



PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS
***Committee on Human Rights, Aboriginal Peoples,
and Citizen Security***

September 7, 2011

Resolution

WE, the representatives of the congresses and parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal and federated states, regional parliaments, and interparliamentary organizations gathered in Québec City, Canada, for the 11th General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas,

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Human Rights, Aboriginal Peoples, and Citizen Security:

REAFFIRMING the right of individuals to education as a fundamental right under *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights* adopted by the United Nations, as well as the importance of the fundamental right to quality education as a *sine qua non* condition for achieving other fundamental rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights;

CONSIDERING that the fundamental objectives of all education, under the first paragraph of article 13 of the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, are the full development of the human personality and respect for human dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms;

CONVINCED that education is essential to establishing and promoting stable and harmonious relations among communities with a view to strengthening mutual understanding, tolerance and peace;

REMEMBERING that access to education entails primary education that is compulsory and available free to all, secondary education that is generally available and accessible to all, and higher education that is equally accessible to all, on the basis of ability, and the guarantee of fundamental education for those who have not benefited from primary education;

RECOGNIZING the role of education as a tool for the protection, respect and promotion of the culture, language, knowledge and traditions of Aboriginal peoples;

INSISTING on the fact that quality education must recognize the past, be relevant to the present, include a vision of the future and be open to the natural dynamic created by the languages, cultures and values of Aboriginal peoples so as to promote equality and guarantee a sustainable future;

DEPLORING the invoking by certain States of the principle of the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights as a means to legitimize the negation of access to education for Aboriginal peoples and other marginal sectors of society;

PLEDGE TO:

PROPOSE specific laws to foster access to quality education for Aboriginal peoples that is respectful of their past and their aspirations, traditions, values and mother tongues;

WORK toward integrating the historic, social, cultural and linguistic features of Aboriginal peoples into educational institutions and the education system in general;

PROMOTE the ancestral knowledge and traditional know-how of Aboriginal peoples as sources of collective wealth;

ENSURE that the provisions of the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* are observed;

EXHORT our governments to implement measures that promote the training and recruitment of Aboriginal teachers for the education system;

ENCOURAGE our governments to take further action for the purpose of guaranteeing access to primary and secondary education for Aboriginal peoples living in remote regions;

PROPOSE laws to establish incentives and winning conditions for Aboriginal peoples to have access to higher education.