



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

Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development

Resolution on Climate Change

We, the parliamentarians of the Americas gathered in Querétaro, Mexico, for the Extraordinary General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas,

acknowledging that climate change and environmental problems have global consequences and rank among the greatest threats to humanity, and therefore constitute a strategic security issue for our region;

acknowledging that climate change will translate into increasingly frequent extreme weather events such as heat waves, floods, droughts, violent storms, glacier melt and rising sea levels, and that these events have adverse effects on socio-economic development and human health in addition to causing irreversible damage across the world and especially in developing countries, the least developed countries and small island States;

acknowledging that the adverse effects of climate change will hamper the progress of developing countries, making it more difficult to attain the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDG) by 2015;

emphasizing the determination of COPA member parliaments to promote the adoption of appropriate legislation to solve the serious problems that are at the source of climate change and environmental degradation;

convinced that climate change has a planet-wide, long-term impact that must be addressed with vision and leadership, two key qualities in sustainable development policy planning;

convinced that the global effort to combat climate change hinges on the development of policies and the implementation of measures to adapt to and

mitigate climate change, which will minimize the risk to development and to human life;

recalling that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are the main cause of climate change;

stressing the need to take far-reaching, efficient and effective measures to counter the adverse effects of climate change and reduce GHG emissions, and the fact that an international agreement to fight climate change is likely to facilitate progress toward global economic recovery, energy security and sustainable development;

insisting on the urgency, for all countries, of reaching a binding agreement on GHG emission reductions before the end of the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol in 2012;

highlighting the vast global potential of renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, hydro, tidal, geothermal and biomass-fuelled power in terms of drastically reducing GHG emissions and improving energy security;

aware of the fact that if we are slow to take measures to mitigate climate change, humankind will pay a steep price for the catastrophic repercussions of GHG emission levels;

aware of the fact that, for many countries, renewable energy sources will be more economically viable in the long term than traditional fossil fuels, as these are not only being rapidly depleted but are also environmentally harmful;

reaffirming the pivotal role played by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol in the consolidation of international cooperation and action against climate change;

applauding the efforts made by the international community at the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Copenhagen in December 2009;

acknowledging that the global nature of climate change calls for the closest possible cooperation by all parliaments and their participation in an effective and concerted international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities;

aware of the importance of the legislation enacted by COPA member parliaments in supporting international agreements on climate change;

acknowledging that it is through converging efforts toward a common goal of mitigating climate change and finding the best solutions for adapting to climate change that together we will be able to meet this challenge;

acknowledging that, while climate change entails costs and hinders development, a regional policy that successfully addresses climate change may open new economic horizons for the countries concerned;

acknowledging that deforestation accelerates climate change and that real efforts must be made to counter deforestation by promoting reforestation and the protection of the biodiversity of threatened ecosystems in our respective jurisdictions;

acknowledging the necessity, for our governments, to always be prepared to respond to climate-change-induced natural disasters;

underlining the key role played by the parliamentarians of the Americas in putting in place immediate emergency aid measures in the aftermath of natural disasters;

taking into account the concerns expressed about climate change and the environment within multilateral and regional institutions such as the United Nations, the Organization of American States, the Rio Group, the Ibero-American Conference, the European Union - Latin America and the Caribbean Summit, the Summit of the Americas, the Group of Three, the Andean Community, the Central American Integration System, Mercosur, the South American Community of Nations and the Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development, and taking into account their efforts to fight climate change and the threat climate change poses to the future of the region's countries;

recalling the resolutions adopted on these matters at earlier COPA assemblies;

have resolved to

take note of the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to limit global warming to 2°C above pre-industrial temperatures, confident that this goal can be attained through the coordination of international efforts;

reiterate our call to developed countries that they take the lead in reducing GHG emissions by setting ambitious targets, implementing action plans and granting sufficient financial and technical assistance to help developing countries adapt to climate change and further their development in keeping with the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol;

acknowledge the commitments made by developed countries, including Japan's \$15-million pledge for development assistance under the Hatoyama Initiative;

ask COPA member parliaments to support the Copenhagen Accord, which came out of the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP-15), as a basis for future talks with a view to actively contributing to international negotiations to establish a fair and effective international framework with the participation of all the major economies and in keeping with Accord objectives;

exhort all governments to develop, under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, a draft instrument on climate change that is binding, exhaustive, ambitious and fair, that applies to all countries and that is based on the Copenhagen Accord and the Bali Road Map;

call on parliamentarians of the Americas to urge their governments to set ambitious and economically measurable GHG emission reduction targets and to implement climate change mitigation measures adapted to their respective national realities;

press governments to implement climate change mitigation measures adapted to their realities that can be submitted to international verification according to the guidelines approved by the Conference of the Parties;

exhort governments to work together to reinforce their capacity to adapt to climate change, and to reduce the risk of disasters in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries and small island States, which are more vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, for example, by creating a climate change adaptation network for the Americas;

exhort COPA member legislators to acknowledge (1) the central role of technology in climate change response, (2) the need for technological advancement and for cooperation between the region's countries in disseminating existing technologies, and (3) the development, deployment and transfer of innovative technologies;

exhort COPA member parliaments to actively engage in forest conservation and reforestation and in the promotion of its co-benefits, such as the reduction of GHG emissions and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

press legislators of the Americas to examine their governments' actions at future United Nations climate change conferences and particularly at the 16th edition (COP16 /CMP6), to be held in Mexico in November 2010;

press the legislators of COPA member parliaments to promote a common goal for more substantial GHG emission reductions at various international parliamentary conferences and other international forums;

call on COPA member parliaments to take into account the vital role they play in framing policies geared to low-emission economic growth when adopting standards and laws that address long-term challenges such as climate change;

press COPA member parliaments to work toward the conservation and protection of marine biodiversity, the sustainable use of hydrological resources and the resolution of environmental problems, such as transboundary air pollution, the deterioration of marine ecosystems and water contamination;

exhort COPA member parliaments to increase their efforts to substantially reduce the current pace of biodiversity loss and to consolidate cooperation ahead of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, both of which are to be held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010;

stress that sustainable development awareness raising, in addition to promoting sustainable development, plays an essential role in advancing the protection of the environment and requires large-scale dissemination efforts on the part of all the nations of our continent;

exhort COPA member parliaments to promote the three Rs (reduce, reuse and recycle) within their societies;

call on COPA member parliamentarians to reinforce emergency aid services, in collaboration with international agencies, in order to improve their disaster preparedness in light of the new climate models;

press the governments of COPA member parliaments to increase funding to improve weather forecast reliability and offer disaster training programs in schools and universities;

press the governments of the Americas to enhance the coordination of disaster response activities and to improve communications and information sharing between government bodies, the private sector (including the media), civil society and communities.

Proposed in Querétaro, Mexico, on July 22, 2010