

PARLIAMENTARY



AMERICAS

CONFEDERATION
OF THE



COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY, TRADE, LABOUR, COMPETITIVENESS AND TRADING BLOCS

This working committee examines economic and trade-related issues, including all aspects of the economic integration of the Americas, investment policies, labour issues, and issues related to agriculture, fishing, natural resource use, and tourism.

Work Plan



COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY, TRADE, LABOUR, COMPETITIVENESS AND TRADING BLOCS PROJECT JUSTIFICATION



The Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) is an international organization that brings together the congresses and parliamentary assemblies of the American continent to work towards strengthening parliamentary democracy and building an inter-American community founded on respect, dignity, human rights, peace, social justice and gender equality. Since the creation of COPA in September 1997, the parliamentarians of the American continent have been collaborating through reflection, dialogue and action to find comprehensive solutions to the problems, impacts and challenges that concern all the peoples of the Americas.

In this context, the Committee on Economy, Trade, Labour, Competitiveness and Trading Blocs plays a fundamental role during key moments –similar to the challenges we face today in light of the global economic crisis– which requires the Americas to work in unison to avoid adverse consequences. As such, there is a need to reshape regional relations to foster understanding and dynamic cooperation, focusing on the unity that arises from the ties forged between the continent's parliamentarians.

Taking into account the new realities of our hemisphere, as well as the responsibility and objectives that govern our organization, such issues as labour, competitiveness, trade relations and the social repercussions of phenomena like migratory movements become priority issues for the development of a work plan capable of integrating a common interest in exploring solutions and prevention policies that will ensure stability and balance among the nations of the Americas.

Accordingly, establishing unity among the nations of the Americas will help strengthen the capacity required given the transformation of the global economic system's market conditions. The need to consolidate the multilateral system through clear rules that favour and ensure the equitable development of our nations has been demonstrated. The global economy is going through a difficult period, and we have seen that allowing the invisible hand of the State to drive our economy, according to a neo-liberal approach, represents significant risks for our societies and nations.

Given the issues governing the Committee on Economy, Trade, Labour, Competitiveness and Trading Blocs, this work plan seeks to incorporate the common interests and priorities of the Americas in these domains, in order to persuade members of the Committee to jointly formulate the proposals and solutions of mutual interest to COPA member states and the international community, which will enable them to meet the challenges associated with risk reduction and the exploitation of possibilities resulting from the economic transformation.



THEME PROPOSALS FOR WORK PLAN OF COPA'S COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY, TRADE, LABOUR, COMPETITIVENESS AND TRADING BLOCS

GENERAL OBJECTIVE	Act according to COPA's main objectives, including those of the president's plan approved at the General Assembly held in Mar del Plata, which attach considerable importance to finding comprehensive solutions to issues and impacts resulting from the continental integration process. This current work plan aims to introduce mechanisms that will enable COPA parliamentary members of the Americas to analyze and share their experiences on competitiveness and cooperation, as a development tool. Also, wage inequality between men and women will be studied.
PROJECT JUSTIFICATION	After analyzing the main issues threatening the continent's economic interests and the work carried out by the international organizations in parallel, a targeted framework will be developed to represent COPA member nations and find multilateral areas of activity that will favour positive solutions to today's economic realities.
PROPOSALS	INTERPARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSION FORUMS
THEMES PROPOSED	<p style="text-align: center;">COMPETITIVENESS AND DEVELOPMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WAGE INEQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN OF THE AMERICAS</p>



Multilateral competitiveness as a source of continental development

For COPA member countries, there is an ever-increasing necessity to optimize the use of resources and rationalize efforts in the common areas of activity in order to create the required synergy for the development of programs targeting designated areas that will stimulate our development.

We intend to address the following themes:

Trade relations in America: evaluation and action

Current conditions regarding the economic crisis and repercussions for the continent

Equal opportunities for men and women

Equality laws

Budgets taking gender into consideration

International cooperation as a first step towards trade development in the continent

Evaluation and perspectives regarding the current crisis

Gender-based wage disparity

Printed and online publications

Dissemination in the media

Round tables and forums for analysis

Presentations

Discussion forums between specialists

Areas of activity to be taken
into consideration:

National conferences for the dissemination of results

Research incentives

Joint work-plans between COPA and other IGOs and NGOs



**Organization of
the work plan:**

Step 1:
Preparation
**(2011 General Assembly,
Québec)**



Step 2:
Project development

Step 3:
**Evaluation and publication
of results**

Step 4:
**Results and concrete action plans
ARISING FROM LEGISLATIVE
MEASURES**

Step 1:



Working session with COPA members and the Committee on Economy, Trade, Labour, Competitiveness and Trading Blocs to establish the calendar of activities.



Once the calendar of activities has been established, determine which stakeholders will participate in the meetings, including the potential venues for the meetings and conferences.



Request the cooperation and joint participation of the private sector, financial organizations and collaborators that will help research and design competitive programs and propose solutions regarding the challenges faced by the Committee.

Step 2:
Step 2:
Project development
Project development



Once the dates of the forums and meetings are firm, publicize the information through various communication channels and on the COPA Web site so that all sectors are advised.

Bring together researchers and specialists to participate in events and research development.

Promote the Committee's activities in congresses, parliaments and assemblies across the continent.

Hold meetings and implement activities.

Step 3:

Evaluation and publication of results



Based on the progress made during the working meetings and discussion forums, prepare information brochures to publicize the results.

Post the resolution reports from the meetings on the Web site.

Seek joint action between parliamentarians, the private sector and international organizations to strengthen the action plans adopted by COPA and across the American continent.

Step 4:

Results and concrete action plans



Evaluation of the results of this work plan's various mechanisms of action.



COPA parliamentary meeting with the president of COPA and the president of the Network of Women to present the results.



Presentation of the report at the 12th GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF COPA to be held in Paraguay in 2012.