



**BY-LAWS OF THE PERMANENT THEMATIC
WORKING COMMITTEES OF COPA**

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PREAMBLE

The Statutes of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) provide, in section 28, that the Executive Committee, as one of its attributions, has the role of creating permanent thematic working committees and establishing their number and areas of jurisdiction.

TITLE I - OBJECTIVES AND ATTRIBUTIONS

CHAPTER I - OBJECTIVES

Section 1 Objectives

In accordance with their respective fields of jurisdiction, the Committees have the objective of following up on the objectives and principles presented in COPA's founding documents and on any other dossier that may be assigned to them by the Executive Committee. As well, the committees will enable the parliamentarians to further participate in different fields of work and contributes to tighten bonds between those who have a technical specialization or those who take part in parliamentary committees that tackle similar themes.

CHAPTER II- ATTRIBUTIONS

Section 2 Attributions

The Committees and their main fields of jurisdiction are:

I.- The Committee on Democracy and Peace, which examines issues relating to the strengthening and promotion of democracy and the rule of law, current political and parliamentary events, electoral observation missions and the promotion of peace in the Americas;

II.- The Committee on Economy, Trade, Labour, Competitiveness and Trading Blocs, which examines economic and trade-related issues, including all aspects of the economic integration of the Americas, investment policies, labour issues, as well as issues relating to agriculture, fishing, natural resource use, and tourism;

III.- The Committee on Education, Culture, Science and Technology, which examines issues relating to education, youth, science and technology, the promotion of culture, the defence of cultural diversity, and the preservation of linguistic heritage in the Americas;

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

V.- The Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development, which examines issues relating to environmental quality, the preservation of biodiversity, sustainable resource use and urban development, as well as issues relating to the management of environmental disasters;

VI.- The Committee on Human Rights, Aboriginal Peoples, and Citizen Security, which examines the status of human rights, in particular the rights of the Aboriginal peoples, Afro-Americans and refugees, as well as issues relating to migrations and the promotion of the security of citizens in the Americas.

TITLE II - BOARD

Section 3 Members

Each committee shall have a Board. It shall be composed of a Chair, two Vice-Chairs, and rapporteurs whose number may vary according to circumstances.

The Board shall receive administrative support from one of the three units of the Secretariat.

The committees are composed of a maximum of twelve (12) participating parliamentarians of COPA.

A maximum of two (2) parliamentarians from the same country but different parliaments may be members of each committee.

Section 4 Appointment of members

The members of the Board shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.

The members of the Board shall take office at the end of the General Assembly during which they were appointed, and their term of office shall end at the conclusion of the General Assembly following that of their appointment.

The term of office of the members of the Board is renewable.

Section 5 Vacancies

In the event of the death, resignation, incapacity or departure from parliamentary office of any member of the Board, the competent authorities of the congress or parliamentary assembly represented by that member shall designate a replacement.

Section 6 Themes of discussion

The themes of discussion covered by each committee shall be set by the Board in accordance with priorities established by COPA.

The committees shall produce reports on issues relating to their areas of jurisdiction, and shall present recommendations, motions or opinions to the General Assembly for discussion and approval.

Section 7 Attributions of the Chair

The Chair of the committee shall report regularly to the President of COPA and to the Executive Committee on the deliberations of the Committee.

Chairs present reports on their committees' activities to the General Assembly.

The Chair shall organize the meetings of the Committee, in collaboration with the members of the Board.

At the invitation of the Chair, observers or experts may participate in the deliberations of the Committee.

TITLE III - FREQUENCY AND CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

CHAPTER I - FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

Section 8 Frequency of meetings

The committees shall conduct their deliberations at ordinary meetings in conjunction with the General Assemblies.

They shall also meet at least once between General Assemblies in order to analyze the themes selected by the committee and to draw up a draft resolution to be presented at the General Assembly.

They may also meet at the initiative of the Chair, particularly on the fringe of inter-American or international activities focusing on themes under their areas of jurisdiction.

CHAPTER II - CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

Section 9 Draft resolutions

Each committee's draft resolutions shall be sent to the Executive Secretariat one month before the date of the General Assembly.

Draft resolutions shall be submitted in writing to the participants for discussion and approval.

Parliamentarians wishing to move amendments to the above shall be required to do so in writing.

Section 10 Voting

The committees shall make their decisions preferably by consensus. In the event that it is not possible to come to a consensus, the question shall be referred to the Executive Committee.

TITLE IV - SHARING OF RESPONSIBILITIES AND ROLE OF THE THREE UNITS OF THE SECRETARIAT

CHAPTER I - SHARING OF RESPONSIBILITIES BY THE THREE UNITS OF THE SECRETARIAT

Section 11 Sharing of responsibilities by the three units of the Secretariat

The administrative support to the committees shall be divided as follows:

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| Brazil Secretariat: | - The Committee on Human Rights, Aboriginal Peoples, and Citizen Security; |
| | - The Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development; |
| Mexico Secretariat: | - The Committee on Economy, Trade, Labour, Competitiveness and Trading Blocs; |
| | - The Committee on Education, Culture, Science and Technology; |
| Québec Secretariat: | - The Committee on Democracy and Peace; |
| | - The Committee on Health and Social Protection. |

CHAPTER II - ROLE OF THE THREE UNITS OF THE SECRETARIAT

Section 12 Role of the three offices of the Secretariat

Each committee shall have at its disposal the services of an advisor from the regional secretariat responsible for the administration of that committee, as defined in section 11. The advisor's function shall be to provide support to the chair in organizing the committee's work.

Between meetings, the three offices of the Secretariat shall allow Committee members to discuss the themes under their jurisdiction by means of e-mail distribution lists made available to them.

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