

COPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Mexico City
May 1-3, 2002



TABLE OF CONTENTS

COPA Executive Committee

- [Program](#)
- [Reports](#) (PDF, version 5.0 of Acrobat Reader <http://www.adobe.fr/products/acrobat.main.html>)
- [Photographs of the Event](#)

2002-11-01

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING YEAR
2002**

MAY 1ST TO 3, 2002

**SHERATON MARIA ISABEL HOTEL
MEXICO CITY, F.D.**

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

Throughout the day Arrival at the "Benito Juárez" Mexico
City International Airport, welcome and
transfer to the hotel. Registration.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1st

Executive Committee Meeting of the Network of Women
Parliamentarians of the Americas

THURSDAY, MAY 2nd

8:00 a.m. Breakfast at the Sheraton Maria Isabel
hotel

9:00 a.m.

Opening of the COPA Executive
Committee Meeting (hotel's meeting
room to be confirmed)

9:30 a.m.

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION

- Information on the legal
recognition of COPA and review
of its Statutes

11:30 a.m.

Recess

12:00 p.m.

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION

- Proposal of responsibilities to be assigned to the Technical Secretariats located in Quebec, Brasil and Mexico
- Permanent Funding Proposal for COPA

2:30 p.m.

Luncheon

4:00 p.m.

Visit of Mexico City's Historical Center

8:00 p.m.

Return to the hotel

9:00 p.m.

Dinner

FRIDAY, MAY 3rd

8:00 a.m.

Breakfast at the hotel restaurant

9:00 a.m.

THIRD BUSINESS SESSION

- Committees creation proposal in accordance with the agreements concluded at the Third General Assembly of COPA, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

11:00 a.m.

Recess

11:30 a.m.

FOURTH BUSINESS SESSION

- Adoption of declarations and closing speeches (signature)

1:30 p.m.

Press Conference

2:30 p.m.

Luncheon

5:00 p.m.

Visit of the Museum of Anthropology and History and of the Castillo de Chapultepec

8:00 p.m.

Return to the hotel

9:00 p.m.

Dinner

SATURDAY, MAY 4th

Throughout the day

Transfer from the hotel to Mexico City Airport for departure of participants.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Presentation of the meetings	61
II.	Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas	65
2.1	Report of the Work Sessions	67
	Work Session I:	
	Opening	67
	Special audiovisual presentation of the COPA	68
	Comments on the legal recognition of COPA and revision of its Statutes	69
	Work Session II:	
	Motion respecting the responsibilities to be assigned to the technical secretariats of Brazil, Mexico and Quebec	71
	Motion respecting the creation of an Executive Secretariat	72
	Motion respecting the permanent funding of COPA	73
	Work Session III:	
	Motion respecting the creation of 6 permanent Working Committees	75
	Work Session IV:	
	Discussion respecting the IV General Assembly	83
	Miscellaneous	83
	Conclusions	83
III.	Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas	85
3.1	Report	87
3.2	Declaration of support for Ingrid Betancourt	91
3.3	Declaration in support of the re-establishment of the Rule of Law in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	95
IV.	Special presentations during the COPA Executive Committee meeting	97
4.1	Document presented by Ms. Mirta Elsa Rubini, Representative of the National Congress of Argentina and Vice-President of COPA - Southern Cone Region	99
4.2	Document presented by Mr. Antonio Fas Alzamora, President of the Senate of Puerto Rico and Vice-President of COPA - Caribbean Region	101

4.3	Document presented by Mr. Antonio Fas Alzamora, President of the Senate of Puerto Rico and Vice-President of COPA - Caribbean Region.....	103
4.4	Document presented by Ms. Velma Veloria, Representative of the Legislature of the State of Washington and Vice-President of COPA - North American Region	105
4.5	Document presented by Ms. Adela Muñoz de Liendo, Representative of the Andean Parliament.....	109
4.6	Declaration of support for Ingrid Betancourt.....	111
V.	Photographs of the event	225

I. PRESENTATION OF THE MEETINGS

I

PRESENTATION OF THE MEETINGS

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS

As stipulated in the Statutes of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas, or COPA, the Executive Committee held a working meeting in Mexico City, Distrito Federal, on May 1, 2 and 3, 2002, in accordance with the terms of the call to meeting and the program presented in advance by Ms. Laura Pavón Jaramillo, Representative of the National Congress of Mexico and President of COPA.

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NETWORK OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

On May 1, the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Network of Women Parliamentarians the Americas was held. This network has set up various programs to support the adoption of a gender-equity perspective in the work of parliamentary assemblies. The proceedings were chaired by Ms. Lyse Leduc, Member of the National Assembly of Québec and President of the Network of Women Parliamentarians.

**II. MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS**

II

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS

Mexico City, May 2 and 3, 2002

2.1 Report of the Work Sessions

WORK SESSION I

Opening

The meeting of the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Committee of the Americas was held in Mexico City on May 2 and 3, 2002. Ms. Laura Pavón Jaramillo, President of COPA and Representative of the National Congress of Mexico, chaired the proceedings. In attendance were: 1st Vice-President, Oswaldo Molestina Zavala, Representative of the Congress of Ecuador; Vice-President—Central America, Rodrigo Samayoa Rivas, President of the Central American Parliament; Vice-President—North America, Velma Rosete Veloria, Representative of the Washington House of Representatives and Member of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) of the United States of America; Vice-President—Caribbean Antonio Fas Alzamora, President of the Senate of Puerto Rico; Vice-President—Southern Cone, Mirta Elsa Rubini, Representative of the Argentina Republic; President of the Network of Women Parliamentarians, Lyse Leduc, Member of the National Assembly of Québec; past President of COPA, Kenneth McClintock, Senator of the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico; Representative of Venezuela at the Andean Parliament, representing its President, Adela Muñoz de Liendo; Mauricio Picarelli, Representative of the National Union of the Legislative Assemblies (UNALE), Brazil; Representative of the National Congress of Mexico, Celia Martínez Bárcenas, as representative of the Indigenous Parliament of America; Louise Harel, President of the National Assembly of Québec, Host Assembly of the first General Assembly.

Also in attendance, as national parliamentary representatives: Senator Raúl Lema Patiño of Bolivia; Representative Fernando Ferro of Brazil; Representative Tubal Paez Hernández of Cuba; Representative Nidia Díaz of El Salvador; Representative Carlos Nájera Sagastume of Guatemala; Representative Ernest Vilsaint of Haiti; Representative Doris Alejandrina Gutiérrez of Honduras; Representative Susana de Torrijos of Panama; Representative Mario Ecurra Franco of Paraguay; Representative Sergia Santiago Méndez of the Dominican Republic; and, as State parliamentary representative, José Antonio Cabello Gil, Representative of the Legislature of the State of Jalisco, Mexico.

Also in attendance, as the special guests of Mexico, the host country of the meeting, were: Representative Gustavo Carvajal Moreno, President of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the National Congress of Mexico, Representative Enrique Martínez Orta Flores, Representative Hortencia Aragón Castillo, Representative María Elena Chapa Hernández, Representative Beatriz Grande López, Representative María de los Angeles Moreno Uriegas, President of the Government Caucus of the Legislature of the Federal District, and Senator Leticia Burgos Ochoa, Member of the Senate of Mexico,.

The proceedings of the Executive Committee meeting were opened by Representative Erick Eber Villanueva Mukul, Vice-President of the Executive Committee of the Federal Chamber of Deputies of Mexico as the representative of Representative Beatriz Paredes Rangel, President of this Executive Committee and President of the Latin American Parliament.

Overall, the agenda of the proceedings was focused on three main themes: 1) strengthening the regulatory and operational framework of the Conference; 2) the relationship of COPA to other international organizations; and 3) proposals and the organization of the 4th General Assembly of the Confederation.

During the first working session of the Executive Committee in view of the 4th General Assembly, Representative Laura Pavón Jaramillo, President of COPA, reiterated her pledge to fulfil the mission of the organization by promoting mutual joint action for inter-American cooperation and regional integration. In her address, she stressed the guiding principles of the Executive Committee plan of action—namely, consolidation of the regional bases of the Confederation, and the adoption of orientations that serve to pursue and strengthen the organization's goals. From this perspective, the President emphasized the importance of solidifying the executive, financial and administrative structure of the Confederation, as well as the necessity of promoting its presence on the international scene and fostering better interparliamentary communications.

Special audiovisual presentation of the COPA

For the purpose of giving the new member parliamentarians background information about COPA, a slideshow was presented on the Confederation; the National Assembly of Québec took charge of compiling the documents and designing the audiovisual components entering into this slideshow (see appendix).

Comments on the legal recognition of COPA and revision of its Statutes

The members of the Executive Committee agreed to have President Laura Pavón incorporate the Confederation as a “civil association” under the provisions of Mexican law and thereby have the juridical personality of COPA recognized; where needed, member countries may enact the appropriate measures according to their respective legislation.

In addition, the Executive Committee agreed to begin the procedures leading to the admission of COPA as an associate member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU); members were also informed that COPA had been accorded observer status at the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA).

Considering that the Statutes of COPA (currently in force) adopted by the Rio de Janeiro General Assembly need to be updated, it was agreed to form a committee, chaired by Representative Laura Pavón Jaramillo, which will be charged with preparing a proposition for approval at the 4th General Assembly.

WORK SESSION II

Motion respecting the responsibilities to be assigned to the Technical Secretariats of Brazil, Mexico and Quebec

During the second working session, the Executive Committee approved the following tasks and responsibilities, which come under the supervision of three secretariats located in Brazil, Mexico and Quebec:

MEXICO	BRAZIL	QUÉBEC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat of both working committees • Parliamentary and political information monitoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Chile ✓ Costa Rica ✓ Cuba ✓ El Salvador ✓ Guatemala ✓ Honduras ✓ Nicaragua ✓ Mexico ✓ Panama ✓ Puerto Rico ✓ Dominican Republic • Executive Secretariat • Proceedings of COPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat of both working committees • Parliamentary and political information monitoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Argentina ✓ Bolivia ✓ Brazil ✓ Colombia ✓ Ecuador ✓ Paraguay ✓ Peru ✓ Suriname ✓ Uruguay ✓ Venezuela • Publication of <i>COPA Magazine</i>. • Website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat of both working committees • Parliamentary and political information monitoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Antigua and Barbuda ✓ Bahamas ✓ Barbados ✓ Belize ✓ Canada ✓ Dominica ✓ United States ✓ Grenada ✓ Guyana ✓ Haiti ✓ Jamaica ✓ Saint-Kitts-and-Nevis ✓ Saint-Lucia ✓ Saint-Vincent-and-the-Grenadines ✓ Trinidad and Tobago • Network of Women Parliamentarians • Compilation and updating of database. • Website • Translation

Motion respecting the creation of an Executive Secretariat

The secretariat of Mexico will have the responsibility of the secretariat of the two permanent thematic working committees; it will develop and maintain communications with the parliamentarians and the parliamentary assemblies for of a group of member countries for whom it will monitor legislative and political information. In addition, it will be responsible for drafting the minutes, resolutions and decisions of COPA.

The secretariat of Mexico will act in the capacity of Executive Secretariat of the COPA. Under the responsibility of the President's office, this secretariat will also be assigned the following mandates:

- Coordinating the administrative activities of the three secretariats of COPA;
- Supporting the President's office in the accomplishment of its duties of representing COPA internationally;
- Providing follow-up to the decisions of the Executive Committee and the General Assembly;
- Preparing the minutes and reports of the Executive Committee and the General Assembly;
- Preparing reports on the administration of the President's office;
- In collaboration with the treasurer, preparing and performing follow-up of the budget of COPA.

The secretariat of Brazil, set up by the Chamber of Deputies of the National Congress of Brazil and the National Union of the Legislative Assemblies (UNALE) of the Federated States of Brazil, will provide the organization with institutional support. This secretariat will have the responsibility of the secretariat of the two permanent thematic working committees and will develop and maintain communications with member parliamentarians and parliamentary assemblies, for whom it will monitor legislative and political information. The secretariat of Brazil will be responsible for publishing and distributing *COPA Magazine*. With Québec, it will be charged with running the COPA Website.

The secretariat of Quebec will offer the organization institutional support. It will have the responsibility of the secretariat of the two permanent thematic working committees and will develop and maintain communications with member parliamentarians and parliamentary assemblies, for whom it will monitor legislative and political information. With Brazil, it will be charged with running the COPA Website. The secretariat of Québec will be responsible for the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas and the compilation and updating of the database. Finally, it will be charged with the translation of the official texts of COPA.

Motion respecting the permanent funding of COPA

Concerning the permanent funding of COPA, the Executive Committee ratified the proposal according to which each of the parliaments of the unitary and federal States will contribute between US\$1,000 and \$4,000 annually, depending on the population level and the Gross Domestic Product; the parliaments of the federated States of Canada, and the United States as well as Puerto Rico will contribute US\$1,000 and the parliaments of the federated States of Latin America US\$250. The Executive Committee also approved an annual contribution of US\$1,000 for each of the regional parliaments and interparliamentary organizations. In order to make this decision effective, the President's office will implement the appropriate collection procedures as required.

Finally, concerning the last item on the agenda of the May 2 working session, the Executive Committee decided that the logo identifying the organization would be the one originally proposed at the Québec General Assembly, but with the image of the parliament of Québec being removed from it, the acronym COPA being added to it, and the original colours being adapted.

WORK SESSION III

Motion respecting the creation of 6 permanent Working Committees

On May 3, during the third working session, the members of the Executive Committee agreed that the general theme of the 4th General Assembly to be held in Mexico would be “PARLIAMENTARY STRATEGIES FOR PROMOTING EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT.”

In that connection, it was decided that the following themes will be analyzed by the permanent Working Committees:

- FTAA, economy, trade, labour and migration
- Democracy and human rights
- Education, culture, science and technology
- Health and social development
- Environment and sustainable development
- Peace and public security

As the outcome of an enriching sharing of reflections and analyses concerning the particular and general problems of the Americas and the economic and political changes occurring in the European sphere, the members of the Executive Committee agreed to stress the importance of follow-up on the negotiations surrounding the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) as a theme associated with the founding of COPA. Furthermore, they agreed that social development should be one of the main directions of the work performed by COPA, including the aspects bearing on equity, poverty, migration, health, education, among other subjects of interest for Parliaments.

For the purpose of setting up permanent thematic working committees, some members took advantage of the meeting to make known their interest in becoming part of working groups. It was then agreed that, via the COPA Website, registration lists would be filled out on the basis of the interest shown by parliamentarians in participating so as to determine the makeup of commissions and, accordingly, immediately commence the investigation work planned in view of the 4th General Assembly.

PERMANENT THEMATIC WORKING COMMITTEES

FTAA, ECONOMY, TRADE, LABOUR AND MIGRATION

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Economic integration
- Trade agreements
- Monetary policy
- Fair trade
- Industry support
- Foreign investment

ANALYSIS OF REGULATIONS

MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR

**PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO REGISTERED DURING THE MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

MR. OSWALDO MOLESTINA ZAVALA, REPRESENTATIVE (ECUADOR),
COORDINATOR

MS. JHANNETT MADRIZ S., REPRESENTATIVE (ANDEAN PARLIAMENT)

MR. ENRIQUE MARTINEZ ORTA FLORES, REPRESENTATIVE (MEXICO)

MR. FERNANDO FERRO, REPRESENTATIVE (BRAZIL)

MS. MIRTA ELSA RUBINI, REPRESENTATIVE (ARGENTINA)

MS. VELMA VELORIA, REPRESENTATIVE (STATE OF WASHINGTON, UNITED
STATES)

DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

DEMOCRACY

- Rule of law
- Institutions

HUMAN RIGHTS

- Promotion and defence
- Vulnerable groups
- Gender equality

PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY

ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSIONS

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

**PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO REGISTERED DURING THE MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

MR. JOSÉ ANTONIO CABELLO GIL, REPRESENTATIVE (STATE OF JALISCO,
MEXICO), COORDINATOR

MS. ADELA MUÑOZ DE LIENDO, REPRESENTATIVE (ANDEAN
PARLIAMENT)

MS. VELDA GONZALEZ DE MODESTTI, REPRESENTATIVE (PUERTO RICO)

EDUCATION, CULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

EDUCATION AND JOB TRAINING

- Literacy

YOUTH PROGRAMS

- Fight against worst forms of child labour

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- Bioethics
- New technologies (communications, etc.)

**PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO REGISTERED DURING THE MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

MR. LÉANDRE DION, MNA (QUEBEC), COORDINATOR

MS. LUCIA HELENA DE CARVALHO, REPRESENTATIVE (FEDERAL DISTRICT,
BRAZIL)

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
<p>HEALTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to healthcare and management of services• Prevention of infant mortality• Vaccination• Health education <p>SOCIAL PROGRAMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Housing• Support to families• Food security (food and potable water) <p>INCOME SECURITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unemployment, sickness/disability, social safety net, retirement <p>ELIMINATION OF POVERTY AND FIGHT AGAINST SOCIAL EXCLUSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Labour market insertion• Minimum wage
PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO REGISTERED DURING THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MS. LYSE LEDUC, PRESIDENT OF THE NETWORK OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS, COORDINATOR
REPRESENTATIVE TUBAL PAEZ (CUBA)
REPRESENTATIVE CARLOS SANTIAGO NAJERA SAGASTUME (GUATEMALA)
REPRESENTATIVE ANTONIETA BOTTO DE FERNANDEZ (HONDURAS)
REPRESENTATIVE DORIS ALEJANDRINA GUTIÉRREZ (HONDURAS)

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

- Earthquakes
- Floods
- Drought
- Eruption of volcanoes
- Hurricanes
- Other

ENERGY

- Renewable and non-renewable sources

**PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO REGISTERED DURING THE MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

MR. FERNANDO FERRO, REPRESENTATIVE (BRAZIL), COORDINATOR

MR. SERGIO OLIVEIRA, REPRESENTATIVE (STATE OF ACRE, BRAZIL)

PEACE AND PUBLIC SECURITY

PROMOTION OF PEACE AND HEMISPHERIC SECURITY

CONFLICT PREVENTION

- Monitoring

MEDIATION AND GOOD OFFICES

FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

DRUG TRAFFICKING

TERRORISM

**PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO REGISTERED DURING THE MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

MR. ANTONIO FAS ALZAMORA, PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE (PUERTO RICO), COORDINATOR

MS. ADELA MUÑOZ DE LIENDO, REPRESENTATIVE (ANDEAN PARLIAMENT)

MR. JOSÉ ANTONIO CABELLO GIL, REPRESENTATIVE (MEXICO)

WORK SESSION IV

Discussion respecting the holding of the IVth General Assembly

During the fourth working session, the Executive Committee agreed to charge Mexico with staging the IVth General Assembly, scheduled for the last week of November 2002. All necessary measures will be taken in order to make known the city selected to host the Assembly.

Miscellaneous

During the general business section of the agenda, members of the Executive Committee examined the declarations of the parliamentarians representing Argentina, Puerto Rico and Venezuela, and expressed their support (appendices).

Conclusions

As an outcome of the proceedings of the meeting of the Executive Committee of COPA, which members representing 17 countries of the Americas actively took part in, it was agreed to strengthen the role of parliaments in the decision-making process surrounding questions having an impact on the economy and well-being of the peoples of the Americas. In short, members reaffirmed their determination to continue working for the unity, integration, cooperation and solidarity among the member Parliaments of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas.

**III. MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NETWORK
OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS**

III

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NETWORK OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS

Mexico City, May 1st 2002

3.1 Report

The meeting of the Executive Committee of the Network of Women Parliamentarians brought together approximately 20 participants from about a dozen different countries and four regional parliaments. The members of the Executive Committee reached a consensus over filling the vacant positions on the Executive Committee, and agreed to accept the appointments of Ms. Maria Antonieta Botto Handal de Fernandez, of the National Congress of Honduras, as the second representative for Central America, and Ms. Deborah Hudson, Representative of the State legislature of Delaware, U.S.A. and a member of the Executive Committee of the Council of State Government (CSG), as the second representative for North America.

The Committee also announced the launching of the document bank on women on the COPA Website (www.copa.qc.ca). This bank contains the women's rights legislation of the members' home countries as well as a variety of links and resources in connection with women's status in the Americas and the world.

During this meeting, the members agreed to set up an internship program in their respective parliamentary assemblies in order to enable female students to become familiar with legislative processes and give thought to the possibility of a political career. The long-term objective of this measure is to increase the number of women active in politics. The parliamentarians representing Brazil, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Puerto Rico, El Salvador, the Andean Parliament and the Central American Parliament showed interest in implementing this project. According to the anticipated timelines, this internship program should begin in spring or fall 2003.

It was decided that the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Network, scheduled to take place in Mexico City in late November 2002 would include a training workshop respecting the tools available to parliamentarians for ensuring that gender-specific issues are taken into consideration by governments during the budget preparation process. In particular, this measure would make it possible to achieve compliance with laws respecting women's rights adopted in the various parliamentary assemblies.

***Reports of the meeting of the Executive Committees of the COPA
and the Network of Women Parliamentarians***

The member parliamentarians of the Network unanimously adopted a declaration of support for Ingrid Betancourt, the Columbian Senator and candidate for the country's presidency, who was kidnapped on February 23, 2002. They pledged to make their stand publicly known, promote the creation of parliamentary support committees for Ingrid Betancourt in their respective assemblies, and promote these stances in their national media.

3.2 DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR INGRID BETANCOURT



NETWORK OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR INGRID BETANCOURT

In response to the appeal issued by the groups founded to support Ingrid Betancourt in Germany, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Congo, the United States, France, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Peru and Switzerland;

In support of our fellow parliamentarian and in the name of justice, freedom and democracy:

Gathered in Mexico City on May 1st, 2002, the members of the Executive Committee of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas declare:

"On February 23, 2002, Ingrid Betancourt, candidate for the Colombian presidency, was kidnapped. We are dismayed by this outrage and demand the respect of her life and her immediate and unconditional release.

Nothing can justify civil kidnapping, whatever the motive, and a peace process cannot be undertaken whilst this kind of practice continues.

We believe that serious political negotiation is the only way to ensure the return of peace and social justice to Colombia and to find a solution to the historical problems of the country.

To this end, we demand that you act immediately to ensure the prompt liberation of Ingrid Betancourt and all other civilians imprisoned by armed forces. Furthermore we request that you do everything within your power to instigate the necessary dialogue to reach a political solution to the conflict, to establish the peace to which the majority of Colombians aspire, to restore the rule of law and to put an end to the deliberate massacre of innocent civilians and violations of human rights perpetrated by all of the forces present."

*Reports of the meeting of the Executive Committees of the COPA
and the Network of Women Parliamentarians*

Furthermore, the members of the Executive Committee of the Network pledge to:

Make this stand known publicly;

Promote the creation of parliamentary support committees for Ingrid Betancourt in their respective assemblies and publicize this measure in their national media;

Submit the present declaration to the members of the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) so that they may also adopt in the name of the principle of parliamentary solidarity governing this organization.

**3.3 DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
RULE OF LAW IN THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA**



**DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE RULE OF LAW IN THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA**

**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NETWORK OF WOMEN
PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS:**

WHEREAS

The objectives of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas of developing solidarity between parliaments; of strengthening these institutions, which are a vital component of the sovereignty of peoples; and of consolidating the democratic, pluralistic and participatory systems of member countries;

WHEREAS

The Inter-American Democratic Charter, signed by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Americas during the special session of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Lima, Peru, on September 11, 2001, recognizes that the exercise of representative democracy forms the basis of the rule of law of the member countries of the OAS; Representative democracy is strengthened and deepened by a permanent, ethical and responsible representation of the citizenry within a legal framework in conformity with the constitutional order;

Subsequent to the events that occurred in Venezuela from April 11 to 13, 2002, agrees to:

AGREE TO

- 1- deplore the acts of violence that caused the loss of human life and the responsibility for which should be established by the competent national and international authorities;
- 2- condemn the breakdown, albeit temporary, of the constitutional order, which caused insecurity, instability as well as the suspension of the rule of law, and which led to the dissolution of the National Assembly as well as the dissolution of the delegations of parliamentarians from Venezuela to the Andean Parliament and the Latin American Parliament, who are legitimately and directly elected by the Venezuelan people, to the same extent as with national parliamentarians;
- 3- express its great pleasure over the process that has led to the reinstatement of the constitutional democratic order of this country and the re-establishment of all powers of the State, particularly the legislative power—a situation that serves to strengthen democracy throughout the Americas;

*Reports of the meeting of the Executive Committees of the COPA
and the Network of Women Parliamentarians*

- 4- exhort the government and the people of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to strengthen the mechanisms of dialogue and nationwide joint action in order to achieve the unity and success that this nation deserves;
- 5- petition the member States of the Organization of American States to honor the commitments contained in the Inter-American Democratic Charter;
- 6- forward this resolution to: the member national congresses, legislative assemblies and supranational parliaments of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) and the OAS; the heads of State and government who belong to COPA; and to the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Mexico City, May 1, 2002.

**IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS DURING THE
COPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

IV

4.1 DOCUMENT PRESENTED BY MS. MIRTA ELSA RUBINI, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF ARGENTINA AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF COPA - SOUTHERN CONE

Whereas the economic crisis prevailing in the Argentine Republic is deeply affecting the Argentinean people; whereas, on account of the important role played by the Argentinean economy in the region, the crisis also has an impact on the economies and commercial relations with neighbouring countries; the Executive Committee hereby agrees to prompt the international financial community, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and other international organizations to supply the Argentine Republic with the necessary and appropriate financial support for confronting its current economic crisis and laying the basis for its sustainable development.

It is recommended, within the framework of regional and bilateral accords, to the governments of the Americas that they promote the entry of Argentinean products on their territory as part of a genuine policy of cooperation in order to solve the crisis affecting the Argentinean people.

Given this day, on May 3, 2002, in Mexico, D.F., United States of Mexico.

**4.2 DOCUMENT PRESENTED BY MR. ANTONIO FAS ALZAMORA,
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE OF PUERTO RICO AND VICE-
PRESIDENT OF COPA - CARIBBEAN REGION**

*SUPPORT FOR THE DEMANDS OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE
CALLING FOR THE HALT OF USA NAVY PRACTICES AND
EXERCISES ON VIEQUES ISLAND*

WHEREAS

COPA is a permanent, autonomous forum bringing together the Congresses and Parliamentary Assemblies of the unitary, federal, federated and associated Parliamentary Assemblies, regional parliaments, and the interparliamentary organizations of the Americas;

The peoples of the Americas and Puerto Rico share close relations of friendship and fraternity, as well as the common objective of total respect of human rights, in particular the unalienable right to life and health of their respective peoples;

The people of Vieques, the society of Puerto Rico and the international community have condemned the military practices and exercises conducted by the Navy of the United States of America, on account of the harm caused to the island's environment, health, economy and security through the significant deterioration of the quality of life of Vieques inhabitants;

The continual violation of human rights on Vieques Island has prompted incidents culminating in the loss of human life;

IN CONSEQUENCE WHEREOF:

The Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas hereby agrees:

1. To condemn any activity which, in any part of the world, is prejudicial to human rights, particularly the right to life, health, a healthy environment, security and economic well-being;

2. *To urge, with deference and respect for US sovereignty, the government of the United States of America to respect its promise and agreement to close this naval base in 2003 and, in the meantime, to halt, in the island-municipality of Vieques, Puerto Rico, the military practices and exercises conducted by the U.S. Navy, which has been flagrantly violating human rights. These operations have caused direct harm to the people of this municipality.*

3. *In accordance with the power conferred upon it under its regulations, to demonstrate its solidarity with the people of Vieques and the Puerto Rican people in their struggle to stop the military operations in this region and to enable the island's inhabitants to return to conditions of peace and security.*

4. *To recommend to the General Assembly that it adopt this resolution as an expression of the solidarity of the Parliamentary Conference of the Americas in support of peace and justice for Vieques, Puerto Rico.*

5. *A copy of this resolution will be sent to the President of the United States of America and the Governor of the Commonwealth of Porto Rico.*

Given this day, on May 3, 2002, in Mexico, D.F., United States of Mexico.

Proposed by:

*Antonio J. Fas Alzamora
Vice-President of COPA—Caribbean
President of the Senate of Puerto Rico*

*Velda González
Member of the Executive Committee of the
Network of Women Parliamentarians—Caribbean
Vice-President of the Senate of Puerto Rico*

**4.2 DOCUMENT PRESENTED BY MR. ANTONIO FAS ALZAMORA,
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE OF PUERTO RICO AND VICE-
PRESIDENT OF COPA - CARIBBEAN REGION**

CENTRAL AMERICAN PARLIAMENT

The undersigned secretary of the executive board of the Central American Parliament CERTIFIES THAT: during the session no. 150 of the Plenary Assembly held on 23 April 2002, the initiative no. AP/579-140/2002 was debated, and the resolution was issued in which it was indicated:

RESOLUTION AP/8-CXL-2002

**SUPPORT FOR THE DEMANDS OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE
CALLING FOR THE HALT OF USA NAVY PRACTICES AND
EXERCISES ON VIEQUES ISLAND**

WHEREAS

The Central American Parliament, in its capacity as an organization for producing statements, analyses and recommendations in connection with shared political and social issues and the respect of international law;

The peoples of Central America and Puerto Rico share close relations of friendship and fraternity, as well as the common objective of total respect of human rights, in particular the unalienable right to life and health of their respective peoples;

The people of Vieques, the society of Puerto Rico and the international community have condemned the military practices and exercises conducted by the Navy of the United States of America, on account of the harm caused to the island's environment, health, economy and security through the significant deterioration of the quality of life of Vieques inhabitants;

The continual violation of human rights on Vieques Island has prompted incidents culminating in the loss of human life;

IN WITNESS WHEREOF:

The Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas,

In accordance with the powers conferred upon it by the Constitutive Treaty of the Central American Parliament and other political bodies,

HEREBY AGREES:

1. To condemn any activity which, in any part of the world, is prejudicial to human rights, particularly the right to life, health, a healthy environment, security and economic well-being;

2. To urge, with deference and respect for US sovereignty, the government of the United States of America to respect its promise and agreement to close this naval base in 2003 and, in the meantime, to halt, in the island-municipality of Vieques, Puerto Rico, the military practices and exercises conducted by the U.S. Navy, which has been flagrantly violating human rights. These operations have caused direct harm to the people of this municipality.

3. In accordance with the power conferred upon it owing to its status as a body for the democratic representation of the Central American people, to demonstrate its solidarity with the people of Vieques and the Puerto Rican people in their struggle to stop the military operations in this region and to enable the island's inhabitants to return to conditions of peace and security.

Given this day, on 23 April 2002, in the city of Guatemala, the seat of the Central American Parliament,

And, so that it may be remitted to whom it may concern, I have signed, sealed and delivered this certification in duplicate bearing the letterhead of the Central American Parliament on 24 April 2002..

Representative Carlos Alberto Zelaya Coronado
Secretary of the Central American Parliament

**The Executive Committee of the Parliamentary
Confederation of the Americas (COPA)**

**4.4 DOCUMENT PRESENTED BY MS. VELMA VELORIA,
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE
OF WASHINGTON AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF COPA -
NORTH AMERICAN REGION**

It is with great pleasure that I am able to report to you that the leadership seminar that I attended last March 23rd was very successful. As a result of the seminar, a national network of 20 local and state legislators, attorney generals, staff and foundation officers have begun to formalize a coalition to link our work on democracy and trade with parallel efforts being done by other legislators not only in the United States but around the world.

Linking the COPA meeting and the U.S. leadership network on Trade and Democracy.

The seminar also gave me the opportunity to personally introduce COPA to the three largest funders of research and education on the implications of international trade policy for local democracy. These include the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Ford Foundation and the C.S. Mott Foundation. In addition to myself, the leaders of this seminar include faculty from Georgetown University and Columbia University, whom I have recruited to support my contribution to COPA.

Recruiting U.S. participation in COPA.

Several members of this leadership seminar in New York, have already expressed an interest in participating at the next COPA meeting. In addition, I plan to recruit participants through the following national networks of public officials:

- The Funders Network on Trade and Globalization
- The National Conference of State Legislatures

- The National Caucus of Environmental Legislators
- The National Caucus of Labor Legislators
- The National Black Caucus of State Legislators
- The National Caucus of Hispanic Legislators
- The National League of Cities
- The National Association of Attorneys General
- The International Municipal Lawyers Association

As long as COPA programs emphasize a democracy theme in connection with the FTAA, I am optimistic that I can recruit much stronger U.S. participation in COPA. However, it will also be necessary to seek travel funds from private foundations because government funds are usually not available for travel outside of a local jurisdiction.

Exploring ideas for the 2002 COPA program.

Below, I briefly outline several ideas for the 2002 COPA program, all of which focus on the theme of balancing democracy and trade. After I get a response from you, my academic advisors have offered to help identify potential speakers as well as identify institutions throughout the Hemisphere that could support the work of COPA members who want to address these concerns in their home jurisdictions.

- ***Greater rights for foreign investors.*** The model for FTAA investment provisions is NAFTA's chapter 11, which foreign investors have used to challenge public policies in Canada, Mexico and the United States. The NAFTA model gives foreign investors property and procedural rights that are greater than those enjoyed by domestic investors under the constitutions of each country. Yet throughout Central and South America, national constitutions provide that governments must not give greater rights to foreign investors than those enjoyed by domestic citizens. Does the NAFTA model undermine the balance of property rights established in national constitutions? Does the NAFTA model empower foreign investors to undermine state or provincial sovereignty to promote economic development, protect public health or conserve environmental resources?

- ***Sustainability of government services and domestic regulation.*** The model for the FTAA on trade in services is the WTO's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). Like the GATS, the FTAA draft on services appears to require that operating subsidies for government services like water, sanitation, health and education must also be provided to private sector service providers who provide those same services for profit. If so, would the FTAA undermine the fiscal base for government services? In addition, the FTAA draft, like GATS, requires domestic regulation of services to be no more burdensome than necessary to assure the quality of a service. Would this rule undermine the regulator capacity of governments to regulate insurance, energy, construction or basic utilities so as to protect broader public interests like environmental, planning or workforce concerns?
- ***The World Bank and trade negotiations.*** A coalition of 50 non-government organizations recently ask the World Bank to suspend implementation of a proposed Private Sector Development (PSD) strategy. The NGOs argued that the Bank's policies would undermine the bargaining position of developing countries in WTO negotiations on services (the GATS) and investment. Why? Because if developing countries were to accept Bank loans or grants, the Bank would require compliance with trade rules that the countries might otherwise choose not to adopt in their national interest. How might World Bank conditions for economic assistance in Central and South America affect those countries' positions regarding FTAA rules on investment or trade in services?
- ***Funding for economic integration.*** The European Union has achieved considerable success in integrating the economies of highly developed nations with nations that have far fewer resources. Unlike the FTAA proposals, the EU has not relied on trade liberalization alone; it has invested heavily in a structural fund that invests in the economic capacity of its developing nations. The lending programs of the North American Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank do not meet the needs for equity capital and public infrastructure, which are the focus of the EU's funds for economic integration. What could the Western Hemisphere learn from the EU experience? Is trade liberalization likely to result in equitable economic integration? Or is it more likely to result in Wall Street's ownership of Southern enterprise and public services?

I look forward to your comments and other suggestions for our productive interactions and discussions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

**Velma Veloria
Washington State Representative**

**4.5 DOCUMENT PRESENTED BY MS. ADELA MUÑOZ DE LIENDO,
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ANDEAN PARLIAMENT**

RECOGNITION FOR THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF OPERATING
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF
VENEZUELA

At its meeting in Mexico City on May 2 and 3, 2002, the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS

The objectives of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas of developing SOLIDARITY between parliaments; of strengthening these institutions, which are a vital component of the sovereignty of peoples; and of consolidating the democratic, pluralistic and participatory systems of member countries;

The Inter-American Democratic Charter, signed by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Americas during the special session of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Lima, Peru, on September 11, 2001, recognizes that the exercise of representative democracy forms the basis of the rule of law of the member countries of the OAS. Representative democracy is strengthened and deepened by a permanent, ethical and responsible representation of the citizenry within a legal framework in conformity with the respective institutional order;

Subsequent to the events that occurred in Venezuela from April 11 to 13, 2002, the Executive Committee of COPA hereby agrees to:

AGREE TO

- 1- Deplore the acts of violence that caused the loss of human life, the responsibility for which should be established by the competent national and international authorities;*

- 2- *Condemn the breakdown, albeit temporary, of the constitutional order, which caused insecurity, instability as well as the suspension of the rule of law, and which led to the dissolution of the National Assembly as well as the dissolution of the delegations of parliamentarians from Venezuela to the Andean Parliament and the Latin American Parliament, who are legitimately and directly elected by the Venezuelan people, to the same extent as with national parliamentarians;*
- 3- *Recognize the operating democratic institutions of this country and the re-establishment of all powers of the State, particularly the legislative power—a situation that serves to strengthen democracy throughout the Americas, of which a foundation is the respect of the will of peoples;*
- 4- *Exhort the government and the people of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to strengthen the mechanisms of dialogue and nationwide joint action in order to achieve the unity and success that this nation deserves;*
- 5- *Petition the member States of the Organization of American States to honour the commitments contained in the Inter-American Democratic Charter;*
- 6- *Forward this resolution to: the member national congresses, legislative assemblies and supranational parliaments of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA), the Organization of American States (OAS), the heads of State and government who make up COPA; and to the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.*

Mexico, May 3, 2002.



PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS

4.6 DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR INGRID BETANCOURT

In response to the appeal issued by the groups founded to support Ingrid Betancourt in Germany, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Congo, the United States, France, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Peru and Switzerland;

In support of our fellow parliamentarian and in the name of justice, freedom and democracy:

Gathered in Mexico City on May 2 and 3, 2002, the members of the Executive Committee of COPA declare:

"On February 23, 2002, Ingrid Betancourt, candidate for the Colombian presidency, was kidnapped. We are dismayed by this outrage and demand the respect of her life and her immediate and unconditional release.

Nothing can justify civil kidnapping, whatever the motive, and a peace process cannot be undertaken whilst this kind of practice continues.

We believe that serious political negotiation is the only way to ensure the return of peace and social justice to Colombia and to find a solution to the historical problems of the country.

To this end, we demand that you act immediately to ensure the prompt liberation of Ingrid Betancourt and all other civilians imprisoned by armed forces. Furthermore we request that you do everything within your power to instigate the necessary dialogue to reach a political solution to the conflict, to establish the peace to which the majority of Colombians aspire, to restore the rule of law and to put an end to the deliberate massacre of innocent civilians and violations of human rights perpetrated by all of the forces present."

Furthermore, the members of the Executive Committee of COPA commit themselves to:

Make this stand known publicly;

Promote the creation of parliamentary support committees for Ingrid Betancourt in their respective assemblies and publicize this measure in their national media.

COPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**Mexico City
May 1-3, 2002**



PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE EVENT











