



## COMMITTEE ON PEACE AND PUBLIC SECURITY

### RECOMMENDATION

*“Support to the people of Puerto Rico in their demand for the US Navy to cease military manoeuvres on Vieques Island.”*

#### WHEREAS:

COPA is a permanent and autonomous forum that brings together the Congresses and Parliamentary Assemblies of the Unitary, Federal and Federated, and associated States, the Regional Parliaments and the Interparliamentary Organizations of the Americas;

The close relations of friendship and brotherhood between the peoples of the Americas and Puerto Rico, as well as the shared goals towards full respect and recognition of human rights, especially the inalienable right to life and health of their respective peoples;

The people of Vieques, the society of Puerto Rico and the international community have condemned the military exercises carried out by the Navy of the United States of America, due to their disastrous effect on its environment, health, economy and security, significantly hampering the quality of the life of the island’s inhabitants;

The constant violation of human rights on Vieques Island, as a result of the military manoeuvres, has caused confrontations with the loss of human lives;

#### IN CONSEQUENCE WHEREOF:

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

1. *ACCEPT* the recommendation made by the Executive Committee of COPA, through a resolution approved on May 3, 2002, in Mexico City, D. F., United Mexican States, in support of the demand for peace and justice for Vieques, Puerto Rico;
2. *CONDEMN* all practices that, anywhere throughout the world, infringe human rights, especially, the right to life, the right to health, the right to a healthy environment, the right to security and economic well-being;

3. *URGE*, in a respectful manner and with respect towards its sovereignty, the Government of the United States of America to comply with its commitment and the agreement to close down that Naval Base in 2003, and in the meantime, to cease all military exercises on the Island-Municipality of Vieques, Puerto Rico, which are being carried out by the Navy, in flagrant violation of human rights, and whose harmful consequences are being directly suffered by the population of this municipality.

The General Assembly, by virtue of the authority bestowed upon it by the statutes, has declared its solidarity with the population of Vieques and the People of Puerto Rico in their struggle for the ceasing of military exercises in that region and for the restoration of peace and security for this population.

A copy of this Recommendation will be sent to the President of the United Mexican States, to the Governor of the Free Associated State of Puerto Rico and to the media.

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 States of Mexico.*

*Proposed by:*

*Senator Antonio J. Fas Alzamora  
Vice-president, COPA, Caribbean Region  
President, Committee on Peace and Public Security  
President of the Senate, Free Associated State of Puerto Rico*