



## Resolution on migration, human mobility and the disappearance of persons



### Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas

#### Committee on Human Rights, Aboriginal Peoples and Citizen Security

#### Resolution on Migration, Human Mobility and the Disappearance of Persons

Salttillo, Coahuila de Zaragoza, Mexico  
August 8, 2014

We, the parliamentarians of the Americas gathered in Saltillo, capital of the State of Coahuila de Zaragoza, Mexico, for the meeting of the Committee on Human Rights, Aboriginal Peoples and Citizen Security:

**Recognizing** that governments worldwide must pay due attention to the phenomenon of migration and implement measures to support individuals at various stages—departure, transit, arrival and return home—of the migration process;

**Aware** that migration is not a recent social phenomenon but has characterized human civilization and its development throughout history.

**Taking into account** the international mechanisms fostering protection of the fundamental rights of migrants, as well as human movement and mobility, as defined in the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, ratified by the United Nations; Convention 97 on Migration for Employment, adopted by the International Labour Organization; the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (March 19, 1963); the Declaration on the Human Rights of Individuals Who are not Nationals of the Country in Which They Live; Convention 143 on Migrant Workers, adopted by the International Labour Organization; and all other international human rights protection treaties and instruments.

**Recognizing** that migrant groups are composed of individuals from a range of social and economic backgrounds, including Aboriginal peoples of the Americas and vulnerable groups such as women and minors, whose human rights are consistently violated.

**Deeply concerned** by the fact that in parts of the Americas the approach to migration has been totally erroneous, with the emphasis being placed on passing punitive, somewhat xenophobic, legislation while completely ignoring international conventions on migrants' rights, especially the most vulnerable groups such as women and accompanied or unaccompanied minors.



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**Convinced** that respect for all migrants' rights, regardless of their migration status, must be the legislative common denominator for the Americas as a whole, and that, consequently, a continent-wide bloc must be formed through the required diplomatic channels to support departure from any legislative provisions which currently fail to respect migrants' fundamental rights.

**Considering** that States themselves (mainly the richest States and those that receive migrants), the arms industry, organized crime and corruption are responsible for creating disturbances in migration, for violence against migrants, for human trafficking and for the enforced disappearance of persons.

**Reflecting** on the fact that forced migrations, enforced disappearances and human trafficking will not stop unless investments are more efficiently targeted and concrete job creation measures are implemented.

And,

**Convinced** that enforced disappearance is one of the most abominable crimes against the international community and that its transnational character requires States to work together to adopt adequate measures for its eradication, including legislative measures harmonizing individual States' decrees with the international standards that are most effective in fighting the phenomenon, in particular the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons.

**Aware** that enforced disappearance knows no boundaries as to age, gender, socioeconomic status, etc. and indiscriminately affects all sectors of the population; aware also that major advances in telecommunications and transportation, in the context of globalization, have given rise to new dangers that increase vulnerability to the threat of enforced disappearance.

**Committed** to the principles adopted by the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas to guide its actions, and gathered as a thematic committee to develop tools allowing member parliamentarians to enact these principles concretely.



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### We resolve to

**continue** promoting the search for comprehensive solutions and the legislative tools needed to apply them, with emphasis on undivided respect for the rights of migrants, particularly women and accompanied or unaccompanied minors.

**continue** innovating measures to fight enforced disappearance so as to eradicate it from the Americas through a far-reaching approach to prevention and protection based on the principle of providing maximum protection for all.

**urge** local, regional and federal parliaments of the Americas to pass strict migration legislation in keeping with the principle of continent-wide cooperation, so as to find rapid solutions to the cruelty inflicted on migrants in the Americas.

**impress on** the parliaments of the Americas that even those without migration legislation can concretely encourage the adoption of regulatory measures.

**set up** a task force of COPA member parliamentarians, coordinated by the Committee on Human Rights, Aboriginal Peoples and Citizen Security, to encourage debate, analysis and proposals for continent-wide initiatives aimed at finding solutions to the problems of migration and enforced disappearance.

**promote** the legal classification of enforced disappearance as a serious crime where this is not already the case, and ensure that it is subject to international rules in those States where it is not dealt with according to the provisions of international mechanisms.

**encourage** the parliaments of the Americas to ratify and abide by the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

**encourage the** parliamentarians of the Americas to ensure that legislation and related measures rigorously respect human rights, with particular attention to migrants from vulnerable groups such as indigenous peoples and members of Aboriginal groups, unaccompanied minors and persons with limited capacities who migrate for various reasons.

**support** the parliamentarians and parliaments of the Americas in their efforts to develop and legislate on regulations and measures to protect and safeguard the integrity of migrants and victims of enforced disappearance, so that, by uniting our voices, the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas is recognized and heard worldwide in its fight to protect the most vulnerable sectors of our populations.



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**establish** strategies of legislative cooperation and exchange to foster the development of legislation that is comparable in perspective and conducive to respect for human rights, while remaining aware of the need to preserve each nation's sovereignty.

**denounce** the deportation of citizens forced to migrate, thus distinguishing between migrants and delinquents.

**encourage** the creation of sanctuaries for migrants throughout the Americas and then obtain the support of international bodies specializing in migration.

**urge** legislative parliaments and governments to set a legal minimum wage meeting the basic needs of workers and their families—housing, food, education, health, leisure, clothing, hygiene, transportation and access to publicly-funded medical care—and adjust it periodically to maintain purchasing power.

**call on** governments to guarantee free transit, the only real solution to the problems of human trafficking and enforced disappearance.

Resolution adopted during the 13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of COPA, held in Asunción, Paraguay, from November 3 to 5, 2014.