



## **PERMANENT THEMATIC WORKING COMMITTEE ON PEACE AND PUBLIC SECURITY**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

In support of the request of the Puerto Rican people, who have demanded that the Navy of the United States and/or the government of the United States of the America decontaminate the soil and sea of Vieques Island, a situation resulting from more than six decades of naval exercises,

*WHEREAS* the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) is a permanent, autonomous association of the congresses and the parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federated and associated States, the regional parliaments, and the interparliamentary organizations of the Americas;

*WHEREAS* close ties of friendship and fraternity exist between the peoples of the Americas and Puerto Rico, as well as the common objective of complete respect for human rights and full access to these rights, in particular the inalienable right to life and health of their respective peoples;

*WHEREAS* the citizens of Vieques, the society of Puerto Rico, the international community, and COPA have condemned the naval exercises conducted on Vieques by the United States of America, on account of the negative impact such operations have caused to the environment, health and security of the island, thus significantly impairing the quality of life of its inhabitants;

*WHEREAS* the United States Navy has definitively ended its naval exercises but, on the other hand, the soil and beaches of Vieques remain highly contaminated, a situation jeopardizing the health and lives of residents and visitors,

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the (COPA) to:

*CONDEMN* any practice, in any area of the world whatsoever, that causes prejudice to human rights, in particular the right to life, health, a sound environment, security, and economic well-being;

*URGE*, respectfully, and without prejudice to its sovereignty, the government of the United States to honour its promise to decontaminate the soil and beaches of Vieques Island following more than sixty years of naval exercises on this island-municipality of Puerto Rico.

The General Assembly, by the authority invested in it by its by-laws, hereby shows its solidarity with the citizens of Vieques and the Puerto Rican people in their struggle to obtain from the government of the United States of America complete decontamination of this area and recover their peace and security.

A copy of this recommendation will be sent to the President of the United States of America, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the public media.

This recommendation shall come into force upon approval.

Drafted this 26th day of November 2003 in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

**Introduced by:**

Senator Antonio J. Fas Alzamora

Vice-President of COPA, Caribbean Region

President of the Permanent Working Thematic Committee on Peace and Public Security

Speaker of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico