



Mexico, October 20, 2009

### **JIMÉNEZ MACÍAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN GROUP OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION**

- *Macías intends to build consensus in order to give more weight to positions taken to promote the region's interests.*
- *He is the first Mexican parliamentarian in over 20 years to fill this important position.*
- *He sees parliamentary democracy as a valuable tool for improving quality of life within our societies.*

Mexican senator Carlos Jiménez Macías was elected president of the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) at the 121st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), held in Geneva, Switzerland.

Macías is to head GRULAC from 2009 to 2012. The regional position is one of major responsibility, as GRULAC is the parliamentary forum within which Latin American interests converge.

Macías' candidacy was strongly supported by the Mexican delegation, composed of senators and deputies from all the political groups represented in the two Chambers of the Mexican Congress, and by members of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas, of which he is a past president.

The GRULAC presidency was previously filled by Venezuela and it now fell to the Meso-American and Caribbean region to propose candidates.

After his election, the senator declared he would strive to bring GRULAC member countries to form a common front to defend the interests of the Latin American and Caribbean region in IPU decision-making.

Macias' election strengthens Mexico's presence within the IPU, as Mexico now holds five positions on IPU decision-making bodies, namely, the Executive Committee, the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians (as the GRULAC representative) and the Rapporteur's Office of the First Standing Committee on Peace and International Security.

GRULAC is made up of the national parliaments of the Latin American and Caribbean region that are IPU members. The 19 member countries are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela.

GRULAC's main objectives are to reinforce and coordinate political action by the parliaments of its member countries with respect to the issues examined by the IPU, and to encourage a common position on those issues, in addition to promoting and defending the interests of the region's peoples.

Macias is the first Mexican parliamentarian in over 20 years to fill this important position, which entails significant responsibilities in the area of parliamentary diplomacy.

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