



## **COMMITTEE ON PEACE AND PUBLIC SECURITY**

### ***RECOMMENDATION***

*WHEREAS* organized crime, terrorism, kidnapping of human beings, trafficking of drugs, vital organs and arms have dramatically increased in every country;

*WHEREAS* insecurity and violence are the consequences of inequality, hunger and the violation of human rights;

*WHEREAS* the shortage of rehabilitation programs for people in confinement in the penitentiary system of some countries throughout the Americas and the permanent existence of situations involving the flagrant violation of human rights, condemning prisoners to the most unfair and severe indignity;

*WHEREAS* there are no sufficient mechanisms to bring to a halt this terrible situation in many of our countries, due to the considerable increase in the number of young offenders;

*WHEREAS* public security issues are related to national security, and the sovereignty of nations is threatened by the increase in criminal activities;

*WHEREAS* it is necessary, in the legislative aspect, to modify many laws and strengthen the legal framework to prevent criminal activities;

*WHEREAS* most of our countries have young populations that are more easily prone to antisocial conducts;

#### ***IN CONSEQUENCE WHEREOF:***

*The General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) hereby agrees to:*

1. *DECLARE* that it is necessary to implement public safety policies in each country on the basis of a broad international cooperation;
2. *STRESS* that a better institutional development and a more efficient struggle are indispensable to favour the creation of citizens' councils to work along with the authorities;

3. It is necessary, in order to ensure the rehabilitation and social integration of prisoners, to consolidate programs that involve psycho-social and educational components as part of the rehabilitation;
4. As a rehabilitation measure, in the case of minor offences, young people should be offered alternative programs based on community services, that at the same time foster reintegration into the community;
5. *URGE* our governments to establish transparent justice administration models with constant reporting and indicators;
6. *CALL UPON* our governments to carry out prevention actions that, among others, include the strengthening of values.

This Recommendation shall come into effect immediately after its approval.

*Given this day, November 27, 2002, in the city of Ixtapan de la Sal, United Mexican States.*

*Presented by the Plenary of the Committee on Peace and Public Security of COPA.*