



PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, CULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

***Toluca, State of Mexico
August 6, 2014***

Resolution to stop bullying in schools throughout the Americas

GIVEN that school-based bullying comprises all forms of physical and verbal abuse to which a student is subjected repeatedly over time by a peer or group of peers, causing victimization distress;

GIVEN that 70% of Latin American children are directly or indirectly affected by school-based bullying, having experienced or witnessed acts of harassment;

KNOWING that, in Latin America, 37.2% of Grade 6 students say they have been insulted or threatened, and 32.4% of them say they have been physically mistreated;

GIVEN that adolescents subjected to bullying live in terror, experience panic at school and, in some cases, suffer from depression and suicidal thoughts, which they may act on;

KNOWING the current lack of preparation;

CONSIDERING that, while bullying occurs among young people of all ages, it is more frequent among adolescents, and that an estimated one out of three adolescents between the ages of 12 and 16 has experienced bullying first-hand, either as the victim or as the bully (the percentage of young victims of severe bullying is significantly lower: around 3%), and that this phenomenon is much more frequent among girls than among boys;

WE, the representatives of the congresses and parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal, federated and associated states, regional parliaments and interparliamentary organizations gathered in Toluca, State of Mexico, on August 6, 2014 for the meeting of the COPA Committee on Education, Culture, Science and Technology,

Acting on the recommendation of the Committee on Education, Culture, Science and Technology,

REAFFIRM our international commitments concerning the right to a life free from violence;

URGE the governments of the Americas to improve early warning mechanisms to rapidly identify acts of school-based violence, to determine their cause, extent and consequences, and to develop strategies to prevent and contain them;

AGREE to encourage the involvement of parents and other social actors in schools' daily activities so as to establish ongoing, effective communication conducive to raising awareness of school-based violence and to helping to prevent it, and to support students on their learning path;

PLEDGE to pass legislation in our parliaments to free children and adolescents from violence in the school environment;

RECOMMEND that all the parliamentarians who attended the meeting of the COPA Committee on Education, Culture, Science and Technology in Toluca, State of Mexico, follow up on this recommendation in each and every parliamentary assembly of the Americas and the committees responsible for education in those assemblies, so that proper attention is given to the phenomenon of school-based violence.

Resolution adopted during the 13th General Assembly of COPA, held in Asunción, Paraguay, from November 3 to 5, 2014.