



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS  
MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION  
Aracaju, Brazil  
June 1–3, 2016**

**Resolution on Zika virus infection**

**Given** that Zika virus infection is transmitted mainly by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, which are also responsible for the spread of dengue fever and chikungunya;

**Knowing** that the Zika virus was first identified in Uganda in 1947, and that it has spread to the point where cases of autochthonous transmission have been observed in more than 30 Latin American and Caribbean countries;

**Understanding** that the reproduction of these mosquitoes requires particular climatic conditions and environments found mainly on our continent and in Africa and Asia;

**Preoccupied** by the fact that climate change is facilitating the spread of the virus;

**Concerned** by the absence of a vaccine or treatment;

**Preoccupied** by the recent discovery of cases of sexual transmission of the disease;

**Alarmed** by the link between the Zika virus and the increased number of cases of congenital microcephaly and certain neurological disorders, such as Guillain-Barré syndrome;

**Considering** that Zika virus infection is avoidable with the proper resources, such as information on prevention, mosquito nets and proper clothing, and that the risk of infection is greater for people without such resources;

**Acknowledging** that it is the most underprivileged segments of the population, mainly low-income women, who are the most affected by the infection;

**Knowing** that public health problems transcend borders;

**Noting** that the situation has led the Director General of WHO to declare a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC);

**We, the parliamentarians of the Americas meeting in Aracaju, Brazil on the occasion of the 32nd Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas and the Executive Committee of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas:**

**Express** our solidarity with the peoples affected by this disease;

**Urge** the governments of the States of the Americas to follow the international and regional advice on prevention provided by organizations specializing in the field, such as the World Health Organization (WHO);

**Encourage** States to maintain a state of alert in the face of the epidemic and to take measures to inform the public with regard to limiting conditions that foster the spread of mosquitoes and to preventing infection;

**Ask** States to prioritize raising public awareness, facilitating access to information and reducing the risk of contagion for pregnant women and women of childbearing age;

**Urge** the governments of the States of the Americas to invest funds to combat the Zika virus;

**Support** the development of information material on prevention of the disease and on sex and reproductive health education;

**Commit to** promoting, within our respective environments, measures aimed at countering the spread of these mosquitoes and fostering the development of medications or vaccines.