



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS (COPA)
EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY
QUERÉTARO, MEXICO
JULY 20 to 25, 2010**

**Committee on Economy, Trade, Labour, Competitiveness and Trading
Blocs**

**Resolution Concerning Trade Opportunities in the Americas in a Global
Marketplace**

We, parliamentarians of the Americas meeting in Querétaro, Mexico, for an extraordinary General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas:

recognizing that nine States of the Americas are celebrating the bicentennial of their independence, whose roots may be found in the historical events which gave birth to the Latin American independence movement, a broad process of consolidation which saw nationalities forging their identities through a courageous struggle for independence, and which continued via a further process of restoration, cooperation and consolidation of free and sovereign States, opening the way to the age of market globalization;

underlining the fact that globalization is an irreversible process that requires markets and States to compete in an increasingly complex and competitive marketplace, and the fact that States which fail to adapt to these changes are condemned to lag behind in a climate unfavourable to their progress and economic development;

understanding the context created by the opening up of global markets as a particular phase of capitalism which occurs when national markets become too small to accommodate the process of accumulation and expansion of capital;

acknowledging that the creation of larger markets generates greater opportunities of trade for the Americas, a situation requiring to redefine the room to manoeuvre that States have, and consequently, their interests are

confronted with those of globalization, and in particular with those of the large transnational corporations considered to be the engines of their economic growth;

aware that the financial crisis ongoing since 2007 has caused a contraction in the economies of most countries of the Americas, accompanied by an increase in unemployment, slower growth for businesses of all sizes in all sectors and a corresponding decline in international trade;

extremely preoccupied by the fact that COPA's member parliaments have not been spared by the problems currently afflicting the world's major economies, problems which have direct repercussions on our countries' economies and growth;

aware also that, historically, since their independence, the countries of the Americas constitute a strategic region because of their geographical situation, their ethnic and cultural richness and their abundance of natural resources and raw materials, all of which contribute to their attractiveness and afford them new and richly promising trade opportunities;

convinced that, in this context, it is necessary to make profound changes in the international economic system and create trade opportunities for our economies in a global marketplace;

WE RESOLVE:

FIRST: To recognize the importance, for the parliaments that integrate the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas, of the joint declaration on economic questions made at the Unity Summit (21st Summit of the Rio Group) and the 2nd Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development, signed by the heads of State and government at Riviera Maya (Cancún, Mexico), on February 23, 2010;

SECOND: To make our States more competitive via the following means: mechanisms that spread the culture of the Americas to other continents; joint projects for the development of science and technology; investment in infrastructures; the elimination of trade barriers under preferential regional agreements that will improve the quality of life for people throughout the Americas, yet without infringing the sovereignty of any country;

THIRD: To foster the transparency of, and unlimited access to, global market information, a challenge that will require increased discipline, stability and credibility on the part of commercial institutions and markets;

FOURTH: To share information and develop domestic legislation with a view to supporting measures that foster the establishment and stability of small and medium-sized businesses versus transnational monopolies;

FIFTH: To implement the measures needed to realign Americas' financial systems and the international system in order to avoid future financial and commercial crises, given that such upheavals have repercussions on all national sectors by increasing poverty and marginalization, thus obliging States to rethink public policies;

SIXTH: To encourage and develop trade opportunities for the Americas in a global marketplace, taking into account the size and level of development of the continent's various economies;

SEVENTH: To create integration initiatives for the continent while remaining open to international trade, with the firm conviction that a common market of the Americas will be achieved;

EIGHTH: To urge the Trade Ministers of our nations to stimulate the trade of goods and services by taking the measures needed to maintain current levels of trade and market access, so as to satisfy the continent as a whole and compensate in an effective manner for the decline in demand from the rest of the world. We also ask that these Ministers take measures to encourage broader access to the markets of developing and landlocked countries;

NINTH: To urge our governments to follow up on the Doha Round of World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations with a view to encouraging broader and fairer opportunities for trade for the benefit of all countries of the American continent. We also ask that our governments report to us on any agreements reached through the negotiations.

Made at Querétaro, Mexico, July 23, 2010