

PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE FOR A REPRESENTATIVE CONGRESS (PARC)

AEP-I-805-00-00003-00 IQC 805

SIXTH QUARTERLY REPORT

JANUARY 1, 2003 – APRIL 30, 2003

**CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
(FORMERLY INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
GROUP),
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
(SUNY/CID)**

MAY 15, 2003

This sixth Quarterly Report covering the period from January through April 2003, is being submitted in compliance with Task Order 805, section 1.6.2. for the legislative strengthening program awarded on September 28th 2001 to the Center for International Development (formerly the International Development Group) of the Research Foundation of SUNY (RF/SUNY/CID).

The Report consists of four parts:

1. A summary of the accomplishments for the period.
2. A description of the activities planned and accomplished or not accomplished in accordance with the indicators included in SUNY's approved Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, with particular emphasis on indicators 1.1. and 1.2., 3.1. and 5.1. as per USAID instructions, DEMO L 100/02 dated July 16, 2002.
3. A brief assessment of the impact of the program to date, with conclusions and recommendations.
4. An explanation of the new focus and intensified schedule of key activities to be carried out from now to the termination of the program in September 2003.
5. A financial report, presenting accrued expenses from the inception of the Program through April 30, 2002.

I. SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Ever since the inauguration and organization of the newly elected Congress in August-September of 2003, the workload of SUNY has increased significantly. The destabilizing events of 12-13 of February briefly interrupted the implementation of several programmed events, paralyzing activities in the Congress and in some cases harming counterpart infrastructure, e.g. damage to the offices of the Vice-Presidency and the destruction of the Brigade offices in Oruro and Santa Cruz. However, in the month of March, the program not only recovered its pace but also intensified activities. The quick recovery was due mainly to the following factors:

- an uncommonly heavy demand on the part both of the Congress and of civil society to make use of the constituent relations mechanisms being promoted by the SUNY/PARC program, resulting in:
 - 7 Public Hearings of two congressional commissions;
 - 2 Minimal Regional Agendas of the Departmental Brigades of Tarija and Potosi;
 - 5 Brigade Public Hearings on the formation of Child Protection Committees in Oruro, Chuquisaca, the Beni and two hearings in Tarija.
 - the programming of 15 additional EDCs;
 - and the development and execution of a new constituent relations mechanism based on strategic interest groups called REDIC (Representacion Directa de Intereses Ciudadanos)
- increased dissemination of citizen rights, including:
 - the publication of a nation wide Sunday newspaper supplement,
 - preparation for contracting 4-5 NGOs to replace the dissemination campaign of CEP-CARITAS, and

- 808 radio information spots broadcast by the IRFA radio network throughout the territory of the Bolivian lowlands.
- Also, the Minimal Regional Agendas of the Potosi, Beni and Chuquisaca Brigades were formatted and published in the respective local newspapers for the public to review and monitor.
- continued on-the-job training of commission and brigade technical secretaries who need regular accompaniment in the application of congressional regulations and of the guidelines developed by SUNY. Besides this OJT, SUNY is planning a formal training for these technical secretaries in May.
- assistance to women legislators in:
 - the publication and formal presentation to Congress of the Minimal Legislative Agenda of UMPABOL
 - the lobbying for the successful passing of legislation concerning domestic employees.
 - the production with SUNY assistance of a 23 minute video concerning the history and accomplishments of the women's movement in Bolivia emphasizing the significance of the UMPABOL legislative agenda and its support by various gender oriented civil society organizations.

This increased work load has necessitated the hiring of four additional medium term consultants:

- one assistant to help the consultant in charge of EDCs and Public Hearings, whose time has been absorbed in developing, organizing and responding to the demand for the new REDIC mechanism;
- a technical consultant in the areas of NGO advocacy training;
- another technical consultant in communications;
- an assistant to support the work of the consultant in Brigade development.

This brings to seven the total number of new medium term consultants hired since the beginning of the of the present Congress in August of this year.

Finally, a part time assistant accountant has been hired to help handle the increased administrative load resulting from the stepped up activities.

I

II. ACTIVITIES, FIFTH QUARTER

1. EDC Model:

Activities Planned:

- Continue Bill Culver's study of the uninominal deputy's role and performance.
- Evaluate the EDC model by SUNY and DDPC staff (postponed from last period.)
- Program and begin to implement a new round of EDCs.
- Monitor compliance of those EDCs carried out in Nov-Dec. of 2002.
- Continue the dissemination of the EDC model through local radios.

- Continue to develop and implement alternative mechanisms for contact between the uninominal deputy and constituents.

Activities Implemented:

- **Bill Culver's Study on UDs.** The third visit of Bill Culver took place during April as scheduled. He started the planned in depth study of UD's activities in their districts and Departments. His research in three of the nine Departments will be used to design the individual studies to be carried out by local interviewers who will accompany the UDs in a typical work week. During his stay in Bolivia, he also communicated with Mitch Seligson and contributed to the design of the forthcoming Democratic Values Survey.
- **Evaluation of the EDC model.** Evaluation of the EDC model was partially completed concerning the basic elements of sustainability and assumption of financial responsibility on the part of the participants. There are still some outstanding issues regarding follow up and compliance with the Social Agenda that require further analysis. Specifically, the "Secretaria pro Tempore" (the model's mechanism to assure compliance) failed to communicate with the UDs, so the responsibility for follow up in the Congress is being shifted to the UAGP, which is receiving training for that purpose from SUNY. Still pending is to evaluate whether the Secreatria is doing any follow up with the commitments of the municipal actors.
- **Programming next round of EDCs.**
 - Implementation of the next group of EDCs was to begin with a unique experience: a joint EDC in the city of La Paz, bringing together all the 6 uninominals from the city. Despite discussing the matter in several planning sessions, the La Paz uninominals were unable to agree on a method of conducting the session acceptable to all. At this writing, the La Paz EDC is still pending.
 - On the other hand, agreement on the criteria for executing new EDCs and the changes needed in the model to fulfill them allowed the joint planning team of SUNY and DDCP to begin a process of identifying municipalities to be included in a program of 15 EDCs to be carried out from now until the end of August. SUNY is coordinating closely with USAID to ensure that the municipalities and "mancomunidades" chosen fulfill these and all other program conditions.
- **Monitoring compliance with the "Agenda Social".** Of the 4 EDCs carried out in November and December, the Uninominal Deputy from the 50th district in Santa Cruz (Jerges Justiniano) has not informed SUNY of his activities. In contrast, the Uninominal

Deputies from districts located in the Departments of Cochabamba, Potosi and Beni have begun to comply with various of their commitments in the area of constituent services (*gestiones*.) In each of these cases, the Uninominal has communicated by written notification and sometimes verbally with the appropriate ministry. In some cases, they have received replies from the Ministries, in others no. At this time, none of the UDs have acted on their commitments to get funding for projects or to initiate legislation. (See Quarterly Report V for the commitments assumed in these areas.) One difficulty for the deputy is to resist the enormous political pressure exerted by the municipal actors to assume responsibility for matters that are not under his/her control, e.g. obtaining from the Education Ministry more teachers for a local school. Consequently, a serious challenge facing them (and the participation of the UDs in the EDC model) is certain to be the adverse reaction of their constituents when the latter are informed that none (or very few) of the efforts of their representatives have had positive results.

- Disseminating the EDC model. See below.
- Developing alternative mechanisms.
 - Interactive Radio. SUNY assisted the Oruro Departmental Brigade to design and execute a series of interactive radio sessions concerning their "Agenda Minima Regional" developed in October of last year. Uninominal deputies participate in these sessions, which are being used as a model to develop a similar interactive radio program for the Departmental Brigade of Potosi, scheduled to begin in the month of May.
 - REDIC. During this period, SUNY developed a new means for constituents to access their uninominal deputy. This mechanism is called "REDIC" ("REpresentacion Directa de Intereses Ciudadanos"), and consists in a direct response to one or more selected interest groups from the uninominal's district. The deputy can either initiate contact with a strategic group or analyze and select the group(s) from the received requests for assistance. The uninominal then organizes the event, inviting the participation of all the relevant Ministries and authorities from the executive branch as well as municipal authorities and civil society organizations. The issues are discussed and, as in an EDC, the actors make written commitments to advance solutions to the problems. The first EDC was held in Cobija on the issue of micro and small enterprise. Over 150 participants from the micro-enterprise sector attended and the uninominal Deputy, Ana Lucia Reis, accepted approximately 20 commitments. SUNY is monitoring her compliance, which to date is progressing rapidly: within a month she has complied with the major commitment of obtaining a million Bolivianos for the home based laminating

project using Brazilian technology, and has also completed a number of her minor commitments, while some commitments are still pending joint action with the Prefecture..

Problems and Delays:

Dissemination: see below.

EDC model: Several important aspects of the EDC model have yet to be fully evaluated: follow up mechanisms; compliance with commitments; results.

Corrective Actions:

A fuller evaluation of the EDC model will be carried out once several more EDCs are implemented.

2. Public Hearings and Brigade Meetings

Activities Planned:

- Assist the Brigades in:
 1. Formulation of remaining "Agendas Minimas Regionales"
 2. Follow up meetings and Public Hearings of Brigades
 3. Dissemination of their Agendas Minimas
- Assist Congressional Commissions to organize Public Hearings
- Monitor and assist Brigades and Commissions in follow up activities

Activities Implemented:

- Assistance to Brigades
 1. "Agendas Minimas": The Departmental Brigades of Tarija and Potosi developed their Agendas, bringing the total number of Brigades which now are operating off these Agendas as their annual work plan to six. That leaves only the Departments of Cochabamba, Pando and La Paz without legislative plans due to organizational or other problems associated with each of the Brigades in these Departments. *(Please refer to the Annex of this Report for the contents of the respective Agendas.)*
 2. Brigade Public Hearings: SUNY assisted in the organization of 5 Public Hearings held by the Brigades from La Paz, Oruro, Chuquisaca and Tarija (2). These hearings were conducted at the request of CSOs and NGOs from the respective Departments who were concerned that Law 2026 mandating the formation of departmental child and adolescent protection commissions was being ignored. The Public Hearings brought together local NGOs, municipal and departmental authorities. As a result, the Prefects in these departments began the process of establishing and organizing these commissions with oversight and follow up committed by the respective Brigades. To be noted is that all of these hearing were a response to initiatives by civil society (indicator 3.1.2). The success of these Hearings has encouraged

the Brigades from the other 5 Departments to respond positively to similar requests by civil society.

3. **Dissemination of "Agendas Minimas."** The Departmental Brigades of Beni and Potosi published their Agendas in their local newspapers for the public to inspect and monitor. The Santa Cruz Brigade is preparing its Agenda for publication in early May. The Tarija Brigade is going one step further and not only publishing its Agenda but also plans to publish regular Bulletins on the progress it is having in accomplishing its Agenda. (*See Annex for an example of a published Agenda.*)
- **Public Hearings by Congressional Commissions**
 1. The Congressional Commission on Government continued its series of regional Public Hearings conducting 6 Hearings on its proposed Public Security Law. Four of these Hearings were conducted without the direct intervention of SUNY, which only exercised a monitoring and evaluation role. The organization of these Hearings independently of SUNY (performance indicator 4.1.2.) shows that the necessary know how and expertise can be successfully transferred both to staff and members of those Commissions willing to learn (at present, only a few Commissions are interested.)
 2. The Lower Chamber's Commission on the Constitution held a Public Hearing on citizens' rights and personal guarantees, specifically as these relate to the application of the new Criminal Procedures Code. This Hearing was notable because it was organized without direct assistance from SUNY but with participation from Management Sciences for Development (MSD) and Partners of the Americas (POA), both of whom are implementing programs under USAID's justice reform Strategic Objective. Despite some formal deficiencies in the conduct of the Hearing, notable the absence of a quorum and lengthy discourses by members of the Commission which threatened to transform the session into more of a seminar than a Hearing, the major participants did get a chance to advance their points and were satisfied with the Hearing and its outcome.
 3. Scheduled for the next reporting period are one more Hearing from the Commission on the Constitution and one from the Commission on Sustainable Development.
 4. **Monitoring Follow up activities:** When the complete cycle of 12 programmed Public Hearings is completed by the Commission on Government, SUNY will monitor the compilation of the results and their communication to the participants in accordance with the guidelines developed by SUNY for formulating and disseminating the summaries and conclusions of Public Hearings. In the meantime, ongoing monitoring of follow up to the Brigade Agendas Minimas is taking place. Here the members of the Brigade responsible for

particular activities face similar challenges as the Uninominal Deputies who participate in the EDCs. The activities which involve dealings with the various Ministries of the Executive Branch are likely to meet with resistance with little results from the *gestioneros*. SUNY is organizing a workshop with the participation of all the Brigades who have developed Agendas Minimas to analyze this and other follow up problems. This workshop has the joint sponsorship of the Presidential Ministry and the Vice-Ministry of Parliamentary Relations, with the intention of enlisting the support of these Presidential offices for the members of the Brigade in their dealings with other Ministries of the Executive Branch.

Problems and Delays:

Even with the help of one assistant, the consultant in charge of EDCs and Public Hearings did not have time to devote to compliance monitoring because of his absorption in the task of developing and executing the REDIC mechanism. Likewise the consultant in charge of Brigades had to postpone monitoring of the Agendas Minimas because of the need to develop proposals for the solution of problems involved in the obtaining and handling of Brigade funds.

Corrective Actions:

The major work on the REDIC model has been completed and should allow time for the consultant and his assistant to concentrate on developing the mechanisms and procedures which will facilitate compliance with the commitments assumed both in the EDCs and the Hearings of Congressional Commissions. As for Brigades, SUNY is in the process of hiring an assistant for the consultant in charge.

3. Citizens aware of civil and political rights

Activities Planned:

- Disseminate information on citizens' rights through publications, radio broadcasts, NGO training of base groups, and the formal education system
- Develop final draft of NGO advocacy handbook
- Publish Congressional Directory

Activities Implemented:

- Dissemination through publications. In March a 4 page newspaper supplement on citizens' rights and constituent contact mechanisms was published and distributed nationally. Also, the IRFA booklet, La Tia Canducha is being revised to eliminate local camba references and language for use on a national level. Finally, all the NGOs contracted to do dissemination will also publish material adapted to local conditions.

- Dissemination through IRFA radio network. Throughout the reporting period, IRFA has beamed to the Amazon and Chaco regions of Bolivia through its network of 42 radio stations a total of 808 jingles and spots on citizen rights and mechanisms to convey society's demands to Congress (EDCs, Public Hearings). To reinforce the message of these programs, IRFA uses a system of four to five hundred volunteer teacher-guides. SUNY was able to determine that IRFA's volunteer teachers understood these rights very well. However, none of the beneficiaries of the program had actually participated in one of these mechanisms, and showed little or no knowledge of how to exercise their rights. It was as if they believed that these rights existed and the mechanisms operated, but for someone else, perhaps for powerful groups or middle class urban dwellers but not for the poor or marginated, nor for themselves.
- Dissemination through other NGOs. While IRFA was slated to cover the lowlands, CEP-CARITAS had originally been designated to reach the rest of the country. When obstacles arose in the contracting of CARITAS, SUNY asked USAID to approve the contracting of a replacement. Because CARITAS has an extension much greater than any particular NGO, in order to cover the same area in the highlands and in order to make up for the time lost by delaying a decision on CARITAS, SUNY plans to contract 4 separate NGOs in distinct regions of the altiplano and valleys, at a cost approximately the same as the original contract.
- Dissemination through the formal education system. In the last report it was mentioned that some of the material developed by SUNY on citizens' rights and the mechanisms relating constituents to their representatives was incorporated into the social studies texts in the primary grades for the Bolivian public schools. Since that time, the Ministry of Education has informally manifested an interest in collaborating with SUNY to introduce more extensive material into its high school texts, and in the curriculum for the normal schools. A preliminary study has shown that these objectives can be obtained relatively quickly and at a low cost, ensuring a high degree of sustainability for the dissemination component of the PARC program. It also promises to be a stimulus for further development of the civic education curriculum and related activities, with schools being used as the venues for Public Hearings and EDCs that would serve both practical and educational purposes.
- The first draft of the NGO advocacy handbook has been completed. It will be complemented with additional material which will be taken from the second advocacy workshop for NGOs to be carried out in the month of June.

- Preparation for the Congressional Directory have been completed and at this writing it is at the printers.

Problems and Delays:

Dissemination to base groups was slowed down by the delay in making a decision about the use of CARITAS.

Corrective Actions

The delay in dissemination is being completely compensated by the contracting of the 4 NGOs mentioned above.

4. Congressional members and staff trained in constituent relation mechanisms

Activities Planned:

- a) Carry out training workshops for Commission technical staff.
- b) Train staff and members in the specific area of national and regional budgets.

Activities Implemented:

- a) During this period, SUNY consultants continued their on-the-job-training of the Brigade and Commission members and technical secretaries. Unfortunately the problem of staff turnover has returned to plague this component despite the rules developed by the Inter American Development Bank's PRONAGOB program and accepted by Congressional leadership. The new technical secretary for the Santa Cruz Brigade had to be trained from scratch. Despite this setback, a formal workshop is being organized for May to consolidate and test the knowledge of the staff concerning the Regulations on Public Hearings for Brigades and Commissions and their application. Following this workshop, the technical staff will themselves conduct a workshop for member consultants on the constituent relation mechanisms. Finally, the UAGP will hold its own internal workshop on improving its role in assisting the Congress. These last two workshops will be attended by SUNY solely for the purpose of monitoring and evaluating the results.
- b) For the budget workshop, SUNY hired a national expert to develop a short and non-technical handbook for legislators on how to understand the budget process and the role of the legislature in budget formulation and monitoring. This handbook will be used in the workshop and is expected to be completed in mid-May. An international budget expert has also been contacted to team with the national consultant in the design and delivery of the workshop.

The German GTZ has joined SUNY in the training of technical staff. GTZ will be in charge of training staff mainly in their administrative functions, such as registration and filing duties including how to open, document and close hearing files, how to register participants, how to keep running files, and the development

of a communication system to keep all commission members informed of issues and events. SUNY will continue to be in charge of:

- How to process citizens' requests
- Development of a guide for following up the hearings
- Convoking expert witnesses and public servants
- Drafting the initial presentation and presenting rules for public participation
- Roles and functions of the President and Secretary of the Hearing
- Official installation and opening of the Hearing
- Development of a guide to summarize proposals from the public
- How to draft the minutes

Problems and Delays:

During this period, there was still no decision from USAID relating to the computer network and evaluation of the CICON model.

Corrective Actions:

Information concerning the PRONOGOB computer network is now available (all the Brigades have received computers in their regional offices.) Furthermore, USAID has approved a study assessing the possible functions of a renewed CICON. Thus the evaluation of the network and the CICON will be completed in the next reporting period.

5. Women legislators participate more effectively in the congress.

Activities Planned:

- Formal presentation to Congress of Legislative Agenda of the Union de Mujeres Parlamentarias de Bolivia(UMPABOL)
- Selection of Agenda items to be supported by USAID/SUNY
- Initiation of implementation of the Agenda items.

Activities Implemented:

- In mid-March UMPABOL published its legislative agenda and formally presented it to a joint session of Congress presided over by the President of the Senate, Mirtha Quevedo. Numerous representatives from gender related NGOs and women's groups filled the galleries of the congressional chamber, hopefully a symbol that the traditional adversarial relation between these groups and women legislators had been finally put aside.
- Of the 25 legislative and oversight activities which constitute the women legislators' Agenda, USAID and SUNY chose three to support for this year: the passage of the Law on Domestic Labor, and reform of the Laws concerning Domestic Violence and Women's Access to Civil Registration.
- Initiation of legislative activities on the Agenda. The Law on Domestic Labor was passed in the month of April through the efforts of a coalition of opposition party caucuses and UMPABOL. Also, SUNY provided technical and financial assistance for the production of a video cassette on the history of the women's movement in Bolivia stressing the achievement

of formulating a gender oriented legislative agenda through the collaboration between UMPABOL and women's support groups.

Problems and Delays:

The gender consultant hired by SUNY to assist UMPABOL ended her contract.

Corrective Action:

After an open competition, the same consultant was rehired in April.

6. Donor Coordination

While the donor community in support of the congress continues to cooperate fully, there was some confusion about the role of SUNY in the group. This confusion was clarified by the decision to have a USAID representative attend the meetings of the donor group. Coordination between SUNY's work plan and the activities of the donors remains excellent. In particular, GTZ and ILDI are cooperating with SUNY providing technical assistance as to the administrative and organizational aspects of the relational mechanisms being promoted and utilized by the PARC program.

RESULTS REVIEW OF MAJOR INDICATORS

- 1. Performance Indicator 1.1.2. In the second year of the PARC, 80% of the UDs receiving assistance under the program will either participate in an initial and a follow up EDC or will use at least one other constituent relations mechanism and its follow up.**

The new director of the DDCP program has been very cooperative in engaging in the evaluation of the DDCP model, which has enabled the DDCP/UAGP/SUNY team to proceed quickly in the programming of 15 additional EDCs to be completed by the end of the PARC program in September. Of these it is estimated that 4 will also have a follow up EDC. Together with the 4 uninominals who participated in EDCs last reporting period. In addition, there will be from 10 – 15 uninominals who will be engaging in interactive radio sessions as part of their Brigades in Oruro and Potosi (see p.5 above, "Interactive Radio".) Finally, the REDIC mechanism is being implemented in three uninominal districts, and it is expected that a total of 5 – 7 uninominals will use this alternative mechanism. All these mechanisms are being constantly monitored to introduce improvements and adjustments, and an evaluation of their impact will be conducted during the last month of the program.

structure the town meeting model to avoid similar effects. Meanwhile SUNY will provide more assistance to the UDs who will be involved in subsequent interactive radio events.

- 2. Performance Indicator 2.2.2: In the first year of the program: operations manual for secretaries and members of**

commissions and brigades and advocacy guides for civil society.

As mentioned in the last report, a manual for Public Hearings was developed in August 2002; and a Matrix for the determination of regional priorities and the definition of a regional legislative agenda for Departmental Brigades was also developed in August. A consultant was hired to produce a very simplified guide to the budget process, which will be completed in the month of May and used in a budget training workshop in June. The first part of an NGO advocacy manual was completed in April, and a second part will be added after the second NGO advocacy workshop to be held in June. Finally, two important new Brigade instruments are being developed by SUNY: regulations for handling and accounting for Brigade funds, and regulations for the formation and functioning of the congressional Brigade Coordinating Committee. The drafts of these regulations are now being vetted with congressional authorities.

3. Performance Indicator 3.1.1: Citizens demonstrate an increased awareness of participation mechanisms available with the congress, and understanding of the roles of the uninominal representatives.

Besides the on-going intense dissemination activities of the IRFA radio network in the Bolivian lowlands, SUNY is in the process of hiring 4 NGOs to replace the failed CARITAS contract to cover the highlands and valleys. This in addition to the publications on citizen rights that have been published (see above, p. 7 – 8, "Disseminations.") As mentioned above, to assure the sustainability of citizen education by means of the formal education system, SUNY is having discussions with the MinED to have its educational materials introduced into the curricula at the high school level and also into the normal schools.

4. Performance Indicator 3.1.2: Civil society and citizens' groups have their requests and demands regularly processed according to official regulation procedures in 5 parliamentary commissions or brigades.

As mentioned above (p.5), five of the Brigade Public Hearings concerning the formation of Departmental Child and Adolescent Protection Commissions were held in response to requests initiated by civil society groups.

4. Performance Indicator 4.1.1. Congressional technical staff conduct at least one training session without outside technical assistance in each of the three key program methodologies (uninominal-EDCs, brigades and public hearings).

SUNY has been performing mainly on-the-job training for technical staff, but in May plans to conduct the first formal training workshop which will test the knowledge and skills of the technical secretaries. A second workshop will be held which will be organized and conducted by the UAGP itself to train new congressional commission consultants. Finally, a third workshop will be organized and conducted for and by UAGP staff where SUNY's participation will consist solely in monitoring and evaluating the results of the workshop.

5. **Indicator 5.1.1: Women representatives in the new Congress develop a common, gender oriented legislative agenda and actively promote at least two issues of the agenda within the congress.**

The Agenda has been formulated, published and formally presented to the Congress. One of the Agenda items, the Law on Domestic Employees, was passed by the Congress in April.

III. IMPACT, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

The impact of the PARC program on the Congress has been significant, as indicated by the demand for services from the representatives for EDCs, Public Hearings, and alternative mechanisms.

In this sense, the specific goal of the program, to strengthen the Congress in its representative function, is being achieved.

On the other hand, the ultimate goal of the program is to impact not only the Congress, but the Bolivian society in its support for the democratic system. In this sense, the positive effects of improved representativity are being submerged and wiped out by the very poor performance of the Congress in its other functions of oversight and especially legislation. Not only has the Congress proved ineffective in passing important laws, but more importantly the traditional process of deciding these issues behind closed doors is proving harmful both to the image of the Congress and to the stability of the country. In response to the disastrous tax reform bill ("impuestazo") imposed without public discussion or debate, Vice-President Mesa's pledge that the Congress would become the forum to debate these important issues, has been ignored.

From this brief impact assessment, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. To strengthen citizen support for the democratic system, the congress must open itself to civil society and to citizen participation in the important issues facing the country.
2. The instruments for citizen participation in the legislative process have been developed and are ready for use by both the congress and civil society.

3. The congress is incapable of self-reform because of the weight of tradition and party loyalty.
4. The demand by civil society must be intensified to pressure the congress to use the instruments at hand to enable citizens to participate in the legislative process of debate and decision on public policy.

Applying these conclusions to the PARC program, SUNY has recommended the following changes, not in the objectives, but in the emphasis of the program:

1. A greater emphasis on dissemination, both through direct adult education and through publications.
2. A shift in focus in the dissemination program, from knowledge to practice, from citizens knowing their rights to citizens exercising their rights.
3. A greater emphasis on the role of advocacy by the NGO community.

IV. NEW FOCUS AND INTENSIFIED SCHEDULE

During the present reporting period, SUNY has discussed these issues with the USAID technical office. Both the precarious political situation in the country and the demand from the members of Congress for the services of the PARC program require that the recommendations mentioned above be incorporated into the program in a more intense work schedule. Accordingly, SUNY is implementing the following measures:

1. Increased dissemination, involving:
 - a. the hiring of a communications expert
 - b. the contracting of 4 popular education oriented NGOs
 - c. the publication of more educational materials
 - d. greater dissemination through radio and TV
2. A new focus in the dissemination and education, emphasizing the exercise of citizen rights and not just the knowledge of those rights.
3. Increased emphasis on NGO advocacy, involving the hiring of an NGO expert and exploring the possibility to sub-contract an institutional counterpart (possibly FUNDAPPAC).
4. Additional support staff, as indicated in the overview section.
5. Increase in LOE from the project director, from part time to full time.

SUNY is convinced that with these adjustments, it will be fully meeting the requirements of the present conditions of the country, the needs of the program and the concerns of USAID.

END

Financial Quarterly Report January- April 2003

**Task Order No. 805
Representative Congress
SUNY - Center for International Development**

* In the past months SUNY went through a series of adaptations to a new administrative structure and oracle system. Therefore some numbers in the past quarterly financial reports had to be adjusted to reflect more exact figures in greater detail.

<u>Summary</u>	<u>Ceiling Price</u>	<u>Total cumulative expended to date</u>	<u>Total Cumulative billed to date</u>	<u>Difference expended - billed</u>	<u>Balance still available</u>
For Workdays Ordered	\$ 464,953	\$ 329,098.50	\$ 270,645.50	\$ 58,453.00	\$ 135,854.50
For Other Direct Costs	\$ 1,397,907	\$ 730,929.22	\$ 555,423.32	\$ 175,505.90	\$ 666,977.78
Totals	\$ 1,862,860	\$ 1,060,027.72	\$ 826,068.82	\$ 233,958.90	\$ 802,832.28

<u>Total expenditures by quarters</u>	<u>sep-01 Dec-01</u>	<u>Jan-02 mar-02</u>	<u>Apr-02 jun-02</u>	<u>jul-02 sep-02</u>	<u>oct-02 Dec-02</u>	<u>Jan-03 Apr-03</u>
For Workdays Ordered	\$ 63,012.00	\$ 48,303.00	\$ 40,254.00	\$ 49,848.50	\$ 57,160.00	\$ 70,521.00
For Other Direct Costs	\$ 109,270.43	\$ 79,303.79	\$ 119,328.63	\$ 145,681.37	\$ 136,693.32	\$ 140,651.69
Totals	\$ 172,282.43	\$ 127,606.79	\$ 159,582.63	\$ 195,529.87	\$ 193,853.32	\$ 211,172.69

Detailed Information

	Total cumulative expended to date	Total cumulative billed to date	Difference expended - billed
Functional Labor			
USN Long Term			
07-01 Legislative/Par/Dev/Specialist Specialist (Senior) Arthur Sist, Project Director	\$ 183,912.00	\$ 145,500.00	\$ 38,412.00
007-03 Program Dev./Implementation/ Monitoring/Reporting Specialist (Senior) Cecelia Skott, Project Start-up	\$ 59,032.00	\$ 59,032.00	\$ -
007-10 Administrative Support Ana Rosa Soares, Project Manager (mid)	\$ 63,602.00	\$ 43,561.00	\$ 20,041.00
USN Short Term			
07-01 LEG/PAR/DEV/SPECIALIST Committee Specialist Sean Carroll (Senior) First year	\$ 3,880.00	\$ 3,880.00	\$ -
07-01 LEG/PAR/DEV/SPECIALIST Continuation of Uninominal Study William Culver (Senior) First year	\$ 10,912.50	\$ 10,912.50	\$ -
07-01 LEG/PAR/DEV/SPECIALIST Advocacy Specialist Valerie Miller (Senior) Second year	\$ 7,760.00	\$ 7,760.00	\$ -
OTHER DIRECT COSTS	\$ 730,929.22	\$ 555,423.32	\$ 175,505.90