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## *Press release*

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### **Some 100 participants at Plenary Meeting in Ottawa**

**Ottawa, September 15, 2009.** Some 100 participants from 21 countries of the Americas participated in the Sixth Plenary Meeting of FIPA which ended today with the approval of several recommendations and the re-election of Brazilian Congressman Luiz Carlos Hauly as president of FIPA for another two years. OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza acted as keynote speaker during the opening ceremony. For the first time, delegations from China and Russia participated as observers.

From September 13 to 15, parliamentarians discussed and made recommendations on issues related to the economic and financial crisis, food security, international migrations and human rights, gender equality and the Influenza A (H1N1) pandemic. A number of specialists in different fields presented their findings and shared their expertise during the working group sessions.

The Plenary Assembly, FIPA's highest body, ratified the election of Panama, Paraguay, Saint Lucia and the United States to fill in sub-regional positions on the Executive Committee, and of Linda Machuca Moscoso, member of the Ecuadorian National Assembly, as Chair of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas. Newly elected representatives will join their pairs from Canada, Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago and Dominican Republic who already sit on the Executive Committee.

Delegates also accepted the invitations of Mexico and Paraguay to host the Plenary Meetings in 2010 and 2011 respectively, as well as Ecuador's offer to host a meeting of the Group of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas in the coming year.

This was the first plenary meeting of FIPA hosted by the Canadian Parliament since the Forum's inauguration in Ottawa in 2001.

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