



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS
11th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Québec, Québec, Canada
September 6 to 9, 2011**

**Committee on Health and Social Protection
September 8, 2011, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

SUMMARY

1. Welcoming Remarks

Arelys Santana Bello, interim Committee chair, welcomed the participants and thanked them for attending.

The interim chair announced that a list would be circulated and asked the participants to provide their contact information and state whether they were interested in becoming permanent members of the Committee. Seventeen participants stated that they were interested.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda is presented and adopted without modifications.

**3. Presentation on the *Global Fund to fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria*
Mr. Svend Robinson, Representative of the Fund**

Svend Robinson, Senior Adviser in charge of parliamentary relations at the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, gave a presentation on the Global Fund. He described the Fund's various activities and projects in the countries of the Americas and invited parliamentarians to apply to the Global Fund for grants.

4. Conference and discussions on the principal theme : Water, Health, Poverty

- **Theme Presentation**
- **Presentation of the Speakers :**
 - ***Paulo F. Teixeira Piza***, engineer and Regional Advisor on Urban Health with the Pan American Health Organization. Theme: *Water for All: Rights and Opportunities*

- **Dr. Eduardo Planos**, Cuban Meteorological Institute, Department of Science, Technology and the Environment, Cuba. Theme: *Situation and Outlook in the Caribbean Region*

Paulo F. Teixeira Piza gave a presentation entitled *Water for All: Rights and Opportunities*. He talked about the importance for human health of access to clean drinking water and the recognition of the right to water. Eduardo Planos then gave a presentation on the water situation in the Caribbean Region and discussed the effects of climate change.

- **Question and Discussion Period**

The parliamentarians asked the experts questions, described the situation in their respective countries and outlined the legislative initiatives implemented by their respective parliaments.

- **Appointment of a Rapporteur for the Theme**

The interim chair asked the participants for a volunteer to act as rapporteur for the theme "Water, Health and Poverty". The Member of the Chamber of Deputies for the Province of Santa Fe, Argentina, Alicia Gutiérrez, came forward. She is now a member of the office of the Committee on Health and Social Protection in that capacity.

5. Presentation of the *Work Plan 2011-2012*

The interim chair presented the main points of the Committee's 2011–2012 Work Plan. The Plan was adopted as presented.

6. Presentation and adoption of the draft resolution

The interim chair presented a draft resolution on guaranteed universal access to clean drinking water. A few amendments were made by consensus. The purpose of the draft resolution was to support the resolution on the human right to water and sanitation adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in July 2010 and to encourage the governments to improve the quality of water supply services and to preserve this vital resource.

7. Preparation of the Committee meeting in Cuba in October

- **Presentation of the preliminary program and the themes**

The interim chair invited the parliamentarians to attend the next Committee meeting, to be held in Cuba on October 27 and 28, 2011, on the theme of child mortality, and presented the preliminary program of the meeting.

8. Miscellaneous

No other business was discussed by the parliamentarians present at the meeting.



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**Committee on Health and Social Protection
2011-2012 COMMITTEE WORK PLAN**

Committee Responsibilities

The Committee on Health and Social Protection examines issues relating to health, social protection measures and anti-poverty policies.

Historical Summary

Ixtapan, November 2002

- First meeting of the Committee.
- Presentation of a discussion paper examining the means at the disposal of parliamentarians to improve access to health services in the Americas.
- General recommendation on health and social development.

Caracas, November 2003

- Adoption of a recommendation based on three principal issues: *the protection of access to health care and medication; the follow up on trade negotiations from a health perspective; the preservation of the capacity to legislate on issues of public health.*

Foz d'Iguaçu, May 2005

- Discussions on public health in the context of international trade negotiations and adoption of a resolution on the issue.

Quito, June 2006

- Discussions on sexual and reproductive health and adoption of a resolution on the subject.

Mexico City and Toluca, September 2008

- Further discussions on sexual and reproductive health, this time in particular in relation to HIV/AIDS.

Salta, September 2009

- Adoption of a resolution on (A)H1N1 influenza.

Mar del Plata, November 2011

- Beginning of discussions on child mortality.
- Adoption of a preliminary resolution on the issue.

Work Plan

In view of the content of the most recent meetings, the amendments made to the *By-laws of the Permanent Thematic Working Committees of COPA* during the 9th General Assembly of COPA, the *Plan of the President (2010-1012)* as well as the *2010-2011 Work Plan*, the adoption of a work plan centered on three main areas is proposed: the revitalization of the Committee and the study of two other related themes.

1. Revitalization of the Committee

The following measures are proposed to revitalize the work of the Committee:

- adopt this work plan at the next meeting of the Committee (to be held in Québec City, Canada, September 8, 2011);
- encourage participation and establish a list of permanent committee members;
- appoint a rapporteur for each theme the Committee wishes to study;
- ensure follow up of resolutions and in-depth and sequential examination of themes;
- organize Committee meeting between the next two general assemblies; the Committee will meet to pursue discussions on child mortality in Cuba on October 27-28, 2011;
- establish partnerships with other regional and international organizations interested in discussing similar issues.

2. Themes for study

a) Resumption of discussions and drafting of a position on child mortality

The Committee will hold a working meeting in Havana, Cuba, next October 27 and 28. Discussions on child mortality will be finalized at that time.

b) Resumption of discussions on water, health and poverty

Given the significance of this important issue, parliamentarians must commit to a detailed and in-depth analysis. COPA's president therefore proposes that discussions continue in 2011-2012. The meeting in Québec City will allow parliamentarians to become more familiar with the issues and begin discussions. The appointment of a rapporteur will make it possible to hold more in-depth discussions and target possible actions to discuss at future Committee working meetings.

c) Chronic diseases

More and more people are suffering and dying from chronic diseases such as diabetes, different types of cancer, arthritis, as well as chronic cardiovascular and respiratory illnesses. In 2005, an estimated 35 million people died from chronic diseases.¹ This is twice the number of deaths from all infectious diseases (HIV, malaria, tuberculosis) combined. While deaths from infectious diseases and nutritional deficiencies declining, deaths due to chronic diseases are projected to increase by 17% by 2015.² Although some factors such as age, gender and genetics cannot be changed, a number of behavioural risk factors such as smoking, alcohol abuse, physical inactivity and unhealthy diet can be modified. In Canada, for example, approximately four out of every five Canadians have at least one chronic disease risk factor that can be modified. Societal, economic, and physical conditions influence and shape behaviour and indirectly affect other biological factors.³ Recognizing these common risk factors and conditions is the basis for adopting an integrated approach to dealing with chronic diseases. The societal costs associated with chronic diseases are staggering. The total annual cost associated with diabetes was estimated at \$65 billion US for the Latin America and Caribbean region in 2000 and continues to increase.⁴ Several actions can be taken national governments to prevent such diseases and therefore COPA should be concerned with this growing problem.

3. Agenda

The Committee secretariat proposes the following agenda:

a. 11th General Assembly

Place: Québec City

Date: September 8, 2011

- Content:**
- i) Adoption of the Committee Work Plan (2011-2012)
 - ii) Lecture on **Water, health and poverty**
 - iii) Appointment of a rapporteur for *water, health and poverty* theme
 - iv) Establishment of a list of permanent committee members

b. Committee Meeting

Place: Cuba

Date: October 27-28, 2011

- Content:**
- i) Workshops, roundtables and discussions on **maternal health, child mortality and tuberculosis**, and drafting of Committee position on child mortality and maternal health
 - ii) Preparation for Committee meeting to be held during COPA's 12th General Assembly

c. 12th General Assembly

Place: To be determined

Date: To be determined

- Content:**
- i) Lecture on **chronic diseases**

¹ Pan American Health Organization, Regional Strategy and Plan of Action on an Integrated Approach to the Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases, Washington, D.C., PAHO, 2007, p.3.

² Ibid., p.3.

³ Public Health Agency of Canada, http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cd-mc/risk_factors-facteurs_risque-eng.php, consulted July 7, 2011.

⁴ Pan American Health Organization, op. cit., p.1.

- ii) Appointment of a rapporteur for *chronic diseases* theme
- iii) Tabling of report on *water, health and poverty*
- iv) Selecting a Committee work theme for COPA's 13th General Assembly.

d. Committee Meeting

Place: To be determined

Date: To be determined

Content: i) Workshops, roundtables, discussions on **chronic diseases**



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS
11TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
QUÉBEC CITY, CANADA**

Committee on Health and Social Protection

**RESOLUTION TO GUARANTEE UNIVERSAL
ACCESS TO POTABLE WATER**

CONSIDERING the Millennium Development Goals set under Resolution 55/2 of the United Nations, particularly that aimed at reducing by half, from 1990 to 2015, the proportion of the world's population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation;

GIVEN the significant progress made on this front from 1990 to 2010, an increase from 71 to 86 percent in the proportion of the world's population with access to improved water sources, and our enthusiasm that the regional goal set by the UN could be reached;

REMEMBERING that access to safe drinking water is essential to human dignity and health and that the burden of disease from inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene totals 1.8 million deaths per year;

REMEMBERING that each person needs 20 to 50 litres of water free of harmful chemical and microbial contaminants each day for drinking and hygiene;

OBSERVING that improvements in sanitation are bypassing the poor;

EMPHASIZING therefore the need to target the underlying economic problems causing a lack of access to potable water and the necessity to fight poverty and improve water management;

OBSERVING however that the complexity of this issue involves, in addition to socioeconomic factors, other determining factors such as land use, deforestation, climate change and increasing pollution;

REMEMBERING the necessity to measure the impact of the policies put in place to achieve universal access to potable water;

WE, the parliamentarians of the Americas, gathered together in Québec City, Canada, for the 11th General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas:

COMMIT to firmly support the regional targets set in 2000 as part of the Millennium Development Goals initiative;

TAKE ACTION to contribute toward achieving the Millennium Development Goal aimed at increasing the proportion of the population having access to an improved water source in the Latin American and Caribbean region to 93 percent by 2015;

ENCOURAGE our governments to improve the quality of water supply services and to preserve this vital resource;

COMMIT to analyze and raise awareness of legislative progress made regarding access to drinking water and water sanitation and to examine this in greater depth within the framework of the Committee on Health and Social Protection.



PARTICIPANTS À LA RÉUNION DE LA COMMISSION DE LA SANTÉ ET DE LA PROTECTION SOCIALE

PARTICIPANTES A LA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN DE SALUD Y PROTECCIÓN SOCIAL

PARTICIPANTS TO THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

PARTICIPANTES DA REUNIÃO DA COMISSÃO SOBRE SAÚDE E PREVIDÊNCIA SOCIAL

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