



**Declaration on Climate Change
San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 16, 2015**

RECOGNIZING that COPA contributes to strengthening parliamentary democracy and building a community of the Americas founded on respect for dignity and human rights, peace, democracy, solidarity between peoples, social justice and gender equality.

RECALLING the main objectives of COPA to

- develop and strengthen parliamentary means of action in the context of the hemispheric integration process and globalization;
- create a new synergy between the legislative leaders of the various congresses, parliamentary assemblies, regional parliaments and interparliamentary organizations of the Americas.

The members of the Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development gathered in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on April 16, 2015 to continue discussions and share climate change experiences and legislation:

Encourage COPA member states, the congresses and parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal, federated and associated States, the regional parliaments and the interparliamentary organizations of the Americas, to pass laws to mitigate the impact of climate change and help their populations adapt, as well as show consideration for the lives of native, peasant and urban peoples and promote the preservation of global biodiversity and the transformation of existing energy resources;

Consider that actions to address climate change will only be effective and viable if promoted through effective public policies to halt deforestation, soil erosion and contamination of fresh water and air, and through scientific research to develop new forms of alternative, sustainable energy production;

Recall that all laws must incorporate a feminist perspective and promote more equitable relations between women and men;

Plead for the promotion of responsible, healthy consumption—consumption that does not contribute to environmental contamination and climate change—through the adoption of viable habits and models;

Promote responsible use of vital resources, sustainable management of solid waste, and recycling;

Pledge to promote civic responsibility with regard to actions that can be pursued individually or collectively to make the world a fairer place;

Encourage the adoption of a post-2015 development agenda that promotes and supports building a solid, ambitious agenda for after 2015, with integrated policies to guarantee inclusive economic and social development and environmental sustainability in a program that addresses the aspirations of all for a world free of fear and unfulfilled needs.

Adopted by the General Assembly of COPA, on September 11, 2015, in Guanajuato, Mexico