



## 11<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS

Québec City, Canada

September 6-9, 2011

### Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development

September 8, 2011, 3: 00 p.m. to 6: 00 p.m.

#### Resolution

The parliamentarians of the Americas now gathered in **Québec City, Canada, for the third ordinary meeting of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas' Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development:**

**Recognizing** that the measures that aim to protect and manage fresh water reserves will have a direct impact on the availability of said resource in the short, medium and long term, especially in areas where climate change has engendered a significant reduction in rainfall.

**Acknowledging** that the demand for this essential resource will increase over the coming years and that its availability will diminish in many regions around the globe given the growth in the world's population and the repercussions of climate change on the quantity and quality of natural resources, in particular water.

**Considering** that the responsibility for protecting water resources must be shared by all levels of government (federal, regional, state and municipal), legislators, subject matter experts and the entire population alike.

**Being convinced** that there must be comprehensive and multidisciplinary solutions to effectively resolve the water crisis problem, without causing other environmental problems or disrupting the availability of food and services whose quality and quantity depend on water resources.

**With a view to ensuring** a follow-up of the commitments made during previous meetings and that the agreements positively influence our legislative bodies, as well as the joint efforts of our countries' governments and citizens.

**The Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development has seen fit to issue the following:**

## RESOLUTIONS

**Disseminate** the agreements approved during these meetings, including the relevant information on the protection of water resources, to our fellow legislators or to the public as per our accountability as elected representatives, in order to raise the public's awareness to the fact that the preservation and proper management of water constitute a joint responsibility.

**Develop** a directory or a supporting document that provides the current status of legislative progress made in all COPA member countries with regard to the preservation and proper management of water resources. Such a document would serve as a guide to duplicate successful experiences in other areas and to multiply measures aimed at ensuring the respect of basic access rights to sufficient quantities of good quality water.

**Reaffirm** our commitment to the environment and to continue the review of climate change laws and promote measures that seek to improve the regulatory framework, while placing special emphasis on prevention, in addition to complying with agreements on transboundary basins.

**Work** to ensure the participation of our governments at international events on climate change and press for effective actions toward real reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by developed countries and adherence to agreements on the reduction of polluting emissions. Moreover, implement strategies to ensure the strict observation of said agreements across all sectors of government and society.

**Identify** in the relevant laws the sanctions that will be imposed on those who pollute watercourses or the environment in a way that causes warming up the earth and thus endangering our water resources or those who neglect the preservation of water resources in light of the diagnostic findings previously carried out in each country. Furthermore, provide incentives for individuals and organizations who contribute to the sustainable use, preservation and comprehensive management of these resources.

**Urge** the legislators of the Americas, through the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, to encourage and join in the water project of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas.

**Promote** this Committee's creation of an official mass communications media (publication, Web page, magazine, etc.) to publicize the work of experts providing diagnostics on specific cases or promoting environmental preservation measures. Such an initiative would also allow stronger collaboration between parliamentarians who endorse the laws favouring the preservation of natural resources.

**Tighten** the various regulatory frameworks on environmental certification and aim to standardize them internationally to ensure the private sector does not neglect its responsibility to protect the environment.

**Solicit** public and private investment for research and development projects concerning new green technologies, thus allowing better use of water resources, and where possible, curbing the degradation of natural resources caused by production activities (agricultural, industrial, etc.) and domestic water use.

***Adopted in Québec City, Canada, September 8, 2011***