



# **ParlAmericas**

## **Express**

YEAR 1. ISSUE 2. JUNE 2012

- ✓ **Parliamentary Budget Oversight**
- ✓ **Citizen security for women**
- ✓ **Plenary Assembly 9**
- ✓ **Experts' talk**
- ✓ **Resource Center**



### **2012 UPCOMING EVENTS**

**30-31 AUGUST &  
1 SEPTEMBER:  
Plenary Assembly 9  
(Panama City, Panama)**

**29 AUGUST &  
1 SEPTEMBER:  
Board of Directors meeting  
(Panama City, Panama)**

**OCTOBER: Trade Workshop  
in partnership with WTO &  
GOPAC  
(TBC, Uruguay)**



**ParlAmericas**

Formerly known as  
**FIPA (Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas)**

Established in 2001

**President**  
Randy Hoback (Canada)

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President**  
Víctor Julio III (Panama)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President and President of the Group of Women Parliamentarians**  
Linda Machuca (Ecuador)

**Secretary Treasurer**  
Germán Blanco (Colombia)

**Other Board of Directors members**  
Michael L. MacDonald (Canada)  
Adriana González (Mexico)  
María Jeannette Ruiz (Costa Rica)  
Claudio Perdomo (Honduras)  
Armando Torres (Cuba)  
Alberto Grillón (Paraguay)  
Ignacio Urrutia (Chile)

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## Message from the President

Dear Colleagues,



I am pleased to welcome you to the second issue of *ParlAmericas Express*. If you haven't had the chance to visit our website during the past few months, this publication will highlight some of the main activities we have organized and those just around the corner.

I am delighted to announce that ParlAmericas signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Organization of American States, in Washington in February. This MOU will facilitate both organizations working together on initiatives that support parliamentarians throughout the Americas.

Also in February, I spoke to members of the Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program (ELAP), which strengthens Canada's engagement in the Americas, seeking to enhance prosperity and promote fundamental values of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

In March I was honoured to be asked to address the Permanent Council of the OAS on issues of regional dialogue and hemispheric collaboration, and to lead a delegation representing ParlAmericas in meetings at the Summit of the Americas in Cartagena, Colombia.

**Randy Hoback**

*President of ParlAmericas  
Member of Parliament  
Canada*

In addition, I have been pleased to meet with representatives of several countries in the hemisphere, including Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and Uruguay. Furthermore, I accompanied Prime Minister Stephen Harper on Canada's second official visit to Chile (Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement).

I would be glad to personally reply to your inquiries about how to become involved with ParlAmericas as we work towards a promising future for our hemisphere – as Parliamentarians for the Americas! You can reach me at [president@parlamericas.org](mailto:president@parlamericas.org).

Best regards,

Randy

## About ParlAmericas : The Board

The ParlAmericas Board of Directors is currently composed of 11 serving members as follows:

**Randy Hoback**

President  
Member of Parliament  
Canada

**Michael L. MacDonald**

Senator  
Canada

**Claudio Perdomo**

Member of the National Congress  
Honduras

**Alberto Grillón**

Senator  
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**Víctor Julio**

First Vice-President  
Member of the National Assembly  
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**Adriana González**

Senator  
Mexico

**Armando Torres**

Member of the National Assembly  
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**Linda Machuca**

President of the Group of Women  
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Second Vice-President  
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**María Jeannette Ruiz**

Member of the National Assembly  
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GLOBAL ORGANIZATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST CORRUPTION  
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES PARLEMENTAIRES CONTRE LA CORRUPTION  
ORGANIZACION MUNDIAL DE PARLEMENTARIOS CONTRA LA CORRUPTION

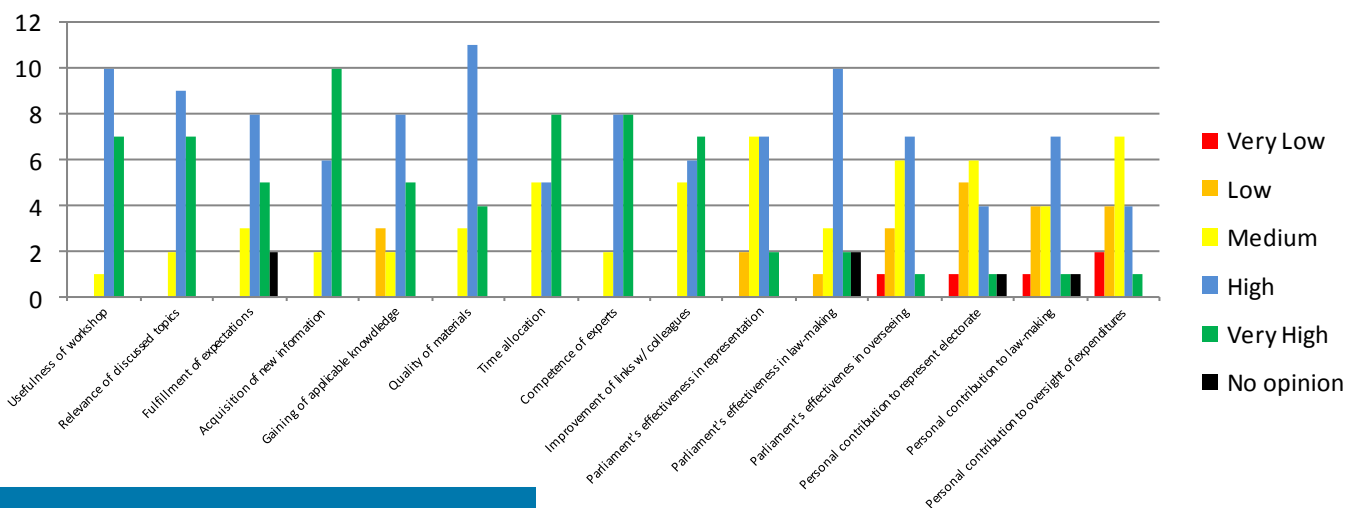
# Strengthening Parliamentary Budget Oversight

## Workshop overview

Since 2011, ParlAmericas has been undertaking capacity-building activities, including workshops on budgetary oversight. On January 30-31, 2012, ParlAmericas held a two-day regional workshop, comprising parliamentarians from eight Caribbean countries and two territories, joined by Auditors General (AG) from the region to discuss the prospects for strengthening parliamentary oversight in the Caribbean. The workshop was held in the Parliament of Antigua and aimed to:

- share best practices from the Public Accounts Committees (PAC) in larger Caribbean legislatures, including Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, and Jamaica, and look at how to strengthen the AG-PAC relationship;
- discuss how to effectively strengthen the committee system and parliamentary capacity, including capacity in smaller legislatures in the Caribbean;
- develop strategies to strengthen the independence of the Auditor General; and
- strengthen regional knowledge-sharing regarding budgetary oversight.

The workshop garnered high marks and positive comments from most participants, indicating that the it attained its objectives (for compiled data see graph). Several international organizations - including the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association - also contributed to the workshop.



[Download the workshop's report here](#)



# Citizen Security for Women, a Parliamentary Task

## Interview with Linda Machuca



**Linda Machuca**

*President of the Group of Women  
Parliamentarians  
Member of the Assembly of Ecuador*

### **Q: What does citizen security for women mean to you?**

**A:** Citizen security is one of the most important public issues affecting society today. Control and prevention policies have therefore been designed in an effort to improve the dignity and quality of life of people, considering a broad social perspective. It is in response to this widespread concern that we decided to devote this year's Annual Gathering to citizen security for women, as it is understood to be a task and responsibility entrusted to those of us who have been elected as men and women Parliamentarians in the Americas.

Citizen security cannot be understood as something separate from women. We need to specifically deal with this phenomenon from a gender perspective, and develop pertinent public policies that promote a violence-free "coexistence agreement" that includes women's citizen participation and access to services and, more importantly, that ensures active citizenship while defending gender equality and human rights.

In designing these policies it is essential to engage in an intersectional effort. Both the Executive Powers and the Judiciaries, in addition to the Legislatures, need to lead this process, each with their own mandate.

### **Q: Do you think women and men still perceive citizen insecurity differently?**

**A:** Violence and insecurity affect men and women in completely different ways. In the case of women, it goes beyond the private sphere; violence against women has been legitimized as something "natural", even as a cultural issue. This is the case in my country, but also in Latin America at large, given the patriarchal system prevailing here.

Generally speaking, society may perceive the elderly, women, and children as potential victims of citizen insecurity. At a public level, a vulnerable, woman alone may be considered to be at greater risk of being the target of criminal activities, and this in turn leads to her re-victimization in the context of an investigation by the State. One of the many forms of re-victimization is blaming a woman's way of dressing or walking or her being alone, with no male company, in dangerous streets, for any sexual attack or for a crime against her personal security.

Men, on the other hand, tend to be considered less vulnerable to crime. Latin society tends to qualify them as physically stronger in facing assailants. However, the "evolution" and "improvement" in criminal techniques and in organized crime have resulted in criminals not differentiating on account of age or gender, so we may conclude that criminality and insecurity affect any kind of person, in any situation. It is important to note that citizen security has had to expand its frame of reference to include a variety of threats, such as international terrorism, drug trafficking and illegal arms, human trafficking, the global sex industry, money laundering, institutional corruption and organized crime. Faced with this situation, citizens perceive that the quality and security of the public space have been impaired. They feel insecure, vulnerable and defenceless faced with criminal activity.

### **Q: Which strategies do women use in dealing with citizen insecurity?**

**A:** This is a new approach in most countries, which needs to be taken onboard by all sectors and institutions. At our last meeting we found some answers: proper and timely enforcement of laws intended to afford women protection; institutional mechanisms with a gender-based approach; public space recovery; security and participation; information development and dissemination; gender-sensitive budgets; effective punitive actions against insecurity; societal education, without which no mechanism may be effective; national budgets that are in line with security needs.

### **Q: What recommendations for improving citizen security for women resulted from the Annual Gathering?<sup>1</sup>**

**A:** Some of the recommendations put forward by participants were:

- Legislating must be a participatory effort. Moreover, both the Executive and the Legislative powers must be involved so that they approve budgets that are consistent with the established goals. Additionally, public policies must be effectively supervised and constantly assessed.
- Having Parliaments promote education and awareness-raising mechanisms to prevent violence beginning in early childhood.
- Developing specific definitions of women trafficking and femicide before they become otherwise categorized, so that these two concepts are clear and their consequences may be fully understood, in addition to facilitating the punishment of crimes.
- Redefining economic models, so that they do not promote the concentration of wealth. Any legislation developed within Parliaments should pay special attention to excluded populations.

<sup>1</sup> Held 9-10 May 2012, in Valparaiso, Chile

Additionally, we concluded that men and women legislators should oversee legal systems and ensure they are not permeable to organized crime, and that we should promote plans that seek a shift in socio-cultural patterns by avoiding criminalization and stigmatization and placing an emphasis on preventative and comprehensive action.

**Q: What do you hope everyone took away from the Gathering?**

**A:** As usual, we at the Group of Women Parliamentarians and at ParlAmericas expect to continue building inter-parliamentary dialogue and promoting the exchange of best practices among member countries in the Americas. At our Annual Gatherings we plant the seed for subsequent discussion at the participants' Parliaments, so that rather than mere stand-alone meetings, Parliamentarians accompanying us every year experience an enriching experience.

## Meet the experts

May 9-10, 2012, Chile hosted the Annual Gathering of the Group of Women Parliamentarians. The objective of the meeting was to discuss strategies for incorporating concrete mechanisms of protection for women into the national citizen security policies of countries in the Americas. This was achieved through exchange of experiences from the different countries and regions represented in the working groups, as well as informative panels from well-known experts in (and from) the Americas:

### Christine Brendel

Regional Director of the ComVoMujer - *Combatir la violencia contra la Mujer en Perú, Bolivia, Ecuador y Paraguay* Programme (Fighting Violence against Women in Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay) – of *Cooperación Alemana al Desarrollo-GIZ*, the purpose of which is to develop measures to improve cooperation between Government and non-Government players in fighting and preventing gender violence, especially towards rural, indigenous and Afro-descendant women.

Brendel started her professional career in 1983 in Western Africa. She has been working in Latin America since 1988. Until 2002 she cooperated with over 10 Latin American countries in the areas of gender, corporate development, planning, project monitoring and assessment, and promotion of democracy.

She worked in Germany for the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, GIZ, the *Servicio Alemán al Desarrollo* and *InWent* (2002/2004). She worked in and from Washington D.C. in the period 2004-2007. She has been responsible for managing the Gender Programme at the GIZ Head Office in Germany. She has been part of the Executive Board of the OECD-DAC GenderNet since 2009.

### Pável Uranga

Mexican anthropologist specialized in Medical and Forensic Anthropology and Social Psychology. He has worked with civil society organizations engaged in advocating for women's lives and security. Co-founder and reporter of the Mexico City Femicide Observatory and the National City Femicide Observatory – OCNF (as per its Spanish acronym) in Mexico for five years.

During his work with the Observatory, he proved the Mexican government's simulated fight against femicide, which resulted in the European Parliament imposing penalties and in the OCNF being named Consultant to the Parliament. He also cooperated with the Special Prosecutor's Office against Violence towards Women by investigating the many ramifications of femicide and women trafficking (2005/07).

He co-authored "shadow reports" on femicide for CEDAW Mexico (2003/07) and Honduras (2008/09). In 2007 he cooperated with the National Assembly of Ecuador as an expert in the fight against femicide. In 2011 he conducted field research on the northern border of Ecuador (with Colombia) on the trafficking of women for sexual exploitation purposes.

### Lorena Vinueza

PhD in Clinical Psychology, specializing in Systemic Family Therapy; Mediator; International Diploma in the design of public policies to face crime in democracy; Masters Degree in governance and political management. She specializes in issues regarding violence, citizen security, and road safety, with a focus on management, planning, public policies, construction of indicators, gender, and alternative economy. Vinueza has experience in drafting and assessing social projects, participatory budgets, prevention of domestic and gender violence and child abuse, human talent management, and neuro-linguistic programming.

Vinueza is the Metropolitan Director of Citizen Security of the Municipality of Quito, and a Board Member of the IRSA Association, the Netherlands, on behalf of the Latin American Region. She is the Executive Director of Road and Citizen Safety IRSA ECUADOR, autonomous branch. She also serves as a consultant focused on the development of diagnostics, national and local security plans, victimization surveys, and crime observatories, and as an advisor to the Ministries of the Interior and Security Coordination.

## Executive Summaries

### Panel 1: Gender-based violence from a national perspective (Brendel)

Gender-based violence constitutes a violation of human rights that affects millions of women all over the world and knows no nationality, social class, culture or age. Violence towards women is a global phenomenon, yet it presents variations in terms of figures and specific manifestations that are a function of the individual situation in certain regions. In Latin America and the Caribbean, figures are alarming, and the specific forms of gender-based violence impact the region's economy and full development.

This paper presents and discusses social and cultural patterns driving gender violence in the region, which result from a patriarchal system marked by (post) conflict, discrimination, and inequality.

A national strategy against gender-based violence in Latin America and the Caribbean must necessarily focus on social/cultural changes, and on the effective implementation of public policies. The stringent penalization of violence against women must necessarily be accompanied by awareness-raising campaigns addressed to the population, and by training sessions for those responsible for

[Whole article here](#)

implementing and enforcing legislation and public policies.

Additionally, it calls for a revisitation of existing regulations so as to provide a legal framework that has a gender approach and which does away with gender stereotypes and chauvinist concepts typical of our patriarchal societies. Comprehensive legislation calls for engaging in an intersectoral, participatory process that mainly involves civil society organizations.

Parliaments will only contribute to eradicating gender-based violence if they take into consideration the propositions developed by different sectors when formulating, passing, and enacting laws. Only then will they be complying with the obligations their States have at both a national and international level, namely promoting the fundamental rights of their women citizens, and supporting regional development within the framework of a violence-free life for men and women alike.

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## *Panel 2: Femicide (Uranga)*

[Whole article here](#)

Femicide has not yet been accepted as a subject for analysis, let alone as a crime. As a result, the convergent phenomena that take place and translate into systemic sexual violence against women remain hidden.

Sexual slavery, or women trafficking networks, take hundreds of thousands of women from all of our countries on the continent –most of them expelled by armed conflict, social exclusion and the feminization of poverty. In this process, women disappear; they are taken prisoners of social exploitation as if they were mere goods; they are turned into commodities of no human value, with many of them being murdered along the way. The business of women trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation is worth millions, which are in turn used to undermine our institutions.

The perpetrators of these crimes exert an economic, political and regulatory influence on the very government policies intended to regulate them (through corruption, avoidance, negligence, failure to act upon and ignorance of this phenomenon), which in turn acts as a support for their actions

and contributes to impunity, in addition to making violence against women a natural, socially accepted fact of life.

Given the very nature of victims –poor, migrant, peasant, indigenous, black, marginalized women– no legal, academic or government structure exists that is fully dedicated to studying the crimes that impact them, not to mention the absence of preventative or early warning systems to alert to violence against women before it actually occurs (and, even where these systems exist, they are enforced according to political criteria rather than according to the goal of protecting human rights).

The convergence of transnational crimes that trigger other criminal activities such as femicide, the trafficking of women and forced disappearance or sexual slavery, all of them forms of socially permissible and acceptable violence against women (52% of the population in our countries), should force us to rethink the legal and statistical, cultural and academic education systems existing in our national States.

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## *Panel 3: How national budgets are adjusted to the needs of security issues (Vinueza)*

[Whole article here](#)

The budgets allocated to the issue clearly state the policy on citizen security. It may be noted that the region invests more in controlling and combating violence and crime than in rehabilitating and preventing the structural factors that generate violence.

Case studies in Peru, Chile, and Ecuador show that the budgets allocated to security consider, at best, Police, Justice, and Rehabilitation costs. None of these studies consider investments in primary structural factors (population at large) or secondary structural factors (social groups at risk of committing crimes). This may be due to the difficulties in State intersectoral planning owing to the size of each sector.

A common factor in Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries is the high levels of inequality in income distribution; a large part of the population lives in chronic poverty. In this context, we need to visualize inequality as an act of violence of the economic system against most of the population, thus leading to all the effects of violence; death, illness, psychological trauma, development disorders, deprivation, etc. We need to approach violence and crime as manifestations of a historical context involving unequal political, cultural, social, and economic interactions.

Except for Cuba, insecurity and violence have increased in the LAC Region since the 1980s, concurrently with the main structural adjustments brought about by neoliberal economic policies that dismantled the State and its actual capacity to intervene. This economic policy proposal has failed, as evidenced by its consequences, namely greater inequality and rising insecurity in the Region.

The population that is most affected by violence is that suffering from exclusion. In the case of Ecuador, a study on homicide in 2008 demonstrates that 75.8% of murder victims had low educational levels. The incidence of homicide in higher educational levels is very low.

Citizen security policies should regard violence as a complex phenomenon, the origins of which may be attributed to manifold psychological, biological, economic, social, and cultural factors, and which warrants a multidimensional approach. One of the most serious problems related to the high violent crime rates in the region is the tendency toward the securitization of politics and the politization of security, in addition to willingness of citizens to accept tough policies that violate rights and freedoms, and the lack of comprehensive citizen security policies.

Policies should seek to provide solutions in the medium and long run to structural issues ranging from a development model that may reduce the levels of inequality (one of the causes of insecurity) to transforming violent socio-cultural patterns, education, health, employment, support to population at risk, and strengthening of social capital. However difficult these goals may be to implement in practice, it is essential to attain them. Other aspects to be considered include the rise of international organized crime and gender inequality in social and economic policies. In sum, no improvement will occur while a large part of the population remains excluded; witness to this is the steady growth in violence and crime in the region over the last twenty years.

# Plenary Assembly 9

## Interview with Víctor Juliao III



**Víctor Juliao III**

*Vice-President of ParlAmericas  
Member of the Assembly of Panama  
Host of the 9th Plenary Assembly*

**Q: How do you feel about hosting the 9th Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas?**

**A:** I feel particularly proud. This event further reinforces what many citizens, including President Ricardo Martinelli, say: “Panama is in fashion”. I think it is important to recall that my country experienced the largest economic growth rate in the Americas in 2011, in excess of 10%. The presence of my colleagues from ParlAmericas supports our struggle to find the answer to problems facing our region. In my capacity as host, I feel joy and pleasure in knowing that my country is once again the venue of such an important event. But this also entails a great honour and responsibility, as we are hosting the first plenary assembly since FIPA changed its name to ParlAmericas. Being Vice-President of the organization during such an important period constitutes a milestone in my personal history.

**Q: How will this Plenary Assembly be different to the one previously hosted by Panama?**

**A:** It will be different mainly in that it will be the organization’s first Plenary Assembly as ParlAmericas. We have changed and evolved. We have become a major international organization that will take important decisions at this upcoming meeting in Panama. We will be taking a new course that will change the future of our continent, and we will offer new options to overcome the major issues facing our societies in the Americas. Panama’s central and strategic geographic location in our continent will significantly facilitate Parliamentarians’ travel to the Plenary Assembly, since there are several direct flights linking it to most countries in our continent.

**Q: What are the topics that will be discussed at this Plenary Assembly?**

**A:** We will discuss four major topics: Weak Rule of Law: A Threat to Citizen Security; the Impact of the Global Economic Crisis on the Americas; Environment & Climate Change; and, the Economic Crisis and its Impact on Women in the Region.

**Q: How many participants are you expecting?**

**A:** We expect approximately 100 Parliamentarians from all over the Americas to attend, in addition to international observers.

**Q: What should the participants to the Plenary Assembly expect?**

**A:** Hospitality and cordiality are two of our main characteristics. Parliamentarians attending this 9th Plenary Assembly will be part of a forum that will discuss the major, most current problems and issues facing our continent. In addition to formal activities and discussions within working groups, we will pay a formal visit to the National Assembly of Panama and to the Foreign Affairs Ministry. There will also be lunch and dinner meetings in different venues, and Panamanian folklore shows, as well as a tour of Panama City’s major historical landmarks and a visit to the Miraflores locks, where participants will have the opportunity to see vessels crossing the Panama Canal.

**Q: Any other reasons why parliamentarians should attend?**

**A:** Many of the problems affecting our hemisphere find a solution at our meetings. Organisations such as ParlAmericas have played a very important role in this region, and Panama boasts significant experience in this regard. It was the cradle of the *Contadora Group*, which negotiated peace in Central America. From Panama, the governments of Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela led the discussions that allowed Central America to now enjoy peace and harmony and to live in a state of democracy. The Group was named after a small Panamanian island on the Pacific Ocean where most negotiations were held.

This 9th Plenary Assembly is the first to be held since we became ParlAmericas. In Panama, you will receive a cordial welcome and top quality service. Panama is “bridge of the world, heart of the universe”. It will be a true pleasure to welcome you all to our country. We are truly honoured to host this 9th Plenary Assembly.



# Expert's talk: Gender and security

## *A Conflictive but Necessary Relationship for Cross-cutting Public Policies in Latin America*

The economic, political, social and cultural global turmoil warrants a careful analysis that takes into consideration its complexities, and the ensuing citizen security issues.

The effects that financial and speculative capitalism have on states, democracies and democratic institutionalities, as well as the recent instability and flexibility in the labour market, are intimately related to the current state of social inequality and anomia. Moreover, identity movements demanding innovative responses, solutions and political approaches to violence and human rights violations are gaining a stronger position.

The investigation of criminality in these new scenarios and the management of citizen security, deserve to be revisited under the light of gender equality.

For the past two centuries, women have openly taken up public space and they have made innovative contributions in relation to the need for a social paradigm shift that may modify both the current social/political structure (by rendering it more humane), and the power structures and the ways in which we do politics. They have contributed by putting forward transformative proposals that take a theoretical, programmatic, methodological, and civil service approach. However, they have

also reported their specific vulnerability to gender violence, one of the base of crime.

It is therefore essential to discuss and analyze the major criminality issues in the light of the new (global/local/glocal) scenarios, together with the existing gender inequalities and the fact that they cross cut races, ethnic groups, classes, urban/rural populations and other issues, so that we may take a deeper look into the management of criminality as it relates to human rights. Both government players/operators and security forces, and social and political movements may converge towards these changes by drafting a new democratic governance, a new democratic institutionalities and a fairer, more equitable and peaceful society.

In doing so, it is essential to encourage a strong commitment to the quality of the system that will integrate equality as a basis for social justice and crime prevention, by developing management skills to prevent crime with an intersectoral, gender-based perspective. Moreover, it is also important to promote an interdisciplinary investigation that follows that approach, as applied to various and complex contexts, in an attempt to raise awareness of the relationship between the shift in the global paradigm, its major issues, and the best crime prevention methods.

It is also important to encourage and support the preventative and analytical training of civil servants, institutions and parties involved as strategic players, by making men and women operators (police, prison, political and legal agents) capable of understanding the current context, existing criminal networks, social maps drawn against that background, and the personal relations that need to be transformed (chauvinism, authoritarianism, racism, etc.) with a view to making urgent cultural changes, such as a necessary shift in the racist, class and sexist culture or other manifestations of the inequalities taking place, which give rise to and replicate violence.

To survey the complexities of the social fabric with its cross-cutting gender, race, ethnic, class, age, rural/urban and other issues, it is essential to undertake a criminal investigation, and to manage security with a social-equity based approach, especially emphasizing gender equality, with its potential to transform social and personal relations and eliminate violence, as well as the current methodological/political approaches to criminal investigation and security management to attain better development and equality standards.

### **Carmen Colazo**



Founder, Education Director, and creator of the programme *Igualdad de Oportunidades en la Educación* (PRIOME) (Equal Education Opportunities), Member of Cabinet, Advisor and Counsellor to the Women Secretariat in Paraguay. Ms. Colazo has co-authored the official documents submitted to Beijing in matters related to political participation, education, culture and communication mechanisms. Moderator of the Group of Education Ministers, Sepia II of the Inter-American Commission of Women/OAS, year 2004 and Director of the Master's and Diploma Degree in Human Resources, Gender, and Development in Argentina and Paraguay. Ms. Colazo has authored/co-authored over 10 books. She is also a regional consultant and counsellor to the PROLID-IADB programme from the UN System and other cooperation agencies looking into human rights and gender issues. Founder of regional human rights NGOs. Counsellor for Amnesty International Paraguay. She also leads *Red Mujeres, Géneros y Desarrollo con Equidad* (RIF GED) (Women, Gender and Equal Development Network) of the *Colegio de las Américas* (COLAM) of *Organización Univesitaria Interamericana* (OUI).

## Resource Center

### **The Summit Rio+20 (UN)**

Learn about the Initiatives and the schedule of activities, as well as the documents and proposals, from the process. [Read](#)

### **China's Rise and Latin America: A Global, Long-Term Perspective (Carnegie Endowment)**

Over the past decade, China has become an increasingly important economic partner for Latin America. But this trend must be placed in proper perspective. [Read](#)

### **More Adults Would Move for Temporary Work Than Permanently (Gallup World)**

More than one in four adults worldwide (26%) say they would like to go to another country for temporary work, according to Gallup surveys in 119 countries in 2009 and 2010. [Read](#)

### **Police Reform in Latin America (CSIS)**

As Latin American countries have consolidated democratic practices, the need for effective policing, specialized law enforcement agencies, and legal frameworks to help them coordinate actions will become more urgent. [Read](#)

### **Caribbean human development report (UN)**

The increase in violence and crime in Latin America and the Caribbean is an undeniable fact that erodes the very foundation of the democratic processes in the region and imposes high social, economic and cultural costs. [Read](#)