



PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS (COPA)
15TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Salta, Argentina
October 11-14, 2016



Meeting of the Committee on Education, Culture,
Science and Technology
October 12, 2016

RESOLUTION ON THE LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY IN THE AMERICAS

WHEREAS the languages spoken in the Americas currently represent 15% of all world languages;

CONSIDERING that, according to UNESCO, some 50% of the approximately 7,000 languages that exist in the world are endangered, that 96% are spoken by only 4% of the world's population and that only 12 languages are used in more than 90% of all Internet content;

KNOWING that globalization can lead certain communities to abandon their language;

KNOWING that languages are not only tools for communicating but can also constitute bodies of knowledge transmitted over long periods of time;

CONSIDERING that linguistic diversity is the expression of the way peoples and cultures perceive and appropriate the elements of the ecosystems they inhabit;

KNOWING that any effort to preserve a country's wealth and natural resources inevitably involves considering and recognizing Aboriginal cultures, understanding the rationale for their methods of land ownership, organization and knowledge, and promoting traditional languages;

We, the representatives of the congresses and parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal, federated and associated States, regional parliaments and interparliamentary organizations, gathered in the city of Salta, Argentina on October 12, 2016 for the meeting of the COPA Committee on Education, Culture, Science and Technology;

Acting on the recommendation of the Committee on Education, Culture, Science and Technology;

RECOGNIZE that the existence of different languages in the world corresponds to what we call linguistic diversity, that it has endured in all areas of the world and that it therefore constitutes a component of human history;

REITERATE our international commitments aimed at maintaining, promoting and preserving linguistic diversity in the Americas;

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URGE governments to reformulate public policies so as to better preserve and highlight the importance of linguistic values in the Americas;

PLEDGE to promote teaching Americas' mother tongues and other languages in order to preserve the region's linguistic diversity;

PLEDGE to pass legislation that promotes defending linguistic values;

URGE legislators of the Americas to promote the recognition of linguistic values in the constitutions and laws of the parliaments of the Americas;

RECOMMEND that all parliamentarians who attended the 15th COPA General Assembly follow up on this recommendation in all parliamentary assemblies of the Americas and in all committees responsible for education within these assemblies to ensure that special attention is paid to maintaining, promoting and preserving **linguistic diversity in the Americas**.

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



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