



PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS
EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY
QUERÉTARO, MEXICO
JULY 20-25, 2010

Committee on Education, Culture, Science and Technology

**“The Role of Parliamentary Television Channels as a Tool for
Strengthening the Democratic Process”**

WE, the parliamentarians of the Americas gathered in Querétaro, Mexico, for an Extraordinary General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas:

HIGHLIGHTING that after 200 years of independence, it is important that we come together, in the spirit of unity that energizes nations as they celebrate their bicentennial, to reflect on what we have accomplished so far and what remains to be done;

GIVEN that it is necessary to maintain close ties with our constituents, and drawing on the notion that public, plural, fair and accessible communication from government institutions is an essential characteristic of modern democratic systems;

REPEATING the wish expressed by the members of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas to continue the process of transmitting legislative knowledge through the creation of a parliamentary television channel, a process begun during the 11th General Assembly held in Salta, Argentina, in September 2009;

GIVEN that our modern world demands better means of accessing the decisions made by elected officials and that creating parliamentary television channels as a tool for social communication can bring about such openness;

RECALLING that audio or video recording of parliamentary proceedings is currently permitted in more than sixty countries around the world, that more than twenty Parliaments already have television channels with structures, technical teams, budgets, content and coverage comparable to any other television network, and that more and more people thus have access to the legislative work of Parliaments throughout the Americas;

EMPHASIZING the fact that broadcasting parliamentary proceedings encourages elected officials to be more deeply committed to their work and brings them closer to their constituents;

RESOLVE TO:

URGE all the parliamentarians present at this Extraordinary General Assembly to maintain the dialogue between those Parliaments that already have access to this telecommunications mechanism and those that still do not;

ENCOURAGE parliamentarians to continue exchanging technological and legislative information to facilitate the creation of parliamentary television channels in Parliaments throughout the hemisphere;

EXHORT Parliaments that do not have a television channel to commit to passing the necessary legislation and creating forums for public communication that connect citizens to parliamentary activities, and to strengthening information culture and access to information with a view to encouraging civic development;

RECOMMEND that this theme continue to be included in the COPA agenda via the Committee on Education, Culture, Science and Technology so that material can be developed for three upcoming seminars, the first technical session to be held during the next COPA General Assembly, which is planned for the latter half of 2010, in Mar del Plata, Argentina;

HOPE that necessary steps will be taken by those Parliaments that do not have television channels to broadcast their proceedings online in the short run, as a first step towards television broadcasting in the near future;

EXHORT the parliamentarians gathered at this Extraordinary General Assembly to include special funding in their countries' budgets either for the creation of a parliamentary television channel, or for the improvement of their existing channel programming and the promotion of over-the-air TV broadcasting so as to reach a wider and more representative audience;

CONSIDER making constant efforts to foster an agreement via the Committee on Education, Culture, Science and Technology for continuous sharing of the experiences of parliamentary television channels throughout the Americas.