



***VIIth General Assembly of the Parliamentary
Confederation of the Americas (COPA)***

***and VIth Annual Meeting of the Network of Women
Parliamentarians of the Americas***

Quito, Ecuador

May 29 to June 3, 2006

The VIIth COPA General Assembly was held in Quito, Ecuador , from May 29 to 3 June, 2006. Some 60 parliamentarians from 14 countries gathered under the theme "Trade agreements and economic development". Parliamentarians adopted the Quito Declaration as well as the recommendations put forth by COPA's permanent working committees.

**New president, Mr. Carlos Jiménez Macías (México),
and new members of the Executive Committee**

Speech of Mr. Jiménez Macías

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

Program

Report

Quito Declaration

[Resolution on the Upcoming General Assemblies of COPA](#)

[Resolution on the Creation of a Single Organization Responsible for Interparliamentary Dialog in the Americas](#)

[Resolution on the Need to Strengthen the Standards Aimed at Ensuring the Coexistence of States in our Hemisphere Based on Principles set out in the Statutes of COPA](#)

[Rules of Procedure of COPA](#)

Reports and Recommendations of the Thematic Working Committees:

- **Committee on Democracy and Peace**
 - Report
 - [Recommendation on Haiti](#)
 - [Report on the Electoral Observation Mission - Early General Elections in Bolivia, December 18, 2005](#)
- **Committee on Economy, Trade, Labour and Trading Blocs**
 - [Recommendation](#)
- **Committee on Education, Culture, Science and Technology**
 - [Recommendation on Education](#)
 - [Recommendation on the Ratification of the UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity](#)
 - [Report on Cultural Diversity](#)
- **Committee on Health and Social Protection**
 - [Report](#)
 - [Recommendation on Sexual and Reproductive Rights](#)
 - [Bahia Declaration](#)

- [Report on Sexual and Reproductive Health](#)
- Presentation by Ana Güzmes, Advisor on Advocacy of the Support Team for Latin America & the Caribbean, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA): "[The importance of reproductive health and sexual rights in reducing poverty, in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals \(MDG\)](#)" (in Spanish)
- Presentation by Natalia Garcia, representative, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): "[The economic development conditions necessary to make progress in reaching the MDG in the Americas](#)" (in Spanish)
- **Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development**
 - [Report](#)
- **Committee on Human Rights, Aboriginal Peoples, and Citizen Security**
 - Report

[Photos of the event - COPA](#)

VIth Annual Meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas

(For more information, consult the site of the Network:
www.feminamericas.org)

2006-07-24

CARLOS JIMÉNEZ MACÍAS



Biography

Deputy Carlos Jiménez Macías represents the State of San Luis Potosí, Mexico. He holds a degree in psychology and is a member of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

Prior to Politics

- Chair of the PRI Management Committee for the State of San Luis Potosí (July 1989 to June 1991)
- National Director of the Federation of Unions of Public Sector Workers (FSTSE) (1992 to 1995)
- President of the Labor Congress (1993 to 1995)
- National Director of the National Confederation of Community Organizations (CNOP) (1995 to 1996)
- Vice Secretary to the Chair of the National Executive Committee of the PRI (1997 to 1999)
- National press relations coordinator and spokesperson for the National Executive Committee of the PRI

Political Career

- Senator of the Republic (1991 to 1997)
- Chair of the 3rd Senate Foreign Relations Committee -- 55th Legislature (Consular Affairs)
- Chair of the 4th Senate Foreign Relations Committee -- 56th Legislature (Multilateral Affairs)
- President of the 2nd Special Session (1994)
- President of the Mexico-Italy Parliamentary Friendship Group (1996 to 1997)
- Took part in interparliamentary meetings as a representative of the Mexican Senate in Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Japan, Thailand, England, Turkey, Nepal, France, Switzerland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Brazil, Greece, and Korea
- Member of the Commission on the Public Social Debt of the Parlatino (Latin American Parliament)
- Deputy, Congress of the Union, 52nd legislature (1982)
- Secretary, Foreign Relations Committee
- Member of the Standing Committee of the 3rd Session (January to August 1985)

- Took part in interparliamentary meetings as a representative of the Congress of the Union in Spain, Yugoslavia, the USSR, Indonesia, Japan, and Switzerland

Responsibilities at the International Level

- Director of Union Educational Services for Latin America, International Federation of Employees, Technicians, and Executives (Health and Social Services) (FIATSSS)
- President of FIATSSS
- Vice President of the Regional Inter-American Organization of the International Federation of Employees, Technicians, and Executives (IROFIET)
- Member of the World Executive Committee of Public Service International (PSI) (1992 to 1997)

Chamber of Deputies (2003 to 2006)

- Currently Vice Coordinator of Foreign Policy, PRI Caucus, 59th Legislature
- Secretary, Foreign Relations Committee
- Representative of the Congress of the Union to COPA
- Permanent delegate to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).
- Chair of the 12th Mexico-Canada Interparliamentary Meeting (January 2005).
- Member of the delegation of deputies to the 44th Mexico–United States Interparliamentary Meeting, 2005
- Labor coordinator and member of the 45th Mexico–United States Interparliamentary Meeting, March 2006
- President of the bi-national “Migrant Mexico” Forum, 59th Legislature
- **Elected Senator for the State of San Luis Potosí for the 60th Legislature (2006-2012)**
- **President of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (2006–2007)**



**COMITÉ EJECUTIVO DE LA CONFEDERACIÓN / CONFEDERATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE /
COMITÉ EXECUTIVO DA CONFEDERAÇÃO / COMITÉ EXÉCUTIF DE LA CONFÉDÉRATION
(2006-06-02)**

Presidente / President / Presidente / Président

Cámara de Diputados de la Unión de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos
Sr. Carlos Jiménez Macías, Diputado

1ª Vicepresidenta / 1st Vice-President / 1º Vice-Presidente / 1^{re} Vice-Présidente

Cámara de Senadores de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina
Sra. Edda Evangelina Acuña, Senadora

Vicepresidentes / Vice-Presidents / Vice-Presidentes / Vice-présidents

América del Norte / North America / América do Norte / Amérique du Nord

Senado de la Unión de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos
Sra. Aracely Escalante Jasso, Senadora

National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL), USA
Rep. Félix Ortiz, President

América Central / Central America / América Central / Amérique centrale

Asamblea Legislativa de El Salvador
Sra. Mariella Peña Pinto, Diputada

El Caribe / Caribbean / O Caribe / Antilles

Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular de Cuba
Sr. Tubal Páez Hernández, Diputado

Parlamento de las Antillas Neerlandesas
Sr. Dudley Lucia, Diputado

Región Andina / Andean region/ Região Andina/ Région andine

Asamblea Nacional de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela
Sra. Maria Iris Varela Rangel, Diputada

Congreso Nacional de Ecuador
Sra. Myriam Garcés Davila, Diputada

Cono Sur / Southern Cone / Cone Sul / Cône Sud

Câmara dos Deputados do Brasil
Sr. João Miguel Feu Rosa, Deputado

Cámara de Diputados de la República del Paraguay
Sra. Zulma Ramona Gómez Cáceres, Diputada

Red de Mujeres / Network of Women / Rede de Mulheres / Réseau des femmes

Assembléia Legislativa do Estado do Rio de Janeiro
Sra. Aparecida Gama, Deputada, Presidenta de la Red

Tesorera / Treasurer / Tesorera / Trésorière

Cámara de Diputados de la Unión de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos
Sra. Leticia Gutiérrez Corona, Diputada

**Red de Mujeres Parlamentarias / Network of Women Parliamentarians /
Rede de Mulheres Parlamentares / Réseau des femmes parlementaires**

Senado de la Unión de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos
Sra. Lucero Saldaña Pérez, Senadora

Ex Presidentes / Ex-Presidents / Ex-Presidentes / Ex-Présidents

Assemblée nationale du Québec
M. Jean-Pierre Charbonneau, Député
(1997-1999)

Senado de Puerto Rico
Sr. Kenneth McClintock Hernández, Presidente
(1999-2000)

Parlamento Andino
Sra. Jhannett Madriz Sotillo, Vicepresidenta
(2003-2004)

Câmara dos Deputados do Brasil
Sra. Maria José Maninha, Deputada
(2004-2005)

Congreso Nacional de Ecuador
Sr. Guillermo Landázuri Carrillo, Diputado
(2005-2006)

**Parlamentos regionales y organizaciones interparlamentarias / Regional Parliaments
and Interparliamentary Organizations / Parlamentos regionais e organizações
interparlamentares / Parlements régionaux et organisations interparlementaires**

National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL), USA
Rep. Joseph Miró, Vice-President

Parlamento Andino
Sr. Luis Fernando Duque García, Presidente

Parlamento Amazónico
Sr. Gerardo Cruz Saavedra Mesones, Presidente

Parlamento Centroamericano
Sra. Maria Esperanza Valle, Diputada

Parlamento Indígena
(vacante)

Parlamento Latinoamericano
Sr. Ney Lopes de Sousa, Presidente

União Nacional dos Legislativos Estaduais (UNALE), Brasil
Sr. Liberman Moreno, Diputado

Unión de Parlamentarios del Mercosur
Sr. Celestino Roque Secco, Presidente

Conferencia Mexicana de Congresos y Legisladores Estatales (COMCE)
Sr. Efraín Villanueva, Diputado

Conferencia Nacional de Legisladores Locales
Sr. Pedro Ruíz Higuera, Diputado

Parlamento de Patagonia
Sra. Selva Judit Fortsmann, Diputada

Asamblea anfitriona de la Primera Asamblea General / Host Assembly of the First General Assembly / Assembléia Anfitriã da Primeira Assembléia Geral / Assemblée hôte de la Première Assemblée générale

Assemblée nationale du Québec
M. Pierre Moreau, Député

1ª organización interparlamentaria coparticipe de la COPA / 1st interparliamentary organization partner of the COPA / 1ª organização interparlamentar associada à COPA / 1^{re} organisation interparlementaire partenaire de la COPA

União Nacional dos Legislativos Estaduais (UNALE), Brasil
Dep. Celestino Roque Secco, Cuarto Vicepresidente

Parlamentos de Estados Federales y Unitarios / Parliaments of Federal and Unitary States / Parlamentos de Estados federais e unitários/ Parlements d'États fédéraux et unitaires

Parlamento de las Antillas Neerlandesas
Sr. Pedro Atacho, Senador

Cámara de Diputados de la Nación de Argentina
Sra. Ana Elisa Rita Richter, Diputada

Cámara de Diputados de Bolivia
(vacante)

Câmara dos Deputados do Brasil
Sr. Iván Valente, Deputado

Cámara de Diputados de Colombia
Sr. Oscar Dario Pérez, Diputado

Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular de Cuba
Sra. Elsa Rojas, Diputada

Asamblea Legislativa de El Salvador
Sra. Irma Amaya, Diputada

Sénat de la République d'Haïti
Mme Céméphise Gilles, Sénatrice

Congreso Nacional de Honduras
Sra. Doris Alejandrina Gutiérrez, Diputada

House of Representatives of Jamaica
Dr. Morais Guy, Member

Congreso de la Unión de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos
Sra. Martha Hilda González Calderón, Diputada

Cámara de Diputados de la República del Paraguay
Sr. Tolentino Bobadilla Centurión, Diputado

Asamblea Legislativa de Panamá
Sr. José Olmedo Carreño Araúz, Diputado

Cámara de Diputados de República Dominicana
Sra. Minerva Josefina Taváres Mirabal, Diputada

National Assembly of Suriname
Ms Ruth Wijdenbosch, Deputy Speaker

Cámara de Senadores del Uruguay
Sr. Carlos Baráibar, Senador

Asamblea Nacional de Venezuela
Sr. Oscar Figuera, Diputado

Asambleas Parlamentarias de los Estados Asociados / Parliamentary Assemblies of Associated States / Assembléias Parlamentares dos Estados Associados / Assemblées parlementaires des États associés

Senado de Puerto Rico
Sr. Kenneth McClintock Hernández, Presidente

Asambleas Parlamentarias de los Estados Federados / Parliamentary Assemblies of Federated States / Assembléias parlamentares dos Estados federados / Assemblées parlementaires des États fédérés

Argentina
(vacante)

Brasil
Representadas pela UNALE

Canada
Assemblée nationale du Québec
M. Éric R. Mercier, Député

México
(vacante)

**Presidentes de las Comisiones Permanentes / President of the Permanent Comité /
Presidentes das Comissões Permanentes / Présidents des commissions permanentes**

*Comisión de la Democracia y de la Paz / Comité on Democracy and Peace / Comissão de
Democracia e Paz / Commission de la démocratie et de la paix*

Assemblée nationale du Québec
M. Éric R. Mercier, Député

*Comisión de Economía, Comercio, Trabajo y Bloques Comerciales / Comité on Economy,
Trade, Labour and Trading Blocs / Comissão de Economia, Comércio, Trabalho e Blocos
Comerciais / Commission de l'économie, du commerce, du travail et des blocs commerciaux*

Cámara de Diputados de la Unión de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos
Sr. Juan José García Ochoa, Diputado

*Comisión de Educación, Cultura, Ciencia y Tecnología / Committee on Education, Cultura,
Science and Technology / Comissão de Educação, Ciência e Tecnologia / Commission de
l'éducation, de la science et de la technologie*

Cámara de Diputados de la Unión de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos
Sra. Consuelo Camarena Gómez, Diputada

*Comisión de Salud y Protección Social / Committee on Health and Social Protection /
Comissão de Saúde e Previdência Social / Commission de la santé et de la protection sociale*

Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular de Cuba
Sra. Elsa Rojas, Diputada

*Comisión de Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible / Committee on the Environment and
Sustainable / Comissão de Meio Ambiente e Desenvolvimento Sustentable / Commission de
l'environnement et du développement durable*

Parlamento de las Antillas Neerlandesas
Sr. Dudley Lucia, Diputado

*Comisión de Derechos Humanos, Pueblos Indígenas y Seguridad de los Ciudadanos /
Committee on Human Rights, Aboriginal Peoples, and Citizen Security / Comissão de
Direitos Humanos, dos Povos Indígenas e Segurança dos Cidadãos / Commission des
droits de la personne, des peuples autochtones et de la sécurité des citoyens*

Câmara dos Deputados do Brasil
Sr. Orlando Fantazinni, Deputado

**SPEECH BY PARLIAMENTARIAN CARLOS JIMÉNEZ, PRESIDENT OF THE
PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS (COPA)**

Quito, Ecuador, June 2, 2006

Our assembly will meet its ultimate objective if we keep our word to fulfill our mission as we today have sincerely and solemnly sworn.

We do so fully aware that in the some ten years of its existence, COPA has grown ever stronger as the voice of parliamentarians in the Americas and, above all, as the voice of the societies that our parliaments represent.

On behalf of the Mexican Congress and, of course, all Mexicans, I take up this important responsibility, and I do so fully confident that the oath we have taken today will require enormous dedication by each of us if we are to accomplish COPA's objectives in a manner that is above reproach.

I couldn't be more grateful to my Mexican colleagues for having believed enough in me to deem me able to lead COPA through this undoubtedly vital stage of its development.

When COPA was created—and we stressed this today—its success was driven by a desire to reflect society's feelings about the much-talked-about FTAA, a proposal decried by some today because the integration efforts conducted so far seem to have been limited to the commercial, economic, and financial spheres with no concern for the social and developmental aspects that would come into play if we worked for a more horizontal, equitable distribution of wealth.

Our organization has pledged to take part in these negotiations so that governments are not the only ones with the power to freely decide the destiny of the people by signing trade agreements, because in the past such agreements have often resulted in even greater poverty and inequality in the various regions concerned.

When I joined COPA at the urging of Pierre and then-president Laurita Pavón, I understood that the mission before us was a very difficult, indeed, colossal one. We know that our governments, on behalf of our countries, are the ones with the constitutional responsibility to negotiate trade agreements and treaties and to promote the integration process. But we also know that parliaments cannot wash their hands of the process because, very often, these negotiations are led without concern for the human and social aspect of this type of integration.

COPA is in favor of integration. Moreover, none among us can deny that globalization is here to stay, and I myself have maintained here on numerous occasions that the issue is not whether COPA should or should not support an integration agreement for our entire hemisphere, because, as I have always said, the issue is futile. We cannot escape globalization any more than we can escape the integration process, as it is the only avenue we have to become stronger and more competitive.

The important thing, as I have repeatedly stressed in this forum, is to ask ourselves what kind of agreement we want and what type of negotiations we want to fight for. I think this is what we need to be discussing. We need to understand that as parliamentarians we cannot limit our vision exclusively to the market, but rather recognize the obvious fact that, to date, the market

has been unable to resolve with any degree of justice the striking problem of social development. This shows the vital importance of the role COPA plays in future negotiations towards a healthier integration.

I began my short speech with this thought because we must not forget the reason this forum of reflection, discussion, and consensus-building came into existence and how it has enabled us to pressure parliaments in our hemisphere.

This is how COPA was born, and what a wonderful opportunity we will have, when we celebrate our tenth anniversary barely one year from now, to get back into the fray and continue this fight for more equitable integration. We cannot envision an FTAA that cares only about the interests of the superpower bordering my country. We need an FTAA that can truly remedy the imbalances and help us make our hemisphere a place of much greater justice.

This is the philosophy of this parliamentary forum that has grown ever stronger throughout its history. In accomplishing our mission, we will also focus our efforts on two or three other aspects. First on migration—this impressive contemporary phenomenon that is intimately tied to globalization and that has major consequences for many nations.

This is particularly the case for my country. Today, some 8 million Mexicans are living and working illegally in the United States. The some \$20 billion they inject into the Mexican economy every year represents, for all intents and purposes, the number one source of foreign currency in our country. Our nations' parliaments cannot stand idly by while our compatriots in Central America, South America, and Mexico are forced to leave their native lands to live in a foreign country where it is impossible for them to live and work with dignity.

Our parliaments cannot remain indifferent to the struggles these people face to find living conditions that are more respectful of their fundamental rights. I myself have been a migrant in the United States, and I have two brothers who have lived there for over 20 years. I know this is a struggle that COPA must resolutely support. Not only do we need to join in the fight for the commercial or hemispheric integration we dream of, but we must also make the phenomenon of migration a responsibility of our own governments, which have been unable to provide their citizens with hope for a better life.

I would like to ask each of my colleagues on this new management team to help ensure that we take a more active role in this struggle, that we redouble our efforts to join these people in a marvelous and extraordinary show of strength and unity, and, naturally, to help our countries' parliaments navigate these waters.

Also—and I'll conclude with this topic—Mr. President, I feel that we need to strengthen parliamentary diplomacy. Governments are not necessarily adept, or even effective, at leveling the inequalities between our peoples, bringing about better arrangements, and, above all, building consensus and signing agreements to allow us to make progress in the pursuit of our common goals. No, as we see every day, this is clearly not the case.

In theory, our parliaments are already the best tools for remedying the inequalities between our peoples and paving the way for agreements, but what would happen if these same parliaments subscribed to this hemispheric vision because COPA proved to be more dynamic than it has in the past on the parliamentary diplomacy front? I believe that we need to make a solid effort in this regard because COPA's role will be increasingly important if we become more proactive in

parliamentary diplomacy and push our parliaments to become true forums for a dialog that actually reflects society's feelings.

Governments sometimes have a vision that doesn't reflect the philosophy or ideology of the party in power, whereas parliaments are all inclusive, represent all aspects of society, and have an undeniably enormous ability to wield influence. And COPA has a mission to make sure they fully carry out this role and an obligation to contribute more itself to this hemispheric dialog.

I believe that by accepting the challenge it faces today—that of playing a bigger role, and I'd even say, becoming more of a leader not only by working more closely with other parliamentary organizations in our region and with world parliamentary organizations such as the Interparliamentary Union, but also by supporting a much more indepth dialog in regions around the world—COPA will be better equipped to defend the interests of society.

These are our objectives. Although presented, I admit, in general terms, I feel they are completely feasible ones. I urge you all to redouble your efforts to breathe new life into COPA in order to make it a parliamentary organization with a much higher profile in world discussion forums.



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS (COPA)
7TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

THEME: TRADE AGREEMENTS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAS

**MAY 29 TO JUNE 4, 2006
QUITO, ECUADOR**

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

LOCATION: SWISSÔTEL QUITO

MONDAY, MAY 29 AND TUESDAY, MAY 30

All day	Arrival of parliamentarians and delegations at Quito's Mariscal Sucre International Airport Attendee registration
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas Location: Basel Meeting Room
8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.	Network Executive Committee Dinner (Hosted by the City of Quito and Ms. Myriam Garcés, Deputy) Location: El Panecillo, Pim's Restaurant

TUESDAY, MAY 30

9 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Attendee registration <i>Location: Mezzanine</i>
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Meeting of the Technical Secretariats of Brazil, Québec, and Mexico <i>Location: Neuchâtel II Meeting Room</i>

9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	<u>MEETING OF THE NETWORK OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS</u> Location: Appenzel Meeting Room
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Theme: Implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol in the Americas

- Word of welcome by Network president Ms. Aparecida Gama, Deputy
- Word of welcome by COPA president Mr. Guillermo Landázuri
- Speaker: Ms. Lilia Rodríguez, Assistant Representative of the United Nations Population Fund
- Presentation of the report on implementation of CEDAW in the Americas
- Rapporteur: Ms. Lucero Saldaña, United Mexican States Congress Senator



- Presentation of the CEDAW document databank by Ms. France Hamel, MNA, National Assembly of Québec
- Discussion and adoption of a recommendation on the implementation of CEDAW in the Americas

Free time for lunch

3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Continuation of the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Network of Women Parliamentarians

Presentation of followup reports on previous themes

- Gender budgets
Rapporteur: Ms. Ileana Rogel, Deputy, El Salvador Legislative Assembly
- Impact of the Free Trade Areas of the Americas (FTAA) on women
Rapporteur: Ms. France Hamel, MNA, National Assembly of Québec
- Impact of continental migration on women
Rapporteur: Ms. Lucero Saldaña, United Mexican States Congress Senator

Election of the new Network Executive Committee

4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

COPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: Neuchâtel / Meeting Room

AGENDA

- Word of welcome by COPA president Guillermo Landázuri Carrillo, Deputy
- Verification of quorum, reading and adoption of agenda
- Opening of the COPA Executive Committee meeting by COPA president Guillermo Landázuri Carrillo
- Presentation of COPA financial statements by treasurer Leticia Gutiérrez Corona, Deputy
- Activity report by the three COPA secretariats:
 1. Executive Secretariat of Mexico/Martha Hilda González Calderón, Deputy
 2. Québec Secretariat/Pierre Moreau, MNA
 3. Secretariat of Brazil/Maria José Maninha, Deputy
- COPA Network of Women 2005–2006 activity report
- Continuation of dialog between FIPA and COPA
- Planning of the Mexican election observation mission
- Examination of draft COPA regulation



WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

CONTINUATION OF COPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: Salon Neuchâtel / Meeting Room

- Continuation of the examination of draft COPA regulation
- New business
- Adoption of documents and resolutions

Executive Committee luncheon

Location: Prime Ribs Restaurant

OPENING OF THE 7TH COPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

OPENING CEREMONY

Location: Neuchâtel / Meeting Room

- Address by COPA president Guillermo Landázuri Carrillo, Deputy
- Address by the Vice Chancellor of Ecuador, Ambassador Diego Ribadeneira
- Address by Wilfrido Lucero, President of the National Congress
- Inauguration by the Constitutional President of the Republic of Ecuador, Mr. Alfredo Palacios

6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Main conference: Trade Agreements and Economic Development

- Mr. Alan Wagner, Secretary General of the Andean Community of Nations (ACN)
- Mr. Adrianus Koetsenruijter, Chief of the European Committee for Columbia and Ecuador
- Theme: Results of Europe-Latin America Summit

7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Cocktail party hosted by COPA president Guillermo Landázuri, Deputy

Location: Mont Blanc Meeting Room

THURSDAY, JUNE 1

9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Main conference:

Mr. Jorge Bustamante, United Nations special rapporteur on human rights and migration

Theme: Migration in the Americas: From conjecture to the heart of the issue

Location: Neuchâtel Meeting Room



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Committee I: Democracy and Peace

Chair: Mr. Éric R. Mercier, MNA, National Assembly of Québec

Location: Appenzell Meeting Room

Theme: Democracy and Economic Development

- Report on political crises in the Americas, presented by deputy Maria Elena D'Andrea, San Luis Province Chamber of Deputies, Argentina
- Mr. Simon Pachano, professor at the Latin-American Faculty of Social Sciences, FLACSO: Electoral processes in the Americas
- Objectives for the millennium and democratic governance in Latin America, PNUD (to be confirmed)
- Report on the Bolivian electoral observation mission by MNA Éric R. Mercier, Chairman of the Committee on Democracy and Peace, National Assembly of Québec
- Ms. Francine Barry, Assistant to the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Committee II: Economy, Trade, Labor, and Trading Blocs

Chair: Juan José García Ochoa, Deputy, Mexican Chamber of Deputies

Location: Neuchâtel II Meeting Room

Theme: Trade Treaties and Economic Development

- Mr. Luis Fernando Duque, President of the Andean Parliament
- Mr. William T. Warren, Political Director of the Forum on Democracy and Trade, Georgetown University
- Mr. Paul Martin, UNICEF Representative in Ecuador: Social and economic impacts of free trade agreements
- Ms. Magdalena León, Coordinator of the Network of Latin American Women Contributing to Economic Transformation
- Mr. Alejandro Villamar, Mexican Action Network on Free Trade, Mexico (to be confirmed)

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Committee III: Human Rights, Aboriginal Peoples, and Citizen Security

Chair: Orlando Fantazzini, Deputy, Brazilian Chamber of Deputies

Location: Neuchâtel I Meeting Room

Theme: Migration in the Americas in a Context of Economic Development and Integration

- Ms. Leticia Gutiérrez Corona, Mexican Chamber of Deputies: Migratory movements: the Mexican experience
- Mr. Carlos Rossi, Senate of the Republic of Argentina: Migration legislation in the Americas: the Argentinean experience
- Mr. Alberto Acosta, Consultant to the Latin American Institute of Social Research (ILDIS): Economic impact of the Ecuadorian migratory explosion



- Ms. Nina Pacari, Member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues: Human rights and indigenous peoples
- Mr. José Thompson, Assistant Director, Inter-American Institute of Human Rights: Education for human rights, interculturality, and public security

1:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Conference: "Ecuador: The dollarization experience and the challenge posed by trade agreements," presented by Eduardo Cabezas, President of the Central Bank of Ecuador

Luncheon hosted by the Central Bank of Ecuador

3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Committee I: Democracy and Peace (cont'd)

3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Committee II: Economy, Trade, Labor, and Trading Blocs (cont'd)

3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Committee III: Human Rights, Aboriginal Peoples, and Citizen Security (cont'd)

7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Ecuadorian evening hosted by the mayor of Quito

Location: Quito Historical Center

FRIDAY, JUNE 2

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Committee IV: Health and Social Protection

Chair: Ms. Elsa Rojas Hernández, Deputy, National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba

Location: Neuchâtel II Meeting Room

Theme: Population, Poverty, Reproductive Health, and Sexual Rights in the Americas

- Presentation of the Health Committee report, Ms. Elsa Rojas, Deputy, National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba
- Reproductive health and sexual rights of women in the Americas, Dr. Gladys Zuazaga, Director of the Villa Clara General Hospital, Cuba
- Report from the 13th Latin American Congress of Sexology and Sexual Education, Ms. Aparecida Gama, National Assembly of the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Role of reproductive health and sexual rights in the reduction of poverty, Ms. Ana Guezmes, technical support team consultant, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Committee V: The Environment and Sustainable Development

Chair: Senator Dudley Lucia, Netherlands Antilles

Location: Appenzell Meeting Room

Theme: Impacts of Trade Agreements on Environmental Conservation and the Adoption of Sustainable Development Policies

- Mr. Efraín Villanueva, President of the Mexican Confederation of Federated State Congresses (COMCE)
- Mr. Miguel Ricardo Solanes, Regional Consultant, Natural Resources and Infrastructures, United Nations Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- Mr. Alain Lipietz, President of European Parliament Delegation for Relations with the Countries of the Andean Community, France (to be confirmed)
- Mr. Mario Molina, Winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, Mexico (to be confirmed)
- Mr. Fernando Tudela, Deputy Minister of the Environment, Mexico (to be confirmed)
- Ms. Lorena Sanromán, United Nations

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Committee VI: Education, Culture, Science and Technology

Chair: Consuelo Camarena, Mexican Chamber of Deputies

Location: Saint-Moritz D Meeting Room

Theme: Importance of Cultural Diversity and Educational Models

- Mr. Juan Carlos Romero Hiks, Constitutional Governor of the State of Guanajuato, Mexico: Education based on our national cultures
- Mr. Claude Boucher, National Assembly of Québec, Committee rapporteur: Followup of the application of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions in the Americas, adopted by UNESCO in October 2005
- Mr. Robert Pilon, Executive Vice President of the Secretariat of the Coalition for Cultural Diversity, Canada
- Mr. Francisco Lejarza, President of the Mexican Federation of Private Institutions of Higher Learning (FIMPES), Mexico: Institutional certification for cultural diversity
- Mr. José Luis Acosta Ramos, Acting Deputy of the 9th District, Irapuato, Guanajuato, Mexico: Comparison of educational models at the interinstitutional level
- Mr. José Asensi Sabater, Full Professor, Alicante University, Spain (to be confirmed)

1:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Free time for lunch

3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Committee IV: Health and Social Protection (cont'd)

3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Committee V: The Environment and Sustainable Development (cont'd)

3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Committee VI: Education, Culture, Science and Technology (suite)



5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

COPA Executive Committee Meeting

Location: Neuchâtel I Meeting Room

AGENDA OF THE 2ND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

- Discussion of the makeup of the new COPA Executive Committee
- Nomination of candidates for president, first vice president, regional vice presidents, and treasurer
- Designation of committee bureau members, upon committee recommendation
- Recommendations concerning the approval of the Final Declaration

7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Reception hosted by the Ecuadorian Department of Foreign Relations

Location: Ecuadorian Department of Foreign Relations

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

PLENARY SESSION OF THE 7TH COPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Location: Neuchâtel I Meeting Room

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- Reading of the resolutions and declarations of each of COPA's permanent thematic standing committees
- Election of new COPA authorities and Executive Committee members
- Closing

1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Press conference

Free time for lunch

3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Sightseeing tour of Mitad del Mundo

SUNDAY, JUNE 4

Sightseeing opportunities

Departure of attendees

NOTE

- 1) The meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians will be held behind closed doors and is open to Network members only.
- 2) The meeting of the Executive Committee will be held behind closed doors and is open to Executive Committee members only.



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS
7TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
QUITO, ECUADOR, MAY 29 TO JUNE 2, 2006**

“QUITO DECLARATION”

Gathered for the 7th General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) in Quito, Ecuador, from May 29 to June 2, 2006, to share points of view and discuss common topics of interest relating to trade agreements and development in the Americas, we, the parliamentarians of the Americas, reaffirm the importance of this forum of political dialog as a valuable tool for building consensus and developing joint strategies so that our peoples can more easily manage the problems and tackle the challenges we share.

This is why, after having analyzed together the commercial free trade agreement talks currently underway as well as the new integration scenarios we have contemplated for a number of years, we have decided to present the following declaration, taking into account the considerations as follows:

WHEREAS

WHEREAS the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) has evolved into a vital forum of political cooperation in our hemisphere by providing legislative bodies with effective means of mutual communication;

WHEREAS COPA's strategic goal is to promote further collaboration with other parliamentary organizations in the Americas for greater cooperation and coordination and to develop our legislative and political strategies for reviewing various elements of our hemispheric program and cementing the role of legislative power in order to strengthen democracy and pursue the goal of integration;

WHEREAS we are aware that negotiations to create a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) have been interrupted and our governments have adopted new strategies for intercontinental integration, which create both opportunities and risks that our Confederation must closely examine;

WHEREAS, in the talks between executive authorities regarding free trade and integration agreements, it is crucial that a leading role be played by the parliaments of unitary, federal, federated, and associated states, by regional parliaments, and by interparliamentary organizations in which the people's representation is vested;

WHEREAS concrete intervention and involvement by all parliamentary bodies of the hemisphere are key to promoting the aspirations of the citizens we represent;

WHEREAS citizen participation in the integration process is crucial in order to legitimize and strengthen democratic institutions and work to reduce the very high levels of poverty;

WHEREAS we must work towards developing community-based integration projects to be able to effectively deal with the various crises brought to our attention and, in so doing, help guarantee equity between our peoples and make the weakest economies less vulnerable;

WHEREAS we must support the integration processes currently underway in the Americas in order to ensure the harmonious development of a foreign policy that stresses respect for differences and solidarity in the pursuit of our shared interests;

WHEREAS globalization or interdependence has underscored the need to strengthen integration blocs and thereby better equip them to confront the effects of market liberalization;

WHEREAS trade agreement talks raise issues regarding the safeguarding of the cultural identity of peoples, which our leaders must protect;

WHEREAS central to the debate over trade agreements is the whole issue of the type of development our countries wish to pursue, and that this issue must always be looked at from the perspective of equity and social justice for the people we represent;

WHEREAS environmental protection must precede all development models in order to ensure sustainable development;

WHEREAS we acknowledge the importance of establishing thoroughgoing public youth policies in order to provide our youth with efficient and fair access to the labor market;

WHEREAS increasing investment in education is the most effective way to improve living conditions and bring about an equal society concerned about the fair distribution of wealth;

WHEREAS cultural diversity is one of the greatest riches of the Americas and its recognition and development strongly contribute to social cohesion and the advancement of our nations;

WHEREAS Haiti has demonstrated a real commitment to bolstering its democratic institutions, which must be strengthened to guarantee the country's harmonious economic, political, social, and cultural development;

WHEREAS it is essential to promote the adoption of all measures necessary to eliminate human trafficking, which is a grave affront to human dignity;

WHEREAS the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol are essential instruments in promoting equality between women and men;

WHEREAS important recommendations were formulated in April 2006 at the 13th Latin American Congress of Sexology and Sexual Education;

We, the parliamentary members of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA), gathered in Quito, Ecuador, after having deliberated on diverse issues of concern to all parliaments of the hemisphere:

DECLARATION

ARTICLE 1

UNDERTAKE to closely study the new objectives established by COPA, taking into account the new integration strategies in place in the Americas;

ARTICLE 2

REAFFIRM our conviction that the success of integration processes depends, among other things, on strengthening community-based integration projects, which are the sole means by which we can take a common stance and thereby safeguard our shared interests;

ARTICLE 3

ASK our respective governments to take the appropriate social measures to ensure the most vulnerable segments of society truly have the means to successfully meet the challenges posed by globalization;

ARTICLE 4

REITERATE our support for fair talks that take a community-based approach to international integration so as to ensure respect for the autonomy of all parties and facilitate the signing of flexible agreements that reflect the principles of solidarity, cooperation, and complementarity, with the aim of correcting asymmetries;

ARTICLE 5

ACKNOWLEDGE the right to self-determination of all peoples and to noninterference and nonintervention in a state's internal affairs;

ARTICLE 6

STRESS the need to develop and implement support programs for the production sectors that will be affected by the coming into force of trade agreements or treaties;

ARTICLE 7

CALL ON the trade authorities of countries that subsidize their agricultural sectors to reconsider their position on these generous subsidies, which hinder the interests of Latin American producers;

ARTICLE 8

BELIEVE it is crucial to develop and implement programs aimed at modernizing industry and attracting investment in order to help the production sector compete successfully in a broader economic context;

ARTICLE 9

STRESS the need to ensure the integration process is not seen from an economic standpoint only given that the process must acknowledge the need to break with production and consumption models that harm the environment and the development of small and medium-size businesses;

ARTICLE 10

UNDERTAKE to carefully study the models of development in place in our states to ensure that the environment is the only approach used to ensure sustainable development for our peoples;

ARTICLE 11

REAFFIRM the importance that all governments in the hemisphere support the Kyoto Protocol;

ARTICLE 12

URGE the leaders of our respective countries' parliaments to provide the resources needed to ensure healthcare and education systems work properly, while preventing international trade regulations from limiting the ability of states to provide the best public health services possible in these sectors and ensuring the effective labor force integration of youth;

ARTICLE 13

BELIEVE our countries will not truly be integrated as long as we do not take the mitigating steps necessary to remedy existing asymmetries;

ARTICLE 14

AFFIRM that it is necessary for each country to adopt public security policies that stress large-scale international cooperation in order to spur institutional development and fight criminality more effectively;

ARTICLE 15

INVITE the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to strengthen international human rights protection in order to guarantee recognition as refugees for victims of this scourge in the Americas;

ARTICLE 16

UNDERTAKE to ensure that our respective parliaments ratify the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, adopted by UNESCO in October 2005, as soon as possible;

ARTICLE 17

ACKNOWLEDGE the efforts made in Haiti to strengthen its democratic institutions and call on political authorities in this country and the international community to establish a true national dialog between the various factions of Haitian society to resolve conflicts and eradicate the violence afflicting the Haitian people;

ARTICLE 18

ENCOURAGE the Andean Parliament to continue promoting dialog and cooperation in support of the Andean regional integration process;

ARTICLE 19

REAFFIRM the importance of taking the steps necessary to strengthen COPA, including the signing of cooperation agreements with other regional and subregional interparliamentary organizations, the active participation of all parliaments in the Americas, and the dissemination in our respective states of COPA's successes in achieving its objectives and work in promoting hemispheric cohabitation;

ARTICLE 20

REITERATE the need to promote official dialog with the Interparliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA) with a view to creating a single organization in the Americas responsible for interparliamentary dialog and **WILL ATTEND** the meeting taking place on July 12 in Bogotá between the two organizations' steering committees, which will be an excellent opportunity to progress on these matters;

ARTICLE 21

WELCOME the recommendations and resolutions of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas meeting in Quito at this 7th COPA General Assembly;

ARTICLE 22

UNDERTAKE to incorporate into our countries' legislation severe punishments for the abominable crimes of human trafficking and human organ and tissue harvesting for commercial gain;

ARTICLE 23

UNDERTAKE to take every appropriate action to support the implementation of recommendations in the *Bahia Declaration*;

ARTICLE 24

ASSIGN COPA's president the task of forwarding a copy of this resolution to the congresses and parliamentary assemblies of the Americas and to any relevant or interested international organization so that this final declaration can be taken into consideration and win the support it deserves.

Adopted in Quito, Ecuador, on June 2, 2006



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS
7TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
QUITO, ECUADOR, MAY 29 TO JUNE 3, 2006**

Resolution on the upcoming General Assemblies of COPA

WHEREAS for the sake of efficiency COPA needs to identify in advance which parliamentary assemblies will play host to its upcoming general assemblies;

WHEREAS to enhance COPA's profile it is better to rotate these assemblies among all the regions of the Americas;

WHEREAS the 2006 General Assembly was held in Quito, Ecuador, and upcoming general assemblies should therefore go to other regions under the principle of regional rotation;

WHEREAS the Executive Committee has received proposals to host the General Assembly from Mexico, Québec, and Argentina;

WHEREAS under COPA's statutes, the presidency must be filled by a host parliamentarian of the General Assembly, a principle that continues to apply;

WHEREAS a first vice president must be appointed for 2006–2007, and Senator Edda Evangelina Acuña of the State of Buenos Aires, Argentina, has indicated her interest and availability for the position;

WE, the representatives of the congresses and parliamentary assemblies of the united, federal, federated, and associated states of the regional and interparliamentary organizations gathered in Quito, Ecuador for the 7th General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas:

HAVE THEREFORE AGREED that the following parliamentary assemblies will play host to the COPA General Assembly for the year indicated opposite each one

Mexico	2007
Québec	2008
Argentina	2009;

HAVE THEREFORE AGREED that in accordance with Article 25 of the Statutes, the COPA presidency will be assumed by a parliamentarian from the above host assemblies for each of the years in question;

HAVE THEREFORE AGREED that for 2006–2007 the first vice president of COPA will be Senator Edda Evangelina Acuña, of the State of Buenos Aires, Argentina.



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS
7TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
QUITO, ECUADOR, MAY 29 TO JUNE 3, 2006**

**Resolution on the creation of a single organization responsible
for interparliamentary dialog in the Americas**

WHEREAS the creation of a single inter-American interparliamentary organization would help strengthen interparliamentary dialog in the Americas and contribute to the official recognition of an interparliamentary organization by executive authorities of the Americas;

WHEREAS in the final declaration of the COPA General Assembly held in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, on May 7 to 11, 2005, the 203 parliamentarians in attendance agreed to “recommend that hemispheric interparliamentary dialog take place at a single organization, and as such bring FIPA and COPA closer, and direct the Executive Committee to consider all appropriate means of achieving this objective”;

WHEREAS a meeting was held on May 19, 2005, in Brasilia between outgoing COPA president Maria José da Conceição Maninha and FIPA president Céline Hervieux-Payette during which avenues for cooperation between the two organizations were discussed;

WHEREAS inter-American interparliamentary dialog must adhere to the principle of equality between the congresses and parliamentary assemblies of unitary, federal, and federated states, as well as regional parliaments and interparliamentary organizations of the Americas;

WHEREAS FIPA and COPA wish to undertake official discussions with a view to creating a single organization responsible for interparliamentary dialog in the Americas;

WHEREAS in a letter addressed to the president of COPA, Mr. Guillermo Landázuri Carrillo, FIPA president Céline Hervieux-Payette invited for that purpose representatives of the executive committees of both interparliamentary inter-American organizations to meet in Bogotá, Colombia, on July 12, 2006, the day before the opening of FIPA’S 5th Plenary Assembly;

WE, the representatives of congresses and parliamentary assemblies of united, federal, federated, and associated states and of regional and interparliamentary organizations gathered in Quito, Ecuador for the 7th General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas,

REITERATE the need to promote official discussions with the Interparliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA) with a view to creating a single organization responsible for interparliamentary dialog in the Americas;

WILL TAKE PART in the planned meeting next June 12 in Bogotá, Colombia, between the steering committees of both organizations, with the goal of creating a single interparliamentary organization in the Americas;

MANDATE to this effect the current and former COPA presidents, acting parliamentarians, and the three secretariats to submit a report to the Executive Committee at each of its meetings.



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS
7TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
QUITO, ECUADOR, MAY 29 TO JUNE 3, 2006**

**Resolution on the need to strengthen the standards aimed at ensuring the
coexistence of states in our hemisphere based on principles set out in the
statutes of COPA**

WHEREAS one of the fundamental objectives of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas is to construct an inter-American community founded on peace, democracy, solidarity between peoples, social justice, gender equity, and respect for human dignity and rights;

WHEREAS, as stipulated in paragraph 3b of the *Charter of the Organization of American States*, international order consists essentially of respect for the personality, sovereignty, and independence of states and the faithful fulfillment of obligations derived from treaties and other sources of international law;

WHEREAS international relations must be governed by principles recognizing the independence and equality of states, their right to freely conduct their domestic affairs without outside interference, and the need for cooperation, respect for human rights, solidarity between peoples, and the peaceful resolution of international conflicts, for the greater good of humanity;

WHEREAS, as stipulated in paragraph 3e of the *Charter of the Organization of American States*, every state has the right to choose, without external interference, its political, economic, and social system and to organize itself in the way best suited to it, and has the duty to abstain from intervening in the affairs of another state, since the states of the Americas may cooperate fully among themselves, independently of the nature of their political, economic, and social systems;

WHEREAS it is important that states rigorously adhere to these principles to ensure peaceful coexistence in our hemisphere;

WHEREAS the defense of the autonomy of peoples, respect for national sovereignty, free self-determination, compliance with treaty obligations, the peaceful resolution of differences, the defense and protection of human rights, and rejection of aggression and any form of interference are non-negotiable principles that our peoples have always defended in the past and will continue to defend in the future;

We, parliamentarians of the Americas, gathered together for the COPA General Assembly in Quito, Ecuador, on May 29, 30, and 31 and June 1, 2, and 3, 2006, agree to

ASK our respective parliaments to take the necessary measures to guarantee compliance with standards aimed at ensuring the coexistence of states in our hemisphere, which, in the opinion of many of its countries, currently rests on a fragile foundation;

CALL FOR strengthened representative and participatory democracy that recognizes the principle of non-interference;

SUPPORT any initiative aimed at ensuring international peace and security free of interference in the domestic affairs of states.



**RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE
PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION
OF THE AMERICAS**

**RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE
PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION
OF THE AMERICAS**

1. Conduct of Executive Committee meetings
 - 1.1 Agenda
 - 1.2 Debate procedure
 - 1.2.1 Powers of the president
 - 1.2.2 Holding of debates
 - 1.3 Presence of observers at Executive Committee meetings
2. Adoption of recommendations and documents by the Executive Committee and the General Assembly
 - 2.1 Consideration of documents
 - 2.2 Matters of urgency
 - 2.3 Amendments
 - 2.4 Voting procedure
 - 2.5 Distribution of adopted recommendations
3. Treasury
4. Meetings of secretariats
5. Holding of second meetings of the Executive Committee as part of the General Assembly
6. Meetings of committees

1. CONDUCT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

1.1 Agenda

- The agenda of an Executive Committee meeting must include a certain number of statutory points presented in the following order and subject to specific provisions set forth in the statutes:
 - 1- Roll call, declaration of quorum, and accreditation of observers present
 - 2- Reading and approval of proposed agenda
 - 3- Reading and approval of minutes of previous meeting
 - 4- Presentation of president's activity report
 - 5- Presentation of financial report and budget
 - 6- Report on committees' work
 - 7- Questions of a political nature (if any)
 - 8- Presentation of secretariat activity reports
 - 9- Other matters
- The agenda is prepared by the executive secretariat in cooperation with the other secretariats, and approved by the president.
- The secretariats then have it translated and distribute it to Executive Committee members under their responsibility at least 30 days before the meeting is held.
- Executive Committee members may ask the executive secretariat to add items to the agenda up to fifteen days before the meeting is held. These additions are subject to the president's approval. The new version of the agenda, if any, is forwarded to the other secretariats, which ensure it is distributed to the members under their responsibility.

Any documents pertaining to items added to the agenda (draft recommendations, draft amendments of statutes, etc.) must be forwarded up to fifteen days before the meeting is held, so that they can be translated and distributed to all Executive Committee members before the meeting is held.

1.2 Debate procedure

1.2.1 Powers of the president

- The president
 - o Runs Executive Committee and General Assembly meetings, notably by assigning the right to speak;
 - o Gives the floor to a member for and a member against any procedural motion that is opposed, then immediately puts the motion to a vote;
 - o Ensures debates run smoothly and calls to order any speaker who strays from the topic under discussion;
 - o Under special circumstances, may limit the time allocated for discussion on a given topic.

1.2.2 Holding of debates

- Consensus must be sought in debate so that adopted recommendations express the viewpoint of all COPA members.
- Debate must be limited to matters under study. The president may adjourn debate at any time and suggest that the principal parties to it continue discussions informally to reach an agreement.
- Debates are recorded in full at each Executive Committee and General Assembly meeting. This recording will be kept for two years at the Executive Secretariat and then destroyed.
- Following each Executive Committee meeting, minutes shall be prepared by the executive secretary and forwarded to the other secretariats for translation and distribution to members under their responsibility.

1.3 Presence of observers at Executive Committee meetings

- When the meeting begins, the president must ask the Executive Committee to accredit the participation of observers who are present by providing their names and those of the organizations they represent.
- The criteria guiding observer accreditation are twofold: the compatibility of observers with COPA goals and an evaluation of their potential contribution to the organization's goals.
- Accredited observers may only take the floor with the approval of the president.
- The following standards apply to meeting room setup:
 - o Executive Committee members shall be identified by name tags, which must be visible throughout the entire meeting.
 - o One section of the meeting table shall be reserved for observers, whose name tags shall be a different color from the one of the tags of the Executive Committee members.

2. ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND DOCUMENTS¹ BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2.1 Consideration of documents

- No recommendation may be adopted by the Executive Committee or General Assembly unless previously submitted in writing in the four official COPA languages.
- The executive secretariat shall send draft recommendations to the other secretariats for translation and distribution to Executive Committee members from the assemblies for which they are responsible.
- The presentation of recommendations as indicated above shall not limit the right of COPA delegations to inform the General Assembly or Executive Committee of any political or economic situation affecting their country. In such cases, we recommend that the parliamentarians concerned submit a note in writing indicating the main points they wish to make.
- At the Executive Committee meeting, only regular members may propose recommendations.
- At the General Assembly, each parliamentarian who is a delegation member may propose recommendations. However, in accordance with Section 16 of the statutes, each delegation present is entitled to one vote cast by the delegation leader.

2.2 Urgent items

- Draft recommendations sent after the fifteen-day deadline may be placed on the agenda of an Executive Committee meeting if this instance, at a two third majority of attending members, deems urgent the immediate inclusion of these projects on the meeting's agenda. Draft recommendations that are not deemed urgent are entered as priority items on the agenda of the subsequent Executive Committee meeting.
- Recommendation sponsors may ask for the opportunity to defend the urgency of their draft recommendation at the Executive Committee's meeting.

¹ "Recommendation" refers to any proposed motion, resolution, or opinion on which the organization is called to take a position.

"Document" refers to any report or other document tabled at a meeting.

2.3 Amendments

- Amendments to draft recommendations may be submitted until such recommendations are adopted.
- Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing.
- Amendments shall target specific text and may only add, delete, or modify the content of the initial draft.
- If two or more amendments concern the same words of a draft recommendation, the amendment that diverges most from the specific text is given review priority.
- If two or more amendments cancel each other out, adoption of the first leads to rejection of the other amendment(s) pertaining to the same words. If the first amendment is rejected, the next amendment in order of priority is put to a vote and so on for each additional amendment.
- As needed, the president may ask an editorial committee to go over proposed amendments and suggest revisions. These revisions may only be undertaken with the approval of all sponsors of the proposed recommendation and amendments.
- At the Executive Committee meeting, only regular members may propose amendments.
- At the General Assembly, each parliamentarian who is a delegation member may propose amendments. However, in accordance with Section 16 of the statutes, each delegation present is entitled to one vote cast by the delegation leader.

2.4 Voting procedure

- Only Executive Committee members are entitled to vote at Executive Committee meetings.
- The Executive Committee generally adopts its recommendations by consensus. If a consensus cannot be reached, a majority vote of two-thirds of members who have the right to vote and are present is required to adopt draft recommendations. In such cases, the president specifies the number of votes required based on the number of participants present.
- Prior to Executive Committee voting, the presence and participation of parliamentarians who have the right to vote are verified, notably with regard to requirements in Section 18 of the statutes.
- In the event an Executive Committee member is opposed, he/she shall have the right to record a dissenting opinion.
- General Assembly voting is governed by Section 16 of the statutes.

2.5 Distribution of adopted recommendations

- Recommendations adopted by the Executive Committee and General Assembly are forwarded to the other secretariats by the executive secretariat so that the translations into COPA's four official languages can be adjusted, and the texts distributed within thirty days.

3. TREASURY

- Expenditures are made by the treasurer with the express authorization of the president or following a resolution by Executive Committee members. Payment of the expenditures thus authorized is made only on presentation of the appropriate supporting documents.
- The treasurer sends each COPA member an annual contribution request and takes any other steps he or she deems necessary to obtain payment of contributions by each organization member.
- Contributions are due at the start of the fiscal year.
- The treasurer shall present a financial statement at each Executive Committee meeting.
- The financial statement shall be presented in writing and submitted to all members present.
- The financial statement shall include a table illustrating the contributions paid by COPA members and the expenditures made by the organization.
- The financial statement shall include a budget item indicating the funding of projects for the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas.

4. SECRETARIATS' MEETING

- A meeting between the COPA president and secretariat representatives shall be held before each Executive Committee meeting and during the General Assembly.
- The secretariats' meeting is closed. Only the COPA president, the treasurer, and one representative from each of the Mexico, Brazil, and Québec secretariats are admitted. Each participant may be accompanied by up to two advisors.
- In the event that a decision on an issue submitted to the secretariats is put to a vote, the representative from each secretariat and the president are each entitled to one vote. In case of a tie, the president has the deciding vote.

- The purpose of the secretariats' meeting is to
 - o Insure that the draft agendas of meetings of the Executive Committee, permanent thematic working committees, and General Assembly are in conformity with the Rules of procedure;
 - o Go over the documents that will be presented at this meeting and verify their availability in COPA's four official languages;
 - o Evaluate the urgency of any draft recommendation submitted after the deadline;
 - o Discuss administrative or technical problems;
 - o Particularly as part of a General Assembly, go over committee documents (reports, draft recommendations) that will be presented in the plenary session and verify their availability in COPA's four official languages.
- If circumstances require, the president may convene a special secretariats' meeting.

5. SECOND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AS PART OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- As part of the General Assembly, a second Executive Committee meeting lasting no more than two hours shall be held prior to the plenary session.
- Under sections 10 and 24 of the COPA statutes and Section 4 of the By-Laws of the Permanent Thematic Working Committees of COPA, the goals of this meeting are to
 - 1- Exchange points of view on the formation of the new COPA Executive Committee;
 - 2- Propose candidates for the positions of president, first vice president, regional vice presidents, and treasurer;
 - 3- Nominate members for Committee Boards, as per committee proposals;
 - 4- Recommend approval of the Final Declaration.

6. PERMANENT THEMATIC WORKING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Permanent thematic working committee meetings shall be subject to the rules of procedure governing Executive Committee meetings and the adoption of recommendations and documents, with any adaptations deemed necessary.

These Rules of procedure were adopted on June 2nd, 2006 at the 7th General Assembly of COPA, Quito, Ecuador.



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS
VII GENERAL ASSEMBLY
QUITO, ECUADOR, FROM MAY 29 TO JUNE 3, 2006**

Committee on Democracy and Peace

Recommendation on Haiti

WHEREAS elections constitute a fundamental step toward the restoration of democracy, the consolidation of institutions, and stability in Haiti;

WHEREAS the two rounds of presidential and legislative elections held in Haiti on February 7 and April 21, 2006, were widely deemed to be free and transparent by most of the 300 international observers on hand;

WHEREAS the results of the two rounds of presidential and legislative elections in Haiti were accepted by the Haitian people and recognized by the international community;

WHEREAS, despite the circumstances, Haitians turned out in great numbers to vote, demonstrating their belief in democracy;

WHEREAS no political party won a majority in either the Senate or the House, and whereas certain political parties have only one representative in the National Assembly;

WHEREAS President René Préval must forge alliances with the other parties in the National Assembly to form the next government, since his party didn't win a majority;

WHEREAS the next government will be expected to reach out to all the country's political forces to put in place the conditions needed for institutions to contribute to Haiti's democratic development;

WHEREAS at the Donor's Conference organized at the initiative of the United Nations, the World Bank, the European Commission, and the Inter-American Development Bank in July 2004 in Washington, nearly \$1.4 billion in loans and donations was promised to the Government of Haiti to aid in reconstructing the country;

WHEREAS Haiti continues to be plagued by violence and poverty;

WE, the representatives of the congresses and parliamentary assemblies of the united, federated, and associated states of the regional and interparliamentary organizations gathered in Quito, Ecuador for the 7th General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas:

CONGRATULATE the Haitian people for their remarkable sense of civic responsibility and dedication during these elections;

RECOGNIZE the results of the first and second rounds of the presidential and legislative elections in Haiti;

ACKNOWLEDGE the progress made to date in Haiti's political process;

CALL ON the next government of Haiti to foster an atmosphere of dialog and national reconciliation;

ENCOURAGE the authorities and people of Haiti to tackle the security, constitutional, and economic and social development challenges facing the country;

ENCOURAGE President René Préal and the various parties represented in the Haitian Parliament to work together to find lasting solutions to the political, economic, and social problems plaguing the country;

INSIST that financial institutions and international donors contribute to the country's economic and social development by providing long term support to Haitians and making available without further delay the funds they have promised;

URGE the international community to work with the new government to draw up a long term plan for Haiti's economic, social, and political development and the strengthening of its institutions;

REAFFIRM the commitment of parliamentarians in the Americas to helping Haitians reconstruct and develop their country;

INVITE the newly elected members of Haiti's National Assembly to play an active role in the various activities of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas.



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS (COPA)
ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION**

EARLY GENERAL ELECTIONS IN BOLIVIA

DECEMBER 18, 2005

REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

Created in 1997, COPA brings together the congresses and parliamentary assemblies of unitary, federal, federated, and associated states, regional parliaments, and interparliamentary organizations of the Americas.

Its goals include strengthening parliamentary democracy and building a community of the Americas founded on the respect for dignity and human rights, peace, democracy, solidarity between peoples, social justice, and gender equality.

In order to support democracy, COPA seeks to play an increasingly active role in the area of electoral observation in the hemisphere.

A delegation of COPA parliamentarians therefore visited Bolivia from December 16 to 20, 2005 to observe the early general elections held on December 18.

This was the first COPA electoral mission since the adoption of the *By-laws of COPA Electoral Observation Missions* at the sixth COPA General Assembly in Foz do Iguaçu in May 2005.

The goal of this report is to summarize the activities of the COPA mission during its visit to Bolivia from December 16 to 20, 2005, and present its observations. The report is divided into eight parts: 1) terms of reference of the mission; 2) makeup of the delegation; 3) the political and electoral context; 4) the legal and institutional framework in which the December 18, 2005 elections were held; 5) observations prior to election day; 6) observations on December 18, the day of the elections; 7) findings of mission members; and 8) mission conclusions and recommendations.

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE MISSION

The mission was organized in response to the COPA Executive Committee resolution adopted on August 18, 2005, in Quito, Ecuador, which called for the deployment of an electoral observation mission to Bolivia during the next presidential and legislative elections to be held in that country (Appendix I).

However, in order to send such a mission, the *By-laws of COPA Electoral Observation Missions* stipulate that COPA must be officially invited, through its president, by the authorities of the country in question.

In view of this requirement, COPA president Guillermo Landázuri Carrillo, deputy of the Ecuadorian National Congress, contacted the competent Bolivian authorities—i.e., the head of state and the minister of foreign affairs—on November 16, 2005, to notify them of the above-mentioned resolution and of COPA's interest in sending an electoral observation mission if they so desired.

Timeline

On December 1, 2005, COPA received an official invitation from the National Electoral Court of Bolivia to send an electoral observation mission during the early presidential and legislative elections of December 18, 2005 (Appendix II).

On December 9, 2005, the COPA president authorized the deployment of a COPA electoral mission in a letter to the president of the Bolivian National Electoral Court, Mr. Hassenteufel Salazar, and informed the court of the mission's makeup (Appendix III).

On December 16 and 17, 2005, the mission met with representatives from institutions and organizations involved in the electoral process in order to get a sense of the electoral situation.

On election day, the mission visited nearly twenty polling stations in the cities of La Paz and El Alto to observe the electoral process.

2. MAKEUP OF THE DELEGATION

COPA president **Guillermo Landázuri Carrillo** appointed the members of the delegation on December 9, 2005.

The COPA delegation was made up of **Éric R. Mercier**, member of National Assembly of Québec, chair of the COPA Committee on Democracy and Peace, and head of the mission.

Additional members were **Pablo Franco Hernández**, deputy of the Federal Congress of Mexico, and **Luciana Genro**, deputy of the Federal Congress of Brazil.

The parliamentarians were assisted by **Jacques Paquet** and **André Maimoni**, respectively of the COPA secretariats in Québec and Brazil, as well as **Francine Barry**, an electoral specialist and assistant to Québec's chief electoral officer.

3. THE PRE-ELECTION POLITICAL CONTEXT

In May and June 2005, Bolivia experienced a major political and social crisis that led to the resignation of President Carlos Mesa on June 6. Eduardo Rodriguez, the head of the Supreme Court, was appointed interim president by the Bolivian Congress on the night of June 9.

It was the second time in two years that grassroots opposition had forced the president from office. On October 17, 2003, Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada had also resigned in the face of widespread public protests.

The protesters called for the nationalization of the oil and gas industry, the renationalization of water distribution companies, and the creation of a constituent assembly to draft a new constitution guaranteeing the satisfaction of the social needs of the population.

On July 5, 2005, Congress voted to hold early presidential and legislative elections in December 2005. Normally, the elections should have been held in 2007.

The same day, in answer to protesters' demands, Congress also announced that a vote to elect a constituent assembly would be held on July 2, 2006, along with a referendum on regional autonomy, a partial response to demands from the department of Santa Cruz.¹

The announcement that general elections would be held early on December 4, 2005, was well received by the various political factions and by Bolivian voters.

However, on September 22, 2005, a constitutional crisis broke out that threatened to delay the general elections and spark the third presidential resignation in two years. The crisis was triggered by a Bolivian Constitutional Court decision stipulating that seats in the lower house of Congress would have to be redistributed to reflect population shifts recorded in the 2001 census.² The change would have given four extra seats to Santa Cruz, a department in southeastern Bolivia, at the expense of the capital La Paz and the department of Potosí, which would lose six altogether.

In the wake of the Constitutional Court decision, redistribution was debated in Congress. The president of the National Electoral Court (CNE), Mr. Oscar Hassenteuffel, declared that the elections would be postponed if the members of Congress were unable to reach an agreement by October 28. This was the deadline for redrawing electoral boundaries where required, and for printing and distributing ballots in time for the December 4 elections.

With Congress unable to agree on redistribution, the president of the republic broke the deadlock by adopting Supreme Decree No. 28429. The decree eliminated two seats in the department of La Paz, one in Potosí, and one in Oruro, and allocated three new seats to the department of Santa Cruz and one to Cochabamba. The decree also set a new date for the general elections: December 18.

¹ There are eight other departments in Bolivia: Beni, Cochabamba, Chuquisaca, Oruro, Pando, La Paz, Potosí, and Tarija.

² Section 88 of the Electoral Act governing the makeup of the Chamber of Deputies was declared unconstitutional.

The following table illustrates the new distribution of seats subsequent to the presidential decree:

Composition of the Chamber of Deputies Decree No. 28429 – November 1, 2005			
Departments	Single-Member	Multi-Member	Total
La Paz	16	13	29
Santa Cruz	11	14	25
Cochabamba	9	10	19
Potosí	8	6	14
Chuquisaca	6	5	11
Oruro	5	4	9
Tarija	5	4	9
Beni	5	4	9
Pando	3	2	5

On December 18, Bolivians were thus called to the polls to elect their president, deputies, and senators and, for the first time, the prefects of Bolivia's nine departments.

The main political parties and presidential candidates were as follows:

- Movement to Socialism (MAS) – Evo Morales
- PODEMOS – Jorge Quiroga;
- National Unity Front (UN) – Samuel Doria Medina;
- *Nueva Fuerza Republicana* (NFR) – Gildo Angulo Cabrera;
- *Movimiento Nacionalista Revolucionario* (MNR) – Michiaki Nagatani Morishita;
- *Movimiento Indígena Pachakuti* (MIP) – Felipe Quispe;
- *Unión Social de los Trabajadores de Bolivia* (USTB) – Néstor García Rojas;
- *Frente Patriótico Agropecuario de Bolivia* (FREPAB) – Eliseo Rodríguez.

4. THE LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF THE DECEMBER 2005 ELECTIONS

4.1 The Electoral Code

Under the Bolivian Electoral Code in effect since June 25, 1999, and amended most recently on October 5, 2004, the vote is universal, direct, free, compulsory, and secret (art. 5, paragraph A).

At the time of the second most recent amendments to the Code on August 23, 2004, changes were made to article 70 (paragraph f) as a result of the compulsory vote. The article stipulates that anyone who failed to exercise their right to vote in the last general or municipal elections will be removed from the voters list by the National Electoral Court.³

Since then, two registration periods—from April 23 to May 14 and from August 15 to September 5, 2005—have been held to allow citizens in this situation to reregister on the voters list.⁴

Under the Electoral Code, voter registration must be completed 90 days prior to election day (art. 73) and revision of the national voters list at least 50 days prior to election day (art. 76).

In Bolivia, election campaigns begin the day after the issue of the official writ of election and end 48 hours prior to voting day (art. 114). In the event of general or municipal elections, the executive branch, or failing that the national Congress, must provide notification of the writ at least 150 days prior to election day (art. 84).

Political parties, citizens' groups, aboriginal groups, and accredited coalitions must register their presidential, vice-presidential, senatorial, and legislative candidates at least 100 days prior to election day (art.112).

Each polling station is overseen by an electoral notary, whose duties include assisting electoral juries with the organization of voting tables as well as denouncing irregularities (art. 42).

Each voting table is staffed by an electoral jury made up of three citizens, one of whom acts as president, a second as secretary, and the third as a member (art. 49).

Each political party, citizens' group, aboriginal group, or accredited coalition is entitled to delegate one representative per voting table (art.49).

Lastly, it should be noted that motor vehicle travel is forbidden between 00:00 a.m. and midnight on election day unless expressly authorized by an electoral court (art. 145).

There is no advance polling.

³ According to statistics published by the National Electoral Court, 864,285 people have been struck from the voters list since the municipal elections of December 2004.

⁴ In preparation for the prefectural elections initially scheduled for August 2005.

The two following tables summarize the Bolivian electoral system:

Presidential Election – December 18, 2005	
1st round	<u>Universal suffrage</u>
2nd round	<u>Indirect suffrage</u> : Should none of the candidates receive more than 50% of the popular vote, Congress will choose between the two front-running candidates.

Legislative Elections – December 18, 2005		
	Chamber of Deputies	Senate
Members	130 (direct vote)	27 (direct vote)
Electoral districts	68 single member seats	9 multimember departments (3 seats)
	9 multimember departments	
Electoral system	First past the post – 68 deputies	Direct party list majority - Majority party: 2 seats - Second place party: 1 seat
	Direct party list proportional based on a double quotient – 62 deputies	

4.2 Bolivian electoral authorities

Under the Electoral Code, Bolivian electoral authorities and organizations are hierarchically structured as follows:

- a) National Electoral Court
- b) Departmental electoral courts
- c) Electoral judges (*jueces electorales*)
- d) Electoral juries (*jurados de las mesas de sufragio*)
- e) Electoral notaries (*notarios electorales*)
- f) Other officials

In other words, the National Electoral Court (CEN) is the ultimate authority in electoral matters.

Bolivian electoral organizations are independent in overseeing the electoral process and are neither functionally linked nor subordinate to any state institutions.

To ensure the constitutional principle of electoral autonomy, independence, and impartiality is respected, the National Electoral Court is empowered to make its own budget, administer its own resources, and approve its own internal by-laws (art. 12).

Decisions by the National Electoral Court are irreversible and binding, except where matters fall within the jurisdiction or purview of Bolivia's Constitutional Court (art. 28).

According to the Electoral Code, no government ministries are involved in the electoral process.

Powers, functions, and duties of the national and departmental electoral courts

The powers, functions, and duties of the National Electoral Court include the following:

- Recognizing the judicial personality of the political parties participating in general elections
- Organizing and administering the voters list
- Registering candidates from the various parties
- Approving and publishing the electoral calendar no later than 15 days after the issue of the writ of election
- Publicly releasing all final vote tallies for the country after each election
- Swearing in elected candidates
- Planning, organizing, overseeing, coordinating, implementing, controlling, and evaluating election-related technical and administrative tasks (art. 29)

The powers, functions, and duties of departmental electoral courts include the following:

- Appointing electoral judges, notaries, and inspectors
- Publicly counting the votes cast in their respective departments and reporting the results to the National Electoral Court
- Looking into complaints and reported electoral irregularities and taking appropriate legal action
- Planning, organizing, overseeing, coordinating, implementing, controlling, and evaluating election-related technical and administrative tasks in their respective districts in keeping with the guidelines issued by the National Electoral Court (art. 35)

Makeup and appointment of members of the national and department electoral courts

The National Electoral Court is made up of five members, two of whom must be practicing lawyers. The departmental electoral courts are also made up of five members, with the exception of the courts in La Paz and Santa Cruz, which have ten members, and the court in Cochabamba, which has seven (art. 26).

One member of the National Electoral Court is appointed by the president of the republic, as is one member of each of the departmental electoral courts.

The four additional members of the National Electoral Court are designated by Congress in a secret ballot requiring a two-thirds majority of all members present.

The four additional members of the departmental electoral courts are chosen from a list of candidates submitted by the National Electoral Court to Congress in a secret ballot requiring a two-thirds majority of all members present. In the case of the departments of La Paz and Santa Cruz, Congress must choose nine members and, in the case of Cochabamba, six.

Members of the national and departmental electoral courts are elected for four years and are eligible for reelection. The president of the National Electoral Court is elected by the other members of the court in a secret ballot requiring a two-thirds majority.

Members of the National Electoral Court cannot be suspended or removed from office except in cases specifically provided for in the Electoral Code and the Responsibilities Act.

Lastly, note that all political parties and citizens' and aboriginal groups with a recognized juridical personality are entitled to delegate one permanent and one alternate member to represent and speak for them at the National Electoral Court and each departmental electoral court (art. 31 and 36).

4.3 Results of the December 18, 2005 general elections

The two tables below show the presidential and congressional election results as posted on the National Electoral Court website (as of January 23, 2005).

Presidential Candidates	Political Parties	Votes	%
Evo Morales	MAS	1,544,374	53.740%
Jorge Quiroga	PODEMOS	821,745	28.594%
Samuel Doria Medina	UN	224,090	7.798%
Michiaki Nagatani Morishita	MNR	185,859	6.467%
Felipe Quispe	MIP	61,948	2.156%
Gildo Angulo Cabrera	NFR	19,667	0.684%
Eliseo Rodríguez	FREPAB	8,737	0.304%
Néstor García Rojas	USTB	7,381	0.257%

Source: National Electoral Court of Bolivia

Chamber of Deputies		Senate	
Political Parties	No. of Seats/130	Political Parties	No. of Seats/27
MAS	72	PODEMOS	13
PODEMOS	43	MAS	12
UN	8	UN	1
MNR	7	MNR	1

Source: National Electoral Court of Bolivia

5. MISSION ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY

5.1 Arrival of the delegation and accreditation of members

Upon their arrival in Bolivia on December 15, 2005, the members of the delegation issued a press release (Appendix IV) announcing the makeup of the delegation and its objectives, and briefly introducing COPA.

On November 3, 2005, the Organization of American States signed an agreement with Bolivia to send a team of observers to monitor the December 18 general elections at the invitation of the Bolivian government. On site, the OAS was mandated by the National Electoral Court to coordinate all international observers. When the members of the COPA delegation learned of this situation upon their arrival in Bolivia, they contacted the OAS mission leaders to obtain the required accreditation.

The COPA observation mission would like to thank the Canadian Consulate in Bolivia and the Brazilian Embassy for their invaluable assistance in obtaining accreditation for the delegation.

5.2 Working meetings with representatives of institutions and organizations involved in the electoral process

To get a sense of the Bolivian electoral situation, members of the delegation held working meetings with representatives of various institutions and organizations involved in the electoral process, which are summarized below:⁵

A) Electoral officials

Salvador Romero Ballivián, member of the National Electoral Court (*Corte Nacional Electoral* CNE) – Friday, December 16, 2005 at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting with Mr. Romero was very instructive for the delegation. It obtained additional information on the location of polling stations, the method used to select election workers (random draw), and the rights of international observers on election day.

Mr. Romero did not anticipate any difficulties or fraud on election day, especially since the political parties would have representatives assigned to the various polling stations.

The meeting with Mr. Romero was also highly beneficial in that he issued the delegation with two election-day vehicle passes. Since car travel is prohibited on election day, the passes were vital to ensure the independence of the COPA electoral observation mission.

⁵ Members of the mission only report the comments made by institutional and organizational representatives and do not pass any judgment.

B) Political parties

Peter Maldonado Bakovic, Secretary of International Relations, *Frente de Unidad Nacional* – Saturday, December 17, 2005, at 6 p.m.

UN is a political party that was founded on December 12, 2003. As a new party, it was not represented in Congress prior to the election. However, its presidential candidate, Samuel Doria Medina, was third in the polls.

After outlining his party's history and policies, Mr. Maldonado affirmed his confidence in the electoral process and said that Bolivian elections were much better organized now. He also expressed his confidence in the validity of the voters list drawn up by electoral officials.

He did not expect any problems or fraud issues on election day. However, he did have two concerns about potential problems with the transport of ballots and with computer system reliability. He explained that throughout the country, there were fraud concerns about ballot box substitution wherever ballot boxes are transported after the polls close. As for the computer system, he alleged that there had been rumors of vote count data entry fraud in the Department of Potosi during the 2002 general elections, and that this could happen again.

Antonio Peredo Leigue, senatorial candidate, *Movimiento al Socialismo* (MAS) – Saturday, December 17, 2005, at 8 p.m.

MAS is a political party that was founded on July 23, 1987. It is led by Evo Morales Ayma, who was its presidential candidate. Since the 2002 general elections, MAS has been the second largest party in the Bolivian Congress and the main opposition.

Commenting on the election campaign, Mr. Peredo was critical of the media and accused them being clearly biased in favor of PODEMOS, the party led by Mr. Jorge Quiroga.

Mr. Peredo had concerns about the possibility of fraud on election day, and anticipated deficiencies and irregularities. He was also worried about the validity of the voters list, given that all citizens who had failed to vote in the December 5, 2004 municipal elections had been removed from the list under the new provisions of the law. Like the representatives of the other organizations the COPA delegation met with during its mission, he also alluded to the potential for problems during ballot box transfer and vote count data entry.

However, he asserted that there had been significant improvements in the way elections were organized in the course of the past 20 years. He said that despite certain problems, the electoral process was valid and the results of the December 18 election would be clear and unequivocal.

C) Civil society

Guillermo Vilela D. de M., president of the Permanent Assembly of Human Rights of Bolivia (*Asamblea Permanente de Derechos Humanos de Bolivia*) – Friday, December 16, 2005, at 5:15 p.m.

Throughout the election campaign, Mr. Vilela said his organization faced two recurrent problems, especially in rural areas: corruption and limited access to information. In his view, the population remains disillusioned and unmotivated because the “politics of corruption” persists unchanged and unpunished. He said that the spring 2005 demonstrations that sparked the resignation of President Carlos Mesa were fueled by a desire for renewal and for transparency from the political and economic elite.

Mr. Vilela also raised another problem: the lack of independence between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. He noted that members of the public and certain political parties distrusted the National Electoral Court, which was criticized for failing to properly control election advertising and for the fact that one of its members was still a member of a political party. He maintained that there was a certain public wariness of the electoral process.

As for the role of the media in the electoral process, he deplored that television and the press were in pro-government hands, but said a broader, more balanced range of opinion could be heard on talk radio.

Mr. Vilela identified two moments when irregularities could occur on voting day: 1) when ballots are cast and 2) when voting data is entered into the computer system. With respect to the first possibility, he maintained that there was a way for people to sell their votes, but that the best way to control it was still the presence of party representatives at polling stations on election day.

D) Diplomatic representatives

At 9 a.m. on Friday, December 16, 2005, the Québec members of the COPA delegation met with Canada’s diplomatic representative in Bolivia, **Enrique Madueno**, Counselor, Head of Cooperation, and Consul. The meeting was an opportunity to present the objectives of the COPA electoral observation mission and find out more about the Bolivian electoral situation, including issues like security, the role of international observers, and the potential for electoral fraud. As mentioned earlier, the Canadian consul was a big help to the COPA delegation in obtaining accreditation from the mission of the Organization of American States, the organization in charge of coordinating international observers.

At the same time, the coordinator of the COPA secretariat in Brazil, **André Maimoni**, held a working meeting with the Brazilian ambassador to Bolivia, **Antonio Lisboa Mena Gonçalves**. The ambassador also helped obtain accreditation for the Brazilian members of the delegation.

6. MISSION ACTIVITIES ON ELECTION DAY

6.1 Composition and deployment of the COPA observation teams

On election day, the COPA delegation was divided into two teams of observers.

1) The first team, made up of **Éric R. Mercier**, **Jacques Paquet**, and **Francine Barry**, visited ten polling stations in La Paz and El Alto:

No.	City/District	Polling Station Name	# of tables	Arrival	Departure
95	La Paz/ Sopocachi Alto	Colegio San Luis	33	8:05 a.m.	8:45 a.m.
50	El Alto/ Villa Aroma	Unid. Educ. Aniceto Arce	14	9:45 a.m.	10:20 a.m.
27	La Paz/ Zona Norte	Liceo. Tec. Humanistico Nuestra Sra de La Paz	8	11:55 a.m.	12:15 p.m.
29	La Paz/ Miraflores	Esc. Piloto Naciones Unidas	19	12:20 p.m.	12:45 p.m.
63	La Paz/ Villa Armonia	Colegio Waldo Ballivian	21	1 p.m.	1:20 p.m.
59	La Paz/ IV Centenario	Unid. Educ. Simon Bolivar	10	1:30 p.m.	1:50 p.m.
66	La Paz/ Bolonia	Colegio FF. AA. de la Nacion	11	2 p.m.	2:15 p.m.
67	La Paz/ Irpavi	Esc. Rosemari de Barrientos	27	2:20 p.m.	2:40 p.m.
72	La Paz/ Calacoto – La Florida	Esc. Santa Rosa La Florida	15	2:50 p.m.	3:10 p.m.
92	La Paz/ Kantutani – San Jorge	Col. Amor de Dios	14	4 p.m.	4:30 p.m.

2) The second team, made up of **Pablo Franco Hernández**, **Luciana Genro** and **André Maimoni**, visited nine polling stations in La Paz and El Alto:

Nº	City/District	Polling Station Name	# of tables	Arrival	Departure
20	El Alto/ Villa 12 de Octubre	Col. 12 de Octubre	21	8:25	8:50 a.m.
25	El Alto/ Villa Dolores	Col. Juan Capriles	25	9:10 a.m.	9:25 a.m.
21	El Alto/ Villa 12 de Octubre	C.E.F.I.	2	9:30 a.m.	9:35 a.m.
24	El Alto/ Villa Dolores	Esc. Eva Peron	19	9:40 a.m.	10 a.m.
106	La Paz/ Pasankeri	Col. Luis Espinal Camps	18	10:20 a.m.	10:50 a.m.
114	La Paz/ Tembladerani	Parqueo Stadium Bolivar	15	11 a.m.	11:15 a.m.
97	La Paz/ Sopocachi Bajo	Col. Gregório Reynolds	12	11:20 a.m.	11:35 a.m.
68	La Paz/ Koani	Instituto Domingo Savio	7	11:50 a.m.	12:20 a.m.
89	La Paz/ Obrajes	Instituto Americano	18	3:50 p.m.	6:20 p.m.

6.2 Aspects observed

To help them perform their work as observers, the parliamentarians on the mission had received an electoral observation grid prepared by the secretariat of the COPA Committee on Democracy and Peace. A copy of the grid (see Appendix V) was completed at each polling station visited. It is divided into eight parts and is based on the provisions of the Bolivian Electoral Code, especially articles 134 to 180. The grid covers the following areas:

- 1) General information on the observer and polling station
- 2) The polling station
- 3) Election materials
- 4) Voters
- 5) Complaints
- 6) Other observations
- 7) Vote counting
- 8) Overall assessment

To collect this information, the observers mainly talked to the electoral notaries and juries on duty at the polling stations visited.

The two teams of observers also sought to obtain a relatively representative sample of voting practices by visiting polling stations in a cross-section of La Paz and El Alto neighborhoods, i.e., working class, middle class, and wealthier areas.

7. MISSION FINDINGS

Here are the main findings, which are illustrated with the help of the five tables included in the observation grid provided to COPA delegation members. The tables cover the following aspects: 1) the polling stations; 2) election materials (2 tables); 3) complaints; and 4) general observations. A fifth aspect—the vote count—is not illustrated by a table. A grid was completed for each of the 19 polling stations visited. The compiled results are as follows.⁶

7.1 The polling stations

In most cases, polling stations were open for the required period—8 a.m. to 4 p.m. In the event of delayed openings, hours were extended to compensate.

	YES	NO	More or less
Suitable polling station site and setup	15	0	4
Polling station is complete	19	0	0
Presence of security forces	19	0	0
Presence of candidate/party representatives	19	0	0
Presence of election advertising on site	3	16	0
Acts of voter intimidation	0	19	0

The physical setup of the polling stations was unusual, as voters were often short of space. However, it would appear that this is customary and the voters did not complain.

Despite the presence of a large number of voters at each voting table, voting went ahead in an orderly fashion.

The second team of observers noted the unlawful presence of PODEMOS party election advertising in restricted areas at polling stations 24 and 21 in El Alto.

7.2 Election materials

In general, election materials were available in sufficient quantities in keeping with prescribed standards.

	YES	NO
Properly sealed ballot boxes	19	0
Voting booths ensuring voter secrecy	19	0
Poll book	19	0
Voters list	18	1
Ballots in sufficient quantity	18	1
Ballots initialed by polling station staff	19	0

⁶ These results are only a snapshot of the observations made by the members of the COPA delegation.

The second team of observers reported that the voters list was missing at polling station No. 21 in El Alto

At polling station No. 59 in La Paz, the electoral notary informed the first team of observers that he was short 150 ballots at 1:40 p.m. and that the departmental electoral court had been notified. No explanation was given for the shortage.

	Very good	Good	Poor	Very poor
Election materials	18		1	
Work of polling station officials	19			
Work of security agents	19			

In a number of polling booths, security agents helped electoral notaries guide voters to their voting tables.

The second team of observers noted that at polling station No. 24 in El Alto, officials at one voting table were distributing ballots to voters without first showing them to the political party representatives, which was contrary to normal practice.

7.3 Complaints

Political party representatives and voters made a number of oral complaints to officials in charge of the various polling stations.

	YES	NO
Complaints by party or candidate representatives	5	14
Complaints by voters	10	9

In many polling stations—numbers 29, 59, 63, 66, 67, 72 and 106 in La Paz; and 21, 24 and 50 in El Alto—there were numerous complaints from people who had been struck off the voters list for failing to vote in the last municipal elections.

At polling station No. 50 in El Alto, voting was temporarily interrupted when political party representatives complained to polling station officials about being asked to stay over 1 meter away from the voting tables. A few voters tried to cast ballots using their old voter registration cards because they had been removed from the voters list under the new provisions of the law. Lastly, one person tried to vote using a photocopy of his voter registration card. The electoral notary asked him to come back with official documents, such as a passport.

At polling station No. 59 in La Paz, party representatives complained that there were sometimes more than one representative of the same party per table.

At polling station No. 72 in La Paz, party representatives complained that representatives from other parties were too obviously dressed in their party colors.

7.4 General observations

Generally, there was compliance with Electoral Code provisions for the aspects observed.

	YES	NO
Respect for ballot secrecy	19	0
Presence of more than one voter in the voting booth	0	19
Electoral staff compliance with procedures	19	0
Voter understanding of procedures	19	0
Orderly conduct of voting	19	0
Interruption in voting during the day	1	18

The observation grid included an item on the presence of unauthorized persons in polling stations. No observations were recorded for this item because it is customary practice for all to be able to circulate freely within polling stations.

At polling station No. 66 in La Paz, voting was temporarily interrupted during a brief visit by a prefectural candidate, as stipulated by law.

7.5 Vote count

COPA observers were on hand during vote counting in polling stations 89 and 92 in La Paz. The count was performed in a serious, calm, and open manner in compliance with the provisions of the Electoral Code.

8. MISSION CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

At the end of the mission, the members of the delegation drafted and issued a press release (Appendix VI) announcing their conclusions and observations.

COPA parliamentarians and their assistants were generally satisfied with the conduct of the elections. They found that electoral procedures had been followed for the most part, and that the vote had proceeded in an orderly and festive atmosphere.

They were very impressed by the seriousness and the sense of civic duty showed by Bolivians in the course of the elections.

Although the members of the delegation witnessed certain minor irregularities, they did not feel that these affected the overall integrity of the electoral process.

With respect to the main fraud risks raised at the meetings held prior to election day with representatives of institutions and organizations involved in the electoral process—i.e., the transport of ballot boxes and vote count data entry—the delegation was unable to observe these aspects of the electoral process.

However, the delegation was concerned by the fact that many people had been struck from the voters list under the new provisions of the law and were unable to exercise their right to vote.

This situation is regrettable and could have had serious consequences for the electoral process, especially had the presidential election results been closer.

The delegation agrees that the voters list problem is the weak spot in the Bolivian electoral process and believes that the competent authorities would be well advised to make changes to improve the quality of the voters list in time for the next elections.

To this effect, the COPA observation mission recommends that Bolivian electoral officials...

- Take steps to increase public awareness and understanding of the Electoral Code provision stipulating that anyone who fails to vote in general or municipal elections will be removed from the voters list
- Ensure that Bolivian voters are better informed about the period for reregistering on the voters list.

Lastly, the members of the delegation were very pleased with the warm and friendly welcome they received from Bolivians at the working meetings they held prior to the elections and during their polling station visits.

Further to the COPA electoral observation mission, copies of this report shall be sent to the Bolivian electoral authorities, the Bolivian foreign ministry, and the persons in charge of the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy at the Organization of American States (OAS).

The report will also be presented to parliamentarians at the next COPA General Assembly and posted on the COPA website.

9. APPENDICES

Appendix I – Resolution on Bolivia

Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) Executive Committee Meeting

Quito, Ecuador
August 18 and 19, 2005

RESOLUTION ON BOLIVIA

WHEREAS one objective of COPA is to “contribute to the strengthening of parliamentary democracy and to the building of a community of the Americas founded on the respect for dignity and human rights, peace, democracy, solidarity between peoples, social justice, and gender equality”;

WHEREAS in recent months Bolivia has faced a severe political and social crisis that led to the resignation of President Carlos Mesa on June 6;

WHEREAS this is the second president in two years who has been forced to resign due to public unrest;

WHEREAS Supreme Court Chief Eduardo Rodriguez was named interim president by the Bolivian Congress in the early hours of June 10, 2005;

WHEREAS the interim president officially announced on July 6, with the approval of the Bolivian Congress, that legislative and presidential elections would be held on December 4;

We, the members of the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas meeting in Quito, Ecuador, on August 18 and 19, 2005,

EXPRESS our grave concern regarding the prevailing political and social situation in Bolivia, despite the easing of tensions since the swearing in of interim president Eduardo Rodriguez;

APPLAUD the maturity of Bolivian political actors for respecting constitutional mechanisms during the social and political crisis that led to the resignation of president Mesa;

DEMONSTRATE our support for and solidarity with the Bolivian society and the democratic institutions of this country, particularly the electoral authorities, in the organization of the anticipated general elections of next December 4th;

OFFER to send a COPA electoral observation mission to the anticipated legislative and presidential elections in Bolivia if, in accordance with the By-Laws of COPA Electoral Observation Missions and in full respect of the national sovereignty of Bolivia, the appropriate authorities of this country officially request this.

Quito, Ecuador, August 18, 2005

Appendix II – Official invitation of Bolivia's National Electoral Court

La Paz, 1 de diciembre de 2005

PROT. No. 093/2005

Señor Jaime Siles Otazo
Cónsul Honorario de Bolivia
Québec, Canadá

Distinguido señor Cónsul:

Como ya es de su conocimiento, el 18 de diciembre se realizarán en Bolivia elecciones generales para elegir Presidente, Vicepresidente, Senadores y Diputados tanto Uninominales como Plurinominales. Por otro lado, en la misma fecha se elegirán por primera vez Prefectos (as) Departamentales.

En este contexto, la participación de observadores electorales constituye un hecho fundamental que, sobre todo, permitirá el intercambio de experiencias entre miembros de los organismos electorales de la región, con el objetivo de fortalecer nuestras democracias y hacer de la administración de los procesos electorales un ejercicio cada vez más eficiente.

Por esa razón, la Sala Plena de la Corte Nacional Electoral de Bolivia tiene el agrado de invitar mediante su autoridad a la Confederación de Parlamentarios de las Américas (COPA), con sede en Québec, Canadá a participar de este acto eleccionario como observador internacional dada la importancia que reviste para la democracia de nuestro país.

La Corte Nacional Electoral por razones presupuestarias no podrá cubrir gastos de transporte, alojamiento, alimentación y desplazamientos internos.

Rogamos verificar si es necesaria una visa para visitar Bolivia. En todo caso nuestro Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores brindará a ustedes toda la atención requerida.

Sin otro particular, saludo a usted con las consideraciones mas distinguidas.

Annexe III - Letter of acceptance and designation

Appendix IV – Press Release - December 15, 2005

A delegation of representatives from the Americas will observe Bolivian elections

La Paz, December 15, 2005—Mr. Éric R. Mercier, a member of the Québec National Assembly, is heading up a delegation of parliamentarians from the **Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA)** who will observe the presidential and legislative elections in Bolivia on December 18. Along with Mr. Mercier, the delegation will include Mr. Pablo Franco Hernández, member of the Mexico Federal Congress, as well as Ms. Luciana Genro and Mr. Paes Landim, members of the Brazil Federal Congress.

COPA president Guillermo Landázuri Carrillo decided to send the delegation after receiving a request in this regard from authorities in the Republic of Bolivia. Upon arrival today, the delegation will meet with the main players in the electoral process to take stock of the situation in the country as it heads into the election. On voting day, the delegates will spread out around the capital city area of La Paz to observe the elections at as many polling stations as possible.

It will be COPA's first electoral observation mission since adopting a regulatory framework for missions at its General Assembly in Foz do Iguaçu in May 2005.

The parliamentarians will be assisted by Mr. Jacques Paquet and Mr. André Maimoni, from the Quebec and Brazil COPA secretariats respectively, as well as Ms. Francine Barry, assistant to the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec.

Founded in Quebec City in 1997, the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) brings together over 300 parliamentary assemblies of unitary, federal, federated, and associated states, as well as the regional parliaments and interparliamentary organizations of the Americas. It promotes dialog on issues related to inter-American cooperation and continental integration and helps strengthen parliamentary democracy and build the Americas into a community founded on respect for human rights and dignity, peace, democracy, solidarity among peoples, social justice, and gender equality.

Appendix V – Observer's Grid

**BOLIVIAN PRESIDENTIAL AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS
December 18, 2005**

ELECTION OBSERVER'S GRID

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of observer: _____

Region/Locality: _____

Polling station: _____

Arrival time: _____

Departure time: _____

2. POLLING STATION

Opening time: _____

Reasons for delay (if any):

Polling station composition: _____

	YES	NO
Suitable polling station site and setup		
Polling station is complete		
Presence of security forces		
Presence of candidate/party representatives		
Presence of election advertising on site		
Acts of voter intimidation		

Details: _____

3. ELECTION MATERIALS

	YES	NO
Properly sealed ballot boxes		
Voting booths ensuring voter secrecy		
Poll book		
Voters list		
Clean list		
Ballots in sufficient quantity		
Ballots initialed by polling station staff		

	Very good	Good	Poor	Very poor
Election materials				
Work of polling station officials				
Work of security agents				

Details: _____

4. VOTERS

Number of voters registered: _____

Waiting time: _____

Average time required to vote: _____

Voters admitted without I.D.: _____

Voters admitted who were not registered: _____

Voters signed the voting record: _____

Details: _____

5. COMPLAINTS

	YES	NO
Complaints by party or candidate representatives		
Complaints by voters		

Details: _____

6. OTHER OBSERVATIONS

	YES	NO
Respect for ballot secrecy		
Presence of more than one voter in the voting booth		
Electoral staff compliance with procedures		
Voter understanding of procedures		
Presence of unauthorized persons in the polling station		
Visit by other national observers		
Visit by other international observers		
Orderly conduct of voting		
Interruption in voting during the day		

Details: _____

7. VOTE COUNT

Vote count start time: _____

Number of voters registered: _____

Number of people who voted: _____

Invalid ballots: _____

Blank ballots: _____

Challenges by representatives: _____

Details: _____

Signature of tallies by representatives: _____

Level of security for transport of material to the departmental court

Excellent ()

Average ()

Low ()

Details: _____

8. OVERALL EVALUATION

Irregularities to report: ()

Minor irregularities: () Specify

Serious irregularities capable of affecting the integrity of the electoral process: ()
Specify

Remarks: _____

Appendix VI – Press release - December 20, 2005

COPA observation mission

Parliamentarians satisfied with the election process in Bolivia

La Paz, December 20, 2005—A delegation of parliamentarians from the **Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA)** headed by Mr. Éric R. Mercier, a member of the Québec National Assembly, observed the presidential, legislative, and prefectorial elections in Bolivia on December 18, and expressed satisfaction with the voting process. The delegation also included Mr. Luciano Genro, member of the Federal Congress of Brazil, and Mr. Pablo Franco Hernández, member of the Federal Congress of Mexico.

On voting day, delegates spread out around the capital city area of La Paz to observe the election process in more than twenty polling stations. The members of the delegation noted that the electoral procedure was respected and that the vote ran smoothly. “I was impressed with the responsible citizenship and seriousness demonstrated by the Bolivian citizens in this election,” declared Mr. Mercier. “However, our delegation regrets that, with the application of the new legislative provisions, some voters were left off the electoral list and could not exercise their right to vote,” he added.

It was at the request of Republic of Bolivia authorities that COPA president Guillermo Landázuri Carrillo decided to send the delegation. Upon arrival on December 15, the delegation met with the main players in the electoral process to take stock of the situation in the country as it headed into the election.

It was COPA’s first electoral observation mission since adopting a regulatory framework for missions at its General Assembly in Foz do Iguaçu in May 2005.

Founded in Quebec City in 1997, the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) brings together over 300 parliamentary assemblies of unitary, federal, federated, and associated states, as well as the regional parliaments and interparliamentary organizations of the Americas. It helps strengthen parliamentary democracy and build the Americas into a community founded on respect for human rights and dignity, peace, democracy, solidarity among peoples, social justice, and gender equality.



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS
VII GENERAL ASSEMBLY
QUITO, ECUADOR, FROM MAY 29 TO JUNE 3, 2006**

**Committee on Economy, Trade, Labor,
and Trading Blocs**

DECLARATION

The 2nd Committee of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas, meeting in Quito, Ecuador from May 31 to June 3, 2006, to exchange points of view and discuss issues of common interest concerning the socioeconomic integration and development of the peoples of the Americas, hereby issues this declaration while taking into account the following considerations:

CONSIDERATIONS

When first founded, COPA undertook to help advance the integration process in the Americas through parliamentary assemblies, a commitment that, at the time, referred almost exclusively to the creation of a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

But today, this integration process has ground to a halt due to the uncompromising stance of the U.S. on issues such as the abolition of farm subsidies, limitations on intellectual property, and preferential access for products from poor countries, regions, or sectors.

At the same time, interest in a number of regional integration initiatives has grown, such as the initiatives of the South American Community of Nations, formed and supported by MERCOSUR and the Andean Community, as well as those of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA) and bilateral trade agreements or treaties with the U.S., which together constitute a highly diversified selection of agreements and alliances.

Given current economic and political conditions, which are conducive to amicable relations and substantive agreements capable of broadening economic and social development perspectives for our peoples, we claim the democratic right of the citizenry in each of our countries to determine the type of agreements and integration it considers most suitable.

We believe that, in pursuing the objective of regional and inter-American integration or the conclusion of bilateral trade agreements, we must seek to do more than simply eliminate barriers to trade and foreign investment. This process must include a social action component focused on developing our respective countries and building a climate of cooperation among our peoples, with the goal of ensuring our citizens the highest possible level of equality and wellbeing.

We must continue working toward a new model of integration for the Americas, with the key objective of developing policies to establish mechanisms for countries in the region to join together, reduce existing asymmetries, and promote the development of the entire region in order to address as a unified front the challenges of globalization.

But this process must also be democratic in form, since to date the public has been virtually excluded from consultations on economic and integration policies in our region. COPA plays a crucial role in this respect as an organization well positioned to encourage parliaments to do what it takes to give the public a voice in the integration process in the Americas.

DECLARATION

Free trade and integration agreements must account for the asymmetries and inequalities among countries and provide for programs to help ensure economic convergence by fostering development in the least-advanced nations. Any country signing a trade agreement should benefit therefrom.

Free trade and integration agreements must provide for specific economic compensation mechanisms, such as preferential deadlines and conditions, facilitated market access, and development funds.

Negotiations for free trade agreements must bring to light any nontariff barriers and transform them as appropriate into additional protective measures of benefit to the weakest economies.

These agreements must recognize the poorest countries' right to protect sectors of their economies of strategic importance to their development and vital to their sovereignty, such as agriculture, which is essential to food independence, as well as their right to support production in these critical sectors without accusations of unfair competition.

These agreements must recognize countries' right to protect services that assure fundamental social rights, such as education, health care, and social security, as well as natural resources indispensable to survival, such as water.

These agreements must recognize countries' right to exercise sovereignty with regard to biodiversity, natural products, public health care, and cultural heritage, notwithstanding any intellectual property, trade, or investment regulations.

These agreements must establish the primacy of complementarity over free competition between countries to promote cooperation in terms of development, trade, and productive investment during discussions in order to compensate for countries' deficiencies, meet their real needs, and improve citizenry quality of life.

These agreements must account for the social and environmental dimension inherent in all economic processes. As parliamentarians, we cannot support free trade and integration agreements that fail to provide concrete improvements with regard to gender equality, human rights, and rights with respect to labor, the environment, and culture.

Any agreement of this nature engaging the responsibility of signatory states must leave room for the democratic dimension, i.e., they must contain provisions on social inclusion, as well as the public's right to take part in the process, be consulted, and pronounce on the outcome of negotiations. Parliaments must be able to take permanent part in all regional or inter-American integration processes, which must strengthen or create zones of social representation in important decisions affecting how this process is to come about.



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS
7TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
QUITO, ECUADOR, MAY 29 TO JUNE 3, 2006**

Commission on education, culture, science and technology

Recommendations on education

WHEREAS by competency, we mean the combination of knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that allow human beings to work effectively and to improve their quality of social and personal life;

WHEREAS in 1990, during the UNESCO World Conference on Education for All held in Thailand, participants adopted the *World Declaration on Education for All*;

WHEREAS this declaration stated that everyone—children, adolescents, and adults—should have the opportunity to benefit from the educational opportunities required to meet their fundamental learning needs and that these needs also include the essential learning tools human beings need to survive, fully develop their faculties, live and work with dignity, improve their quality of life, make informed decisions, and continue to learn;

WHEREAS this declaration also stated that providing for these needs would give the members of all societies the ability—as well as the corresponding responsibility—to develop their common cultural, linguistic, and spiritual heritage, promote the education of others, defend the cause of social justice, protect the environment, and show tolerance towards social, political or religious systems different from their own, while ensuring that human values are safeguarded;

WHEREAS in keeping with the document entitled *Learning: The Treasure Within*, published by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), education must rest on four pillars: learning to know, which means acquiring the tools required for comprehension; learning to do, to be able to exert an influence on one's surroundings; learning to live together, to cooperate with others and take part in human activity; and learning to be, a fundamental process that includes elements from the three preceding pillars.

WHEREAS competency-based learning is learning that respects the requirements relative to the acquisition of a quality education;

WHEREAS competency acquisition aims to improve the living conditions of human beings at work as well as in their social and personal environments;

WE, the representatives of congresses and parliamentary assemblies of unitary, federal, federated, and associated states, regional parliaments, and interparliamentary organizations gathered in Quito, Ecuador for the 7th General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas,

REAFIRM that competency acquisition is important for finding work, communicating effectively, working better as a team, ensuring greater respect for different cultures and traditions, and generally improving the quality of life of human beings;

REITERATE that all people have the right to improve their quality of life through education;

URGE the states of the Americas to encourage, by way of their legislative bodies, and through their laws, education systems and theoretical and practical training programs, the use of methods promoting the acquisition of educational competencies for the betterment of their populations;

CALL ON the members of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas to ensure improvements in quality of life in their respective countries by providing their populations with opportunities to acquire the abovementioned educational competencies.



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS
VII GENERAL ASSEMBLY
QUITO, ECUADOR, FROM MAY 29 TO JUNE 3, 2006**

**Recommendation on the ratification of
the UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity**

CONVINCED that cultural products and services play an essential role in the identity and plurality of a society and the wellbeing of its members;

NOTING that the COPA General Assembly adopted a recommendation on cultural diversity in the Americas at its meeting in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, in May 2005;

WHEREAS the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions was adopted by UNESCO in October 2005, and thirty states must ratify it for it to be implemented;

WHEREAS parliaments and parliamentarians must play a key role in ensuring that this Convention enters into force and is implemented;

WHEREAS a single state of the Americas, Canada, has ratified it to date;

WE, the representatives of the congresses and parliamentary assemblies of unitary, federal, federated, and associated states, regional parliaments, and interparliamentary organizations, gathered in Quito, Ecuador, for the VII General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas,

And acting upon the recommendation of the Committee on Education, Culture, Science and Technology:

REITERATE that cultural diversity is a source of great wealth for our societies and that respect for and value of this diversity contributes to social cohesion and the development of our nations;

NOTE that each people has a right to ensure that no trade liberalization rules jeopardize its ability to promote its own culture and identity;

CALL ON the states of the Americas to ratify, accept, and approve this Convention, or abide by it as soon as possible in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures.



**7th General Assembly
of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA)**

**FOLLOWUP REPORT ON HEMISPHERIC IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON
THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS
AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS**

**Presented by Claude Boucher
Member of the Québec National Assembly
Rapporteur for the COPA Committee on Education,
Culture, Science, and Technology**

**Quito, Ecuador
May 30 to June 4, 2006**

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1. INTRODUCTION

On October 19, 2005, the 33rd UNESCO General Conference in Paris approved the *Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions* by a vote of 151 to two (plus two abstentions). After five years of effort and mobilization by the various actors involved, the international legal instrument on cultural diversity they had sought was created.

The Convention will come into effect three months after it has been ratified by 30 countries. Since the Convention specifies that the *Conference of Parties* will meet six months before the UNESCO General Conference in fall 2007, the goal for implementation is to have it ratified by at least 30 countries by June 2007. If this deadline is not met, it will delay the Convention's coming into effect until 2009 at the following UNESCO General Conference, an event held every two years. Mobilization has already begun to have the Convention ratified—a mobilization made all the more important by the fact that the 6th World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference held in Hong Kong in December 2005 revived Doha Round negotiations on the service sector.

This report covers the adoption of the Convention and upcoming steps to implement it. It looks at developments in international trade negotiations and stresses the need to quickly ratify the Convention so that it can be implemented. It points out how important it is for countries not to include cultural products and services in bilateral or multilateral trade negotiations until the Convention is implemented. In conclusion, it sets out courses of action for parliamentarians from COPA and throughout the Americas to promote the ratification of the convention by their respective governments.

2. DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

Firstly, negotiations for international trade liberalization are expanding to cover a growing number of fields. Some, such as services, investment, intellectual property, and electronic trade, are closely tied to the cultural sector, increasing pressure to further liberalize trade in this area.¹ In future, defenders of special status for culture in international treaties will need to closely monitor all sectors subject to negotiation and evaluate the potential impact of these negotiations on the ability of countries to adopt and maintain support measures for culture.

Secondly, FTAA negotiations have been stagnating for a number of months, encouraging countries in the Americas to negotiate and sign bilateral agreements.² The current popularity of bilateralism should not be underestimated in terms of its effect on preserving the cultural levers countries already possess. It must be stressed that the recent signing of bilateral treaties—notably by the United States—has already opened up a breach in the right of countries to legislate in certain areas that can affect culture. For example, certain recent bilateral agreements contain no exemptions for electronic trade, which makes all digital products subject to the same basic obligations as other commercial products.³ By signing such agreements, the

¹ It is important to remember that cultural goods and services represent a critical economic issue, notably for the U.S., where cultural products are the leading export.

² The failure of WTO negotiations in Cancun in September 2003 is another reason for the current “success” of the bilateral strategy.

³ For an in-depth analysis of the impact of U.S. bilateral agreements on cultural diversity, see Gilbert Gagné et al., *Les récents accords de libre-échange conclus par les États-Unis : une menace à la diversité culturelle*, report submitted to the Intergovernmental Agency of the Francophonie, Institut d'études internationales de Montréal, June 18, 2004, 69 p.

future ability of countries to take part in the new communications economy is thrown into question. These agreements create precedents that chart the course for the ratification of new bilateral treaties and could set the tone for negotiations on the future FTAA agreement. To date, a number of countries in the Americas have already signed such agreements or are in the midst of negotiations.

These last examples illustrate the limits of cultural exceptions.⁴ This measure remains a “defensive” strategy that hinders genuine support for the principle of cultural diversity. That is why a number of actors—governments, parliamentarians, and civil society—have fervently campaigned in recent years to stop cultural diversity protection from being viewed exclusively as an exception to trade agreements and have it considered instead as a goal in itself.⁵ To counterbalance the commercial logic underlying international trade negotiations, the cultural sector must have the support of an international legal agreement.

3. ADOPTION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS BY UNESCO (PARIS, OCTOBER 19, 2005)

Firstly, it is important to bear in mind that the Convention covers the protection of cultural expressions and not the protection of cultural diversity in a general perspective. Its focus is cultural goods and services, i.e. mainly books, film, music, and visual arts. In terms of the Convention, therefore, the definition of “cultural diversity” does not refer to the general notion of promoting multiculturalism. According to Part III of the Convention—

“Cultural diversity” refers to the manifold ways in which the cultures of groups and societies find expression. These expressions are passed on within and among groups and societies.

Cultural diversity is made manifest not only through the varied ways in which the cultural heritage of humanity is expressed, augmented, and transmitted through the variety of cultural expressions, but also through diverse modes of artistic creation, production, dissemination, distribution, and enjoyment, whatever the means and technologies used.

You will find a copy of the Convention in Appendix III. Below are the highlights:

- o The Convention establishes international recognition of the sovereign right of states and governments to draw up and implement cultural policies allowing the development of strong cultural sectors which may contribute to a genuine cultural diversity nationally and internationally.

[http://agence.francophonie.org/diversiteculturelle/fichiers/aif_etude_deblock_gagne_cote_2004.pdf].

⁴ It is important to remember that the cultural exemption strategy has proven ineffective in the past, notably in the dispute between the U.S. and Canada over magazines. The WTO dispute settlement body handed down a ruling that favored the U.S. trade argument over Canada’s “cultural” perspective.

⁵ Ivan Bernier, *A UNESCO International Convention on Cultural Diversity*, March 2003. Text available on the website of Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec, [<http://www.mcc.gouv.qc.ca/international/diversite-culturelle/pdf/chronique03-03.pdf>].

- o The Convention recognizes the distinctive nature of cultural goods and services. As soon as it takes effect, the Convention will serve as a reference instrument for countries undergoing pressure to liberalize their cultural sectors.
- o The Convention will serve as an international forum to debate the challenges facing the diversity of cultural expressions and the cultural policy sector. It provides for the establishment of two monitoring and implementation bodies, namely the *Conference of Parties* and the *Intergovernmental Committee*.
- o The Convention will become a lever for cooperation with developing countries striving to create durable cultural industries within their territory.

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS

The Convention will come into effect three months after the thirtieth ratification instrument is deposited. In order for the first *Conference of Parties* to meet at the next UNESCO General Conference in fall 2007, the thirtieth ratification instrument should be deposited no later than June 30, 2007, thus allowing the Convention to come into effect on September 30.

Canada was the first country to ratify the Convention, on November 23, 2005. The Québec National Assembly also moved rapidly to study, debate, and ratify the international agreement on the protection of cultural diversity on November 10, 2005. In Québec, the law calls for the National Assembly to approve any major international commitment the government intends to make, whether it involves a Québec international agreement or an international agreement concerning a matter under Québec's constitutional jurisdiction.

The Republic of Mauritius was the second country to ratify the Convention, on March 29, 2006. Other countries have also begun the ratification process and it will be worth monitoring the situation in the months ahead.

For the Convention to have real impact, it should ideally be ratified by a broad spectrum of countries from all regions of the world, including the Americas. COPA could, as a parliamentary forum, work to promote ratification in the Americas.

5. PROMOTION OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE AMERICAS

Here is a brief overview of measures to promote cultural diversity in the Americas:

The Inter-American Committee on Culture, whose goal is to coordinate the implementation of inter-American ministerial dialogue on matters of culture and fulfill the mandates of the Summit of the Americas and inter-American meetings of ministers of culture and highest appropriate authorities, held its first meeting in Mexico in September 2003.

Subsequently, at the conclusion of the Special Summit of the Americas in Monterrey in 2004, heads of state and government of the Americas reasserted that the cultural diversity characteristic of the hemisphere greatly enriches our societies and that our countries' cultural development and social cohesion are enhanced through respect for and appreciation of our cultural diversity.

Lastly, the Declaration of Mexico released at the Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities in August 2004, commended UNESCO's efforts in support of cultural diversity. The ministers singled out the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and the resolution adopted unanimously at UNESCO's 32nd General Conference to draw up a preliminary draft convention on the protection of cultural diversity, and they have undertaken to foster dialogue in this regard.

6. THE ISSUE OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY AT COPA

The issue of cultural diversity was addressed at the 1st COPA General Assembly in 1997, where parliamentarians agreed "to ensure the preservation and promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity, to act to reinforce the institutions concerned, and to ensure that linguistic plurality is respected within inter-American organizations, agencies, and institutions." They also agreed "to promote exchanges and closer ties between educational institutions, cultural institutions, and individuals as a means of promoting cultural diversity and contributing towards mutual understanding between the societies within our Hemisphere."⁶

At the first work session of the Committee on Education, Culture, Science, and Technology, held in Ixtapan de la Sal, Mexico, in November 2002, members discussed the issue of cultural diversity. They reiterated "the right of states to freely define and implement their own cultural policies and to undertake measures of support in the cultural domain" and called on heads of state and government of the Americas to refrain from "committing to trade liberalization agreements affecting the cultural sector in negotiations concerning the creation of a Free Trade Area of the Americas."⁷

The COPA General Assembly held in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, in May 2005 also adopted a recommendation on this issue based on the proposal of the Committee on Education, Culture, Science, and Technology. In this recommendation, we parliamentarians urged the heads of state and government in the Americas to

- "...abstain under the current conditions from all World Trade Organization (WTO) committees to liberalize cultural goods and services in order to avoid compromising cultural diversity promotion and support instruments"
- "...abstain from trade liberalization agreements affecting culture in negotiations for the Free Trade Area of the Americas"

We also undertook to

- "...participate in the activities of inter-American cultural institutions, namely the Inter-American Committee on Culture and the Inter-American Cultural Policy Observatory"
- "...ensure that the commitments made at Inter-American meetings on culture and education have tangible results and that all initiatives by inter-American government bodies respect the state's prerogative to legislate in the fields of culture and education"

⁶ Québec National Assembly (1998), Proceedings. Parliamentary Conference of the Americas, Québec City, Québec National Assembly, p.19.

⁷ Québec National Assembly (2003), Proceedings. 4th General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA), Québec National Assembly, p. 599.

7. CONCLUSION

Mobilization to ratify and implement the Convention in the Americas

The issues at stake in trade negotiations on culture are important. The pressure exerted on countries to surrender their right to establish cultural policy is mounting in the context of WTO negotiations and bilateral and regional free trade agreements, especially in the Americas.

The Convention will serve as a counterbalance to these trade agreements by recognizing the distinctive nature of cultural goods and services as vehicles of values, identity, and meaning.

As both parliamentarians and legislators, it is extremely important that we follow up politically on the commitments our governments have made to the Convention. Parliaments and parliamentarians have a crucial role to play in ratification and implementation.

The countries of the Americas should deal with the issue of protecting and promoting cultural expressions and ratify the Convention as soon as possible.

In the meantime, we, the parliamentarians of the Americas, must remain determined and vigilant. We must urge our governments to ratify the Convention and remind them to abstain from any commitments to culture sector trade liberalization in trade negotiations.

We therefore recommend that COPA take the following actions to promote ratification of the Convention:

- We propose that the COPA president send COPA's recommendation regarding ratification of UNESCO's Convention on cultural diversity (see Appendix I) to all heads of state and government in the Americas.
- We also urge all COPA regional vice presidents to agree to follow up on this recommendation with parliaments within their jurisdiction, mainly through the parliamentary committees responsible for trade negotiations and cultural issues.
- On an individual basis, we suggest that all parliamentarians on the COPA Executive Committee make a commitment to approach the speakers of their respective parliaments to have this issue put on the agenda and exert pressure on their governments to ratify the Convention.

At the next COPA General Assembly, a report on interventions and progress toward ratification of the Convention could be presented to the Committee on Education, Culture, Science, and Technology by each of our parliamentary delegations.

APPENDIX I



COPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING Mexico City, Mexico March 2, 2006

Recommendation on ratification of the UNESCO convention on cultural diversity

CONVINCED that cultural products and services play an essential role in the identity and plurality of a society and the wellbeing of its members;

NOTING that the COPA General Assembly adopted a recommendation on cultural diversity in the Americas at its meeting in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, in May 2005;

WHEREAS the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions was adopted by UNESCO in October 2005, and thirty states must ratify it for it to be implemented;

WHEREAS parliaments and parliamentarians must play a key role in ensuring that this Convention enters into force and is implemented;

WHEREAS a single state of the Americas, Canada, has ratified it to date;

We, the members of the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas meeting in Mexico City, Mexico, on March 2, 2006,

REITERATE that cultural diversity is a source of great wealth for our societies and that respect for and value of this diversity contributes to social cohesion and the development of our nations;

NOTE that each people has a right to ensure that no trade liberalization rules jeopardize its ability to promote its own culture and identity;

CALL ON the states of the Americas to ratify, accept, and approve this Convention, or abide by it as soon as possible in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures.

APPENDIX II



PERMANENT COPA COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, CULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

RECOMMENDATION

**Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil
May 10, 2005**

WHEREAS the heads of state and government of the Americas, at the conclusion of the Québec Summit in 2001, declared that they considered cultural diversity to be a source of great wealth for our societies and that respect for and value of this diversity must be a cohesive factor that strengthens the social fabric and development of our nations;

WHEREAS the Declaration of Cartagena de Indias, the product of the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities in July 2002, recognized the need for greater inter-American cooperation to maximize the benefits of globalization and mitigate its negative effects on the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity in the Americas, and proposed the creation of an Inter-American Committee on Culture and an Inter-American Cultural Policy Observatory;

WHEREAS the Inter-American Committee on Culture, whose goal is to coordinate the implementation of inter-American ministerial dialogue on matters of culture and fulfill the mandates of the Summit of the Americas and inter-American meetings of ministers of culture and highest appropriate authorities, held its first meeting in Mexico in September 2003;

WHEREAS the heads of state and government of the Americas reasserted at the conclusion of the Special Summit in Monterrey in 2004 that the cultural diversity that characterizes the Americas greatly enriches our societies and that the cultural development and social cohesion of our countries are enhanced through respect for and appreciation of our cultural diversity;

WHEREAS the Declaration of Mexico, the product of the Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities in August 2004, commended UNESCO's efforts in support of cultural diversity, notably the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and the resolution adopted unanimously at UNESCO's 32nd General Conference to draw up a preliminary draft of an international convention on the protection of cultural diversity, and that the ministers have undertaken to foster dialog in this regard;

WHEREAS cultural goods and services play an essential role in the identity and plurality of a society and the wellbeing of its members;

WHEREAS bilateral inter-American agreements have been negotiated and signed since FTAA negotiations have slowed down and the 5th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Cancún ended in failure, and these agreements compromise the ability of states to adopt measures to support their cultural policies and national cultural industries;

WHEREAS bilateral inter-American agreements have been negotiated and signed since FTAA negotiations geared down and the 5th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Cancún ended in failure, and these agreements compromise the ability of states to adopt measures to support their cultural policies and national cultural industries;

WHEREAS including exemption clauses for the cultural sector in certain trade agreements remains a valid “defense” strategy but is not enough to support the principles of respect and preservation of cultural diversity;

WE, the representatives of the congresses and parliamentary assemblies of unitary, federal, federated, and associated states, regional parliaments, and interparliamentary organizations, gathered in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, for the Sixth General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas:

REITERATE that cultural diversity is a source of great wealth for our societies and that respect for and value of this diversity contribute to social cohesion and the development of our nations;

REASSERT the right of states and governments to maintain, establish, and develop culture and cultural diversity support policies, in respect of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and in a spirit of openness to other cultures around the world;

INVITE the heads of state and government of the Americas to promote initiatives that foster cultural exchange between all their peoples with respect for their individual identities;

URGE the heads of state and government of the Americas to abstain under the current conditions from all World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments to liberalize cultural goods and services in order to avoid compromising cultural diversity promotion and support instruments;

URGE the heads of state and government of the Americas once again to abstain from trade liberalization agreements affecting culture in negotiations for the Free Trade Area of the Americas;

APPLAUD the United Nations’ (UN) initiative to declare May 21 the “World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialog and Development”;

UNDERTAKE to participate in the activities of inter-American cultural institutions, namely the Inter-American Committee on Culture and the Inter-American Cultural Policy Observatory;

UNDERTAKE to ensure that the commitments made at inter-American meetings on culture and education have tangible results and that all initiatives by inter-American government bodies respect the state's prerogative to legislate in the fields of culture and education;

ASK the COPA president to forward this recommendation to UNESCO and all national and international organizations involved or interested in the issue of cultural diversity.

APPENDIX III

**CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE DIVERSITY OF
CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS**

UNESCO, OCTOBER 2005



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS
7TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
QUITO, ECUADOR, MAY 29 TO JUNE 3, 2006**

**Committee on Health and Social Protection
June 2, 2006**

Report

Some thirty participants met for the work session of COPA's Permanent Committee on Health and Social Protection to discuss the issue of sexual and reproductive health in the Americas.

Ms. Flor Ríos, Member of the Legislative Assembly of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, acted as chair pro tempore in the absence of Ms. Elsa Rojas, Member of the National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba. Ms. Alba Allende de López, Member of the Chamber of Deputies of the Province of Entre Ríos, Argentina, acted as vice chair.

Ms. Aparecida Gama, President of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas and Member of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, presented the recommendations contained in the *Bahia Declaration*, a document stemming from the 13th Latin American Congress on Sexology and Sex Education held in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil from April 19 to 22, 2006, and attended by parliamentarians from Brazil and the United States.

Ms. Flor Ríos, Vice Chair of Women's Rights with the Legislative Assembly of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela's Committee on Family, Women, and Youth, presented a report on the latest developments in health, humanitarian missions to aid women, and political and legal advances with regard to gender equality in her country.

Ms. Flor Ríos then presented the report *Reproductive Health and the Sexual Rights of Women in the Americas* by Ms. Elsa Rojas. The report takes stock of sexual and reproductive health in the Americas and around the world, and looks at Cuba's specific experience¹. Her presentation was followed by a discussion among attendees on the situation in their respective states and on existing or proposed legislation and policies.

¹The report can be consulted on the COPA website at <http://www.copa.qc.ca/index.html>.

The presentation of the report was followed by two main conferences. First, Ms. Ana Guezmes, Technical Support Team Consultant for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), discussed the role of reproductive health and sexual rights in the reduction of poverty, in relation to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Then, Ms. Natalia Garcia, Representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), made a presentation on the economic development conditions required to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in the Americas (policies and costs, budgeting social expenditures, and legislative programs).

Following the presentations, attendees continued their discussions and examined a draft recommendation on sexual and reproductive rights. After much discussion and a number of amendments, they arrived at a consensus and adopted the appended recommendation.

Lastly, the attendees decided to pursue their discussions on the theme of progress on the Millennium Development Goals and the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW) with regard to sexual and reproductive rights, and with a special emphasis on the impact of HIV/AIDS on women. A proposal was also put forth to study health budgets from a gender analysis standpoint.

At the COPA General Assembly plenary session held June 2, 2006, in Quito, Ecuador, the Committee on Health and Social Protection was appointed, in accordance with Section 4 of the By-Laws of the Permanent Thematic Working Committees of COPA:

Chair: Ms. Elsa Rojas, Member of the National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba

Vice Chair: Ms. Flor Ríos, Member of the Legislative Assembly of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Rapporteur: Ms. Alba Allende de López, Member of the Chamber of Deputies of the Province of Entre Ríos, Argentina



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS
7TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
QUITO, ECUADOR, MAY 29 TO JUNE 3, 2006**

Committee on Health and Social Protection

Recommendation on Sexual and Reproductive Rights

WHEREAS sexual and reproductive health problems are the leading cause of illness and mortality among women worldwide, with over half a million dying each year from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth;

WHEREAS millions of women do not have access to adequate sexual and reproductive health services, contraception, or family planning methods;

WHEREAS reproductive health and sexual and reproductive rights are a fundamental part of personal development and harmonious intimate and family relationships;

WHEREAS universal access to healthcare, and to reproductive healthcare in particular, including family planning, is the basis for good maternal health and plays a key role in reducing poverty;

WHEREAS improving the sexual and reproductive health of women has a direct impact on the reduction of perinatal and infant mortality rates;

WHEREAS poverty reduction, gender equality, improved maternal health, the reduction of mortality among children under the age of 5, and the eradication of HIV/AIDS are among the *Millennium Development Goals* (MDGs) adopted in September 2000 by the heads of state and government of 191 countries gathered at United Nations headquarters for the Millennium Summit;

WHEREAS these heads of state and government committed to reaching the MDGs by 2015 and reaffirmed the importance of ensuring universal access to reproductive healthcare at the World Summit in September 2005;

WHEREAS Article 12 of the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW), which was ratified by the vast majority of states in the Americas, stipulates that

- 1) “States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of healthcare in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, access to healthcare services, including those related to family planning,” and that
- 2) “Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of this article, States Parties shall ensure to women appropriate services in connection with pregnancy, confinement, and the post-natal period, granting free services where necessary, as well as adequate nutrition during pregnancy and lactation;”

WE, the representatives of the congresses and parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal, federated, and associated states, regional parliaments, and interparliamentary organizations gathered in Quito, Ecuador, for the 7th General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas:

UNDERTAKE TO pay special attention to the issue of sexual and reproductive rights;

UNDERTAKE TO promote legislation and policies, and the implementation of related programs, that focus on public health, specifically the health of adolescents and children, notably by allowing enhanced access to family planning and promoting condom use as a means to help prevent sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS, and unwanted pregnancies;

URGE our governments to include in their sexual and reproductive health policies provisions to ensure the availability and accessibility of emergency contraception programs and guarantee that the appropriate information and methods are provided through the healthcare system and services for women who are victims of violence;

UNDERTAKE TO work toward reforming and strengthening our respective healthcare systems so that our citizens, including aboriginal communities and people of African descent, enjoy universally accessible, non-discriminatory, good quality services;

ENCOURAGE our governments to launch awareness campaigns so that people in urban and rural areas alike have access to the information and methods they need to avoid exposing themselves to sexual and reproductive health risks, and so that men and adolescents in particular be made aware of the importance of sexual rights and their own responsibility in the matter;

URGE our governments to allocate sufficient financial resources to ensure universal access to preventive services and care in the area of sexual and reproductive health, particularly for people living in rural areas;

URGE our heads of state and government to respect the commitments of the *Millennium Development Goals*;

URGE our governments to go beyond the provisions of CEDAW Article 12.2 and offer free services around the clock, and not simply when required;

AGREE to promote within our countries' parliaments and social organizations the recommendations contained in the *Bahia Declaration* adopted on April 22, 2006;

URGE the member parliaments of COPA to modify without delay their countries' constitution and legislation to include explicit recognition of the fundamental rights of women, including the right to terminate pregnancy, at least when it poses a risk to a woman's life or is the result of rape;

RECOMMEND to all parliamentarians attending the 7th COPA General Assembly in Quito, Ecuador, and particularly to the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, that they follow up on this recommendation with all the parliamentary assemblies of the Americas and the committees tasked with examining issues of health and gender equality to ensure they pay proper attention to issues of sexual and reproductive health.



NETWORK OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS
(COPA: PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS)
PRESIDENT: APARECIDA GAMA, DEPUTY
(RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL)

SECRETARIAT OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF UNALE
(NATIONAL UNION OF STATE LEGISLATURES OF BRAZIL)
SECRETARY: SÔNIA FONTES, DEPUTY (BAHIA, BRAZIL)

Bahia Declaration

**“THE RIGHTS OF ALL WOMEN,
A MISSION FOR ALL”**

April 2006

Salvador, State of Bahia, Brazil

Presentation

The universal recognition of human rights requires that efforts be expended to ensure these rights are fully and concretely recognized and exercised in all societies.

The purpose of this document is to urge political leaders to make a commitment to respecting and defending rights related to sexual and reproductive health by making them priorities for the improved quality of life and well-being of women.

This document constitutes a step toward empowerment for the states and nations of Latin America, a further step toward dignity and life for the people, and a call for greater action. The Bahia Declaration is a joint initiative by women parliamentarians of the Americas to urge that we join our efforts together to ensure the rights of all women become everyone's responsibility.

Salvador de Bahia, April 22, 2006

Aparecida Gama, Deputy
Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas

Sônia Fontes, Deputy
Secretariat of Women
National Union of State Legislatures of Brazil

Dr. Balbina Lemos da Silva
COSAM¹/SESAB², Government of Bahia
Discussion Forum Coordinator

¹ The acronym COSAM stands for *Coordenação da Saúde da Mulher*, meaning "Women's Health Coordination Office."

² The acronym SESAB stands for *Secretaria da Saúde do Estado da Bahia*, meaning "State of Bahia Secretariat of Health."

We, the women parliamentarians of the Americas, gathered together at the Parliamentary Forum held during the 13th Latin American Congress on Sexology and Sexual Education in Salvador, State of Bahia, from April 19 to 22, 2006, have agreed on the release of the following declaration:

Recognizing

- That the violation of women's human rights is closely associated with gender discrimination, which is widespread in society and perpetuated by state institutions, among others;

Considering

- That "all human rights are universal, indivisible, and interdependent"³;
- That sexual and reproductive rights include the right to a life of dignity, freedom, and safety and to equality, privacy, freedom of thought (which implies the right to live life free from any restrictive interpretation of religious texts, beliefs, philosophies, or customs), information and education, protection and health services (including the right to information, access, freedom of choice, safety, privacy, confidentiality, comfort, treatment with dignity, and the power to decide) as well as the benefits of scientific progress, freedom of assembly and political participation, the right to marry or not, the right decide whether or not to have children, and the right not be subject to torture or mistreatment;
- That the right to sexual freedom encompasses the possibility for individuals to express their full sexual potential, which includes the right to establish any type of sexual orientation or association but excludes all forms of sexual coercion, exploitation, and abuse at any time or situations in life, and that sexuality is an integral part of the personality of every human being, whose development depends on the satisfaction of basic human needs such as the desire for contact, intimacy, emotional expression, pleasure, tenderness, and love⁴;
- That the international conferences and meetings organized by the United Nations over the past 20 years have made possible the creation and signature by various countries of agreements that have represented advances in understanding and recognizing human rights in general and the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls in particular;
- That under democratic governments, parliamentarians share responsibility for institutional projects and the political, legal, and administrative institutions of society; and
- That in order for sexual and reproductive rights to be exercised, parliaments must be totally committed to promoting state democracy and secularity;

³ World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 1993

⁴ World Association for Sexology, 15th World Congress of Sexology, 2004

Recognizing, however

- That progress on legal and organizational measures in our countries has not been sufficient to ensure the respect of obligations assumed under international agreements; and
- That economic globalization and technological progress have not led to better allocation of material and cultural goods in the world, but rather increased inequalities;

We undertake to

- Strive to have laws passed, policies introduced, and programs and projects developed that promote the full exercise of sexual and reproductive rights, by expressing the progress and historic successes of human rights;
- Devote all our efforts to guaranteeing that these policies, programs, and projects become a permanent part of the budget legislation of the various government bodies of our countries;
- Reject the fragmentation of administrative practices that has traditionally characterized the fight against gender inequality in our hemisphere by promoting dialogue and cooperation among same-level organizations and the various levels of government and by broadening coordination of societal initiatives;
- Help create mechanisms that can transform status-of-women policies into coherent, long-lasting government policies that are more than just plans;
- Include and propose the inclusion of participatory and social control bodies and methods in policies, programs, and projects pertaining to problems experienced by women and girls in our countries;
- In the parliamentary work, recognize and respect the diversity of family models in the development and negotiations of legislative measures;
- Seek to completely remove any legislation in our countries that is contrary to the concepts of integral health and sexual and reproductive rights, as expressed in international documents and agreements;
- Defend and promote, through implementation of international human rights and national human rights systems, the respect of rights set forth in international conventions and treaties that have resulted from world conferences and summits in the United Nations system⁵;

⁵ United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), 1981
International Pact on Civil and Political Rights, 1992; International Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (IPESCR), 1992
Program of Action, World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 1993
Program of Action, International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 1994
Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women, Belém do Pará, 1995
Action Plan, 4th World Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995
World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, Durban, 2002
Brasília Declaration on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. Forum of eight Latin American countries:
Millennium Development Goals, Proposals for the Summit

And we recommend the following measures:

1. The convocation of a high level meeting of representatives from the fields of health and education and women's organizations in the hemisphere to discuss development and implementation strategies for programs to integrate discussion of sexual and reproductive rights in primary and secondary education programs in our hemisphere;
2. The creation by local governments of institutions devoted to implementing public policies for women (with a racial and generational perspective) and the protection of sexual and reproductive rights, with sufficient budget resources to guarantee the implementation of these policies;
3. The creation of institutions and participatory and social control mechanisms at all organizational levels for the purpose of implementing projects and actions intended for the general public and more specifically, the promotion of the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls;
4. Ensure that in the event of anencephalic pregnancy, women receive medical and legal advice with respect to termination or non-termination of pregnancy;
5. The harmonization throughout Latin America of legislative measures regarding migratory policies to stop criminal practices such as human trafficking and facilitate cross-border mobility for the purpose of scientific, cultural, and economic exchanges;
6. Recommend that all countries adopt specific measures to fight sexual, domestic, and family violence against women;
7. Recommend the integration of care and medication for sexual dysfunctions in the public health network, as well as medical care for climateric women⁶;
8. Recommend that Latin American governments begin studying the possibility of refusing exclusive rights on antiretroviral medications that are on the list of basic care medications in the STD⁷/AIDS⁸ program, of which the Brazilian program is an example that includes the essential elements to ensure the effectiveness and continuity of these programs in our countries.

Salvador, April 22, 2006

⁶ "Climateric" refers to all stages of life where the woman's body can have a radical transformation (pregnancy, menopause, etc.)

⁷ The acronym DST stands for *Doenças sexuais transmissíveis*, meaning "sexually transmitted diseases" (STDs).

⁸ The acronym AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

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SECRETARY: SÔNIA FONTES, DEPUTY (BAHIA, BRAZIL)

PARLIAMENTARIANS PRESENT:

Serys Marly Shessarenko, Senator, Brazil
Edda Acuña, Senator, Argentina
Iara Bernardi, Federal Deputy, Brazil
Ileana Rogel, National Deputy, El Salvador
State deputies (Brazil):
Aparecida Gama, Rio de Janeiro
Sônia Fontes, Bahia
Edna Rodrigues, Rio de Janeiro
Heloneida Studart, Rio de Janeiro
Lídice da Mata, Bahia
Jusmari Oliveira, Bahia
Ana Cavalcanti, Pernambuco
Ana Cunha, Pará
Maria José Leão, Piauí
Naluh Gouveia, Acre
Ana Martins, São Paulo

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Special collaborators:

Nilcéia Freire, Minister, Special Secretariat on Public Policies for Women (Federal Government of Brazil)
Dr. Adison França (Department of Health, Federal Government of Brazil)
Dr. Balbina Lemos da Silva (COSAM/SESAB, Government of Bahia)
Dr. Maria Helena Souza (Supervisor, Policies for Women in the Municipality of Salvador, Bahia, Brazil)
Dr. Maria Eunice Kalil (Women's Forum, Bahia, Brazil)

Parliamentary assistants:
Dr. Arinilta Ribeiro Caetano
Dr. Nereida Mazza Espírito Santo
Dr. Rosângela Bahia

Chair of the 13th Latin American Congress on Sexology and Sexual Education:
Dr. Ricardo Cavalcanti, Brazil

Chair of the Scientific Committee:
Dr. Gerson Pereira Lopes, Brazil

Latin American Federation of Sexology and Sexual Education (FLASSES):
Dr. Rubén Hernandez Serrano, Venezuela



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS (COPA)
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION**

**REPORT ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
IN THE AMERICAS**

Presented by Elsa Rojas Hernández

Member of the National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba,

Committee Chair

**Quito, Ecuador
June 2, 2006**

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN THE AMERICAS

People with good sexual and reproductive health can enjoy satisfying and risk-free sexual and reproductive lives, decide if they wish to partake in sexual relations or not, and if so, freely choose the time and frequency of such relations.

This freedom implies that men and women have the right to family planning information, as well as access to their choice of effective, safe, affordable, and acceptable birth control methods and to suitable health care services to reduce the risks associated with pregnancy and childbirth. Reproductive rights include the following:

1. The fundamental right of all couples and individuals to freely and responsibly choose the number of children they want to have and the amount of time between pregnancies, as well as the right to receive suitable information on how to achieve these goals.
2. The right to access the best possible sexual and reproductive health services and the freedom to make their own decisions concerning reproduction without discrimination, constraints, or violence, and in accordance with charters on human rights.

Facilitating the exercise of these rights must be a cornerstone of all government and community policies and programs on reproductive health and family planning. As a matter of fact, this very goal was one of the main objectives outlined in the program of action at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo.

Issues of sexual and reproductive health are a fundamental part of complex human relationships where emotions, love, and spiritual convictions lead partners, especially women, to expose themselves to both the happy consequences and the risks of sexual relations and reproduction.

Whereas international forums may hold up the democratic ideal of justice and equality, access to proper health care services and acceptable living conditions is far from universal. The number of poor is on the rise, so much so that for millions of people, reproductive health is a virtually inaccessible reality.

- At least 350 million people who would like to avoid pregnancy have no access to family planning methods.
- Some 120 million women have no access to acceptable reproductive services.
- Nearly half a million women die each year following an abortion.

Moreover, because human reproduction is intrinsically woven into complex social relationships, procreation, gender roles, and family structures are intrinsically linked to norms of social control that are not necessarily beneficial to all.

International Conferences

The theme of sexual and reproductive health and human rights was first broached by the United Nations Organization (UNO) at the 1975 International Women's Year World Conference, in Mexico.

During the 1990s, the United Nations held a series of worldwide government conferences that culminated in the adoption of a plan of action aimed at achieving sustainable development and social equity over the course of the 21st century.

The various gatherings, particularly the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 1993), the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), the 4th World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), and the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995) finally brought about the adoption of an ambitious and progressive program whose objectives were social equality, the elimination of injustice, and the promotion of development and peace.

At the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, countries in attendance declared that the right to reproductive and sexual health was a fundamental human right. On the development front, the aim was to successfully provide universal access to reproductive health care and information by the year 2015.

The conference set forth basic principles to consider when making policy, notably those respecting the basic right of women to fully control and freely make all decisions about their bodies and sexuality; free access to sexual and reproductive information and services—especially for women and adolescents; the necessity to take gender issues into account in all national policies and programs; and the right to enjoy the best physical and mental health possible.

Inadequate health care and violations of sexual and reproductive rights are at the root of numerous problems that the international community believes must be resolved. These include the following:

- Violence
- Sexual abuse and rape of women and young girls and boys
- HIV/AIDS
- Maternal mortality
- Pregnancy among adolescents
- Child abandonment (girls and boys)
- Harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation
- The preponderance of women and young people among the poor
- The violation of fundamental human rights and personal dignity, including the right of every individual to security and freedom

The situation in the Americas

In the Americas, despite modest reductions in maternal and infant mortality in some countries, great inequalities persist among the population. Many women still die in childbirth due to inadequate care, as do numerous infants who develop complications during the first few months of life. Yet it has been shown that most of these deaths could be prevented if coordinated efforts were made to provide adequate care.

More than 500,000 mothers die each year across the globe during pregnancy or in childbirth, 23,000 of them in the Western Hemisphere alone.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, 79% of women have access to basic obstetric care. It is essential to provide care to those groups who for all intents and purposes have no health services, reduce disparities between countries, and, in order to improve the quality of services during childbirth, ensure that health care personnel are well trained.

For women born in Latin America or the Caribbean, the risk of death due to complications during pregnancy is 27 times higher than it is for women born in the United States. It is estimated that one million young children die each year following the death of their mother.

For children born in Haiti, the risk of dying before the age of 5 is 17 times higher than for those born in Canada.

In most Latin American and Caribbean countries, access to comprehensive care is far from universal, and the care that is available, when it exists, is not necessarily quality care. There are many women who have never had the chance to receive even the most basic instruction in health, hygiene, and nutrition for themselves or their families. They have no access to modern contraception such as condoms and birth control injections. Complications during pregnancy are the prime cause of death and disability among women 15 to 49 years of age, even though most of these complications could easily be avoided or treated.

Over 189 countries have recognized the importance of maternal and infant health for economic and social development and undertaken formal commitments to this end by signing the United Nations Declaration of the Millennium and ascribing to the Millennium Development Goals. We need to take rapid, coordinated action to ensure that every mother and child, girl or boy, benefits from basic, affordable health care.

Concerning equality between the sexes, we must recognize that only women are directly exposed to the risks of pregnancy, birth, the puerperal period, and abortion, and that the impacts of reproductive infections—including STDs—on women are more severe and long lasting than for men. Governments must address these issues and make them a priority in their policies and programs.

Increased efforts must also be made to educate men and adolescent boys as to the seriousness of all aspects of sexual and reproductive health and to invite them to get more involved in this area. It is also vital to design specific programs to meet women's current and future needs.

Extending health coverage to everyone in Latin America constitutes one of the greatest challenges of health care reform and a goal which must be met to guarantee universal access to basic and preventive care.

In the various countries of the region, women are active in running programs but are still excluded from program design and development, and from decisions on the use of resources, although it is the women who, more often than not, provide health care for their families. Their interests, needs, points of view, and desires as a group are not recognized as they should be, so much so that decisions are generally made in their name on the assumption of their consent.

Cuba's Example

Beginning in 1959, Cuba underwent profound and radical socioeconomic changes that had a positive impact on people's quality of life, particularly because of measures taken to improve the health of the country's population—most notably the women and children, both boys and girls.

Our strategy for basic health care and community involvement—which are essential to ensuring sexual and reproductive health for all—are fundamental to our health care system and we have always been able to rely on the Federation of Cuban Women and its volunteers when putting programs in place for women and young girls and boys.

The “mother-child” program is a high priority for the health sector. Government and non-governmental organizations work faithfully to maintain and improve the level of health of women, girls and boys, and families. They devote considerable effort to this end despite the difficulties that the Cuban economy has faced in the last years due to the economic, financial, and trade blockade imposed on them by the United States.

Among the efforts made to improve the quality of life for the Cuban people, information, communication, and education strategies were developed to encourage responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour, especially among young people.

The public also enjoys access to an ever-growing network of family planning services offered in polyclinics, including everything from basic health care to consultations with health care specialists.

To reduce at-risk pregnancies, health professionals have developed a strategy to lower the biological, psychological, and social risks associated with unwanted pregnancy by concentrating on promoting methods of contraception.

Cuban abortion policy is based on the belief that family planning is a good thing and that contraceptive use allows a woman and her partner to decide when they want to engage in sexual activity for the purpose of having children. The policy also provides information on the risks associated with abortion while at the same time, reminding women that terminating a pregnancy is a valid option if so desired, in which case established ethical standards apply.

Prenatal care is universal and involves some 16 medical examinations plus community accompaniment. Pregnant women receive quality institutional care in childbirth and newborns have the right to immediate care from specialists. Babies are nursed exclusively by their mothers and benefit from immunologic protection thanks to a national vaccination program against 11 infectious diseases (polio, tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, measles, German measles, mumps, typhoid fever, Type B and C meningitis, and hepatitis B), that have, for the most part, been eradicated in Cuba.

The percentage of live births in health centers is 99.9%, which has been the case since 1997.

The significant reduction in Cuba's infant mortality rate has been one of the key factors behind the increase in Cubans' life expectancy at birth, which is 76.15 years. The life expectancy of women—78.23 years—is greater than that of men or 74.20 years. The indicators for 2005 were found to be satisfactory, as the infant mortality rate was 6.2 per 1,000 live births and maternal death directly associated with childbirth was 36.5 women per 10,000 live births.

Prevention of reproductive tract infections and their treatment—particularly sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and AIDS—constitute a priority for Cuba's Department of Public Health. The main thrust is prevention through information, communication, and education programs, including sexual education.

VII ASAMBLEA GENERAL DE LA COPA
Quito, Ecuador, 2 de Junio de 2006



Panel: Población, pobreza, salud reproductiva y derechos humanos en las Américas

**Salud reproductiva, y su importancia en el
combate a la pobreza, el logro de los
Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, y la
garantía del conjunto de derechos humanos**

Ana Güzmes
Asesora en *Advocacy*
Equipo de Apoyo Técnico
UNFPA

En la Cumbre Mundial de 2005, los Jefes de Estado y Gobierno se comprometieron a:

«Lograr el acceso universal a la salud reproductiva para 2015, según lo estipulado en la Conferencia Internacional sobre la Población y el Desarrollo, e integrar ese objetivo en las estrategias encaminadas a alcanzar los objetivos de desarrollo convenidos internacionalmente, incluidos los que figuran en la Declaración del Milenio...»

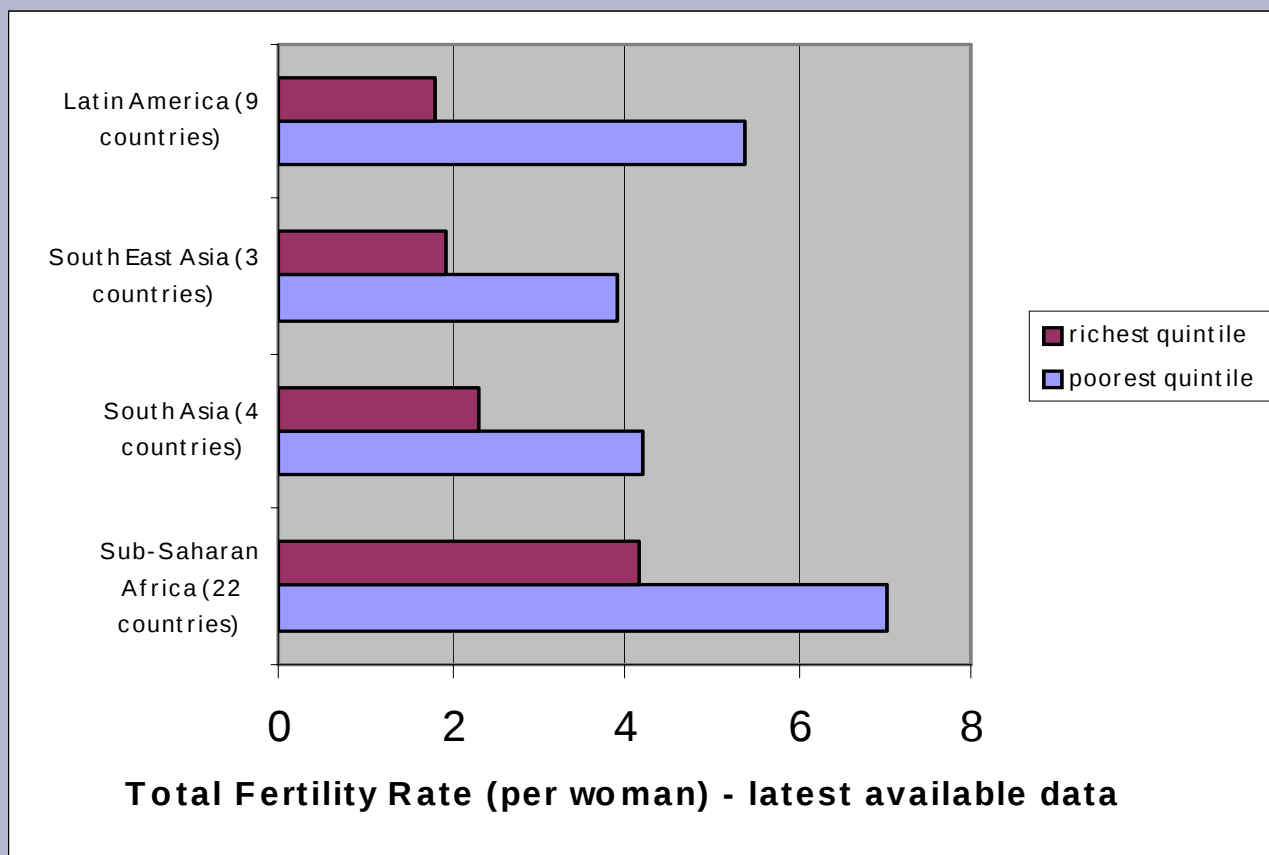
LA MAGNITUD DEL DESAFÍO

- La mala salud sexual y reproductiva representa casi el 20% de la carga global de la mala salud de las mujeres, y el 14% de los hombres.
- Se estima que en 2000, 529.000 mujeres murieron por causas relacionadas con el embarazo, la mayoría de las cuales podían evitarse. El 99% de las muertes maternas se registran en los países en desarrollo.
- En los países en desarrollo más de 120 millones de parejas no utilizan ningún medio contraceptivo, aunque no quieren tener hijos o desean espaciar los partos.
- Alrededor de 80 millones de mujeres sufren embarazos involuntarios todos los años; de ellas, unos 45 millones abortan.
- De estas mujeres que abortan, alrededor de 19 millones lo hacen en malas condiciones que son causa de 68.000 fallecimientos, o sea, el 13% de todas las muertes relacionadas con el embarazo.
- Cada año hay 340 millones de casos nuevos de infecciones sexualmente transmitidas; muchas de estas infecciones no son tratadas.
- Cada año se registran 5 millones de nuevas infecciones de VIH, de las cuales 600.000 son transmitidas de madres a hijos.

FACTORES ADICIONALES

- Necesidades insatisfechas en salud reproductiva y salud sexual. Las brechas afectan de manera desproporcionada a la población pobre, a la que vive en zonas rurales, a las que tienen menor nivel de instrucción, a los pueblos indígenas, a los y las jóvenes.
- Más personas en edad reproductiva. Crece demanda
- Financiamiento insuficiente. No cumplimiento del compromiso financiero asumido en CIPD por parte de países industrializados, en desarrollo y donantes.
- Capacidades nacionales insuficientes, principalmente en el modelo de gestión pública, en la intersectorialidad y en los canales de transparencia y participación social,
- Oposición y fundamentalismo en la región

FECUNDIDAD Y POBREZA INTRINSECAMENTE VINCUALDAS EN EL NIVEL DE LOS HOGARES.

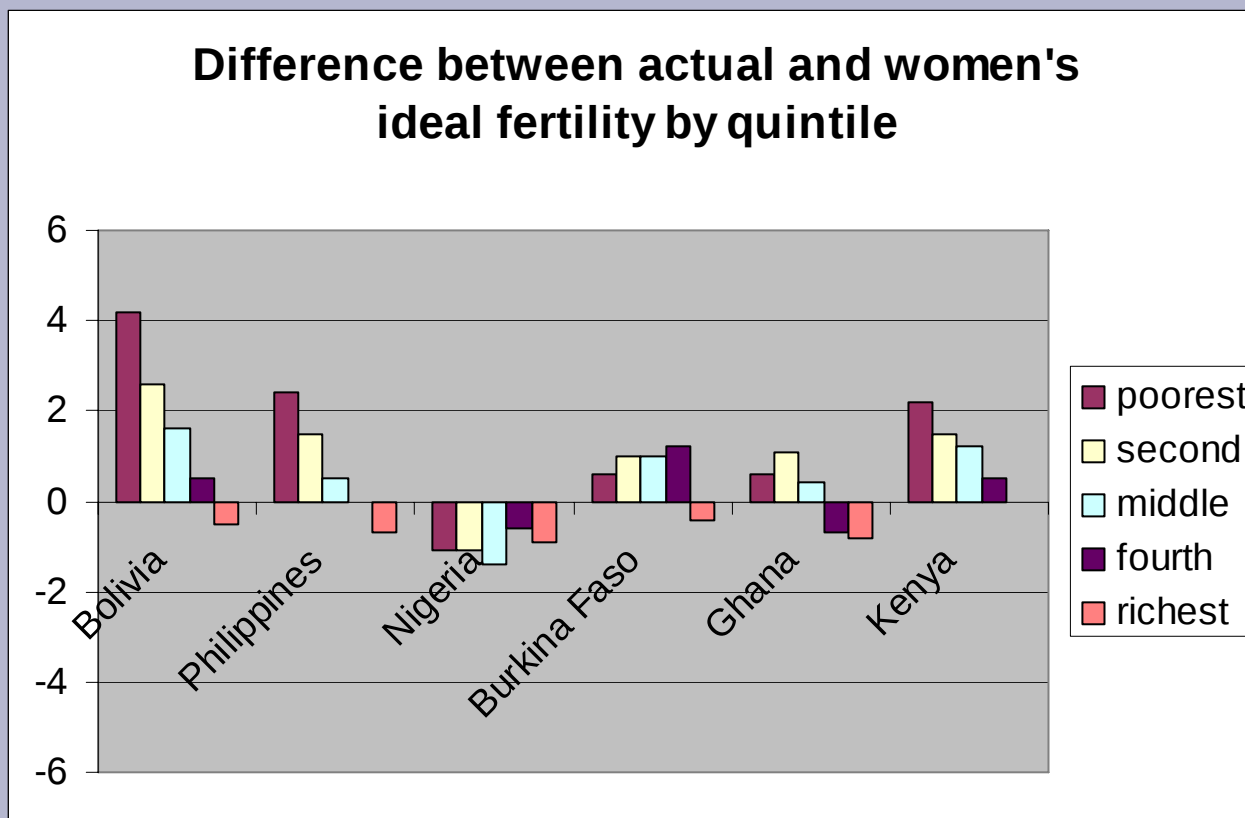


Source: World Bank, *Health, Nutrition and Population Country Reports* (latest data available by country)

LAS MUJERES POBRES TIENEN MUCHOS MAS HIJOS DE LOS QUE DESEAN



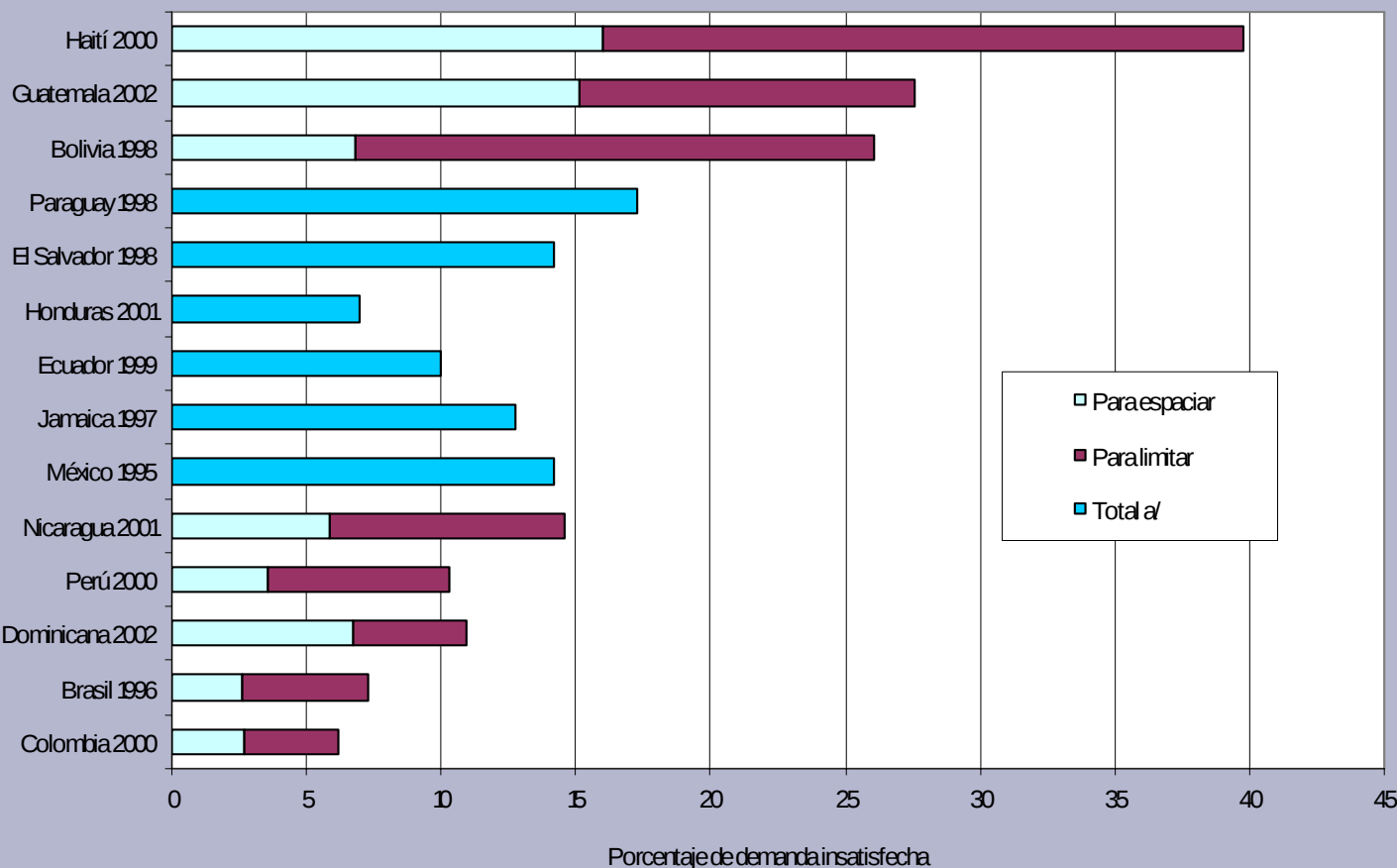
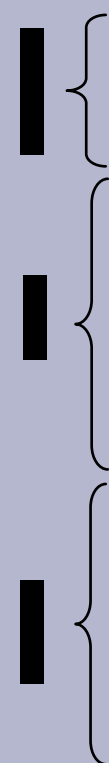
Existing evidence revealing that poor women often have larger divergence between desired and actual fertility



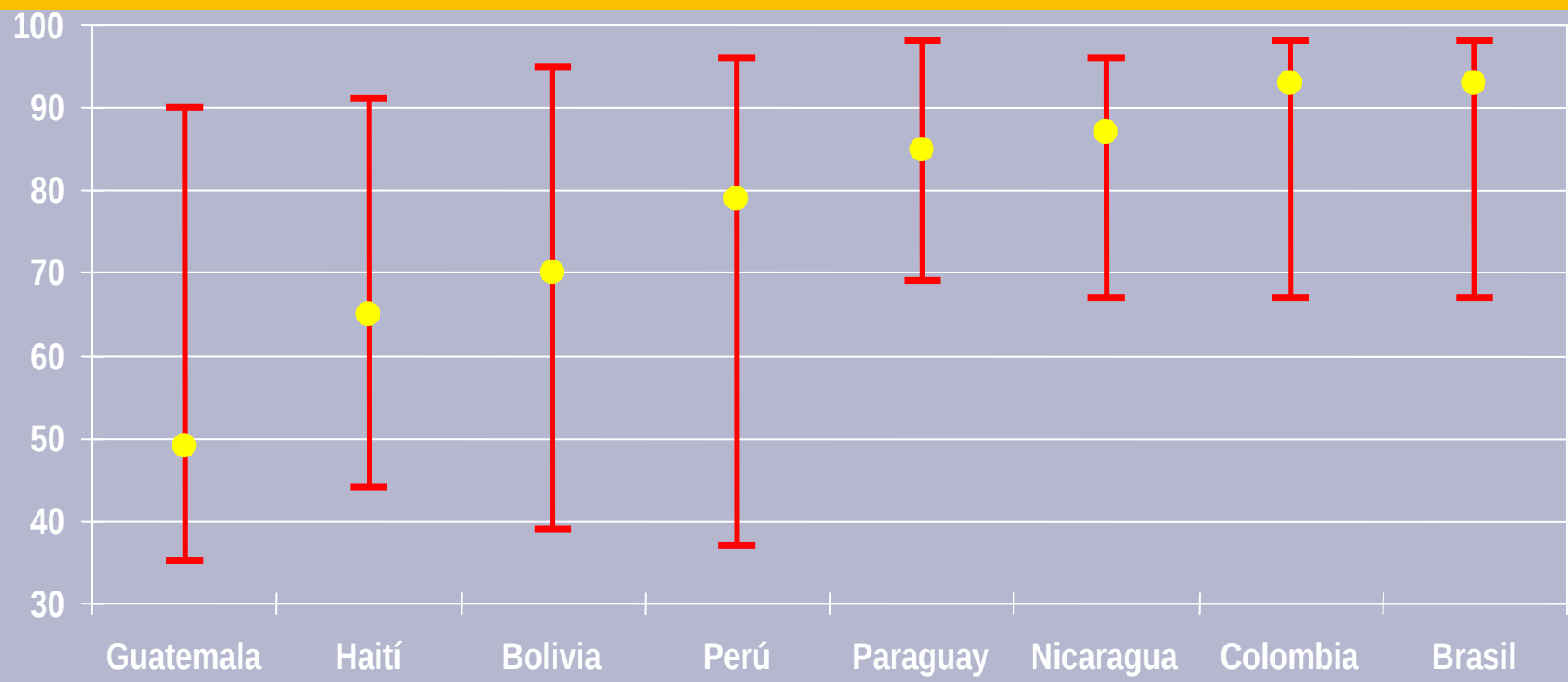
Source: *DHS Country Reports* (latest data available by country)

AMÉRICA LATINA (PAÍSES Y AÑOS SELECCIONADOS): DEMANDA INSATISFECHA DE PLANIFICACIÓN FAMILIAR

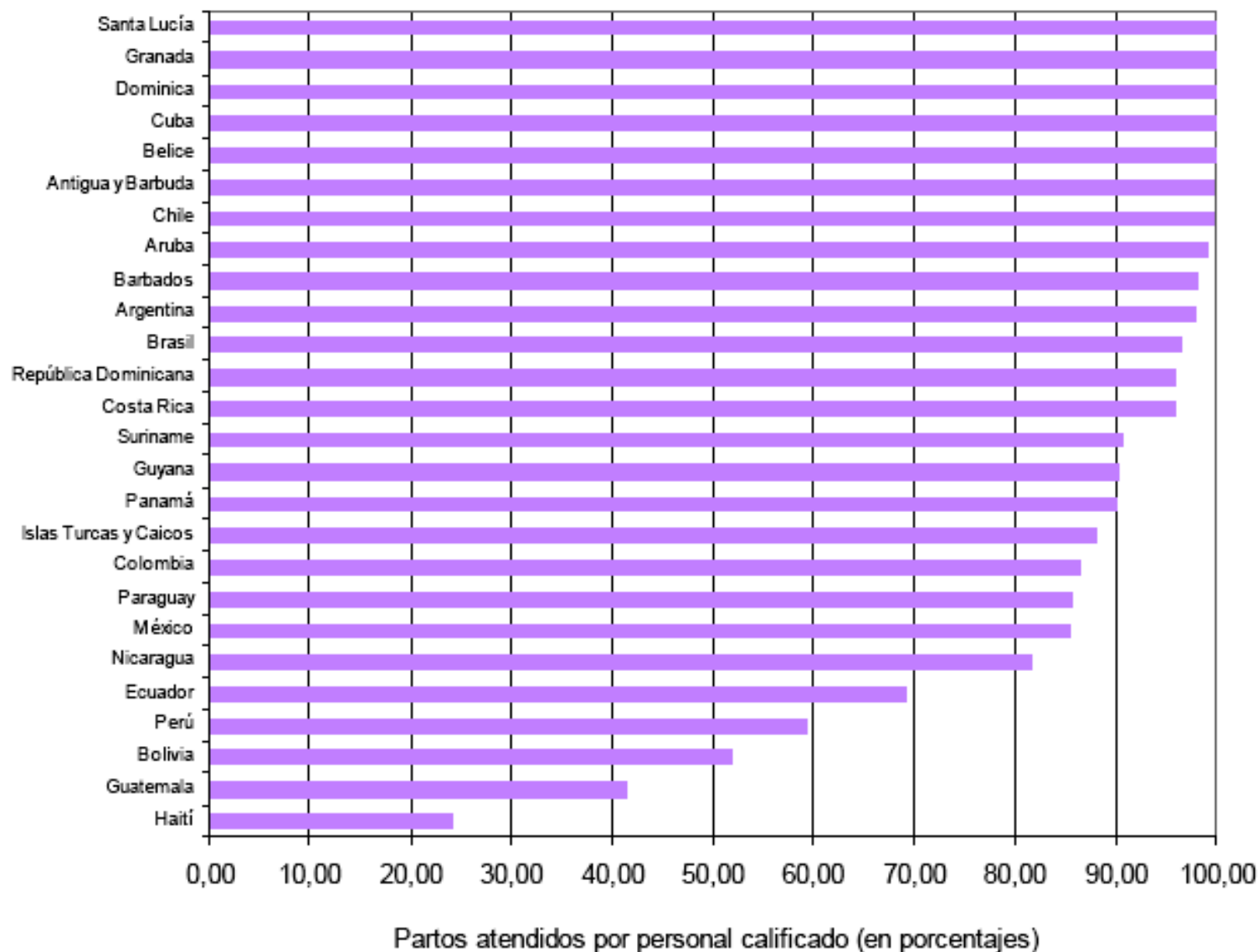
Prevalencia
anticonceptiva



Porcentaje de Mujeres con Cuidados Prenatales en los Quintiles de Ingreso mas rico y mas pobre. Circa 2000

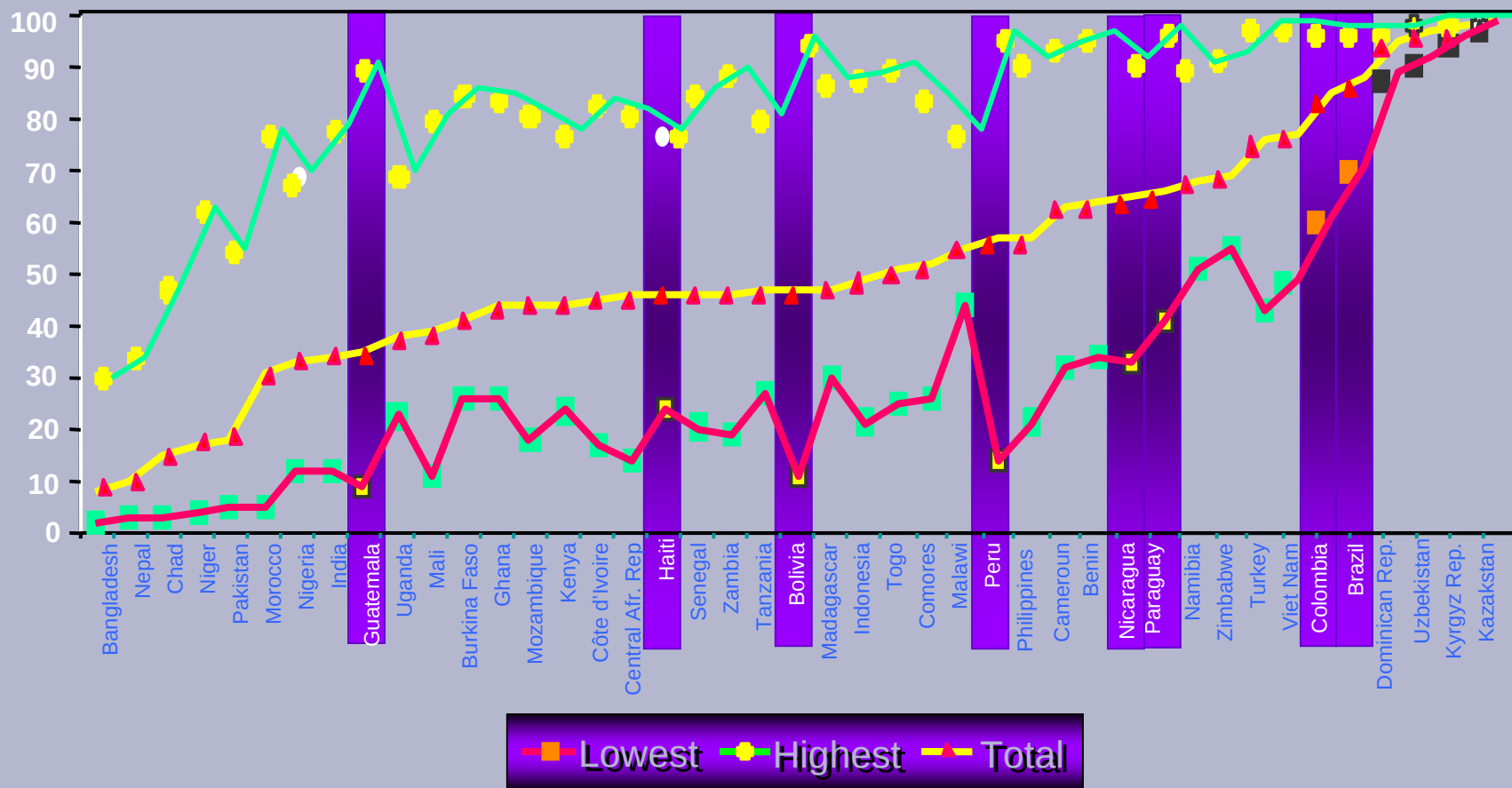


Partos Asistidos por Personal Capacitado. LA y C, 2000



Fuente: Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS) sobre la base de los indicadores de la *Iniciativa Regional de Datos Básicos de Salud: 1995-2005, 2004.*

Delivery with Skilled Attendance (%) in Poorest and Richest Population Quintiles



SOURCE: World Bank 2000

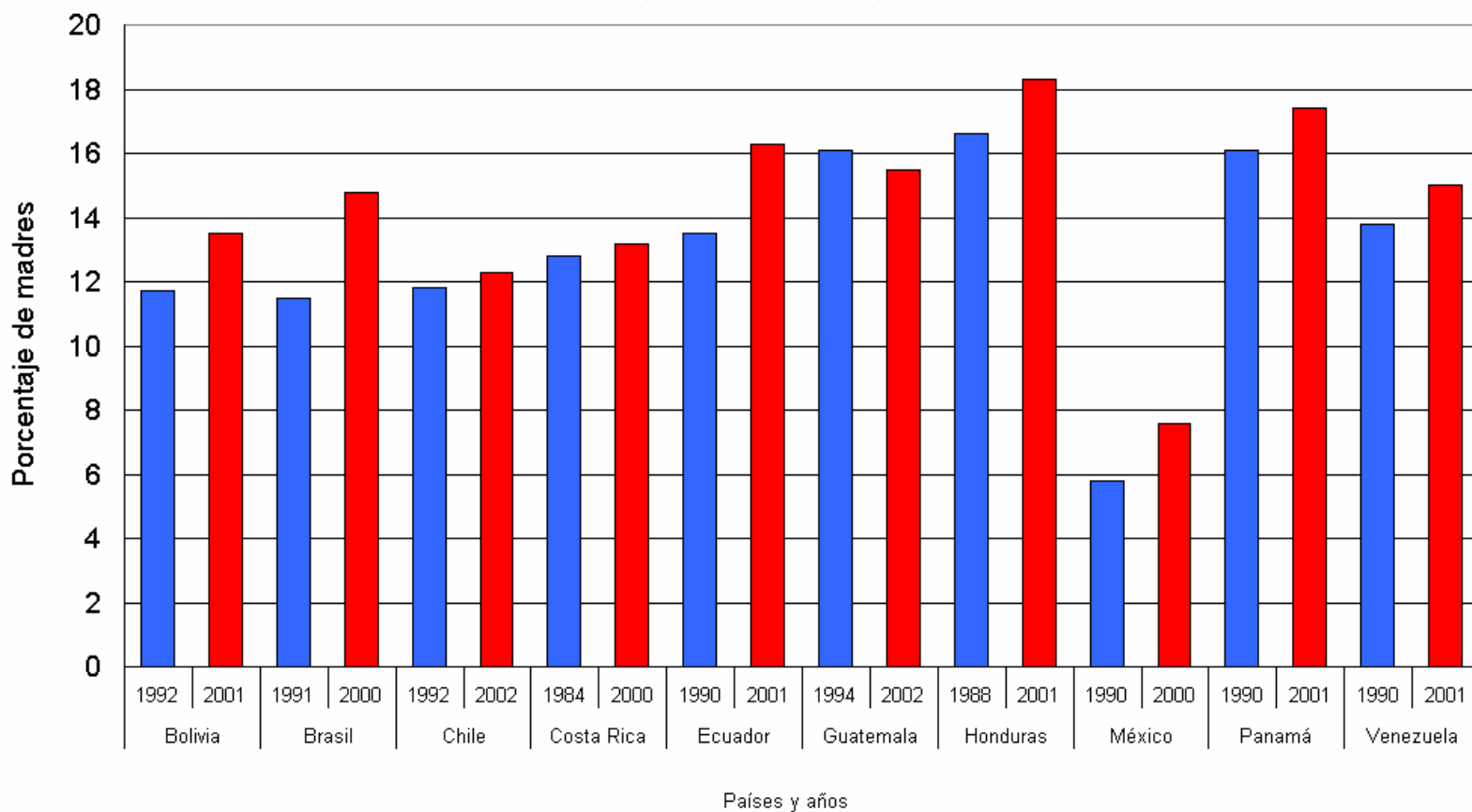
SSR de Adolescentes prioridad en Salud Pública



En casi todos los países ha aumentado la maternidad en la adolescencia, pese a la baja generalizada de las tasas de fecundidad

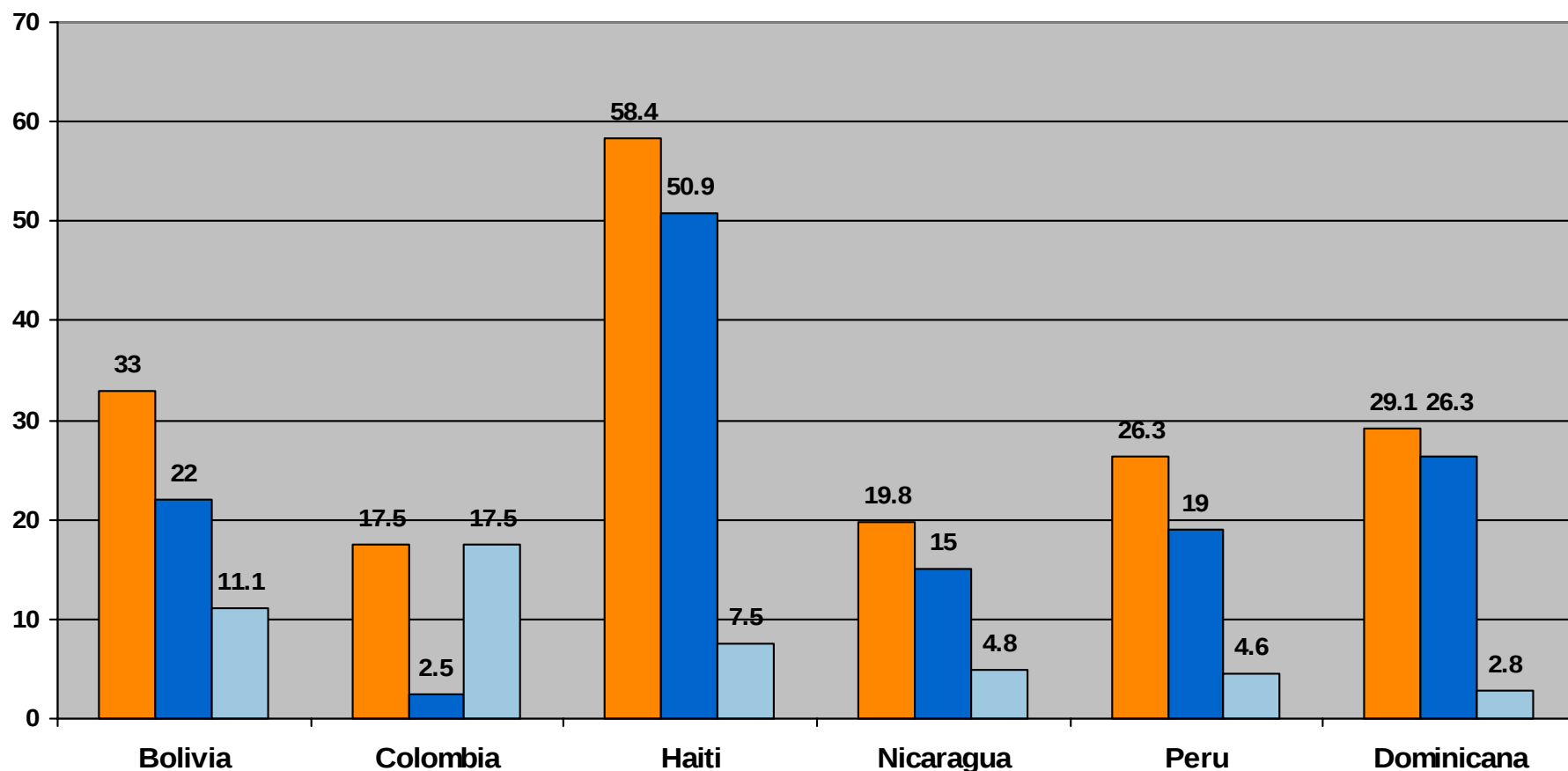
UNFPA

Evolución de la maternidad adolescente, Circa
(datos censales)



Fuente: procesamiento especial de bases de microdatos censales y CEPAL, 2004b (en edición).

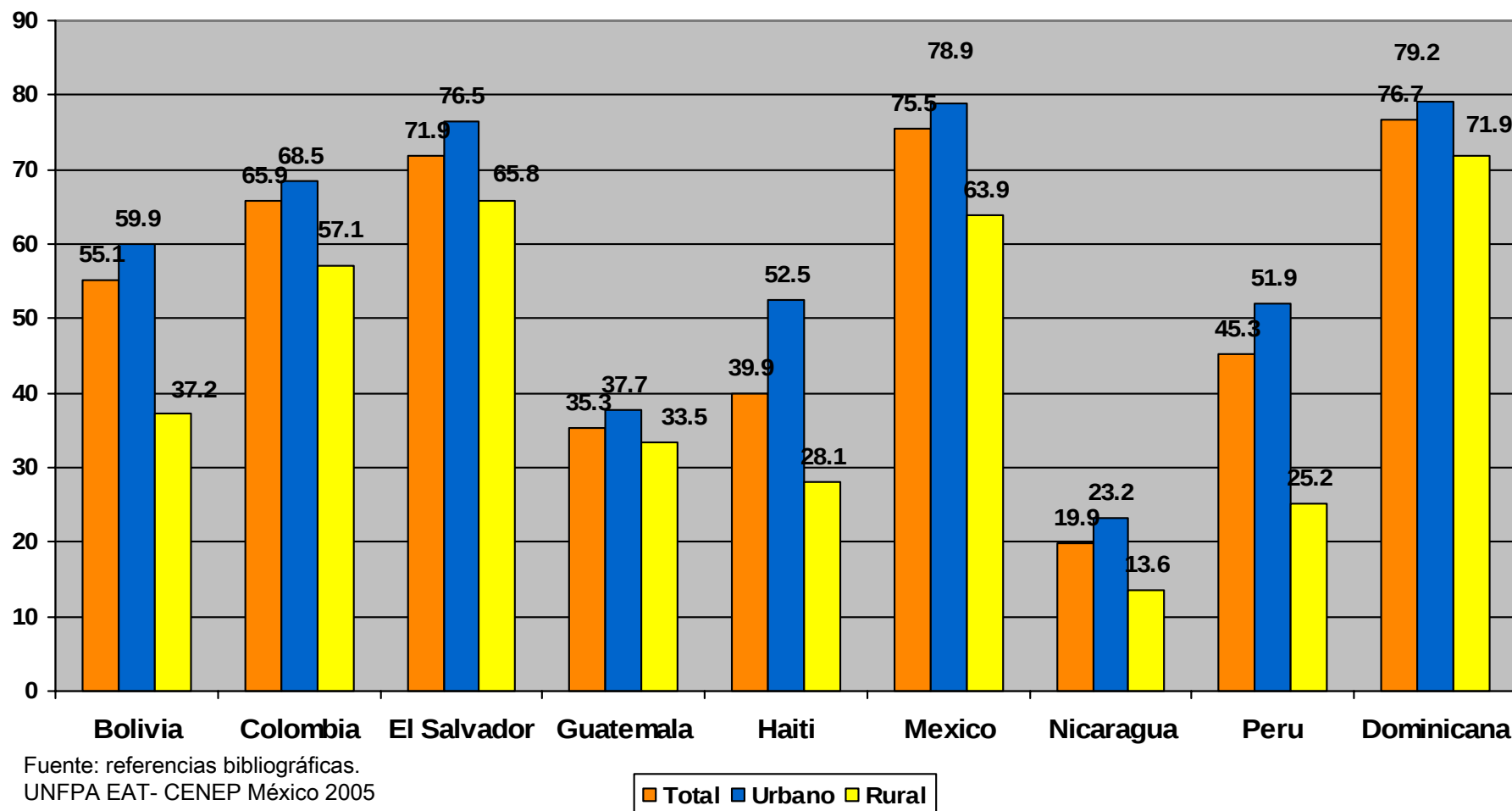
% Adolescentes mujeres 15-19 años unidas con necesidades insatisfechas de anticoncepción



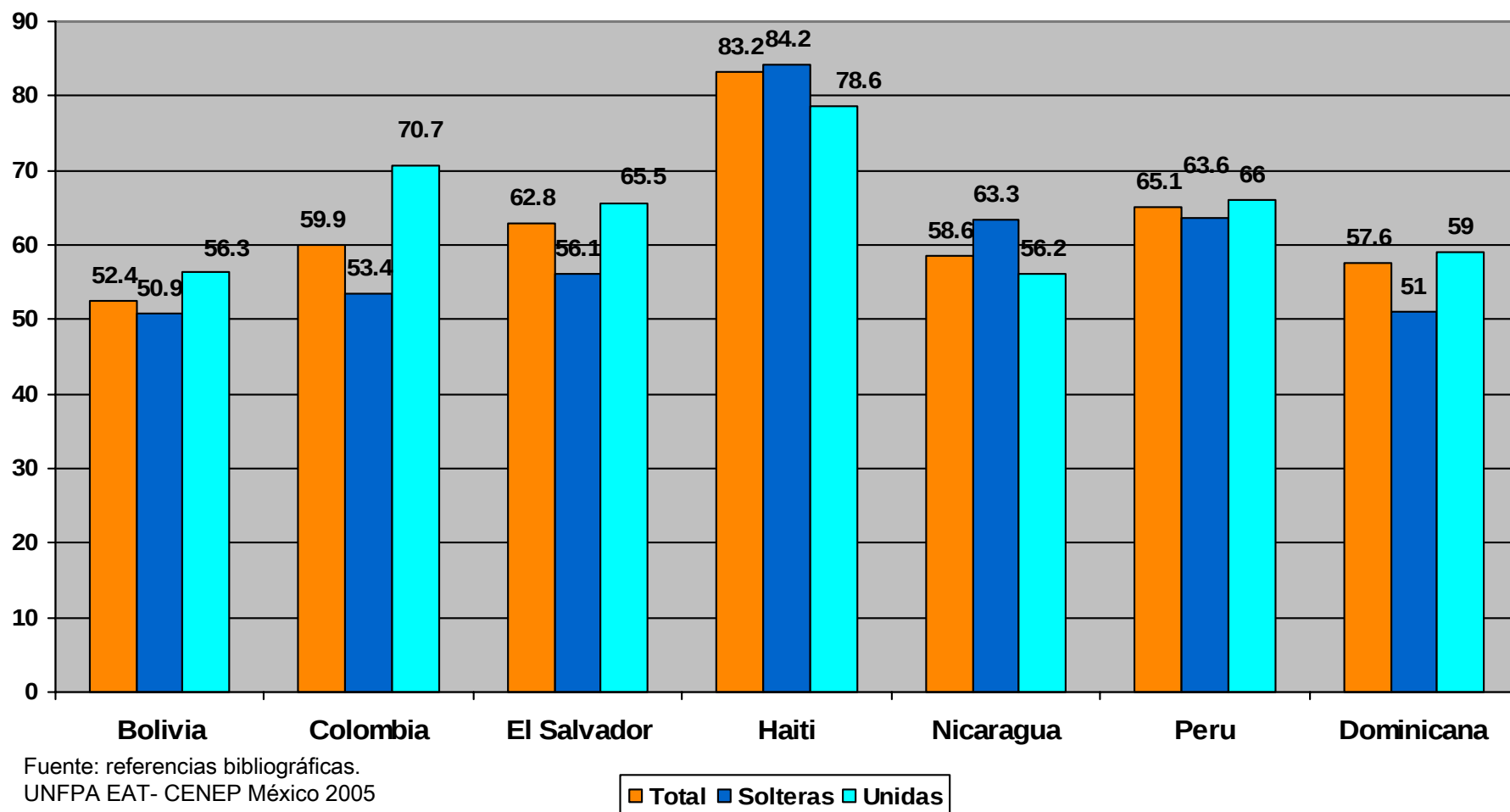
Fuente: DHS últimos años disponibles (2000-2003)
UNFPA EAT- CENEP México 2005

■ Total ■ Para espaciar ■ Para limitar

% Adolescentes mujeres 15-19 años
que oyeron hablar de SIDA que saben
que el condón evita el contagio



% Adolescentes mujeres 15-19 años
iniciadas sexualmente
que declaran no estar en riesgo de SIDA



Pueblos Indígenas (LAC)

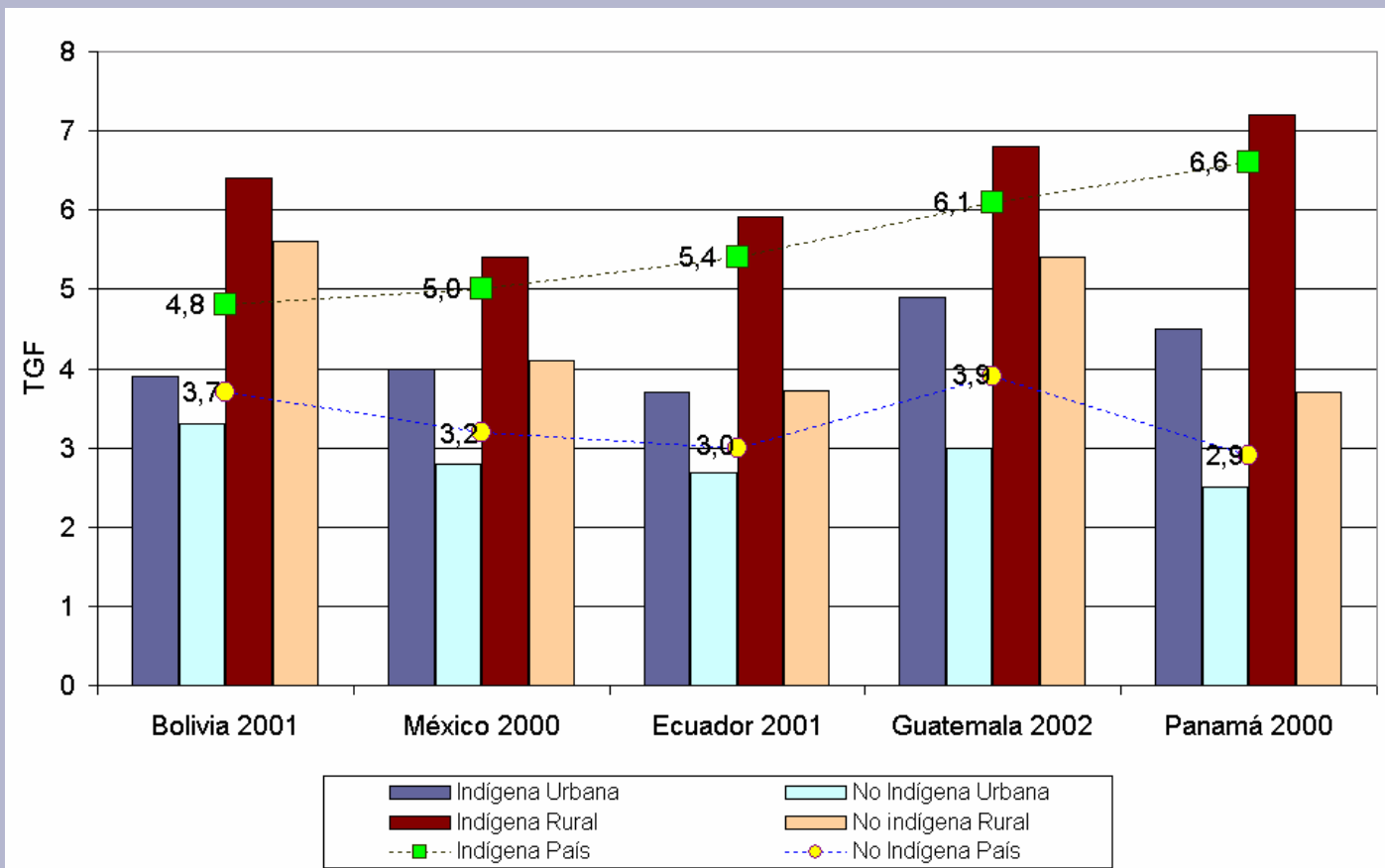
- Escasa reducción de la pobreza en la década de los pueblos indígenas (1994-2004)
- Indígenas se recuperan más lentamente de las crisis económicas
- Brecha de pobreza más profunda entre indígenas
- Menos años de educación y menor acceso a servicios de salud



No obstante la generalizada reducción de la tasa de fecundidad, la población indígena y la que reside en zonas rurales sigue presentando tasas muy elevadas

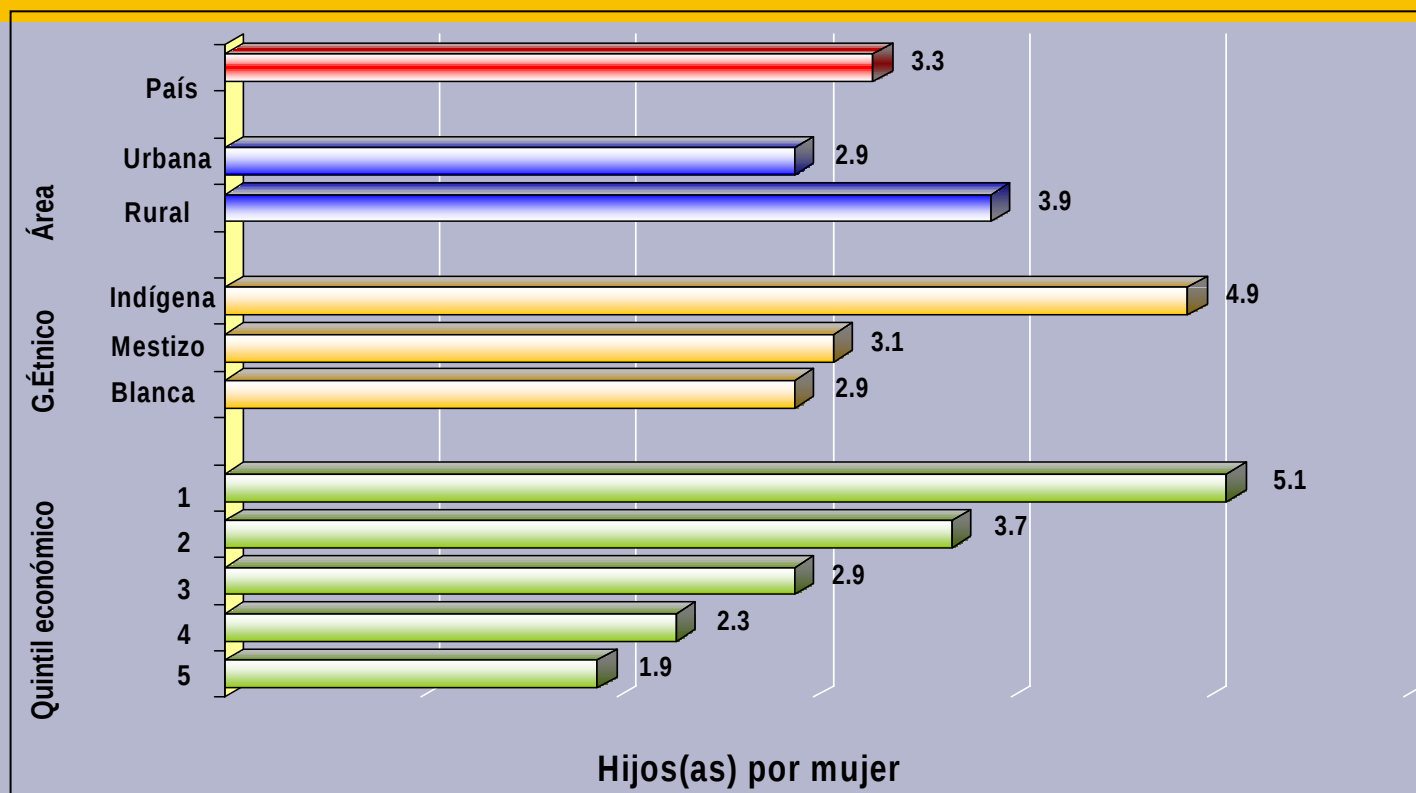


América Latina (5 países): Tasa global de fecundidad (TGF) para mujeres indígenas y no indígenas por zona de residencia. Censos 2000



Fuente: Proyecto BID-CELADE "La población indígena y afrodescendiente a partir de los censos".

Ecuador: Tasa global de fecundidad (TGF),
según características seleccionadas



FUENTE: CEPAR, Informe ENDEMAIN 2004. Quito, enero del
2005

ELABORACIÓN: CEPAR

Construcción de los derechos reproductivos



- Debate y movilización de apoyos sociales y políticos para lograr consensos en materia de población y desarrollo en el seno de las Naciones Unidas: CIPD, MDG.
- Políticas públicas nacionales.
- Condiciones políticas, económicas, sociales, culturales y simbólicas para que los derechos se traduzcan en calidad de vida y ejercicio real para todas las personas, especialmente las más excluidas.

Enfoque normativo. Paul Hunt

- El Relator Especial ha hecho hincapié en la importancia de un "enfoque normativo" del derecho a la salud:
 - Procesos normativos a nivel local, nacional e internacional.
 - Normas universalmente convenidas que dan lugar a obligaciones de los gobiernos,
 - Respeto, Protección, Cumplimiento
 - Mecanismos eficaces y transparentes de seguimiento y responsabilización.
 - Esta combinación de normas, obligaciones, seguimiento y responsabilización legitimados a escala mundial favorece la potenciación de los individuos y las comunidades desfavorecidos y marginados, y hace más probable que las políticas basadas en los derechos humanos, incluido el derecho a la salud, sean eficaces, sólidas, sostenibles, incluyentes, equitativas y significativas para todos los miembros de la sociedad.

Enfoque normativo. Paul Hunt

- El Relator Especial anima a los gobiernos a que incorporen el derecho a la salud en todas sus actividades, de modo explícito y global, como medio de reforzar y promover sus políticas, estrategias y programas en vigor.
- El Relator Especial insta a todos los agentes a que, haciendo abstracción de los aspectos sensibles, reconozcan explícitamente la función indispensable de la salud sexual y reproductiva en la lucha contra la pobreza. Este reconocimiento explícito es importante porque lo que no se menciona puede muy bien quedarse sin ayuda.
- **Considerados en conjunto los derechos a la salud sexual y reproductiva tienen una función indispensable que desempeñar en la lucha contra la intolerancia, la desigualdad de género, el VIH/SIDA y la pobreza mundial.**

Determinantes Sociales en Salud

→ **«Sólo cuando se consiga igualdad de condiciones se podrá hablar de desigualdad. Sólo cuando todos tengan los pies a la misma altura se podrá determinar quién es más alto que otros.»**



→ **Bertold Brecht**

La SSR representa
alrededor del
20% de la carga total
de enfermedad
en la mujer
y de un 14%
para el hombre.

**Resolver
la agenda
inconclusa**

**Desarrollo
Regional de la
Salud**

**Enfrentar
los nuevos
desafíos**

**Proteger
los logros
alcanzados**

- Reducción de la Mortalidad Materna, Perinatal e Infantil
- Reducción de tasa de mortalidad por Cáncer de Cervix
- Disminuir el Aborto inseguro
- Reducir los embarazos no deseados
- Reducción de anemia gestacional
- Reducción de las ITS y VIH
- Integralidad de SR

- Involucramiento de los hombres en SSR
- Políticas conciliatorias
- Marco de garantías a los/as adolescentes
- Financiamiento y énfasis en desigualdades.
- Género, derechos humanos, interculturalidad
- Violencia Sexual, intrafamiliar y de genero
- Embarazo/ Maternidad adolescente
- Feminización del VIH
- Integralidad de políticas públicas (a lo largo del ciclo de vida)

- Sostenibilidad normativa/ políticas
- Aseguramiento de insumos de salud reproductiva
- Programas y Planes.
- Anticoncepción de emergencia
- Educación Sexual.

DRA. ANA GUEZMES GARCIA



HOMERO 806
COL. POLANCO
MEXICO, D. F. 11550

Tel.: ++ 52 55 52507977

Fax: ++ 52 55 52037575

Email: ana.quezmes@eat.org.mx

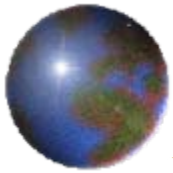
Internet: www.unfpa.org

OBJETIVOS DE DESARROLLO DEL MILENIO

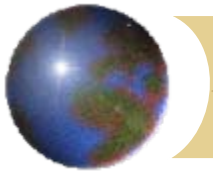
Un Reto Global – Un Reto Local



*La Oportunidad de Construir una Agenda
de Desarrollo para America Latina*

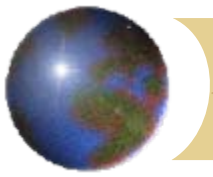


*La oportunidad de construir una
agenda mundial para el desarrollo:
Un Reto Global- Un Reto Local*



La Declaración del Milenio

“Nosotros, Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno, nos hemos reunido en la Sede de las Naciones Unidas en Nueva York del 6 al 8 de septiembre de 2000, en los albores del nuevo milenio, para reafirmar nuestra fe en la Organización y su Carta como cimientos indispensables de un mundo más pacífico, más próspero y más justo.”



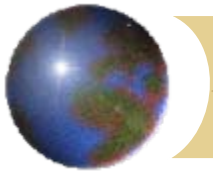
La Declaración del Milenio

Desarrollo Humano

“ Desarrollo para la gente, por la gente y con la gente ”

Valores y principios:

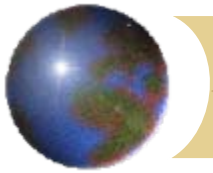
- La libertad
- La igualdad
- La solidaridad
- La tolerancia
- El respeto a la naturaleza
- Responsabilidad común



La Declaración del Milenio

Objetivos generales:

- La paz, la seguridad y el desarme
- El desarrollo y la erradicación de la pobreza
- Protección de nuestro entorno común
- DD.HH., democracia y buen gobierno
- Protección de las personas vulnerables
- Atención a las necesidades de África
- Fortalecimiento de las Naciones Unidas



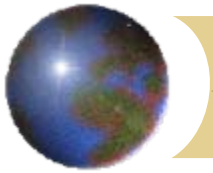
Los Objetivos del Milenio

8 Objetivos de Desarrollo:

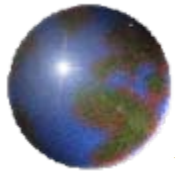
claros y delimitados, estables en el tiempo,
sencillos de comunicar, que incluyen elementos
básicos del bienestar.

18 Metas que especifican estos objetivos

48 Indicadores que miden los avances

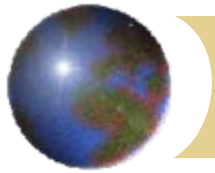


- **Los ODM 1-7 apuntan a reducciones radicales en pobreza, enfermedad y degradación ambiental. El ODM 8 es esencialmente un compromiso a una alianza global entre países ricos y países en desarrollo para lograr los primeros siete objetivos**
- **La declaración del Milenio reconoce que la pobreza extrema tiene múltiples dimensiones, no solo bajo ingreso, sino también: la vulnerabilidad a las enfermedades, la exclusión al sistema educativo, el hambre crónica y la desnutrición, la falta de acceso a servicios básicos y la degradación ambiental**



ODMs: Un Reto global – Un Reto Local

*“Los **Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio** deben ser entendidos, como: Objetivos, como compromisos, como decisiones, como mediciones, como medidas a tomar, como acuerdos, como anhelos, como demandas sociales. Trabajar por ellos implica fundamentalmente: entender la realidad de las personas mas pobres que viven en un país, asumir las responsabilidades que derivan de querer transformar esa realidad y tomar las decisiones y acciones necesarias para cambiarla”*



ODMs: Un Reto global – Un Reto Local



OBJETIVOS DE DESARROLLO DEL MILENIO

SISTEMATIZADOR DE INDICADORES DE MONITOREO DE ODM

Objetivo 1: Erradicar la extrema pobreza y el hambre

Objetivo 2: Lograr la enseñanza primaria universal

Objetivo 3: Promover la igualdad entre géneros y la autonomía de la mujer

Objetivo 4: Reducir la mortalidad infantil

Objetivo 5: Mejorar la salud materna

Objetivo 6: Combatir el VIH/sida, la malaria y otras enfermedades

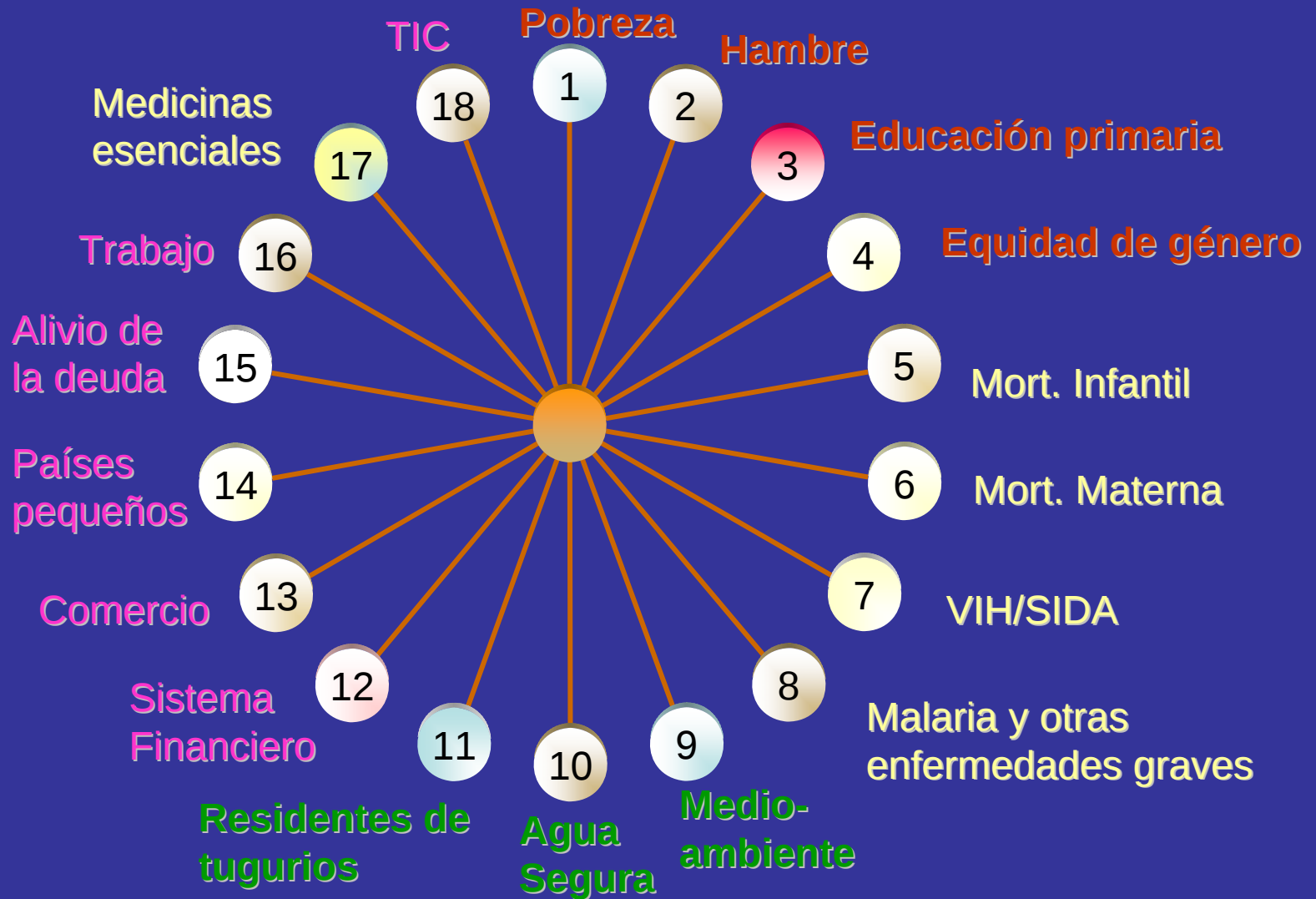
Objetivo 7: Garantizar la sostenibilidad del medio ambiente

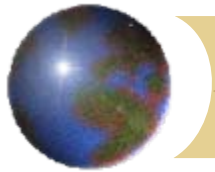
Objetivo 8: Fomentar una asociación mundial para el desarrollo



ODMs: Un Reto global – Un Reto Local

18 Metas interrelacionadas

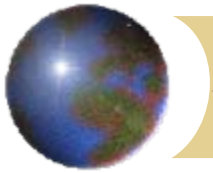




ODMs: Un Reto global – Un Reto Local

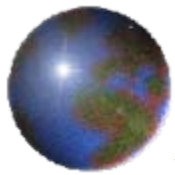
Por qué los ODM son importantes?

- Los ODM reconocen la multidimensionalidad de la pobreza extrema como son: los bajos ingresos, la vulnerabilidad a las enfermedades, la exclusión al sistema educativo, el hambre crónica y la desnutrición, la carencia de servicios básicos y la degradación medioambiental
- Los ODM son metas específicas de reducción de la pobreza **más completas** y que más amplio apoyo han obtenido en el mundo.
- Para el sistema político internacional, representa la piedra angular en la que se basa una política de desarrollo.
- Para las personas que viven en condiciones de pobreza extrema representan los medios necesarios para poder llevar una vida productiva.
- Para todos los habitantes del mundo, son la piedra angular de la búsqueda de un mundo más seguro y más específico.



❖ falta de participación ciudadana y un compromiso fuerte de la sociedad civil en la identificación de estrategias nacionales, en la vigilancia de la idoneidad de inversión pública, y la supervisión del gobierno en la lucha contra la corrupción y la ilegalidad.

❖ También ocurre que a pesar de una buena gobernanza se descuida perspectivas y determinadas políticas, lo que puede tener efectos desastrosos en la calidad de vida de los ciudadanos, un ejemplo de esto podría ser la falta de perspectiva de género, o la falta de inversión en la prevención del VIH/SIDA



Los objetivos del Milenio:

Un Esfuerzo Global una Tarea Regional

Qué significa asumir la implementación de los ODMs en los países y en la región:

1. Asumir una tarea que va mas allá del gobierno de turno, identificando los gobiernos cuál es su rol dentro de un proceso de largo plazo
2. Ajustar los planes de gobierno a acuerdos sociales
3. Significa identificar acciones concretas en el marco de programas sostenibles
4. Significa crear acuerdos sostenibles de largo plazo
5. Significa asumir que la acción necesaria para el avance en el cumplimiento de los ODMs es un proceso mas que una acción
6. Significa ajustar la toma de decisiones a acuerdos y a procesos donde la información es vital
7. Significa someter la acción política a evaluación
8. Significa crear las condiciones para mejorar las capacidades institucionales necesarias para crear un proceso sostenible



Los objetivos del Milenio:

Un Esfuerzo Global una Tarea Local

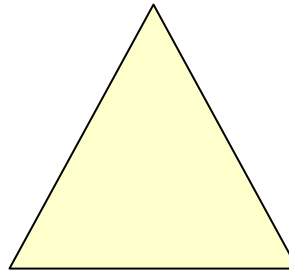
¿Por qué promover los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio desde lo local?

Porque se requieren tres tipos de acciones que desde lo local es posible abordar:

¿Qué significa abordar los ODMs desde lo local?

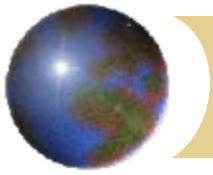
Significa asumir 3 tareas constantes, para las cuales es necesario tener capacidad institucional de dar seguimiento

Comprender la
realidad
de los ciudadanos



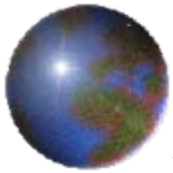
Movilizar compromisos y
responsabilidades

Emprender las acciones
necesarias a partir de la
toma de acciones

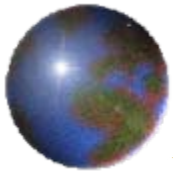


❖ El desarrollo de políticas públicas depende fundamentalmente de:

1. El **interés** que despierte la voluntad política
2. La capacidad de **comprender** la realidad social: que depende de tener información y saber interpretarla
3. La capacidad de **actuar** sobre la realidad a través de la toma de decisiones plasmada en la acción política



*Estado de Avances de los ODMs:
De la realidad Mundial a la
Local en América Latina*



“la desigualdad inicial, el insuficiente y volátil crecimiento económico y la concomitante falta de empleos de calidad están en la base de la persistencia de la pobreza, que afecta en promedio al 43% de la población, incluido un 19% que vive en la pobreza extrema”



OBJETIVO 1:

ERRADICAR LA EXTREMA POBREZA Y EL HAMBRE

ODM
2015*Hoy*

En el mundo

- Más de 1.200 millones personas (una de cada cinco personas) subsisten con menos de 1 dólar por día.
- De ellas, 25% son jóvenes.
- 800 millones de personas se acuestan con hambre cada día.
- 28.000 niños mueren por causas derivadas de la pobreza cada día.

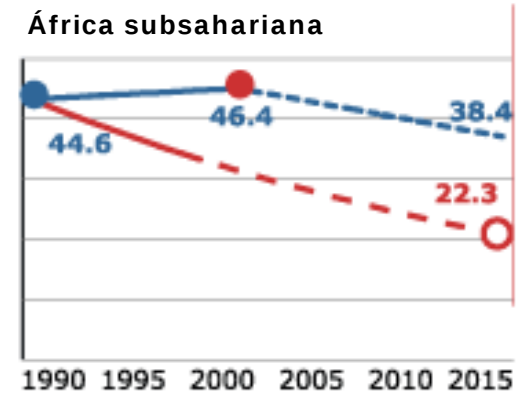
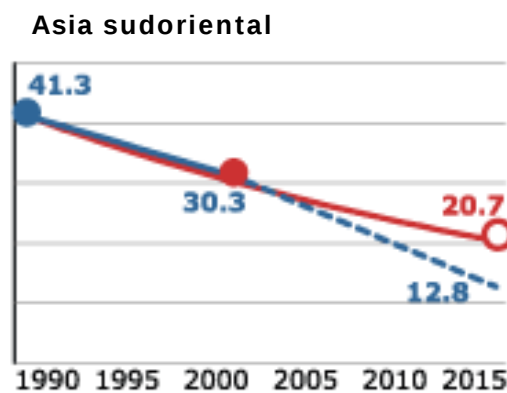
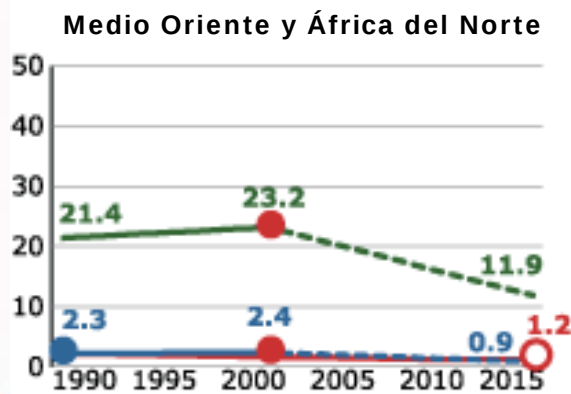
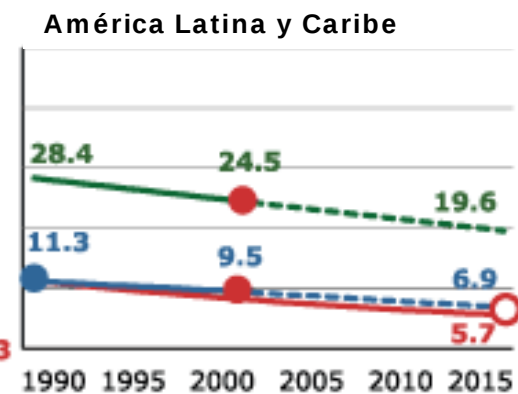
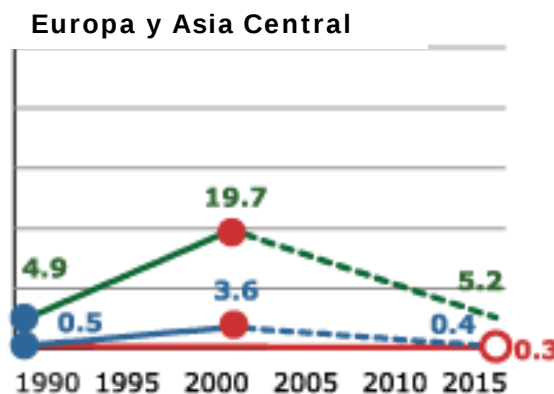
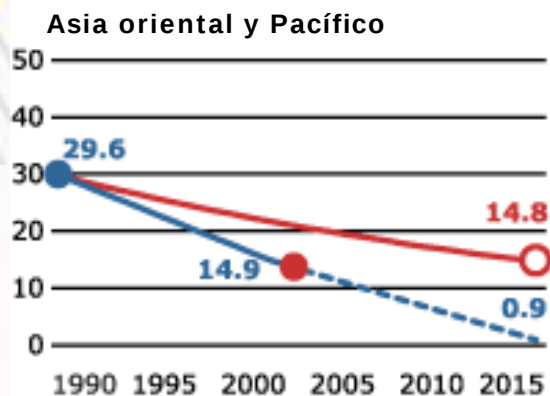
*Hoy*

En América Latina

- Más de 1.200 millones personas (una de cada cinco personas) subsisten con menos de 1 dólar por día.
- De ellas, 25% son jóvenes.
- 800 millones de personas se acuestan con hambre cada día.
- 28.000 niños mueren por causas derivadas de la pobreza cada día.



Población con ingresos inferiores de 1 dólar (2 dólares) por día



1990 2000 Meta 2015



Fuente: Banco Mundial

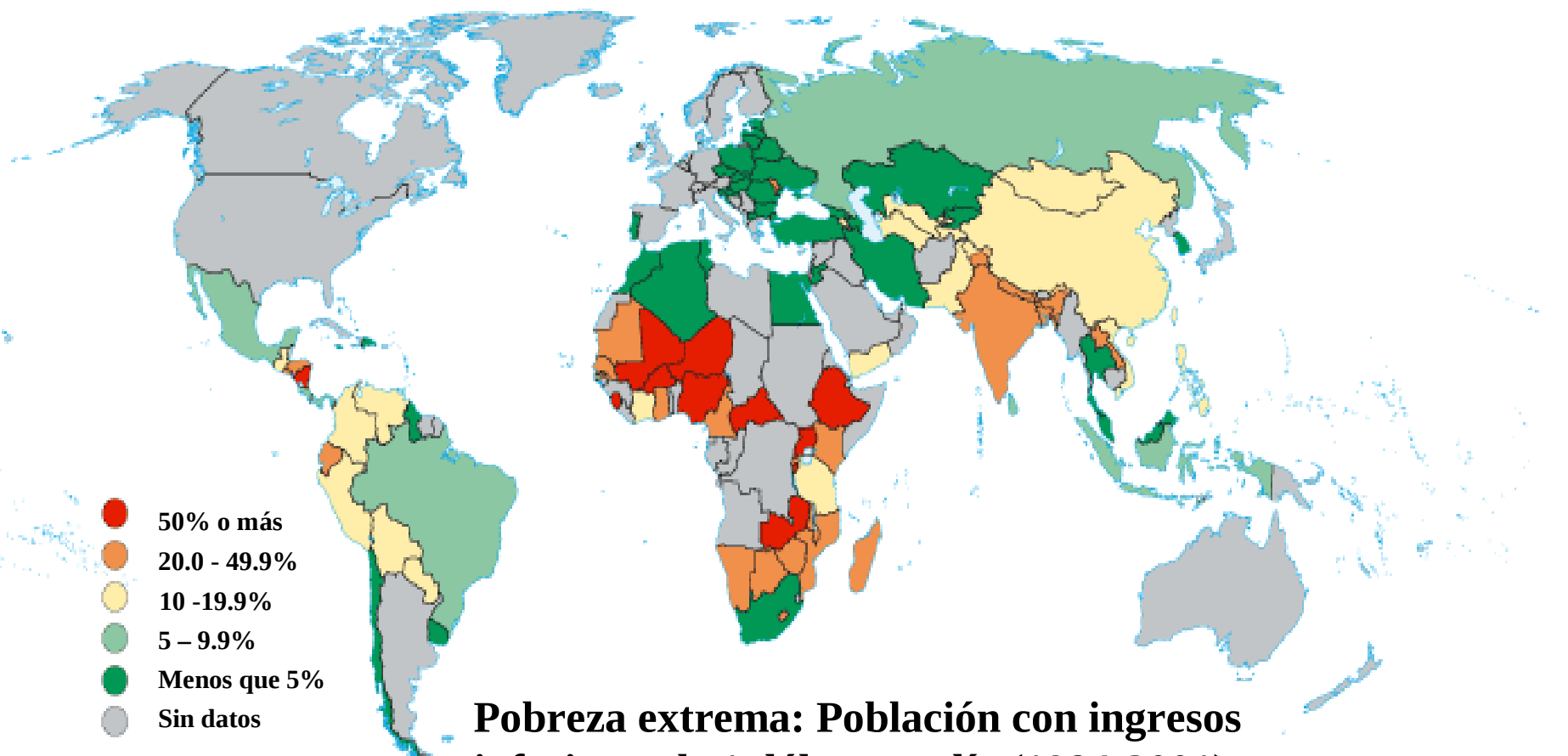
Extrema pobreza: 1\$/día

— actual — proyectada

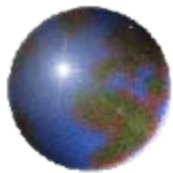
— Tendencia requerida para alcanzar el objetivo

Pobreza: 2\$/día

— actual — proyectada

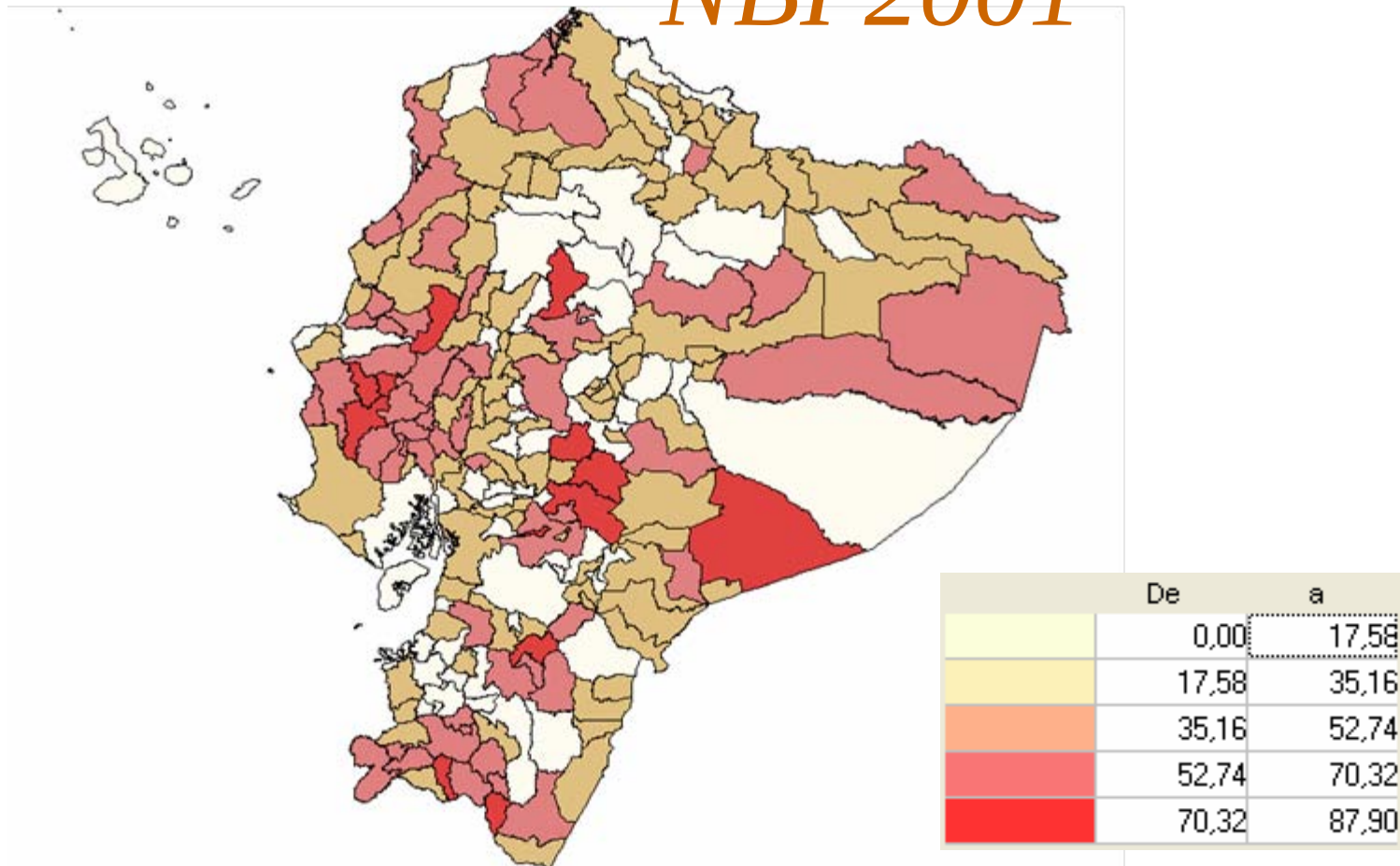


Pobreza extrema: Población con ingresos inferiores de 1 dólar por día (1984-2001)



Extrema pobreza Ecuador

NBI 2001





Situación de los ODMs en América Latina

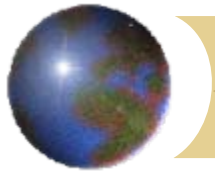
- i) El progreso registrado en la consecución de la meta de pobreza extrema es insuficiente

el examen basado en líneas nacionales calculadas por la CEPAL indica que solo un país ha alcanzado ya la meta y que cinco lograron un progreso importante transcurridos¹⁴ de los 25 años que median entre 1990 y 2015. En todos los países restantes, el avance fue escaso o, como sucedió en algunos, se registraron retrocesos.

- ii) Sin embargo, la región está en vías de cumplir la meta sobre hambre.

De hecho, en 15 de 24 países se redujo la subnutrición, pero es inquietante que la mayoría de los países con mayor rezago no hayan progresado a un ritmo acorde con el logro de esta meta.

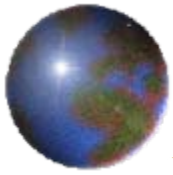
Tomado de: CEPAL, Los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio: Una Mirada desde América Latina y el Caribe, Naciones Unidas, 2005.



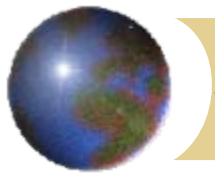
iii. Los problemas de insuficiencia de empleos y de baja calidad de estos son los más apremiantes: el desempleo abierto aumentó del 6,9% en 1990 al 10% en el 2004, y el sector informal urbano y las actividades agrícolas de baja productividad absorben más de la mitad del empleo en la región.

iv) El avance en la consecución de algunas metas indica que la región se encuentra en vías de alcanzarlas(entre otras, la equidad de género en la educación, el acceso a fuentes mejoradas de agua y la reducción de la mortalidad en la niñez)

v) La degradación del medio ambiente natural y construido, que es alta y va en aumento, tiene efectos negativos para la población pobre, tanto de las zonas urbanas como rurales.

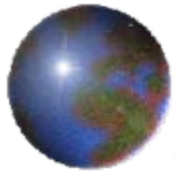


De Recomendaciones a Estrategias

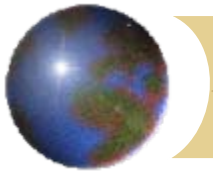


Recomendaciones de Política

1. La reducción a la mitad de la pobreza extrema y el hambre hasta el año 2015 exige un crecimiento económico rápido y sostenido
2. El crecimiento económico no es suficiente para lograr los objetivos de desarrollo en la región; una adecuada aproximación al crecimiento con equidad
3. Junto con reducir la pobreza y el hambre como urgencias de corto plazo, es necesario invertir en capital humano mediante programas sociales
4. Los países de la región deben hacer un gran esfuerzo interno para cumplir los objetivos de desarrollo del Milenio. Entre otras cosas, es indispensable que lleguen a un consenso sobre un verdadero nuevo pacto fiscal
5. Es imperativa la conclusión exitosa de las negociaciones que permitan a los países acceder a los mercados internacionales



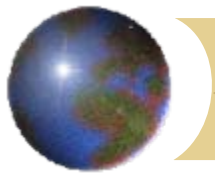
Preparando Estrategias Nacionales de Desarrollo



“Preparando una Estrategia en el marco de los ODM”

PASOS

- 1. Proceso efectivo e INCLUSIVO**
- 2. Revisar las estrategias existentes y definir una línea de base**
- 3. Asesoría de las necesidades (temas transversales)**
- 4. Desarrollar un Plan de Acción a 10 años**
- 5. Escribir una Estrategia Nacional de Desarrollo**



Preparando una Agenda Regional

- La oportunidad de una acuerdo mundial por el bienestar
- Un momento el establecimiento de una fecha: Una cita con el bienestar
- Alianzas para el desarrollo: el poder de la tarea colectiva
- Los territorios como lugares de desarrollo y concertación

- Una agenda para la gobernabilidad
- Rendición de cuentas
- Fortalecimiento institucional
- La necesidad de fijar agendas de largo plazo
- La cualificación de la demanda y de la oferta
- La oportunidad de construir acuerdos nacionales



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS
VII GENERAL ASSEMBLY
QUITO, ECUADOR, FROM MAY 29 TO JUNE 3, 2006**

Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development

Report

Chair: Senator **Dudley Lucia**, Netherlands Antilles
Spokesperson: Deputy **Efraín Villanueva Arcos**, Mexico

Gathered to discuss “The Impact of Trade Agreements on Environmental Protection and the Adoption of Policies Aimed at Ensuring Sustainable Development,” the Committee began its work by meeting with the following persons:

- Ms. **Lorena San Román**, Vice President for Latin America, Green Acres Environmental Services
- Mr. **Robert Hofstede**, Regional Coordinator, World Conservation Union (IUNC) Program
- Mr. **Miguel Solanes**, ECLAC Regional Advisor, Water Fees and Regulated Utilities
- Mr. **José Sandoval**, Deputy, Vice President of the Conference of Members of Congress and Legislative Assemblies of Mexican States.

The following points were raised by participants in their comments and interactions with committee members:

- Each country must adopt a national sustainable development strategy to ensure that economic development is carried out in a socially responsible manner and that future generations still have access to natural resources and a relatively intact environment.
- Parliamentarians must ensure that the national, provincial, state, and local laws they adopt or improve can serve as tools to ensure the enforcement of policies regarding the environment and development.
- Environmental issues were virtually ignored in talks to create a Free Trade Agreement of the Americas due to antagonistic positions founded in part on protectionism and market access on one the hand and on the structure of costs and competition on the other. We must remedy this situation.
- Reference was made to a study of the integration process underway in the Americas whose main conclusions are as follows:
 - Successful hemispheric integration will require new structures geared to sustainable development.
 - The debate over reconciling trade with environmental protection needs to evolve.

- Latin America's parliamentary sector needs to be better aware and informed of international, regional and subregional agreements regarding the environment. This is why COPA, in addition to taking advantage of UNEP's initiative on world environmental citizenship, must support the idea of creating a virtual training center in the region on the environment and sustainable development in order to devise a legal framework capable of assisting countries in the creation of their own laws and regulations in these matters.
- One of the Millennium Development Goals approved by the United Nations was ensuring environmental sustainability. It is our duty to take action on four points:
 - Biodiversity preservation
 - Social justice in environmental management
 - Integrated management of environmental resources
 - Governing in an environmentally conscious manner through legislation and agreements aimed at healthy environmental management
- In order to increase scientific understanding of biodiversity, the Andean Parliament is preparing to launch the Andean Institute on Biodiversity to serve the Andean Community.
- It has been suggested that all countries that are signatories to trade agreements and who do not yet have legislation in place aimed at the protection of the environment seek to reinforce their legal frameworks in order to avoid conflicts between international investors and human populations using public property for their own subsistence, because we must consider illegal all use of public property for private financial gain. In order for mediation and arbitration tribunals to effectively deal with current conflicts, all countries will have to have a reliable, transparent appeal system based on legal principles existing in other countries and international and regional conventions and agreements on the environment.
- Special attention must be paid to macroeconomic policies, which can just as easily be devastating as beneficial for natural resources.
- More importance must be placed on natural resources in Latin America by providing society with environmental protection services, meaning legislation will be needed. Environmental surveillance and impact assessment will have to be improved.
- Parliamentary representatives must review Action 21, bring pressure to bear for local Action 21 plans to be drawn up, and pay more attention to ethical aspects.
- Furthermore, in order to reinforce the concept of an ecologically sustainable environment and the ethical principles that must guide the use and management of the environment, greater environmental education efforts fundamentally focused on the needs of future generations will be needed.



VIIth General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA)

and VIth Annual Meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas

Quito, Ecuador

May 29 to June 3, 2006

Photos of the event - COPA





2006-08-01