



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS  
Meeting of the Committee on Health and Social Protection  
Asuncion, Paraguay  
November 3<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**Committee on Health and Social Protection**

**RESOLUTION ON CHRONIC DISEASES**

**Knowing** that chronic diseases include four groups of diseases, namely: cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases, cancer and diabetes;

**Bearing in mind** that these four groups have four risk factors in common, namely: tobacco use, physical inactivity, abusive alcohol consumption and an unhealthy diet;

**Considering** that chronic diseases are responsible for more than 63% of all annual deaths and that they are among the main causes of preventable deaths;

**Recognizing** that the incidence of chronic diseases depends on a complex interaction of various socio-economic, cultural, political and environmental factors;

**Recalling** that it has been established that globalization, urbanization and the aging of the population are associated with the increasing incidence of chronic diseases;

**Pointing out** that chronic diseases pose a threat to the economies of nations, on the grounds that premature deaths and unplanned absences—as well as the drops in workplace efficiency they cause—are responsible for productivity losses resulting in costs up to 400% higher than the expenses normally incurred to treat such diseases, ultimately reducing the national income;

**Taking into account** the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases of the United Nations held on September 19-20, 2011 in New York;

**WE, parliamentarians of the Americas, gathered in Asuncion, Paraguay, during the General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas:**

**Urge** the governments of the Americas to adhere to the various international legal instruments dedicated to the fight against chronic diseases such as the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control;

**Encourage** the governments of the Americas to implement the proposals contained in the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, as well as the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases 2013-2020;

**Encourage** the governments of the Americas that have not yet done so to adopt a national plan for the fight against chronic diseases and to outline a multisectoral approach to health that involves all levels of the State to guarantee equal access to healthcare to all individuals, independent of their social status;

**Hope** to see more financial resources devoted to research and development for chronic diseases, as well as to the application of its results;

**Call** for the creation of systems allowing the study of trends and characteristics of chronic diseases, and the assessment and comparison of progress achieved in this field of interest.

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