



PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS (COPA)

10th GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MAR DEL PLATA, ARGENTINA

NOVEMBER 15–20, 2010

Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development

Resolution

Legislating for a greener America: productivity and climate change

We, the parliamentarians of the Americas gathered in Mar del Plata, Argentina, for the 10th General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas,

Aware of the importance of preserving a green America that is able to maintain an environmental balance despite the world economic crisis;

Acknowledging the global scale of climate change and the efforts made by international organizations and certain governments to encourage public policies aimed at sustainable development;

Considering the climate-change-induced natural catastrophes and weather events that have occurred across the continent and the world, their effects on socio-economic development and human health, and the irreversible damage they have caused around the globe and especially in developing countries, less developed countries and small island states;

Emphasizing the determination of COPA member parliaments to promote the development of appropriate legislation to solve the serious problems posed by climate change and environmental degradation;

Convinced that climate change has a planet-wide, long-term impact that must be addressed with vision and leadership, two key qualities in sustainable development policy planning;

Looking ahead with keen interest to the proceedings of the COP 16 to be held in December of this year in Cancún and the agreements to come out of it;

RESOLVE TO

Reiterate our call to developed countries that they take the lead in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by setting ambitious targets while implementing aid plans and granting sufficient financial and technical assistance to enable developing countries to adapt to climate change and to development, in keeping with the principles and provisions of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol;

Exhort all governments to develop, under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, an anti-climate-change instrument that is exhaustive, fair and binding, includes all countries in a significant way and is based on the Copenhagen Accord and the Bali Road Map;

Call on parliamentarians of the Americas to urge their governments to set ambitious and measurable GHG emission reduction targets and to implement national reduction measures that are adapted to the realities of their respective countries;

Press governments to implement, in their respective countries, appropriate mitigation measures that can be submitted to international verification according to the guidelines approved by the Conference of the Parties;

Exhort governments to work together to reinforce their capacity to adapt to climate change and to reduce the risk of disasters in developing countries, particularly in less developed countries and in the small island states that are more vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, for example by creating a climate change adaptation network for the Americas;

Exhort COPA member legislators to acknowledge (1) the central role of technology in climate change response, (2) the need for technological advancement and for cooperation between the region's countries in disseminating existing technologies, and (3) the development, deployment and transfer of innovative technologies;

Underscore the importance of achieving equilibrium between climate change and economic and development models that are more environment-friendly and more conducive to maintaining a balance between humankind and the environment.

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