



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS
9th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SALTA, SALTA, ARGENTINA
SEPTEMBER 14–20, 2009**

Committee on Health and Social Protection

Resolution to combat the A(H1N1) influenza pandemic effectively

GRAVELY CONCERNED by the scale and rapid spread of the A(H1N1) influenza pandemic that is threatening to have serious consequences on health and development throughout the world;

NOTING that the current World Health Organization (WHO) alert is at level 6, the pandemic phase, characterized by sustained human-to-human spread of the virus and community-level outbreaks in at least two countries of the same region and in a third country in another region;

DEEPLY PREOCCUPIED by the fact that, as of August 19, 2009, more than 180,000 people had contracted the A(H1N1) influenza virus since the beginning of the pandemic and over 1,154 people had died from the virus; that over 58% of reported cases and 88% of deaths from the virus have occurred on the American continent; that the influenza is spreading more quickly in the Americas than elsewhere; and that pregnant women who contract the virus are at a higher risk of serious illness or death;

CONSIDERING that new diseases are by definition poorly understood, that influenza viruses have the capacity to mutate rapidly and that their behaviour is unpredictable;

BEARING IN MIND that, in the last century, the three great influenza pandemics (Spanish, Asian and Hong Kong) began with a wave of relatively mild infections similar to the one related to the A(H1N1) influenza, but that the second wave of infection a few months later was much more severe;

CONVINCED that a partnership between the parliaments, governments and national public health authorities is needed to combat the A(H1N1) influenza pandemic effectively;

RECALLING the urgency of providing firm political support and parliamentary leadership in order to respond effectively 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 Salta, Argentina, for the 9th 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 maintain a state of high alert to enable the rapid detection of unusual outbreaks of influenza-like syndromes and severe pneumonia, to immediately adopt national plans, if such plans have not yet been adopted, in order to prevent and combat the A(H1N1) influenza pandemic, and to grant appropriate resources to specialized responders to ensure that the plans do indeed stop the spread of the virus;

UNDERTAKE to promote the implementation of national education and prevention strategies in our countries, including mass information campaigns on hygiene measures to be taken to halt the spread of the pandemic;

URGE our governments to collaborate with the various international health agencies, particularly the World Health Organization, by publishing the number of cases in our respective countries and the results of their research, which will enhance the global scientific community's understanding of how the virus is evolving;

EXHORT our governments to take action to ensure the earliest possible universal access to antiviral drugs by doing all they can to ensure that drugs are manufactured and distributed, particularly in areas far from urban centres;

RECOMMEND that all the parliamentarians attending the 9th COPA General Assembly in Salta, Argentina, follow up on this resolution with every parliamentary assembly of the Americas and every committee responsible for health issues so that all the necessary attention is given to the A(H1N1) influenza pandemic.