



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

Committee on Democracy and Peace

**Recommendation on the standards governing political party financing and
electoral spending controls in force in the Americas**

WHEREAS political parties are integral to our democratic system, relaying voters' concerns to the government in power and serving as a direct link between a pluralistic society and its political institutions;

WHEREAS political parties play a vital role and, to do it well, need revenue to finance their election campaigns and cover the costs of their day-to-day activities;

WHEREAS elements such as the desire to win the election, the need to reach the public and maintain a high profile, constantly rising costs, an ever greater number of election campaigns, declining member support and tempting offers by interest groups may, however, create an unlevel playing field, especially when it comes to campaign fundraising;

WHEREAS, in the face of financial difficulties, political parties may be tempted to bend the principles of equity, transparency and integrity that should prevail in a healthy democracy;

WHEREAS the consequences of interested or unequal financing are significant, affecting not only the legitimacy of elected representatives but also the government's capacity to legislate and create a social and public setting that is geared to the well-being of citizens;

WHEREAS the role of any democratic parliament includes providing a framework for political party financing, both by drafting and adopting laws and regulations that are as comprehensive, clear and effective as possible and by putting measures in place to enforce them;

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, in Mexico for the 8th General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas,

And acting upon the recommendation of the Committee on Democracy and Peace:

AGREE that it is worth examining the main aspects of election campaign financing in the light of the experiences and ideas of the parliamentarians of the Americas;

RECOGNIZE that acknowledging differences is the necessary first step in sharing democratic experiences, as each state, province, territory or region has distinctive characteristics that are shaped by its history, institutions and political, economic and cultural heritage;

INVITE the parliaments of the Americas to enact legislation ensuring fair and equitable financing of political parties;

COMMIT to sharing our concerns and solutions with respect to the standards governing financing and electoral spending controls and to working together to find ways to improve democratic systems in the Americas and strengthen public confidence in democracy;

RECOMMEND that the Committee on Democracy and Peace draft a report setting out the main systems of political party financing and electoral spending controls in the Americas and organize a seminar on the issue to allow parliamentarians to share their experiences.

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