



COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS

10TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MAR DEL PLATA, ARGENTINA

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;

GIVEN the significant progress made on this front from 1990 to 2007, a reduction in the under-age-five mortality rate from 54 to 24 per 1,000 live births and our enthusiasm at the prospect that the regional goal set by the UN could be reached;

GIVEN that the ongoing economic crisis threatens to jeopardize the positive results obtained in the last few years and to slow further progress in reducing child mortality;

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 for better access to employment for 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 together in Mar del Plata, Argentina, for the 10th General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas:

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

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;

Undertake to examine child mortality in greater depth within the framework of the Committee on Health and Social Protection.