



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS**

**13th General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas  
and 12th Meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the  
Americas**

**November 5, 2014**

**Asunción, Paraguay**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF THE FREE AND ASSOCIATED  
STATE OF PUERTO RICO TO BECOME AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL  
ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)**

**Presented by Puerto Rican Senators  
Antonio J. Fas Alzamora and Ángel Rodríguez Otero**

**GIVEN** that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization was founded on November 16, 1945 to contribute to peace and security in the world through education, science, culture and communication;

**CONSIDERING** that its Constitution was ratified by 20 countries and that it has 195 Member States and 9 Associate Members;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** that UNESCO creates conditions conducive to dialogue between civilizations, cultures and peoples, based on respect for commonly shared values, and deems that it is through this dialogue that the world will be able to achieve global visions of sustainable development encompassing observance of human rights, mutual respect and the alleviation of poverty;

**KNOWING** that in the 1980s, steps taken to allow Puerto Rico to join UNESCO were unsuccessful and that the efforts made again by the Puerto Rican Senate from 2001 to 2004 were also unsuccessful, a fact which prevents Puerto Rico from participating in and benefiting from UNESCO programs and availing itself of the resulting opportunities, and from promoting its significant cultural management in other regions of the world;

**GIVEN** that UNESCO was created to contribute to the defence, conservation, promotion and spread of national cultures, and recognizing that certain nations, such as Puerto Rico, which have not yet achieved political sovereignty, have modified their legislation so as to be able to become Associate Members;

**KNOWING** that Associate Members enjoy the same rights and privileges as Member States, but are not entitled to vote to elect the members of the international management team;

**CONSIDERING** that Puerto Rico will be part of the Latin American and Caribbean Group if it is admitted to UNESCO as an Associate Member;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** that Puerto Rico's admission to UNESCO would allow it to request that the San Juan National Historic Site be declared a World Heritage Site;

**GIVEN** that Puerto Rico being admitted to UNESCO as an Associate Member would lead UNESCO to sponsor cultural projects in Puerto Rico—museums, libraries, archaeological, folkloric and historical research, art exhibitions, restoration of archaeological areas, health support, book publications and other cultural activities—like those it currently supports in other Caribbean countries;

**CONSIDERING** that artists, musicians, writers, teachers, scientists, archaeologists, historians and others working in the cultural sector would be invited to and could participate in many cultural activities;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** that the United Kingdom and the Netherlands have, for many years, allowed and supported the admission of their holdings and colonies to UNESCO as Associate Members;

**GIVEN** that there is no obstacle to Puerto Rico enjoying new development opportunities by introducing the international community to its culture;

**CONSIDERING** that the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico has given its support for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico's admission to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as an Associate Member and requested that its Governor, the Honourable Alejandro García Padilla, resume all necessary efforts to that end;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** that the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA), through its General Assembly, recognizes the importance of encouraging exchanges between civilizations, cultures and peoples that are conducive to sustainable development, the protection of human rights, mutual respect and the elimination of poverty;

**CONSEQUENTLY**, the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) resolves that the efforts of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to be admitted to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as an Associate Member shall be supported;

**CONSEQUENTLY**, the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) will send copy of this resolution to the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO) and to the national and international media for its general diffusion.