



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release No.: 013001-3
Date: January 30, 2001
Pages: Two

Anita Perez Ferguson sworn in as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation

Anita Perez Ferguson, an author, speaker and trainer with extensive government experience, was sworn in as chair of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation on Jan. 30. Kay Kelley Arnold, who has served as chair of the IAF's Board of Directors on an interim basis since January 2000, was designated vice chair.

Ms. Perez Ferguson served as president of the National Women's Political Caucus from 1995 to 1999 and as its vice president from 1991 to 1995. She was named White House liaison with the Department of Transportation in 1994. A frequent commentator on National Public Radio, she has been a part of the Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellows Program in Princeton, New Jersey, since 1999. Ms. Perez Ferguson is a resident of Santa Barbara, California, where she is active in local affairs and owns a publishing company, Luz Publications.

"As Chair, I intend to take the IAF's message to a broader audience in the United States. This organization represents many bipartisan values, such as democracy, self-help, partnership and respect for local governance. The IAF's people-to-people approach has been a catalyst for innovation and has fostered friendship and unity in our hemisphere. I am honored to carry on that legacy," Ms. Perez

Ferguson said.

Congress created the IAF in 1969 as an alternative to traditional government-to-government assistance. It provides American assistance to the poor of Latin America and the Caribbean, financing self-help projects designed by their organizations. Since 1971, the IAF has funded more than 4,300 such projects in 32 countries. Many include a wide range of partners, among them multi-national and local businesses, municipalities, nongovernmental organizations and universities. The IAF seeks out innovative development ideas. It was the first official development organization, for example, to support community projects financed in part by remittances sent home by workers who have migrated to the United States.

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