



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS
12th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
BRASÍLIA, BRAZIL
OCTOBER 13 TO 16, 2013**

Resolution on the fight against school dropout and on school reentry

GIVEN that education is a fundamental human right enshrined as such in various international legal instruments including the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* of 1948, the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* and the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*;

RECALLING the *Recommendation on the fight against school dropout*, adopted by the Committee on Education, Culture, Science and Technology at the 9th General Assembly of COPA held in Argentina from September 14 to 20, 2009, which urges parliamentarians to allocate the funds necessary to provide better access to quality public education for all and fight school dropout more effectively;

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, inclusive and flexible public education;

GIVEN that school dropout is an extremely complex process involving a combination of a number of factors and that it entails serious consequences for both individuals and society;

GIVEN that supporting and promoting school reentry and adult education contributes in a positive manner to social mobility and workforce reconversion;

KNOWING that school reentry and adult education are effective means of increasing the proportion of post-secondary degree holders within the 25 and over age bracket;

RECALLING that the phenomenon of young people neither attending school nor working is a significant problem in many countries of the Americas;

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

GIVEN that a variety of initiatives have been put forth by numerous States in the Americas to fight school dropout and promote literacy among youth and adults;

GIVEN that a number of factors contribute to school success, including teacher training, information technologies and the quality of programs;

WE, the representatives of the congresses and parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal and federated States, regional parliaments and interparliamentary organizations gathered in Brasília, Brazil for the 12th 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 share successful experiences carried out in our States;

URGE parliamentarians of the Americas to enact and enforce laws aimed at:

- making school attendance compulsory up to a certain minimum age;
- limiting the number of hours a student may work before reaching that minimum age;

DEMAND that parliamentarians from the Americas ensure that:

- schools in their own countries have proper teaching, computer and technological equipment;
- a sufficient proportion of public funding is devoted to education;
- teaching staff have access to quality training;
- the number of teachers is increased and that they are offered more advantageous wages and employment conditions;

URGE the States of the Americas, via their respective legislative bodies, to promote in their laws and public education systems the right of individuals to a quality public education;

ASK each of the States of the Americas to establish a plan to counter school dropout, programs for school reentry and an action plan aimed at increasing school attendance rates, as well as mechanisms to oversee and evaluate these measures;

URGE the States of the Americas to carry out the commitment made at the World Education Forum in 2000, which aims to increase investments in education up to at least 6% of each State's gross national product;

RECOMMEND that all the parliamentarians in attendance at the 12th COPA General Assembly in Brasília, Brazil, follow up on this resolution within the parliamentary assemblies of the Americas and the committees responsible for education within the respective parliaments and congresses, so that proper attention is given to the school dropout phenomenon and to programs encouraging school reentry.

Adopted by the General Assembly of COPA, on October 16, 2013, in Brasília, Brazil