

PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS (COPA)

15<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Salta, Argentina

October 11-14, 2016



Meeting of the Committee on Health and  
Social Protection  
October 12, 2016

**RESOLUTION ON CANCER IN THE AMERICAS**

**KNOWING** that cancer is the second leading cause of death in the Americas, that it took 1.2 million lives in 2013 and that more than 30% of cancer-related deaths could be prevented by changing certain high-risk behaviours and addressing key risk factors;

**CONSIDERING** that the social and economic costs associated with cancer—especially inequalities and loss of productivity—are higher than the investments required for cancer prevention and treatment;

**RECOGNIZING** that the responsibility for prevention, treatment and palliative care for cancer patients falls first and foremost to political leaders;

**We, the parliamentarians of the Americas, gathered in Salta, Argentina for the 15th General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the America and for the 14th Annual Meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas;**

**SUPPORT** implementation of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization *Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in the Americas 2013–2019* and urge States to consult the interested parties to prepare the next action plan;

**ENCOURAGE** the governments of the States of the Americas to implement multisectoral human-rights based cancer prevention and control policies;

**EXPRESS** our will to see government intervention to fight cancer increase, in particular through better coverage, more equitable access to treatment and better quality of health care, and by investing the financial resources needed to achieve these goals;

**URGE** health care system stakeholders to strengthen their capacities related to surveillance and research on cancer, its risk factors and its determinants, and use these results to develop policies;

**ASK** the interested parties to step up their efforts to reduce key cancer risk factors, including smoking, overweight and obesity, urban air pollution and poor diet;

**PLEDGE** to work together, within our parliamentary mandate, to establish all measures intended to achieve the above-mentioned objectives.

Adopted by the General Assembly of COPA on October 14, 2016, in the city of Salta, Argentina.

*For a united continent! 15<sup>th</sup> General Assembly*