



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

**Committee on Health and Social Protection**

**RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE GUARANTEEING UNIVERSAL  
ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER**

**RECALLING** that one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) set under Resolution 55/2 of the United Nations is to reduce mortality by 2015, and that one way of attaining that goal is to reduce the proportion of the population without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, taking 1990 as a reference point;

**CONSIDERING** that, worldwide, the proportion of the population currently living in extreme poverty has been halved, and that between 1990 and 2010, the number of people living in such conditions dropped by 700 million;

**INSISTING** on the fact that, over the past 21 years, more than 2.1 million people have gained access to improved drinking water sources and the proportion of the population using those sources rose from 76% in 1990 to 89% in 2010;

**EMPHASIZING** the fact that in 1990, just under half (49%) of the world's population had access to improved sanitation, and that this number must reach 75% if it is to meet the target, while the current worldwide level is at 64%;

**STATING** that in 2011, the percentage of the Latin American population having access to improved sanitation reached 82%;

**HIGHLIGHTING** that, according to MDG target 7.C, the challenge is to halve the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015, and that in order to reach that target, approximately 660,000 people a day must gain access to sanitation facilities between 2011 and 2015;

**CONSIDERING** that 60% of those who have gained access to improved drinking water sources live in urban areas, and that access to safe drinking water for rural populations, as well as water quality and safety issues, remains a major concern as it affects 636 million people;

**EMPHASIZING** that in 2011, despite unprecedented progress, 768 million people still lacked access to an improved source of drinking water;

**INSISTING** on the fact that those most affected are society's poorest and most marginalized, and that many of them pay a high price to obtain small quantities of often poor quality water;

**SPECIFYING** that the challenge also involves reducing environmentally damaging factors that have a significant impact on the preservation of freshwater reserves, such as misuse of land, deforestation, contamination of rivers, wetlands and other sources of freshwater, as well as the contamination of ground water and the indiscriminate use of drinking water for industrial purposes;

**RECALLING** the necessity of measuring the impact of the policies implemented to achieve universal access to safe drinking water;

**We, the parliamentarians of the Americas, gathered together in Brasília, Brazil, for the 12th General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas:**

**ENDORSE** the declaration on access to water and sanitation adopted on July 28, 2010, as well as the human rights on which it is based and the commitments of the States to guarantee those rights, and we press our governments to continue to act accordingly;

**COMMIT** to continue firmly supporting Resolution 64/292 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on July 28, 2010, as well as the regional targets set in 2000 as part of the Millennium Development Goals initiative.

**CONTINUE OUR FIGHT** to achieve the regional Millennium Development Goal aimed at increasing the proportion of the population having access to an improved water source in the Latin American and Caribbean region to 93% by 2015, in particular to achieve universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation;

**AFFIRM** the priority of providing access to water for the most vulnerable: children, seniors and people living in poverty;

**COMMIT** to analyze and raise awareness of legislative programs regarding access to drinking water and water sanitation, to continue monitoring progress in the matter and to pursue raising awareness among our parliamentary colleagues and the governments of the Americas with respect to this fundamental issue.

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