



Meeting of the Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

April 16, 2015

Resolution on Climate Change

CONSIDERING that the highest growth rate of emissions in the last 40 years occurred between 2000 and 2012, and that worldwide emissions are 61% higher today than they were in 1990;

CONCERNED about the evidence in the fifth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which leaves no room for doubt as to the seriousness of the threat that climate change poses for ecosystems and societies, directly affecting the most vulnerable people;

RECOGNIZING that we are on the verge of reaching our planet's limits, which means that we have a moral duty as citizens to promote measures ensuring climate security;

NOTING with great concern the growing negative impacts that climate change is having on the well-being and quality of life of our populations as well as on perspectives for development, which underscores the seriousness of the social aspect of climate change consequences;

RECOGNIZING that the international community must urgently respond to the problem, taking into account both common and varying responsibilities and each state's respective abilities, including by making new financial resources available in sufficient quantity to meet the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change;

NOTING the conclusions of the UN Secretary General at the Climate Summit held on September 23, 2014;

NOTING the opportunity for our region to constructively participate in developing an appropriate response to deal with the problem of climate change;

REAFFIRMING the importance of reaching a global agreement on climate change;

RECOGNIZING the importance of ratifying the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, adopted at the 18th Conference of the Parties (COP-18) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2012, as soon as possible so its coming into force will reinforce actions and efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

WELCOMING with interest the debates on climate change that took place at the 13th Annual Meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas;

WE, the members of the Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development, representatives of the congresses and parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal, federated and associated states, the regional parliaments and the interparliamentary organizations gathered in San Juan, Puerto Rico;

RENEW our international commitments in order to address the climate change problem;

COMMIT to continuing discussions on the subject to share legislative experiences on mitigating and adapting to climate change;

EXHORT the parliamentarians of the Americas to encourage parliamentary debate toward ratifying the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol so as to facilitate the coming into force of this international legal framework and to send a political message that our nations are committed to action in this area;

APPEAL to the states of the Americas to adopt integrated policies to meet the global challenge of climate change;

RECOMMEND that all parliamentarians follow up on this resolution before all the parliamentary assemblies of the Americas and the committees responsible for environmental issues within their respective parliaments and congresses to ensure that these committees devote the necessary attention to the global challenge of climate change and to policies that contribute to mitigating its negative effects and helping society to adapt.

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