

Recommendation on the fight against corruption

**Second General Assembly of the Parliamentary Conference of the Americas
Río Grande, Puerto Rico, July 19 to 23, 2000**

WHEREAS corruption leads to social regression and constitutes a major obstacle to fair and sustainable human development in all regions of the world, regardless of their level of economic development;

WHEREAS corruption at all levels of government administration as well as of the private sector hinders the efficiency and quality of services to the populations and constitutes an aggravating factor in persistent poverty and injustice;

WHEREAS unfortunately we must acknowledge that corruption also exists in certain Parliaments, primarily in the allocation of the budget;

WHEREAS corruption undermines the population's trust in our governments and institutions, endangers the foundations of economic and democratic systems and increases the precariousness of living conditions and the security of all populations of the Americas;

WHEREAS corruption leads to the misappropriation of large amounts of public funds which, as a result, cannot be redistributed so as to contribute to the well-being of all citizens, to economic development and to sustainable human development;

WHEREAS increased inter-American and international cooperation is essential to fight effectively against corruption;

We, the women and men representatives of the parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal and federated States, regional Parliaments and interparliamentary organizations of the Americas:

REAFFIRM our will to encourage compliance with and promotion of the principles of representative and participatory democracy, particularly through the fight against corruption, in order to support the sustainable human development of populations, the economic stability of countries and social justice within the Americas;

AGREE to continue our efforts to ensure the ratification and implementation of the regional and international conventions and agreements dealing with the fight against corruption, including the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption, throughout the Americas;

COMMIT OURSELVES to adopt measures to fight against and penalize all manifestations of corruption in Parliaments, particularly through the adoption of parliamentary codes of ethics;

COMMIT OURSELVES to encourage, within our respective assemblies, the adoption and implementation of strict rules governing the financing of political parties and election campaigns, and to ensure that these measures are submitted to independent control mechanisms;

COMMIT OURSELVES to instigate legal standards in our Parliaments making it possible to reinforce the supervisory mechanisms of Parliaments, with the participation of society at large, favouring the modernization of mechanisms and the training of participants;

AGREE to participate actively in the efforts to increase inter-American cooperation in the area of information exchange, with the goal of increasing the effectiveness of measures to fight corruption in the Americas;

URGE the Heads of State and Government of the Americas to adopt administrative policies and to set up increasingly transparent independent mechanisms of auditing, control and accountability, in order to reduce the risks of corruption, in the public and private sectors, throughout the hemisphere;

URGE the Heads of State and Government to implement study programs at all levels including the teaching of ethical values to promote an anti-corruption culture within society;

URGE the Heads of State and Government to provide the information needed by the legislative branch, by the organizations of civil society and by the population to guarantee transparency and control of all governmental processes.