



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS  
8<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
MEXICO CITY, FEDERAL DISTRICT AND TOLUCA, STATE OF MEXICO, MEXICO  
SEPTEMBER 10-13, 2008**

**Committee on Health and Social Protection**

**Resolution for effective leadership in the fight against HIV/AIDS**

**GRAVELY CONCERNED** about the scale and rapid expansion of the HIV/AIDS epidemic that is threatening human development on the American continent and around the world;

**DEEPLY PREOCCUPIED** by the fact that 65 million people have been infected by HIV/AIDS since the onset of the epidemic, that more than 25 million people have died from the disease, that 15 million children have been orphaned by it, that 40 million people, including 2.5 million children, are presently living with HIV/AIDS, that 95 % of those infected live in developing countries, that 66% of pregnant women with HIV/AIDS do not have access to medication, that AIDS kills 3 million people every year and that there are 5 million new infections each year, or one every six seconds;

**NOTING** that more and more women are contracting HIV/AIDS and that women now represent half of adults living with the virus on the planet;

**DEEPLY PREOCCUPIED** by the fact that gender inequality and violence of any kind against women and girls increase their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and that the subordination that women and girls still suffer in many countries limits their access to the information and healthcare resources that would allow them to make free and informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health;

**CONSIDERING** that still today the great majority of infected people do not know they are HIV-positive and do not have access to adequate information, prevention, treatment, care and support services;

**SUBSCRIBING** to one of the goals of the *Millennium Declaration*, signed by the member states of the United Nations in the year 2000, which aims to halt and begin to reverse, by 2015, the spread of HIV/AIDS;

**REAFFIRMING** the goals and objectives of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS entitled *Global Crisis—Global Action* and adopted by the UN member states at the 26th General Assembly Special Session on June 27, 2001;

**RECALLING** the Recommendation on Sexual and Reproductive Rights, adopted by the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas, on the proposal of the Committee on Health and Social Protection, at the 7<sup>th</sup> General Assembly held in Quito, Ecuador in June 2006;

**BEARING IN MIND** the findings and recommendations set out in the *2008 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic* published by UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS;

**BUILDING** on the *Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights* (TRIPS), the *Doha Declaration on the Trips Agreement and Public Health*, the WTO General Council decision of August 30, 2003 and the amendment to article 31 of the Trips Agreement and **REAFFIRMING** that the WTO Agreement and the Trips Agreement must never prevent member states from taking measures to protect public health;

**CONVINCED** that a partnership between the parliamentary assemblies and governments of unitary, federal and federated states, national HIV/AIDS authorities and civil society organizations is needed to combat the epidemic effectively;

**RECALLING** that it is our responsibility as parliamentarians to denounce the stigmatization of persons living with HIV/AIDS and to fight the discrimination and isolation they suffer;

**EMPHASIZING** the urgency of providing firm political support and parliamentary leadership as an effective response to the epidemic;

**WE, the representatives of the congresses and parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal and federated states, regional parliaments, and interparliamentary organizations gathered in Mexico City, Federal District, and Toluca, State of Mexico, for the 8<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas,**

**Acting upon the recommendation of the Committee on Health and Social Protection,**

**EXHORT** our heads of state and heads of government to uphold the commitments of the *Millennium Development Goals*, especially in regards to the fight against HIV/AIDS;

**URGE** our governments to focus their attention on the HIV/AIDS epidemic and to work to strengthen or set up national HIV/AIDS prevention programs that embrace all aspects of the problem;

**UNDERTAKE** to promote the implementation of national education and prevention strategies geared to the groups most at risk, including mass information and awareness campaigns, screening tests and measures to promote the use of condoms and sterile syringes and needles;

**COMMIT** to taking aim at gender inequality, which increases women's and particularly young women's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, and to implementing information, awareness and healthcare programs so that women and girls may make free, responsible and informed decisions regarding their sexual health;

**URGE** our governments to work hand in hand with HIV/AIDS support and prevention organizations in order to identify the real needs of target groups and to plan initiatives that are tailored to individual needs and situations;

**UNDERTAKE** to put pressure on our governments so that the resources needed to implement the initiatives proposed are allocated recurrently;

**EXHORT** our governments to mobilize in order to ensure universal access to antiretroviral drugs, while paying special attention to groups most at risk and pregnant women and making every effort to see that medication is distributed to socially marginalized individuals and geographically isolated communities, and is manufactured in countries with a sufficiently developed pharmaceutical industry;

**UNDERTAKE** to continue to reinforce our national anti-discrimination laws and to include explicit provisions condemning discrimination against persons living with HIV/AIDS so that they may have full enjoyment of their rights and liberties;

**PROPOSE** that the parliamentary assemblies of the Americas use a gender-specific approach in developing public health laws and policies, particularly those dealing with the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, in order to address the specific healthcare needs of women and girls;

**UNDERTAKE** to encourage the media in our countries to conduct continuing preventive education campaigns;

**UNDERTAKE** to promote, within our countries, the mandatory inclusion of sex education in elementary and secondary school and university programs;

**AGREE** to continue, within the forum provided by COPA's Committee on Health and Social Protection, to share good practices and positive experiences in HIV/AIDS prevention and epidemic mitigation with one another;

**RECOMMEND** that all the parliamentarians attending the 8<sup>th</sup> COPA General Assembly in Mexico City, Federal District, and Toluca, State of Mexico, and especially the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, follow up on this resolution within each and every parliamentary assembly of the Americas and each and every committee in charge of health and gender equality matters in those assemblies, so that proper attention is given to HIV/AIDS issues.