



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS
7TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
QUITO, ECUADOR, MAY 29 TO JUNE 3, 2006**

Commission on education, culture, science and technology

Recommendations on education

WHEREAS by competency, we mean the combination of knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that allow human beings to work effectively and to improve their quality of social and personal life;

WHEREAS in 1990, during the UNESCO World Conference on Education for All held in Thailand, participants adopted the *World Declaration on Education for All*;

WHEREAS this declaration stated that everyone—children, adolescents, and adults—should have the opportunity to benefit from the educational opportunities required to meet their fundamental learning needs and that these needs also include the essential learning tools human beings need to survive, fully develop their faculties, live and work with dignity, improve their quality of life, make informed decisions, and continue to learn;

WHEREAS this declaration also stated that providing for these needs would give the members of all societies the ability—as well as the corresponding responsibility—to develop their common cultural, linguistic, and spiritual heritage, promote the education of others, defend the cause of social justice, protect the environment, and show tolerance towards social, political or religious systems different from their own, while ensuring that human values are safeguarded;

WHEREAS in keeping with the document entitled *Learning: The Treasure Within*, published by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), education must rest on four pillars: learning to know, which means acquiring the tools required for comprehension; learning to do, to be able to exert an influence on one's surroundings; learning to live together, to cooperate with others and take part in human activity; and learning to be, a fundamental process that includes elements from the three preceding pillars.

WHEREAS competency-based learning is learning that respects the requirements relative to the acquisition of a quality education;

WHEREAS competency acquisition aims to improve the living conditions of human beings at work as well as in their social and personal environments;

WE, the representatives of congresses and parliamentary assemblies of unitary, federal, federated, and associated states, regional parliaments, and interparliamentary organizations gathered in Quito, Ecuador for the 7th General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas,

REAFIRM that competency acquisition is important for finding work, communicating effectively, working better as a team, ensuring greater respect for different cultures and traditions, and generally improving the quality of life of human beings;

REITERATE that all people have the right to improve their quality of life through education;

URGE the states of the Americas to encourage, by way of their legislative bodies, and through their laws, education systems and theoretical and practical training programs, the use of methods promoting the acquisition of educational competencies for the betterment of their populations;

CALL ON the members of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas to ensure improvements in quality of life in their respective countries by providing their populations with opportunities to acquire the abovementioned educational competencies.