



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS
HAVANA, CUBA
October 27-28, 2011**

Committee on Health and Social Protection

PROJECT OF RESOLUTION TO REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

CONSIDERING the Millennium Development Goals set under Resolution 55/2 of the United Nations, in particular, that aimed at reducing by two thirds the mortality rate of children under age five between 1990 and 2015;

CONSIDERING that the parliamentarians of the Americas gathered for a meeting of the Committee on Health and Social Protection in Mar del Plata, Argentina, committed themselves to studying child mortality in greater depth within the scope of the Committee's work;

CONSIDERING also the commitment to provide solid support for the regional objectives set in 2000 within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals;

GIVEN the significant progress made in this area from 1990 to 2010, the total number of under-age-five deaths having been reduced from 12.5 million in 1990 to 8.8 million in 2010, and being very pleased about the possibility of reaching the regional objective set by the UN;

RECALLING the importance of access to health care and community health programs for both mothers and children as a factor in reducing child mortality, as well as the important link between maternal health and child mortality indicators;

GIVEN, however, that child mortality is a complex issue whose scope extends beyond access to basic health care and involves other socio-economic determining factors such as problems related to malnutrition, as well as access to safe drinking water, education and family planning;

UNDERSCORING, therefore, the necessity to target the underlying economic causes of child mortality and the necessity to fight against poverty and improve the status of women;

RECALLING the necessity to measure the impact of the policies that are put in place to reduce child mortality;

We, the parliamentarians of the Americas gathered in Havana, Cuba, for the Meeting of COPA's Committee on Health and Social Protection:

Commit ourselves to working to improve and consolidate health care systems and community health programs with the aim of fighting child mortality;

Call on the parliamentarians of the Americas to take action to contribute toward achieving, by 2015, the Millennium Development Goal to reduce the under-age-five child mortality rate in the Latin American and Caribbean region, which is 18 deaths per 1,000 live births;

Hope that the parliamentarians of the Americas will maintain this commitment in order to achieve, by 2020, a regional average rate of less than 15 under-age-five deaths per 1,000 live births;

Encourage the parliamentarians of the Americas to take effective action within their respective jurisdictions to achieve the targets set;

Commit ourselves to promoting the implementation of national strategies aimed at reducing child mortality and improving maternal health;

Recommend that the parliamentarians attending the Committee on Health and Social Protection Workshop in Havana, Cuba, follow up on this resolution with every parliamentary assembly of the Americas and every committee in charge of health and gender equality matters in those assemblies in order that proper attention be given to important issues related to child mortality and maternal health.