



Press release

Parliamentary participation in the Summit Process to ensure accountability and transparency

Port of Spain, April 16, 2009. In a statement adopted at the end of the Special Parliamentary Dialogue held today at the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, parliamentarians of the Americas called for an increased parliamentary participation in the Summit Process as a means to ensure accountability and transparency.

The Dialogue – a joint effort of FIPA and the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago – provided an opportunity for parliamentarians and government representatives of Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Grenada, Haiti, Paraguay, the United States, Uruguay, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago to share ideas on possible means to bring a legislative dimension into the Summit of the Americas process.

The president of FIPA, Brazilian deputy Luiz Carlos Hauly, praised the “open and honest” dialogue that “sets an example of parliamentary democracy between the legislative and executive branches.”

In the declaration, the parliamentarians encouraged such a partnership between the legislative and executive branches in the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain and expressed their will to participate on a continual basis in the Summit of the Americas Process through FIPA.

Keynote speaker Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago, stated that support from parliaments would be needed in order to legislate in areas such as arms trafficking or cybercrime, while Senate President Danny Montano called for parliaments to help governments set foreign policy and also to have a say over the conditions that are imposed on countries by development agencies.

Also in attendance was the OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza, who stressed the need to strengthen FIPA as an instrument of cooperation.

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