



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

Recommendation on the fight against school dropout

CONSIDERING that education is a fundamental human right and is defined as such in various international legal documents including the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*;

RECALLING the *Resolution on Education and Culture* passed by the Committee on Education, Culture, Science and Technology at the 8th General Assembly of COPA in 2008, wherein parliamentarians pledged to enforce the right to education in the Americas;

CONVINCED that, in accordance with the *World Declaration on Education for All* and the *Millennium Development Goals*, the right to education includes not only access to schools, but also the right to quality education that allows everyone to complete basic education programs and actually learn as a result;

CONSIDERING that school dropout is an extremely complex issue that stems from a number of factors and entails grave consequences on an individual and societal level;

GIVEN that education systems in the Americas are confronted with high dropout rates at the secondary level and that the problem extends to the elementary school level in Latin America and the Caribbean;

KNOWING that, throughout the Americas, a higher percentage of men drop out of secondary school than women and that dropout rates are generally higher among individuals from disadvantaged areas, members of cultural minorities and inhabitants of rural areas;

CONSIDERING that a variety of initiatives have been put forth by numerous States in the Americas to fight school dropout;

CONSIDERING that a number of factors contribute to school success, including teacher training and school programs, which must be evaluated taking into account the young people involved and the society in which they live;

CONSIDERING the decisive role new technologies play in teaching;

CONSIDERING that education remains a crucial and ongoing responsibility of States;

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 Education, Culture, Science and Technology,

RENEW our international commitments to the right to education;

COMMIT to continuing discussions on the subject in order to publicize conclusive experiments carried out in our States;

EXHORT the parliamentarians of the Americas to see that the necessary funds are allocated in order to:

- provide better access to quality education;
- fight school dropout more effectively;
- set up programs aimed at the groups most at risk of dropping out;
- ensure adequate teacher training;
- ensure the development of new technologies;

INVITE the parliamentarians of the Americas to ensure that the programs implemented to fight school dropout in their States are carefully and regularly evaluated in order to gauge their impact on success at school;

URGE the States of the Americas, via their respective legislative bodies, to promote in their laws and education systems the right of individuals to a quality education that promotes equity and highlights learning achievement;

COMMIT to providing dropout data and information on the different measures in place in our respective States to counter school dropout, in order to complete the preliminary report tabled with the Committee on Education, Culture, Science and Technology;

COMMIT to monitoring the stability of the education systems, and therefore of the national education programs, in our respective States;

RECOMMEND that all the parliamentarians attending the 9th COPA General Assembly in Salta, Argentina follow up on this recommendation within each and every parliamentary assembly of the Americas and each and every committee responsible for education in those assemblies, so that proper attention is given to the school dropout problem.

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