



## **COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, CULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### ***RECOMMENDATION ON CULTURAL DIVERSITY***

*WHEREAS* the process of economic integration in the Americas poses a challenge to States and governments that have made cultural diversity a leading priority, which is an inestimable heritage for humanity;

*WHEREAS* the citizenries of the Americas have a vital interest in promoting and affirming cultural diversity;

*WHEREAS* cultural works are more than mere merchandise;

*WHEREAS* the proliferation of networks and means of communication, which have been made possible by the new technologies, opens outstanding prospects for the international dissemination of cultural works and for encounters and dialogue between cultures;

*WHEREAS* it is necessary to undertake sufficient actions of solidarity in order to promote equitable cultural exchanges among all the countries of the Americas;

*WE, parliamentarians of COPA:*

*CONFIRM* the right of States to freely define and implement their own cultural policies and to undertake measures of support in the cultural domain;

*AFFIRM* that it is necessary to protect the intellectual property rights of creators;

*AFFIRM* that it is indispensable to assure recognition on the international scene, and particularly in the Americas, of the role of Parliaments in supporting and promoting culture through legislation and other means of parliamentary action;

*AFFIRM* that the best method for promoting and affirming cultural diversity is the adoption of an international convention or instrument covering cultural diversity;

*DEMAND* from the Heads of State and Government of the Americas that they exclude committing to trade liberalization agreements affecting the cultural sector in negotiations concerning the creation of a Free Trade Area of the Americas.