



Parliamentarians for Global Action

DR. RUTH WIJDENBOSCH TAKES OVER AS ACTING-PRESIDENT OF PGA

New York, 01 June 2011: Dr. Ruth Wijdenbosch, a member of the National Assembly of Suriname since 1987, has served as Deputy Speaker, from 1992-1996, 2000- 2005 and in 2010 was re-elected for a third term as Deputy Speaker. Dr. Wijdenbosch has been a member of the Committees on Education, Finance, Social Affairs, Justice and Police. From 2005-2010 she chaired the Committees of Defense and Foreign Affairs. She also chaired the Special Committee on the Rights of Women and Children.

Throughout Dr. Wijdenbosch's career, she actively promoted Gender equity and equality and served as the Special Adviser to the President of the Republic of Suriname on human rights issues. Dr. Wijdenbosch also chaired the United Nations Committee for the International Year of the Family in Suriname.

In 2000 Dr. Wijdenbosch was elected by the Suriname Council of Journalists as the most outstanding female politician for her excellent performance and commitment in politics. In 2006 she was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Minister of Education for her performance and promotion of sports.

On the international level, Dr. Wijdenbosch has headed the Surinamese delegation to the Inter Parliamentary Union, The Confederation of Parliaments of the Americas, COPA, of which she is on the Board. Dr. Wijdenbosch actively participated as a member of the Inter American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development in UN preparatory meetings and the final Conference on Population and Development itself in Cairo 1994.

Dr. Wijdenbosch has been a leading member of Parliamentarians for Global Actions for over 15 years. She has carried out two terms on PGA's Executive Board and in 2008 was elected as Chair of PGA's International Council. In 2010, Dr. Wijdenbosch was re-elected as Chair of the International Council and in her capacity is also a member of PGA's Management Committee. On assuming the duties of Acting President, PGA Dr. Wijdenbosch "thanked the past President Hon. Basse Ewa-Henshaw for his commitment and leadership." In her statement she laid out the challenges of "human tragedies and violations of human rights in several parts of the world combined with economic crises, in which [our] organization, PGA, has a pivotal role to play." She expressed her assurance that "with the support of the Management Committee, Board and Council, all of PGA's members, the Secretary-General and staff, we will be able to continue playing an important role in bringing positive change."