



**PARLIAMENTARY FORUM**  
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

## Legislation reform in Haiti

### Summary of report from seminar

On the 17th of March 2008, Forum member and the Secretary General of the Latin American Parliament, Senator Sonia Escudero, participated in a seminar held in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, organised by the Haitian organisation CERESS (Centre d'études et de Recherches en Sciences Sociales et Penales) and SweFOR. Orlidy Inoa, Associate Researcher for the Caribbean Institute for the Rule of Law (ICED) represented the Latin American network CLAVE

Several presentations were held. Representatives from CERESS explained the situation in Haiti. Representing the Latin American network CLAVE, Orlidy Inoa presented the network and its involvement in the process of developing the Model Legislation. She also introduced SweFOR and its support in the process.

Dr. Gustavo Colás, Secretary for the Commission on Internal Security and Drugs Trafficking of the Senate of Argentina, talked about paradigms in arms control issues and their relation to general policies and citizens' security in an international context.

Senator Escudero made a summary Power Point presentation on the structure of the Model Legislation which also included an introduction to the Forum, what it does, and gave the organisation's contact details and web address for those interested in joining.

The press coverage was excellent. Before the seminar Mr. Woldson Bertrand, Director of CERESS and initiator of the event, and Senator Escudero visited one of the main radio channels and during the seminar there was significant television coverage. Part of the seminar was filmed and during a break a press conference was held.

The day before the seminar, Escudero met with the President of the Haitian Senate and the Chamber of Deputies in order to invite them to join Parlatino. She also highlighted the activities developed during the seminar in order to promote the Model Legislation and the activities of the Parliamentary Forum. The president of the senate asked if CERESS would be able to support the process of developing an arms control law in Haiti. In this way a door was left open to continue the work and play an important role in this country.

Mr Woldson Bertrand: "We would like to thank SweFOR and the Parliamentary Forum on SALW for allowing us to host the seminar and for the participation of Senator Sonia Escudero and Orlidy Inoa and we will continue our work to silence the guns in the region".