

Press Release

Solidarity with Haiti, a major discussion topic at Executive Meeting

Panama City, January 30, 2010. Parliamentarians from the Americas, during the 21st Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas, held at the Sheraton Hotel in Panama City, Panama, from January 29-30, expressed their deepest solidarity to the Haitian population in the face of the enormous crisis the country is suffering as a result of the earthquake that took place on Tuesday, January 12. They adopted a resolution in which they commit, among other measures, to actively support their Haitian Parliamentary colleagues and to work at the regional level on the prevention of and response to future natural disasters.

In this same spirit, the Committee decided to include emergency preparedness as one of the three main themes to be addressed at the 7th FIPA Plenary Meeting – to take place in Mexico in November 2010.

Other discussion topics included preparations for a trade workshop for parliamentarians to be held in Mexico May 19-22, a meeting of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas to be hosted by the Congress of Ecuador in July and the design of a new training program for parliamentarians funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The Executive Committee, presided by Brazilian deputy Luiz Carlos Hauly, is responsible for carrying out the activities entrusted to it by the FIPA Plenary Assembly. It is formed by representatives from each of the regions in the hemisphere, which currently includes parliamentarians from Canada, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago.

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