



Support for the People of Chile

*** Chile devastated by earthquake**

March 1, 2010 – The Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA), made up of legislators from countries throughout the American continent, wishes to express its concern for and profound solidarity with the Chilean people after the powerful earthquake that struck Chile on the night of Saturday, February 27. Initial estimates have put the cost in human lives at 1,000.

According to the American Geological Survey, this was the fifth largest earthquake worldwide (8.8 on the Richter scale) since 1900. Lost lives already number in the hundreds, and property damage extends to highways, hospitals and thousands of homes. In her first official statements, President Michelle Bachelet reported the number of persons affected by the disaster to be at least two million.

All the nations of the Americas, united in fraternal feeling, have felt the blow of this tragic event. To the people of Chile, to its government and institutions, and especially to the victims and their families, we take this opportunity to express our deepest solidarity. More, we call upon all COPA-member parliaments and governments to do likewise, and to make commitments of aid and support as Chile strives to take care of the disaster victims.

Lastly, we reiterate our commitment to COPA's objectives, which require that we act in a pacific, respectful and co-operative manner in the present crisis; it is our sincere hope that all of Chile's needs, both human and material, be met as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

**Edda E. Acuña, Senator
President of COPA**

**Cristina Ruíz Sandoval, Deputy
Executive Secretary of COPA**