



## COMMITTEE ON PEACE AND PUBLIC SECURITY

### RECOMMENDATION

*To express the adherence of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas, to the principles stated in “The Puerto Rico Declaration: Connecting the New Humanity”, approved as a result of the International Conference on Peace and Development: “Peace in Peacetime”, held in San Juan, Puerto Rico and to recommend to the Congresses and Parliamentary Assemblies of the Unitary, Federal and Federated, and associated States, the Regional Parliaments and the Interparliamentary Organizations of the Americas that form part of COPA to support the said principles.*

*WHEREAS* last August 12, 13 and 14, the Conference on Peace and Development: “Peace in Peacetime” was held. This conference convened by the Senate of the Free Associated State of Puerto Rico and the Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress, gathered in Puerto Rico a diverse group of individuals, linked together only by their common concern for the present course of humanity;

*WHEREAS* in this meeting the following panelists and speakers took part: Sila M. Calderón, Governor of the Free Associated State of Puerto Rico; Antonio J. Fas Alzamora, President of the Senate of Puerto Rico; Oscar Arias, 1987 Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Costa Rica; Franklin Chang, astronaut, Costa Rica/USA; Deepak Chopra, doctor and mystic thinker, India / USA; Fernando Gaitán, Colombian scriptwriter and journalist; Theresa Chastain, American economist; Luis F. Coss, Puerto Rican journalist; Lloyd Dumas, American journalist; Wilfredo Estrada, Puerto Rican religious leader; Alda Facio, Costa Rican human rights activist; Maneka Gandhi, parliamentarian from India; Baltazar Garzón, Spanish investigating judge; Ashok Khosla, physician and social activist from India; Mario Lubetkin, Director of “International Press Service”, Uruguay; Ricky Martin, Puerto Rican singer and actor; Antonio Martorell, Puerto Rican plastic artist; Sister Mary Ann McGiven, American peace activist; Jacobo Morales, Puerto Rican filmmaker; Sarah Ozacky-Lazar, Director of the Arab/Israeli Center for Peace, Israel; Silverio Pérez, Puerto Rican comedian; Ernesto Sabato, Argentinian writer; Roberto Savio, founder of “Inter Press Service”, Italy; José R. Santori, Puerto Rican sport commentator; Roberto Schawartz, Pakistani economist; Juan A. Vera, Puerto Rican religious leader; Carol Wacey, American political and media analyst; Betty Williams, 1967 Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Ireland; Fernando Picó S. J., Puerto Rican Historian; Danny Rivera, Puerto Rican singer, and Gregory Marín, Vice-President, Soka Gakkai Int.- USA;

*WHEREAS* the participants were also addressed to by the president of the Central American Parliament (PARLACEN), Hon. Rodrigo Samayoa, the President of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA), Hon. Laura Pavón Jaramillo, and the Secretary General of the Latin-American Parliament (PARLATINO), Hon. Jorge Pizarro Soto;

*WHEREAS* these men and women, leaders in the fields of sciences, arts, politics, civil rights, combatants against violence in its different forms, conservationists, in short, all of them humanists, reflected, along with the participating public, on the peace crisis, development and the illusory models that influence us;

*WHEREAS* as a result of the Conference, the “ Puerto Rico Declaration: Connecting the New Humanity”, was approved as a commitment to the most noble ambitions of the human beings gathered from all humanist and religious traditions and which underline the value of life. Among the principles of human coexistence formulated in this declaration, is the overcoming of our indifference toward the human grief, that causes poverty, neglect, malnutrition, social and political inequality, as well as that of opposing military practices that affect the enjoyment of a plentiful life and human rights;

*WHEREAS*, the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas, by determining that the principles contained in the “Puerto Rico Declaration: Connecting the New Humanity” are consistent with our aspirations in terms of concern for education, hope in justice, devotion for a valiant, hardworking and peaceful life; faithfulness in human life’s values beyond social standings, racial differences and economic interests; and the hope for a better world, adopts this Declaration as policy of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas;

IN CONSEQUENCE WHEREOF:

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

1. *EXPRESS* the adherence of COPA to the principles stated in the “Puerto Rico Declaration: Connecting the New Humanity” and its support to all the efforts leading to the promotion of this Declaration in the member countries of the Confederation;
2. *ADOPT* as guiding system in its deliberations and formulation of public policies and laws, the principles listed and outlined in the “Puerto Rico Declaration: Connecting the New Humanity”, that forms part of this recommendation;
3. *URGE* the governments, parliaments and all the sectors of arts, sciences, religion, education, media, corporations, non-governmental organizations, and the grassroot community organizations in the countries of the Americas to adopt and to abide by the principles outlined in the “Puerto Rico Declaration: Connecting the New Humanity”, and to creatively develop and apply the vision of a sustainable way of life at the community, national, regional and global levels;

4. *URGE* the education system, both private and public, in the countries that form part of COPA, to promote these principles and the text of the “Puerto Rico Declaration: Connecting the New Humanity”, among the student population, to strengthen respect for life, equality and social justice, as universal principles to achieve peace.

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.*

*Proposed by:*

*Senator Antonio J. Fas Alzamora,  
Vice-president, Caribbean Region  
President of the Senate, Free Associated State of Puerto Rico*