



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS  
9<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SALTA, ARGENTINA  
SEPTEMBER 14-20, 2009**

**FINAL RESOLUTION**

**“The role of parliamentary television channels in strengthening the  
democratic process”**

**WE**, the parliamentarians of the Americas, gathered in Salta, Argentina, for the 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas,

**CONSIDERING** that transparency and accountability in the exercise of political power and pluralistic, equitable and accessible public communications by government institutions are among the fundamental characteristics of modern democracies;

**CONSIDERING** that a connection can be made between the evolution of contemporary policymaking and the development of parliamentary television channels as a means of communicating with civil society;

**EMPHASIZING** that, among its other roles within society, parliamentary television serves educational, cultural and civic purposes in addition to being an information medium;

**HIGHLIGHTING** that at present, close to 60 countries across the world allow parliamentary activities to be video- or audiotaped, and that over 20 of them already operate channels whose structure, technical equipment, budget, content and coverage are comparable to any other television channel;

**CONSIDERING** that parliamentary proceedings are increasingly broadcast on pay television and thus not available to all households;

**UNDERSCORING** that the broadcasting of parliamentary proceedings can only help bring public employees to show even greater diligence in the performance of their duties;

## **RESOLVE**

**TO ENCOURAGE** all parliamentarians attending the 9<sup>th</sup> COPA General Assembly to continue to work toward a stronger democracy and to seek transparency in all their functions, staying in touch with the general population through public communications and adapting to the requirements of modern democratic systems;

**TO URGE** the congresses and legislative assemblies that do not already operate a parliamentary television channel to pledge to make all the necessary efforts to create public communication spaces in order to stimulate greater public interest in the work of elected representatives and in order, through higher quality information, to promote cultural development and responsible citizenship;

**TO RECOMMEND** the broadcasting of information in a format that is easy to understand given that it is intended for an audience that spans all social classes and age groups;

**TO PRESS** for communications policies that will encourage opinion-forming and foster open dialogue and a sense of closeness between elected representatives and their electors;

**TO URGE** our governments to further invest in the infrastructures required to ensure that the content broadcast via parliamentary television channels is available through conventional television so that it may reach all segments of the population;

**TO CONSIDER** supporting ongoing efforts so that an agreement may be reached, through the Committee on Education, Culture, Science and Technology, to provide the parliamentary television channels of the Americas with a forum to share their experiences;

**TO RECOMMEND** that all the parliamentarians attending the 9<sup>th</sup> COPA General Assembly in Salta, Argentina follow up on this resolution and submit it to their respective legislative bodies for debate and adoption.

**TO PROPOSE** the creation, under the auspices of the Committee on Education, Culture, Science and Technology, of a permanent forum to allow further examination of this important matter within COPA.

Adopted in Salta on Friday, September 18, 2009