situation. We are not asking simply for a return to the situation that existed previous to the coup. We are trying to recreate all the conditions by which everyone in Honduras can feel secure again that the path to democracy can be restored. The San José proposal was made possible on the basis of the principles of multilateralism, the only tool that many countries have available to them to help nations substantiate and strengthen democracy.

It is very important to take some lessons from this event. The political crisis that we have suffered is an opportunity to launch a debate on the state of democracy in the region and on the ways of preserving and strengthening democratic institutions in order to avoid any more crises. This debate has to be based on our basic document, in which the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City played an important role in finishing. Within a few months after that summit, we signed the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which contains a very broad definition of democracy and of the principles upon which we would all base our actions from then on.

The essential elements of representative democracy include the separation of powers, the constitutional subordination of all state institutions to the legally constituted civilian authority, the



recognition of the framework established by the rule of law, and the consequential contributing role that all institutions and sectors of society play in the sustainability of democracy.

The current crisis underscores the imperfections that we still have in the tools available to respond when democracy is under threat. While the Inter-American Democratic Charter defines the essential elements of democracy and provides governments of the Western Hemisphere with a framework to guide their collective action when democracy faces threats, it is still vague in defining with clarity what constitutes a rupture of democratic order. It also lacks the necessary mechanisms for all the powers of the state, not only the governing executive branch, to be able to request or invoke its application. I raised these and other issues in a report on the Democratic Charter back in 2007.

I think it is time to discuss them because we certainly need to open the space for others, not only the executive branches, to present their views and their requests. Perhaps we could have saved what happened in Honduras if that situation had been brought to council before the coup happened. Actually, we were to go to Honduras the day after the coup. It was a pity because we could have gone weeks sooner had the situation been presented formally before our council. We have to find ways in which such situations can be brought before council in order to protect democracy.

It is clear that democracy is not about just holding free, fair and transparent elections. We have made a lot progress in that regard. It is clear that it is not about just the observance of human rights, an area in which we have also made important progress. It is also about creating checks and balances. It is transparency and ethics in the handling of state affairs. It is good governance, the strength of political parties, access to information, freedom of the press and freedom of expression.

We must ensure that our political institutions represent the people and that the people participate in our political systems, and that our governments are capable of fulfilling their principal social responsibilities and functions. All of us should find our hemispheric institutions to be relevant for our lives and regard them as performing a useful and important function in confronting collective challenges and progress.

When we reach this point, our societies will more accurately reflect our common values and who we want to be as an American community. People speak about elections. Certainly, the Americas, together with Europe, are the most democratic regions in the world, but we want from democracy more than elections. We want effective citizenship; we want the rule of law; we want the full respect of human rights; and we want plurality and freedom of expression. We have to achieve that together.

If we achieve this, we will be able to create better opportunities for economic prosperity; we will be more prepared to nurture future generations. We will be better able, as both individuals and states, to exercise our political freedoms and rights in truly democratic societies.

This future is in our hands. It is not just the role of the executive branches of our governments. We are proud of the association that we have had with FIPA, and we think that it should play a much larger role. We hope that all the powers of our democratic state can feel representative of the Organization of American States. That is why we are here today and why we invite you to prolong this dialogue in terms of equality and common values.

Thank you very much.

8.6 Appendix 6 – Working Group Reports and Recommendations

8.6.1 Working Group No.1: the Economic and Financial Crisis

FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS **Working Group No. 1: Financial and Economic Crisis**

Original: English



Photo: FIPA

Participants in the Working Group on the Economic and Financial Crisis

The Working Group on the Financial and Economic Crisis met at the Parliament of Canada in Ottawa, Canada, on September 13-14, 2009, with the participation of delegates from Argentina, the Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Haiti, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America, and observers from the People's Republic of China.

The Honourable Luiz Carlos Hauly, Member of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies and President of FIPA, chaired the working group sessions. The objective of the working group was:

- To study the impact of the global economic downturn in the Americas and its implications for development, poverty alleviation and regional economic cooperation; and
- To identify ways in which the countries of the Americas can work together to overcome the challenges presented by current economic conditions.

PRESENTATION

The first session of the Working Group on the Financial and Economic Crisis began with a presentation by Vinita Watson, Executive Director for Canada at the Inter-American Development Bank. Ms. Watson's presentation began with an overview of the financial and economic crisis, with a focus on its effect in Latin America. She noted that the crisis represented a significant external shock to the region. The economic downturn in industrialized countries reduced import demand for goods produced in Latin America; the decline in commodity prices reduced the value of some of the region's most important industrial and trade goods; and international financial conditions impacted on the availability of credit across the region.

At the same time, however, Ms. Watson noted that Latin America as a whole was in a much stronger position to weather this crisis compared to other economic crises in the recent past. Specifically, unlike the financial crisis in 1997-1998, economic fundamentals in Latin America were strong prior to the onset of the present downturn. The region's major economies had an overall fiscal surplus; public debt levels had fallen dramatically since 2002; international reserves were high; and dependence on foreign-currency debt holdings was low.



As a result of the improved macroeconomic fundamentals in the region, Ms. Watson argued that Latin America was in a much better position to pursue countercyclical monetary and fiscal policies and thus to mitigate the impact of the adverse external shocks on the region's economies. Evidence of this position was the fact that many countries in the region were able to introduce fiscal stimulus packages and lower interest rates in an effort to improve access to credit.

Ms. Watson argued that these stimulative measures will help lessen the impact of the crisis and that, as a result, the recession in the region will be short-lived and that Latin America will return to positive growth in 2010.

The second part of Ms. Watson's presentation focused on recent economic developments around the world. Specifically, she noted that there were early signs that the worst of the crisis may be over and that the global economy was beginning on the road to recovery. Financial market conditions are improving and some recovery is evident in world commodity markets and manufacturing as well.

Ms. Watson also cautioned working group participants that, notwithstanding the signs of "green shoots" in the economy, some countries in the region were facing particularly difficult challenges. She highlighted specifically those countries dependent on remittances and tourism among those where the challenge of economic recovery will be most difficult.

The final section of Ms. Watson's presentation focused on the policy opportunities the crisis presents to the Americas. She argued that to avoid the errors of previous crises, the region's governments should work to adopt coordinated and mutually informed policy responses. The focus should be on fiscal policy, financial regulation, the re-establishment of capital flows, support for intraregional trade and ensuring measures are taken to avoid protectionism. Ms. Watson especially stressed that differences on trade issues should not end up as obstacles to regional cooperation.

To open the working group's discussions, Ms. Watson concluded her presentation by suggesting two questions for discussion. First, she challenged participants to consider how prepared the region would be if the economic recovery is long and slow: what would be the specific challenges of a 4-5 year recovery period? How would a slow recovery affect issues such as poverty and social cohesion? Second, she stressed her view that trade was a critical component to a lasting economic recovery in the region. With that in mind, she asked participants to consider where they thought the policy opportunities lay for increasing trade and economic integration in the Americas and for capturing the benefits that trade offers the region.

(The PowerPoint presentation of Vinita Watson is available on the FIPA website at www.e-fipa.org)

DISCUSSIONS

Following Ms. Watson's presentation, the workshop's participants began their deliberations. Discussions were open, cordial and spanned a wide range of topics. In addition to sharing their views and observations on the causes and impacts of the crisis on their respective economies, participants also discussed the challenges and issues they face as their economies begin to recover. The focus of those discussions gravitated towards three general themes: financial sector reform, regulation and oversight; trade, competition and economic integration; and strategies and best practices for ensuring a speedy and sustainable economic recovery. Participants were in general agreement that it is important that all

countries in the Americas need to work together, to learn from past mistakes, and to take measures to avoid another, more severe, crisis in the future.

Financial services reforms and regulation were a major point of discussion in the workshop's deliberations. The debate touched on a wide range of topics, including the need for basic transparency in financial services markets; and the need for consumer education on the nature and inherent risk of mortgages and financial services instruments. Several participants suggested that an international regulatory system or body was needed to help prevent another, similar crisis in the future. However, some Parliamentarians expressed concern that the views of smaller economies could be overlooked in the creation of such a regulatory/oversight body. Others believed it was critical that in any such regulatory body, all countries should be held to the same compliance standards.

Workshop participants also discussed the importance of trade and economic integration in ensuring a quick recovery from the current global recession. It was noted that all countries of the Americas must resist the temptation to impose protectionist measures that inhibit trade, but instead should work more closely together by removing the barriers to trade and by exploring opportunities for closer economic integration. It was suggested that economic integration within the Americas was a critical component of a recovery strategy and would be key in accelerating economic growth and alleviating poverty across the hemisphere. Some discussion also touched on the need for increased attention to be paid to microeconomic policies, which are also critically important as we seek economic recovery.

Parliamentarians identified several obstacles to the goal of increasing economic integration and trade ties. These include the need to reduce the costs of trade; to provide trade facilitation and capacity-building to developing countries; to build appropriate transportation infrastructure; and to improve access to trade financing, especially given the effect of the crisis on reducing access to credit in the real economy.

The relationship between trade and poverty was another subject of the workshop's deliberations. Participants observed that trade can play a critical role in economic development and poverty alleviation, but that steps needed to be taken to ensure that the poor benefit from trade. It was noted that economic crises have a disproportionate impact on the impoverished and that government policies need to ensure that the economic recovery betters the lives of the region's poor.

A related topic of discussion was the need to improve participation in the formal economy. Several Parliamentarians noted that informal sector employment lacks the security, benefits and basic rights associated with participation in the formal economy. Some also observed that informal employment was a major contributor to poverty and income inequality in Latin America. Participants discussed strategies to encourage participation in the formal economy and to eliminate informal employment. Suggestions included providing a minimum guaranteed wage to break the poverty cycle in the region.

The third general subject of discussion was strategies for overcoming the economic downturn. Parliamentarians from several countries shared their best practices for addressing the challenges brought on by the crisis. It was noted that each country in the Americas is unique and, as such, will require unique mechanisms and strategies for dealing with their specific issues and concerns. Most participants favoured fiscal stimulus packages and deficit spending to spark economic growth, although some cautioned against returning to an era of persistent deficit spending; if too lax, expansionist economic policies can lead to hyperinflation and economic destabilization.



In addition to the participants from across the Americas, the workshop sessions were attended by a delegation of observers from China. The Chinese delegation addressed the workshop on the second day of discussions, providing an overview of China's views on the financial and economic crisis and discussed the strategies and policies China has implemented to mitigate the effects of the crisis and the successes it has achieved. The Chinese delegation also fielded a number of questions on topics such as global trade imbalances; its plans for increasing domestic consumer demand; prospects for a global currency; and its views on building trade relations with the Americas.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Adopted by the Plenary Assembly of FIPA on September 15, 2009

Based on the deliberations of the Working Group on the Financial and Economic Crisis, which took place in the framework of the 6th Plenary Meeting of FIPA in Ottawa, Canada, September 13-15, 2009,

THE FIPA PLENARY ASSEMBLY makes the following recommendations:

1. That countries in the Americas should make every effort to promote economic integration and cooperation across the region. This integration should include increased cooperation in trade, infrastructure development, innovation and technology, and financial services regulation.
2. That FIPA member countries should explore the possibility of harmonizing legislation concerning investment rules, conditions, and transparency across the hemisphere to ensure sustainable development and to ensure that the benefits of investment are shared by all. No country should fail to attract foreign direct investment because investment rules are more lax elsewhere.
3. That FIPA member countries should make every effort to work together towards a satisfactory conclusion to the ongoing Doha Development Round of multilateral trade negotiations at the World Trade Organization (WTO). At the same time member countries should work to strengthen trade within the region, and to eliminate tariffs and protectionist measures across the Americas.
4. That FIPA member countries should ensure that they act in a fiscally responsible manner. In the short term, temporary deficit spending can be an appropriate countercyclical policy response to economic downturns. However, based on their past experience, countries in the Americas should avoid returning to the practice of persistent annual deficits over the long term.
5. That the countercyclical policies implemented by countries in the Americas should aim to preserve salaries and employment across the region, respecting national laws while also promoting international standards for working conditions such as those contained in the conventions of the International Labour Organization.
6. That, given the importance of a strong central bank in building trust in financial markets, FIPA member countries should work to preserve the autonomy of their central banks and federal reserve agencies.
7. That FIPA member countries should be encouraged to review their legislation in an effort to strengthen institutions dealing with control and oversight of financial institutions and their

products, as well as rating agencies, to avoid speculative measures, conflicts of interest and lack of transparency in decision making in capital markets.

8. That FIPA member countries should implement public policies to encourage, as part of public-private alliances, the activation or creation of productive units that will create formal employment in a manner that promotes sustainable development. At the same time, FIPA countries should also promote policies, incentives and programs that will result in the greatest possible development of small and micro enterprises, ensuring their participation and competitiveness in internal and external markets.

The Honourable Luiz Carlos Hauly

Member of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies and President of FIPA

Working Group Chair

Michael Holden, Analyst, Library of Parliament, Parliament of Canada

Working Group Secretary

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The Bahamas	Lynn Holowesko, President of the Senate
Bolivia	María Silvia Baldomar, Senator
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Canada	Céline Hervieux-Payette, Senator Pierrette Ringuette, Senator Terrance Stratton, Senator James Bezan, Member of Parliament Pierre Paquette, Member of Parliament
Chile	Jose Francisco Encina Moriamez, Member of the Chamber of Deputies Eugenio Tuma Zedán, Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Ecuador	Fernando Cordero Cueva, President of the National Assembly
Haiti	Jean Ricaud Bélizaire, Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Guatemala	Edgar Cain González Aguilar, Congressman Felix Adolfo Ruano de León, Congressman
Jamaica	Shahine Robinson, Member of Parliament
Mexico	Rogelio Humberto Rueda, Senator
Panama	Fernando Carrillo, Member of the National Assembly
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Peru	Rolando Reátegui Flores, Congressman Rafael Yamashiro Ore, Congressman
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Trinidad and Tobago Adesh Nanan, Senator
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8.6.2 Working Group No.2: Food Security

FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
Working Group No. 2: Food Security

Original: English

Photo: M. López Garelli



Senator Joan Purcell presents the recommendations of the Working Group on Food Security

The **Working Group on Food Security** met at the Parliament of Canada in Ottawa, Canada, on September 13-14, 2009, with the participation of delegates from Brazil, Canada, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The **Honourable Joan Purcell**, President of the Senate of Grenada, chaired the working group session. The objectives of the working group were:

- To analyze the regional situation in terms of food security and its contributing factors, taking into account, in particular, the situation of the most vulnerable states.
- To identify short- and long-term policy options for legislators at the national, sub-regional and hemispheric levels.

PRESENTATIONS

A) **Mr. Juan Carlos García Cebolla**, Coordinator of the Project “Initiative Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean,” Food and Agriculture Organization, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago, Chile

In 2005, the Presidents of Guatemala and Brazil had a number of initiatives, including: the establishment of a goal to eradicate hunger by 2025; and recognition that Parliaments do not only legislate but are also drivers for budgets.

In terms of defining the term "food security," the definition used by the World Food Summit is useful.

Nutrition aspects are also factors to be taken into account.

There are multiple causes and multiple jurisdictions, including national and sub national; the causes are complex, and include socioeconomic causes (e.g. homes, families having to survive), cultural aspects,

and considerations related to availability, access (to food and to safe water), stability (climate as well as prices) and uses (safety of food, access to health care).

There is a vicious cycle of malnutrition-hunger-poverty; equal opportunities for development are also lacking. Thus: i) immediate access to food is imperative; the annual cost of child malnutrition in Central America and the Dominican Republic totals US\$6.7 billion, which is equivalent to 6.4% of gross domestic product; ii) with 60% of Latin American children living in rural areas, it is important to build capacity and create economic opportunities.

Role of Parliaments: The institutional framework should be strengthened in a cross-sector approach: education, the economy, agricultural and rural development, housing and habitat, health and sanitation; legal; etc. Long-term goals should be set at the country level, and adequate budgets – which are a necessary condition for investment in human capital and production capacity – should be approved. Budgets should be larger and better-managed.

There are six elements that are needed for a Food and Nutritional Security (FNS) policy: **income transfers and food access; support for families and rural agriculture; health and nutrition; food and nutritional education; food safety and quality (including access to safe water); supply (reserves for emergency situations should be funded)**. There are three main components: spatial development; operating local markets; the economic rights to food. It should be recognized that **small farmers are part of the solution**.

B) *Dr. Maximo Torero, Latin America Coordinator and Director of the Markets, Trade, and Institutions Division, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington D.C., USA*

There are four crises: food, fuel, financial and climate, and they are all interrelated, e.g. 30% of the increase in food prices is related to fuel.

There is a clear link among food security, energy security and political security. There is also a clear link among corn, rice, wheat and oil prices; consequently, with the huge spike in 2008, poor people were the most affected. Two main reasons explain the spike: tariffs were implemented by countries to protect their market (this factor explains 30% of the spike); the remainder of the spike (70%) was **the result of speculation**. Clearly, there are causes and effects. Urban consumers eat value-added food products and are thus relatively less affected by an increase in wheat prices, for example, while poor consumers in rural regions eat less processed foods and are thus relatively more affected by increased commodity prices. With 970 million people living on \$1 or less per day and spending 50-70% of that dollar on food, the price spike has a huge impact on them.

Even worse, the decrease in prices that followed was not as significant or quick as was the increase in prices. Poor people quickly became poorer and those on the borderline of poverty became poor. In addition, there was an absolute deterioration in calorie intake in poor rural areas.

At the beginning of the recession, the agricultural sector was relatively less affected than was the manufacturing sector; consequently, the agricultural sector was "a cushion" for some corporations.

Climate change affects corn production, which is a particular concern for southern countries.

The agricultural sector must be protected against volatility in the financial sector.



Trade barriers need to be reduced in order to improve market access and to reduce market volatility. Moreover, social programs should be expanded and nutrition programs for children should be improved. It is very important to **link small agricultural producers to markets by improving yields (which requires research), innovation and the value-added chain.**

Reduced market volatility could be achieved by: a humanitarian minimum reserve; and a safeguard mechanism to minimize speculative behaviour affecting various markets, perhaps through a **virtual reserve for a potential signal sent by countries** in the future market. The main feature is the signal itself: if there is a problem with the fundamentals of a market, then countries could intervene to stop the abnormal trend.

C) *Dr. Michael Bedoya, Representative of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture in Canada*

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture is focused, at least in part, on the development of an agricultural sector that is efficient. It remains in countries where it initially becomes involved in order to ensure that sustainability follows the implementation of projects. Presence, knowledge and sustainability are the main components of its approach.

2008 was marked by uncertainty in basic food product standards. According to Professor Alex McCalla, of the University of California, low-income countries spent 67.5% on food, a figure that can be compared to the 11% spent in high-income countries; staples are the main purchase in poorer countries.

In terms of institutional innovation for technological changes, information, publications and analysis of the impact of research are important.

In terms of institutional and services restructuring, considerations include a territorial approach, joint projects with countries, nutrition, and linking small producers to markets.

Analysis, examination and follow up are required, and appropriate adjustments should be made. Case studies are useful in order to share observation and disseminate information among countries.

Horizontal cooperation (as facilitators) is promoted among the countries of the Americas; examples of this cooperation include crop insurance, support for young farmers and risk-management approaches. Also, promoting own-food production in countries such as Haiti is an example of intervention and horizontal interaction with organizations such as Pulse Canada.

Recommendations include: improve the use of all technical resources and mechanisms; enhance horizontal cooperation among countries; develop appropriate technologies for small operations; facilitate communication channels between small producers and markets; use agricultural credit and insurance programs as stabilizers; facilitate education to rural operations; and aid in the development of young rural leaders.

(PowerPoint presentations prepared by the guest speakers are available on the FIPA website at www.e-fipa.org)

DISCUSSIONS

Hunger is a serious matter when 55 million people residing in our continent suffer from it.

Payments made to reduce foreign debt are leading to reduced funds being available to help poor and hungry people. Richer countries don't understand that they would profit from a reduction in, if not the elimination of, poverty.

Obesity and poverty are linked: malnutrition at younger ages may lead to obesity when food supplies increase because metabolism may adapt in order to generate more energy when food is limited. In Ecuador, for example, a **poor distribution of crops** may generate too much consumption in some regions and inadequate consumption in others.

The **need for safe water and safe food** gives rise to consideration of food aid. An important question is: Is there a level below which hunger cannot be reduced? An indicator of "below 2% suffering malnutrition" is sometimes considered to be acceptable. The "right to food" remains an important debate.

Programs for infrastructure should include a technology transfer and development component for countries facing food insecurity.

In the context of the Millennium Development Goals, it is wondered what the impact would be of targeting, in particular, malnourished children. Some wonder whether there are studies showing what would be a "satisfied population" in terms of nutrition, food security and food sovereignty. Another important question is: What are the **limits on government support** to alleviate the problem of poverty and hunger?

Other questions also arise: Since there are food surpluses in some countries that are able to export and there are countries that are unable to produce enough food to meet their needs, how is it possible to develop common recommendations that could apply to these two different situations?

In addition, in respect of **clean-energy (biofuel) producing countries**, it must be recognized that policies must be quite different in the sense that food policies cannot be "in the same basket" as energy policies.

Regarding **carbon credits and climate change**, it is wondered whether there is an opportunity for small farmers in developing countries.

Answers regarding the "**right to food**" question may focus on the notion that the right is not based on permanent aid, but rather on the existence of "conditions," such as not allowing third parties to affect that right (such as limiting water) and the existence of transfer programs that supplement income to ensure that a basic minimum level is reached.

Answers regarding government support and public investment questions may focus on monitoring and targeting, which are imperative. Moreover, due diligence regarding the investments is important and is not always undertaken properly at the current time.

Regarding biofuels, while Brazil is efficient with its sugar cane, the same cannot always be said for all biofuel-producing countries.

High input costs in farming are a major issue. In 1980, one-half of a hectare per person was required to produce food for the world; in 2025, only one-quarter of a hectare will be available.



Some speak about "peak oil" and question whether there is "peak food;" if so, is peak food something that should be debated by Parliamentarians? Major purchasers of commodities may shield farmers from knowing the real value of their commodities. Consequently, empowering farmers is essential.

Ecuador is a country that is totally dedicated to agriculture. While the country has established biodiversity areas that are to be protected, some of them are at risk. Crop insurance exists, but only for those producers working with the development bank. The country believes that it is on the threshold of another climate phenomenon, and that fishermen – many of whom are at risk – need access to a social safety net. Family farming is reinforced in Ecuador in order to ensure ongoing contact with the soil; fishermen need to have the same sustained contact with their resources.

Water access is a major issue, and it must be addressed.

Food security is a critically important issue: every second, a child or a person dies, and more than 1 billion people in the world have severe problems with hunger. **Public policies can change the trend**, provided they are targeted to the **most vulnerable people**. For example, school breakfast and lunch programs can break the cycle of poverty. **Health education and food subsidies should be provided to the poorest of the poor**. Even though some countries produce a large amount of food, we still have areas with hunger and high poverty levels.

Trinidad and Tobago is a net importer of food. The availability of farm credit, and access to technology and communication, are key elements. Infrastructure is essential for small farmers to be able to access markets.

In the view of the delegate of the **Dominican Republic**, there is a need for the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas to help create a **Parliamentary Front against Hunger**. Farmers need projects that will help them produce better. An exchange of debt for food would give the country breathing room, bearing in mind the country's reality that its debt is a heavy burden. As well, the Dominican Republic is affected by outside crises (such as the financial crisis, which resulted in fewer tourists, fewer exports, etc.). Billions of dollars have been spent to save large banks, but people also need assistance that would help them to create wealth. **Everyone should have the shared goal of enabling mankind to have purchasing power. In light of this, a moratorium on the payment of interests on the foreign debt is needed.** For the Latin American continent, the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas must be prepared to make strong recommendations.

Many factors are affecting food security, including trade, debt levels, education, income levels and the low prices received for basic production. **Parliamentarians must encourage** governments to enhance and subsidize production as well as provide more support for research. Climate change and the financial crisis are interlinked, and sustainable approaches are required.

In the view of the **Panamanian** delegate, there is a cycle and a number of factors are interrelated. **Programs that have social aspects must be tightly focussed and politically neutral**. Companies involved in hydroelectricity projects should share some of their profits with local communities. Self-sufficient farms need help in developing beyond self-sufficiency. Solidarity programs must be separated from politics.

Governments must concentrate more on agricultural development.

All governments should encourage and foster school breakfast programs, and all vulnerable sectors should receive help in terms of food support, education and health.

Guest speakers:

Mr. Juan Carlos Garcia Cebolla: A portion of profits must be redirected for: school lunch programs (which require government funds but are also **an opportunity for small farmers to sell their products**) and for infrastructure (roads, health care, veterinarian services, etc.). Food safety is also important, and it is imperative production facilities follow standards; that being said, small farmers are relatively unable to follow standards that are overly stringent.

Dr. Maximo Torero: Since global problems exist, it is important to support the **Doha Development Agenda**. To resolve the issue of price volatility, a virtual reserve should be considered. At the county level, private insurance is very important in relation to climate change, and some insurance payments are based on climate indices; farmers must understand this reality. A price information system is needed to ensure the availability of timely market information which, at the present time, is lacking. The distribution and production of farm inputs are too much concentrated. Land markets must be improved. Empowering women must also be a goal.

Dr. Michael Bedoya: A territorial approach to rural development is here a common macroeconomic goal.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Adopted by the Plenary Assembly of FIPA on September 15, 2009

Based on the deliberations of the Working Group on Food Security, which took place in the framework of the Sixth Plenary Meeting of FIPA in Ottawa, Canada, September 13-15, 2009,

THE FIPA PLENARY ASSEMBLY makes the following recommendations:

1. Childhood malnutrition can have negative long-term effects on the future development of countries. Therefore, it is recommended that greater emphasis be put on food and nutritional education programs when food aid is delivered.
2. It is imperative that the cycle of malnutrition-hunger-poverty be broken; food aid alone is not sufficient, and nor is it sustainable. Therefore, it is recommended that programs aimed at building capacity and creating economic opportunities for the population – both individually and collectively – be increasingly considered by countries that deliver food assistance. Furthermore, the purchase of local food should be promoted when food aid is delivered.
3. Food security is a complex issue which includes many factors – notably socioeconomic and cultural aspects – that require a specific and common approach. Therefore, it is recommended that a cross-sectoral approach, based on institutional efforts to coordinate the different efforts that affect food and nutritional security, be at the centre of public policies.
4. Access to safe water, like access to safe food, should become a human right. Therefore, it is recommended that the provision of safe water be promoted. It is also recommended that minimum food safety standards be put in place, provided they do not become an undue burden for producers.
5. Governments and Parliaments have a role to play, notably by approving adequate budgets for food programs. Therefore, it is recommended that FIPA Member Parliaments establish adequate

institutional frameworks, strengthen the structure of their public agencies and set short, medium and long-term goals aimed at delivering sustainable support programs, including farm credit and crop insurance.

6. Furthermore, the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA) should seek the promotion and establishment of a Parliamentary Front against Hunger in each Member Parliament, which is needed to advance a development and food security policy that is both sustainable and equitable for all.
7. Action, by both governments and Parliaments, is one element of the solution; small and young farmers are also important stakeholders, and are part of the strategy to fight hunger and poverty. Therefore, it is recommended that initiatives which would empower young and small farmers as well as family farmers should always be part of governments' strategies and programs; these measures should include extension services, adaptation, technology and innovation, with a focus on the education of rural young farmers and their families.
8. Furthermore, empowering farmers also results in a better relationship with local markets. Therefore, it is recommended that efforts be pursued by various agencies and governments involved in economic development. These efforts include the development of local co-ops and farmer associations through local and/or regional agricultural processing designed to enable producers to participate in the value chain.
9. The right to food is an important but not always well-understood concept despite wide acceptance of the notion as a basic human right. Therefore it is recommended that this concept be explained better to all populations and include relevant concepts and information prepared by such groups as the Food and Agriculture Organization. In ensuring the right to safe food, it is important to recognize the impacts of climate change on agricultural production, the need for sustainable food production and the requirement to use scarce water resources properly.
10. Trade remains an important component of economic development. It is recommended that the World Trade Organization objectives of reducing trade barriers and increasing market access be the main focus of all countries.
11. There is evidence of a significant relationship among political unrest, food prices and food security. Similarly, there is evidence of a link between the current energy crisis and the current competition for land and water. As a result, it is recommended that food security at the country and regional levels be assured and that fair competition in the development of bio-fuel, based on "basic grains," be pursued. Furthermore, it is recommended that investment in research and development and in second-generation bio-fuels be pursued.
12. Reduced market volatility could be achieved by a humanitarian minimum reserve and by safeguard mechanisms to minimize speculative behaviour affecting various markets. In order to prevent excessive speculation, it is recommended that stronger regulatory mechanisms be implemented by all countries.
13. There is a need to improve and increase access, by the operators of small and medium-sized farm, to appropriate price information about their commodities. Therefore, it is recommended that countries find ways to improve their agricultural product price systems and increase their access to

market information through the use of information and communication technologies, such as cellular phones.

14. It is recommended that the FIPA work with Member Parliaments to ensure that all technical cooperation and available resources are used better, including horizontal collaboration among the countries of the Americas.

The Honourable Joan Purcell
President of the Senate of Grenada
Working Group Chair

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8.6.3 *Working Group No.3: International Migrations and Human Rights*

FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
Working Group No. 3: International Migrations and Human Rights

Original: English and Spanish

Photo: M. López Garelli



Delegates take notes during presentations of the Working Group on International Migrations and Human Rights

The Working Group on Migrations and Human Rights met at the Parliament of Canada in Ottawa, Canada, on September 13-14, 2009, with the participation of delegates from Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Suriname.

Senator Ricardo Garcia Cervantes, Vice-President of the Senate of Mexico, chaired the working group sessions. The working group objectives were to:

- Promote a comprehensive dialogue on the migratory phenomenon in the Americas in order to analyze and propose actions aimed at ensuring proper care of migrants that is legal, orderly, safe and respectful of human rights.
- Draft recommendations on the role of parliamentarians in the establishment of a legal framework that is effective, secure, respectful of human rights and adapted to a scenario of change and globalization.

PRESENTATIONS

In order to meet these objectives, the working group heard presentations from three experts in the field: Ms. Agueda Marín of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mr. Mario López Garelli, of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), and Dr. Demetrios G. Papademetriou, of the Migration Policy Institute. Their presentations and the discussion are summarized below.

Ms. Agueda Marín

Ms. Marín opened by saying that in order for migration policy to be successful, it must take into account human rights. However, despite the fact that migrants' rights are human rights, abuses continue to occur around the world. Ms. Marín's key message was that shared responsibility lies at the heart of realizing the human rights of migrants. All states have an interest in, and responsibility for, the protection of these rights, whether as country of origin, transit, or destination.

A multi-layered system of international law has developed to ensure the protection of the human rights of migrants. The key principle of human rights law in this area is that of non-discrimination, which places upon the State the responsibility to respect and ensure the human rights of all individuals within its

territory; nationals and non-nationals alike, with few exceptions. However, challenges arise in trying to give practical expression to the rights applicable to migrants.

States can take certain steps towards the implementation of human rights, including putting in place laws, structures, programmes, and policies. The effective implementation of human rights involves promotion, prevention of violations, and protection and redress where abuses have occurred. States need migration legislation and migration policy, each reflecting and affirming the other. Important underlying conditions include effective capacity to implement and respect human rights, coherent policymaking, initiatives to promote awareness of rights, and cooperation between states. Protecting the human rights of migrants is not only a shared responsibility between states, but also involves a range of actors in society, including civil society, media, employers, trade unions, etc.

Human rights are important building blocks in a comprehensive approach to migration governance. There is much to learn from other states, and at regional fora. For example, the International Organization for Migration has the international migration law database, with legislation from different countries, as well as bi-national agreements, which can serve as a reference tool. Prevention, promotion, protection, and redress are key concepts, remembering that human rights are important both to the individual and to the host country.

Mr. Mario López Garelli

Mr. López Garelli outlined the activities of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in relation to migration. He referred to the Charter of the OAS and the principles embodied in the preamble and in Article 45, most notably, non-discrimination. He also discussed how migration has become an important political issue in the region, due to the pace and size of migration flows.

In terms of relevant work at the IACHR, Mr. López Garelli highlighted the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, which serves as a benchmark or reference point for action in this area. He also discussed the activities of the Special Rapporteur on Migrant Workers and their Families, including the recent report on detention of migrants and due process in the United States. The Commission has conducted other work on migration related matters as well, holding hearings on topics including migrants as domestic workers, human rights violations of those in transit, and anti-immigration activities of groups in certain countries.

Mr. López Garelli emphasized the importance of Advisory Opinion OC 18 of the Inter-American Court on Human Rights. This decision clearly laid out the nature of states' obligations to migrants, and in particular, underlined the principles of equality, non-discrimination, and due process. Non-discrimination includes the labour market and labour laws; migrants must have their labour rights respected like other workers once a labour relationship has been established. Due process includes those who have entered the country illegally.

Dr. Demetrios G. Papademetriou

Mr. Papademetriou focused on migration and human rights in the Americas in the context of the current economic crisis. The severity of the economic crisis suggests that jobs will be scarce, even after recovery begins. Migration has been affected in perhaps surprising ways; migrants are taking into account the new economic reality and are often choosing to remain where they are, whether in their country or origin or in their country of destination. However, immigration policy can affect the decision of migrants, as evidenced in the United Kingdom and Ireland, where the possibility of legal return (in addition to



economic opportunity in their countries of origin) has contributed to the decision of many Eastern European migrants to return home.

Migrants are disproportionately affected by the economic downturn because they tend to be employed in sectors with relatively weak labour and social protections. Further, when migrants lose their jobs, they may not have access to unemployment assistance or other state support. In a time of economic crisis, migrants are particularly vulnerable, and therefore are particularly in need of protection, in three areas. These areas are: protection from expulsion, the protection of people in transit, and labour and social protections.

(PowerPoint presentations and background documents prepared by the guest speakers are available on the FIPA website at www.e-fipa.org)

DISCUSSIONS

Participants discussed a range of issues in relation to human rights and migration. Different countries have different experiences with migration; general principles and best practices can be helpful, but specific situations also need to be considered. Participants discussed the role played by economic conditions in the countries of origin in motivating migration and return. Vulnerable groups, such as women and unaccompanied minors, were also of concern. The current context, including factors such as the drop in remittances, opportunities for orderly migration, and increased vulnerability of migrants to unscrupulous agents, was discussed, along with future implications.

CONSIDERATIONS

We, the parliamentarians participating in Working Group No. 3: International Migrations and Human Rights:

1. Recognize that all human beings enjoy fundamental rights regardless of their migratory status, and declare our willingness to respect those rights and guarantee that principle.
2. Observe that the various trends in the migratory phenomenon in the Americas are mainly the result of economics and the search for better opportunities for personal and family development.
3. Note that the economic crisis the world is currently facing is perhaps the most serious since World War II, and that it has strongly altered current trends in the migratory phenomenon, in particular in the Western Hemisphere.
4. Are aware that migrants are vulnerable to abuses and corruption at the hands of organized crime, as well as various authorities.
5. Understand the urgent need to provide protection to all migrant persons, and especially to vulnerable groups
6. Recognize the generalized weakness in the social and labour protection of migrants in the Americas.

7. Are concerned over the negative reactions that could be generated at the regional level in light of this economic crisis, and the weakening of mechanisms to protect the rights of migrants.
8. Observe that some countries have not signed or acceded to, or do not observe existing international standards and legal instruments for the protection of migrants.
9. Realize that this is not exclusively a human rights issue but also a matter of ensuring that international migration is part of a framework that respects the corresponding legislation.
10. Recognize that it is important for immigration legislation and policies to be consistent amongst themselves and with other areas for effective coordination between the different branches and levels of government.
11. Are aware that shared responsibility is a key element in effective migration policy.
12. Note the need for greater technical capacity to promote efficiency in the design and implementation of immigration policies and laws.
13. Emphasize that each country in the region should assess its current immigration laws and policies in light of the circumstances described to ensure that international migration is dignified.

Therefore, it is in the best interest of all countries to create mechanisms to ensure that migration within the region is conducted in a manner that is safe and respectful of human rights, and it is our duty to urge all congresses in the Americas to promote through their legislation and immigration policies a flow of people that is dignified, legal, orderly and safe based on the principle of shared responsibility between the states of origin, transit and destination.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Adopted by the Plenary Assembly of FIPA on September 15, 2009

Based on the deliberations of the Working Group on International Migrations and Human Rights, which took place in the framework of the 6th Plenary Meeting of FIPA in Ottawa, Canada, September 13-15, 2009, and on the Considerations exposed by the Working Group,

THE FIPA PLENARY ASSEMBLY makes the following recommendations:

1. That FIPA member parliaments promote greater dialogue with the executive branches of their States with the aim of harmonizing the legislation with a comprehensive public immigration policy that is characterized by being dignified, legal, orderly, safe and respectful of human rights.
2. That FIPA member parliaments strengthen political dialogue among legislative branches to determine the specific realities and needs of each region, and to seek proposals for joint solutions between countries of origin, transit and destination that promote flows that are dignified, legal, orderly, safe and respectful of human rights.
3. That FIPA member parliaments promote actions that:
 - a. Combat human trafficking;
 - b. Promote peace and reduce violence in border regions;



- c. Condemn and prevent xenophobia and discrimination against migrants;
 - d. Establish minimum standards for the protection and health of migrants in detention and the deportation of migrants, and ensure family unity, consular protection and due process;
 - e. Strengthen the integration of migrants into host communities;
 - f. Call upon all countries in the international system to sign, accede to and comply with treaties on human rights and human mobility.
4. That FIPA member parliaments, through FIPA, request that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) support the legislative branches of the region in organizing activities to promote the existing legal instruments on human rights and migration.
 5. That FIPA member parliaments organize, through FIPA and with support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), regional training workshops on the issue of human trafficking in order to promote best practices and legislation against it.

Hon. Ricardo García Cervantes
Vice-President of the Senate of Mexico
Working Group Chair

Sergio Romero Pizarro, Senator of Chile
Rapporteur

Sandra Elgersma, Analyst, Library of Parliament, Parliament of Canada
Karla Mendoza Alcántara, Advisor, Office of Senator Ricardo García Cervantes, Senate of Mexico
Aaron Terrazas, Associate Policy Analyst, Migration Policy Institute
Working Group Secretaries

PARTICIPANTS

Bolivia	Guido Guardia Flores, Senator
Brazil	Eduardo Azeredo, Senator
Canada	Raynell Andreychuk, Senator Francine Lalonde, Member of Parliament Mario Silva, Member of Parliament
Colombia	Gloria Inés Ramírez, Senator
Chile	Sergio Romero Pizarro, Senator Iván Moreira Barros, Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Dominican Republic	Josefa Castillo, Member of the Chamber of Deputies Mauro Piña Bello, Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Ecuador	Linda Machuca Moscoso, Member of the National Assembly
Grenada	George Prime, Senator
Mexico	Rubén Fernando Velázquez López, Senator

Panama	Iracema Ayarza de Dale, Member of the National Assembly VÍctor Juliao, Member of the National Assembly Tito Rodríguez, Member of the National Assembly
Paraguay	Carlos Roger Caballero Fioro, Senator
Peru	Carlos Alberto Torres Caro, Congressman
Suriname	Frankel Brewster, Member of Parliament Ortwin Cairo, Member of Parliament

8.6.4 Fifth Meeting of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas

FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS **Fifth Meeting of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas**

Original: French

The Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas held its fifth meeting on September 13, 14 and 15 2009, in Ottawa, Canada, with the participation of men and women parliamentarians from Argentina, the Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. **The Honourable Céline Hervieux-Payette**, Canadian Senator and former President of FIPA, chaired the working sessions in replacement of Women’s Group President Cecilia López, Senator of Colombia.

PRESENTATION

The presentation by our guest speaker, **the Honourable Lynn Holowesko, President of the Senate** of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, highlighted the complementarity of men and women based on such factors as the biological makeup of their brains. She believes that each gender makes a contribution that will lead to an improved balance and optimal political governance in an increasingly complex society.

Ms. Holowesko pointed out that the Parliaments of the Americas are seeing slow progress in achieving equal representation of women, and that some countries have no elected women parliamentarians. She commented on a U.S. survey which found that women who were candidates in an election were likely to have the following characteristics: honesty, intelligence, openness to new ideas, and creativity. Survey respondents described female politicians as being more honest than male politicians.

Ms. Holowesko said that women in politics tend to focus more on educational and health issues. She suggested that women must start taking greater interest in defence, security, justice and the economy.

DISCUSSIONS

Several participants shared their opinions on how to eliminate or reduce the disparity in the number of women involved in the political process. Some countries have taken legislative measures regarding the selection of candidates from party lists, or have established quotas.

Young parliamentarians felt that the ideal is parity: nothing less than half the seats.

The majority of participants supported this goal. Some seemed to feel that there was no structural barrier preventing women from running for elected office. One participant was concerned that women's entry into the political arena would be to the detriment of children's education. He stated that women could choose whether to enter the fields of politics or economics, particularly since they make up the majority of students in the universities in many countries.



Photo: FIPA

Ecuadorian parliamentarian Linda Machuca Moscoso, new President of the Women's Group

In terms of policies with a greater impact on women, participants called for the Church and the State to stay in their respective areas of activity, particularly with regard to reproductive technologies and termination of pregnancy.

Several participants expressed the desire for stronger legislation regarding family violence, rape and sexual abuse, and in particular, for increased international cooperation to punish offenders.

Lastly, participants noted that the media play a role in constructing barriers that prevent women from achieving equality in public life and went so far as to discriminate against them in some cases.

According to one participant, women parliamentarians should first develop a network of solidarity among all the women in their country. Women candidates have a responsibility to reach out to the women in their region in order to consult with them and inform them about the political process.

ELECTION

The election of the president of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas took place during a special session, in the morning of September 15, 2009. Ms. Linda Machuca Moscoso, member of the National Assembly of Ecuador, was elected, succeeding Colombian Senator Cecilia López who had completed her term.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Adopted by the Plenary Assembly of FIPA on September 15, 2009

Based on deliberations held during the Fifth Meeting of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, which took place in the framework of the Sixth Plenary Meeting of FIPA in Ottawa, Canada, September 13-15, 2009,

THE FIPA PLENARY ASSEMBLY makes the following recommendations:

1. That legislative measures be implemented to ensure equal representation of men and women in the Parliaments of the Americas.

2. That women parliamentarians in the Americas participate fully in the legislative process, moving beyond social and educational issues to deal with matters involving the economy, defence, security, etc.
3. That the Parliaments of the Americas work together to ensure that persons who commit crimes such as rape, sexual abuse, criminal acts of family violence, etc., face sanctions when they cross borders.
4. That women parliamentarians take responsibility for ensuring the participation of women in their regions, and for establishing solidarity networks.
5. Recognizing the importance of the Congress of Parliamentarians “Towards a Gender-Sensitive Legislative Agenda for Development in the Americas”, held by the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas in Bogotá, Colombia on November 20-21, 2008, the Plenary Assembly:
 - a) Endorses the recommendations adopted by parliamentarians gathered at the Congress “Towards a Gender-Sensitive Legislative Agenda for Development in the Americas” annexed to the present recommendations; and
 - b) Encourages FIPA Member Parliaments to report on progress made in the implementation of these recommendations at the next Plenary Meeting of FIPA.

The Honourable Céline Hervieux-Payette
Senator of Canada

Chair of the Fifth Meeting of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas

PARTICIPANTS

Argentina	Susana Mercedes Canela, Member of the Chamber of Deputies
The Bahamas	Lynn Holowesko, President of the Senate
Bolivia	María Silvia Baldomar, Senator Guido Guardia Flores, Senator
Brazil	Eduardo Azeredo, Senator Luiz Carlos Hauly, Member of the Chamber of Deputies – FIPA President Antonio Carlos Mendez Thame, Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Canada	Pierrette Ringuette, Senator
Colombia	Gloria Inés Ramírez, Senator
Dominican Republic	Josefa Castillo, Member of the Chamber of Deputies Mauro Piña Bello, Member of the Chamber of Deputies Diputado Gilberto Serulle, Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Ecuador	Lídice Vanesa Larrea Viteri, Member of the National Assembly Linda Machuca Moscoso, Member of the National Assembly
Grenada	Joan Purcell, President of the Senate George Prime, Senator Roland Bholá, Member of Parliament
Jamaica	Shahine Robinson, Member of Parliament



Mexico	Adriana González Carrillo, Senator
Panama	Iracema Ayarza de Dale, Member of the National Assembly Dana Castañeda, Member of the National Assembly Tito Rodríguez, Member of the National Assembly
Paraguay	Carlos Roger Caballero Fioro, Senator Alberto Grillón Conigliaro, Senator Amancio López Irala, Senator
Peru	Eduardo Espinoza Ramos, Congressman Karina Juliza Beteta Rubín, Congresswoman
Saint Lucia	Rosemary Husbands-Mathurin, Speaker of the House of Assembly
Suriname	August Bado, Member of Parliament Frankel Brewster, Member of Parliament Ortwin Cairo, Member of Parliament Soedeshchand Jairam, Member of Parliament Chanderdath Tilakdharie, Member of Parliament
Trinidad and Tobago	Adesh Nanan, Senator

Annex:

TOWARDS A GENDER-SENSITIVE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAS
Bogotá, Colombia, November 20-21, 2008

RECOMMENDATIONS

Original: Spanish¹

We, women and men parliamentarians of the Americas meeting for the Congress "**Towards a Gender-Sensitive Legislative Agenda for Development in the Americas**" on 20 and 21 November 2008 in Bogotá, Colombia, make the following recommendations to be presented to our respective parliaments:

Economic policies and gender

- Initiate the process of building an action plan to ensure that parliaments in the Americas have a greater say in development issues and that the latter take gender equity into account.
- Incorporate gender perspective as a central and cross-cutting aspect in the formulation of public budgets for the central, regional and local sectors² to ensure that they are balanced and sustainable and that they do not turn into isolated programs and projects that are marginal or subsidiary.
- Recognize when negotiating trade agreements the need to make visible and fairly remunerate women's work so that it translates into formal jobs and the consequent guarantees of protection and social security.

1 Note of the Secretariat: This is a revised translation of original recommendations.

2 Note of the Secretariat: Or, as appropriate, at the national/federal, provincial/state and municipal levels.

International crisis, development and gender: implications for the Americas

- The global crisis is hitting women hard, but crises can also lead to opportunities; therefore, creative work must therefore be pursued so that in the new order that must be established—not by touching up the current order but with sweeping changes that are based on a comprehensive, inclusive and sustainable vision—gender inequality and many other inequalities that exist today are overcome.
- Adopt new criteria for establishing countries' economic competitiveness, ensuring that this does not involve unstable income and new forms of exploitation.
- Redefine the relationship between productive and reproductive labour so that women and men play a leading role in both areas.

Social policies, gender and development

- Take a social rights—and especially gender—approach in the design of social policies, taking into account that this presents a window of opportunity or framework suitable for dialogue on social and gender issues.
- Recognize the following advantages of having a gender focus in social policy: (i) Coherence in the values between legislation and reality; (ii) Institutional sustainability of the legislative, executive and judiciary branches; (iii) Increased social and political legitimacy; and (iv) Improved social policies, because this allows existing discrimination to be detected and corrected.
- Human rights must be recognized in social policy as they are in criminal policy.

Environmental sustainability and gender

- Develop new paradigms for environmental sustainability and gender.
- Take into account the culture and dignity of indigenous peoples in sustainable development.
- Do a gender audit on investments made for the sustainability of natural resources.

Democracy, political and electoral reforms and gender

- Promote linkage between the legislative area and grassroots organizations to ensure compliance with the quota law.
- To raise the awareness of the media in order to make visible the political participation of women and transform gender stereotypes.
- Propose public financing of political participation that favours the inclusion of women.

Cecilia López Montaña
Senator of Colombia
President of FIPA's Group of Women
Parliamentarians of the Americas

Céline Hervieux-Payette
Senator of Canada
Former President, FIPA

Juana Laverde Castañeda, Rapporteur



8.7 Appendix 7 - Recommendations and Resolution presented by the Executive Committee

8.7.1 Recommendation FIPA/PA6/2009/REC.1: Outcome of the Special Parliamentary Dialogue held prior to the 5th Summit of Heads of States and Governments of the Americas

RECOMMENDATION **Outcome of the Special Parliamentary Dialogue held prior to the** **the 5th Summit of Heads of States and Governments of the Americas**

Original: English

Adopted by the FIPA Plenary Assembly on September 15, 2009

RECOGNIZING the importance of the pre-Summit Special Parliamentary Dialogue held by the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago and the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA) on April 16, 2009 and the adoption of a final statement;

THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF FIPA:

1. ENDORSES the Final Statement adopted by parliamentarians gathered at the Special Parliamentary Dialogue, annexed to the present recommendation;
2. RECOMMENDS that similar parliamentary dialogues be held as part as regular pre-Summit activities held in the framework of future summits of Heads of States and governments of the Americas.

Annex:

SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY DIALOGUE
“ENGAGING PARLIAMENTS IN THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS’ PROCESS”
PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
PORT-OF-SPAIN, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
APRIL 16, 2009

FINAL STATEMENT

Original: English

Adopted on April 16, 2009

We, Parliamentarians, gathered at the Special Parliamentary Dialogue hosted by the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and FIPA on April 16, 2009 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago:

1. Encourage partnership between parliamentarians and the Executive branch in the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain, to be adopted by Heads of States and governments of the Americas at the Fifth Summit.

2. Encourage governments to recognize the great diversity of the various countries of the hemisphere in the implementation of the Declaration.
3. Assert that increased parliamentary participation in the Summits of the Americas' Process will lead to accountability and greater transparency.
4. Call on governments to ensure that the Organization of the American States will be supported financially in order to monitor the implementation of the Summit Declaration and carry out the mandates entrusted to it.
5. Express our will to participate on a continual basis in the Summit of the Americas' Process through FIPA.

8.7.2 Recommendation FIPA/PA6/2009/REC.2: the Influenza (H1N1) Pandemic

RECOMMENDATION
The Influenza A (H1N1) Pandemic

Original: Spanish

Adopted by the Plenary Assembly of FIPA on September 15, 2009.

Considering that globalization has developed profound ties in the world, facilitating the exchange of people, goods and services, and indirectly, it also has increased the possibility of transmitting diseases;

Conscious that a pandemic could endanger the health systems of States, with significant impact in their social and economic systems;

Recognizing the global preparedness system for pandemics of the World Health Organization and the mechanisms established by the new International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005), adopted by all WHO Member States, whose objective is the early detection of events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern, and the application of national and international responses;

Convinced of the importance that all countries in the Hemisphere comply with IHR (2005) and that, through the strengthening of national systems of alert and response, countries comply with the obligation of notifying to the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and the WHO, through the National Focal Points of the IHR in each country, about any public health event of international concern, particularly those related with an extreme potential for spreading;

Observing the effectiveness of the mechanism of early and detailed communications about a potential public health emergency, established by Mexico, the US and Canada under the auspices of the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America, which allowed for the identification in laboratories of the US and Canada the pandemic virus H1N1 2009, and alert the international community;

Acknowledging that the full compliance by Mexico on notifying to the WHO/PAHO the number of cases identified and deceased, at the beginning and during the development of the pandemic of the H1N1 2009 virus, brought benefits to the world sanitary system, regardless the possible negative consequences to its economy;



Recognizing the need to promote transparency and international cooperation in sanitary matters;

Taking into account that the pandemic caused by the H1N1 virus will continue in the coming months, as the virus continues to spread in vulnerable populations;

Informed by the WHO/PAHO that the impact of the pandemic could deepen in the coming months, caused by a larger number of infected persons, and that the existence of a high number of severely ill patients will demand an increase in health services thus pressuring further the sanitary systems, and that such pressure could congest the units of intensive care, in detriment of other patients that may demand such care for other diseases;

Aware of the perils those vulnerable groups and other minorities face, and that a vaccine will not be available in enough quantities to cover all the populations in all States;

THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF FIPA:

1. RECOMMENDS FIPA Member Parliaments to strengthen, through legislation and increased budgets, the health sector so as to face pandemics like the current H1N1 virus, and guarantee the responsible use of recommended and effective resources including antiviral drugs;
2. ENCOURAGES FIPA Member Parliaments to protect the vulnerable groups through the necessary legal mechanisms to assure their access to the appropriate medical services;
3. CALLS on FIPA Member Parliaments to actively participate in education campaigns so as to prevent and mitigate any outbreaks or pandemics;
4. APPEALS to the media of the region to publicize the important role of preventive measures, and to promote the fair management of the resources available;
5. ENCOURAGES FIPA Member Parliaments to promote in their states the development of early warning systems with neighboring States, and to rigorously comply with IHR-2005 and related mechanisms and systems of surveillance to keep the commitments of the General Assembly of the WHO;
6. ENCOURAGES international financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, to provide compensation on a priority basis to countries that notify in a timely manner potential events of public health of international concern;
7. APPEALS FIPA Member Parliaments to commit themselves in promoting, as long as the WHO so recommends, the non-discrimination of travelers and in ensuring that the transportation of people and goods is not limited unnecessarily, so as to encourage the notification of epidemiological events that could threaten the international public health;
8. APPLAUDS the government of Mexico for its transparency and its appropriate response to the outbreak of the H1N1 2009 virus;
9. REQUESTS the increase of international cooperation in the international community and further solidarity with respect to the Influenza A (H1N1) Pandemic.

8.7.3 Resolution FIPA/PA6/2009/RES.1: Amendment to Article 6.1 of the FIPA Regulations on the Composition of the Executive Committee

RESOLUTION
Amendment to Article 6.1 of the FIPA Regulations on the Composition of the Executive Committee

Adopted by the FIPA Plenary Assembly on September 15, 2009

As recommended during the 19th Meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Washington D.C., United States, on June 24, 2009,

THE FIPA PLENARY ASSEMBLY RESOLVES that,

1. Article 6.1 of the Regulations of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas, regarding the Composition of the Executive Committee, be amended as follows:

“6.1 Composition

- a) The representatives of the Executive Committee shall be active members of their respective national parliaments and shall not simultaneously hold office as cabinet ministers in the executive branch of their state.
- b) The Executive Committee shall be composed of:
 - o *The President of FIPA;*
 - o *Two representatives from each of the sub-regions listed under 6.1g);*
 - o *One representative of the country hosting the next plenary meeting;*
 - o *The President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas;*
 - o ~~*The immediate past-President of FIPA.*~~ ***The past-Presidents of FIPA.***
- c) If the President resigns, dies, or becomes ineligible to occupy the position because he/she is no longer a member of parliament or is appointed as cabinet minister in the executive branch of his/her state, the Executive Committee shall elect one of its members as an interim President until the next meeting of the Plenary Assembly.
- d) The national legislature of each country elected as member of the Executive Committee shall be required to provide, by written communication to the President, the name of the parliamentary delegate who shall serve as its member on the Executive Committee, within 30 days following that country’s election to the Executive Committee. This delegate shall serve on the Executive Committee, subject to paragraph (e), for the entire term.
- e) If any member of the Executive Committee becomes unable to carry out his/her duties because of resignation, death, or loss of status as a member of the legislature of his/her country, or



because he/she is appointed as cabinet minister in the executive branch of his/her state, the national legislature to which such member belongs shall appoint an alternate member to serve out the remainder of the term until the next plenary meeting.

- f) The member countries of the Executive Committee may be re-elected.
- g) For purposes of observing a balance in regional representation, the hemisphere shall be divided into the following four sub-regions:
 - o *North America:* Canada, Mexico and the United States.
 - o *Central America:* Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama.
 - o *Caribbean:* Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Guyana, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.
 - o *South America:* Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.
- h) Each sub-region shall be free to decide on the method of its choice for electing the member countries which will represent it on the Executive Committee.
- i) Each member of the Executive Committee shall serve for a period of two years, subject to the following conditions:
 - o One of the two member countries representing a sub-region to the Committee will stand for re-election every year at the Plenary Meeting.
 - o The term of a member of the Executive Committee who represents the country hosting the Plenary Meeting shall run from the month after the previous annual meeting until the month of the year in which the plenary meeting takes place in that country.”

8.8 Appendix 8 –Declaration FIPA/EC/2009/DEC.1 “To Condemn the Coup d’Etat in Honduras”

Declaration to Condemn the Coup d’Etat in Honduras

Adopted by the FIPA Executive Committee on July 1, 2009.

Endorsed by the Plenary Assembly of FIPA on September 15, 2009.

CONSIDERING the grave situation prevailing in Honduras as a result of the military coup perpetrated against the Government of President José Manuel Zelaya Rosales.

REAFFIRMING the support of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas for the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

The FIPA Executive Committee:

1. CONDEMNS emphatically the coup perpetrated against the constitutionally-elected government of Honduras, which represents a grave threat to peace and to democratic values in that country.
2. JOINS THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN CALLING all parties involved to re-establish the rule of law and the constitutional order.
3. CALLS for the internal crisis to be resolved by means of dialogue among political and social actors involved.
4. CONDEMNS the acts of violence perpetrated and DEMANDS the security of members of the Zelaya Government and the respect of the freedom of speech and human rights of all Hondurans.

8.9 Appendix 9 - Executive Committee Composition 2009-2010

FIPA Executive Committee Members for 2009-2010:

Position	Name of the Parliamentary Delegate	Country	Tenure
Presidency	Luiz Carlos Hauly, Member of the Chamber of Deputies	Brazil	2009 to 2011
North America	James Bezan, Member of Parliament	Canada	2006 to 2010
	<i>Name of delegate TBC</i>	United States of America	2009 to 2011
Central America	María Estela de la Cruz, Member of the Chamber of Deputies	Dominican Republic	2006 to 2010
	Víctor Juliao, Member of the National Assembly	Panama	2009 to 2011
Caribbean	Stanford Callender, Member of Parliament	Trinidad and Tobago	2006 to 2010
	Rosemary Husbands-Mathurin, Speaker of the House of Assembly	Saint Lucia	2009 to 2011
South America	Nancy Patricia Gutiérrez Castañeda, Senator	Colombia	2006 to 2010
	Alberto Grillón Conigliaro, Senator	Paraguay	2009 to 2011
Plenary Meeting Host Country	Adriana González Carrillo, Senator	Mexico	2009 to 2010
Chair of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas	Linda Machuca Moscoso, Member of the National Assembly	Ecuador	2009 to 2011
Past President of FIPA	Céline Hervieux-Payette, Senator	Canada	2006 –

Executive Secretary: Emmanuelle Pelletier