



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS  
Brasília, Brazil  
October 2013**

**Committee on Health and Social Protection**

**Declaration on the Adverse Effects of the Cuban Embargo on  
the Health of the Cuban People**

As the right to health is a basic human right for all peoples of the Americas;

Taking note of Resolution 66/114 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on October 25, 2011, which asserts the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba;

We, the parliamentarians of the Americas, gathered in Havana, Cuba, on October 27 and 28, 2011, on the occasion of a working meeting of the Committee on Health and Social Protection of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas:

Deplore the adverse effects of the embargo that limit the basic human right to health, as recognized by the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization:<sup>1</sup>

- Cost increases and difficulties in sourcing drugs, reagents, spare parts for medical diagnosis and treatment equipment and medical and surgical instruments—which hinders individuals' access to health care, implying that the Cuban government has to spend more to ensure access to free health care for all its citizens;
- Cost increases and difficulties in acquiring basic everyday health products—which affects public health development;
- Stunted development of the public health system due to the oft-renewed prohibition barring access to loans and donations from international financial institutions as well as donations from civil society;
- Limits on scientific exchange and medical research activities with other countries, because of the extraterritorial impact of U.S. legislation, which violates the principles of international as well as several UN resolutions relations and other organizations;

Recommend the adoption of this declaration by COPA at its 12th General Assembly to be held in October 2013 in Brasilia, Brazil.

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

---

1. Submission by the World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization in the *Report of the UN Secretary-General on Resolution 65/6 on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba*, August 16, 2011, <http://daccess-dds-n.y.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N11/391/87/PDF/N1139187.pdf?OpenElement>.