



CONGRESO DE LA REPÚBLICA



The below signing Congress woman, President of the Working Group of Peruvian Parliamentary Women proposes that Congress representatives participating in the International Seminar: "Inter-Party Consensus Building by Parliamentary Women: Experiences and Common Challenges" adopt the following:

AGREEMENT

CONSIDERING:

That as women we represent half the population and we exercise an important role and contribute to the development of our countries, despite the fact there are obstacles that impede the full exercise of our rights in conditions of equality and justice. Definitively overcoming these obstacles is an essential condition for the consolidation of democratic governance and sustainable development in our nations.

That the social mobilization and political action of women has achieved important progress regarding their representation and inclusion in the highest decision making levels in public management, for example at the executive level such as in national parliaments, although always with the challenge of continuing to work to achieve a fairer and more inclusive political representation between men and women.

That the political participation of women and their representation in parliaments can contribute to institutionalizing a gender equity focus and equal opportunities in state management, thereby contributing to the construction of more inclusive and democratic societies regarding the rights and liberties of all persons, with no discrimination as stipulated in all the international commitments to which our respective countries are signatories.

Given that laws are instruments geared toward resolving situations that affect society as a whole their aim should be oriented toward the construction of common good and while their nature should be universal they have a differentiated impact on diverse sectors of society, according to social, economic, ethnic-cultural, generational or gender inequality conditions that exist in our countries.

Therefore, we must pay special attention so that the legislative initiatives that we promote and adopt in our parliaments contribute to overcoming these inequalities and put an end to all types of exclusion. It is critical that we incorporate the identification of the impact they will have on all sectors, in particular the most vulnerable, in the analysis and grounds for the law.

In the case of gender differences, frequently when a legal norm is proposed not only does it fail to contemplate the differentiated impact it will have on men and women but also when approved it limits the full exercise of women's rights.

That Legal Project 0389-CR has been presented, currently being debated in the Peruvian Congress that proposes elevating to legal mandate, the obligatory nature to incorporate as requirement in the basis of legislative initiatives, the evaluation of its impact on achieving gender equity between men and women.

THEREFORE WE AGREE:

To promote in our respective national Parliaments, the procedures and mechanisms to make it obligatory to consider in the analysis and basis of legislative initiatives and parliamentary decisions, the gender impact and the way it will contribute to decreasing inequalities.

To lobby so that these same criteria be permanently incorporated into the political control that our parliaments exercise over other public powers and institutions in the State administration, in particular those responsible for implementing policies related to assigning budgetary resources, education, health, employment, justice, attention to the problem of indigenous and Afro-descendent populations and natural resource and environmental protection.

To develop greater efforts to establish exchange, cooperation and joint work between our benches and women's parliamentary groups, to strengthen our national experiences and our skills in the perspective of fulfilling the commitment to achieve the full respect for the human rights of women and the construction of more just, democratic and inclusive nations, with equal opportunities, peace, well being and progress for all.

Lima, June 5, 2007.