



**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 Resolution 64/292 of the United Nations adopted on July 28 2011 declaring water and sanitation a human right and 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 and to reach the universality of water and sanitation services;

**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.