



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



COMISIÓN DE MEDIO
AMBIENTE
Y DESARROLLO
SOSTENIBLE

Meeting of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development
October 11, 2016

**RESOLUTION CALLING ON MEMBERS OF COPA TO IMPROVE THE LEGISLATION
ON RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES**

WHEREAS COPA is an organization that promotes dialogue, cooperation and international security and that, we, parliamentarians, have to work jointly in order to reach agreements and common regional solutions;

WHEREAS the mandate of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development includes the study of topics related to environmental quality, preservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of resources, urban development and disaster management with environmental implications;

RECOGNIZING that the current economic model, whose operation is based on continuous growth, also requires a growing demand for energy;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that sources of fossil and nuclear energy are limited and that it is inevitable that at some point the global demand will not be filled, thus leading to a collapse of the system, subject to the discovery and development of other ways of producing renewable energy from virtually inexhaustible natural sources, due to the large amount of energy they contain and because they are able to renew themselves naturally;

HIGHLIGHTING the existence of renewable energy such as wind, geothermal, hydropower and biofuels;

AFFIRMING that renewable energies help to reduce the presence of CO₂ and other gases in the atmosphere, thus limiting climate change due to human causes;

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We Parliamentarians of the congress and parliamentary assemblies of unitary, federal and associated states, regional parliaments and interparliamentary organizations of the Americas, gathered in Salta, as part of the 15th General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas;

HIGHLIGHT the importance for members of COPA to unite in the collective effort to replace conventional energy with renewable energy in order to contribute to the preservation of the environment, reduce the presence of CO₂ and other gases in the atmosphere, thus limiting climate change;

CONSIDER :

The need to place at the top of the agenda of our countries legislations on renewable energy, through the implementation of effective and inclusive regulatory frameworks that will ensure access to these energies and thus replacing the conventional energy model.

That the challenges that Latin America and the Caribbean face involve a change in its energy model and the increase of their capacity, in order to address the causes and effects of climate change.

We, the COPA legislators, are working to develop and promote real actions related to the 17 Agenda 2030 sustainable development objectives, which were approved by 193 Heads of State, in September 2015, adopting measures pressing against the causes and effects of climate change;

Consequently, we declare that :

1. We are committed to work together in our parliaments in order to develop permanent, integrated and coordinated strategies integral for the exchange of capabilities in South America;

Regarding regulatory frameworks related to climate change and renewable energies :

1. Climate change primarily affects populations in extreme poverty, traditional populations, peasants and indigenous people, the "vulnerables" and the family farmers, indigenous communities, which makes inevitable the need to focus on promoting public policies based on the causes and effects of the problem, with emphasis on those populations;
2. It is necessary to unite our efforts to legislate on the use of renewable energy in order to reduce climate change and therefore we are committed to develop and/or adapt the regulatory frameworks of our country, and walking toward the transformation of the energy model, in close cooperation and consultation with social partners;
3. The respect of indigenous cultures, sustainable use of natural resources, safeguarding knowledge, technology development and biodiversity conservation should be the main topics included in legislation related to climate change and renewable energy.

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Regarding the multi sectoral function of governance and public policies;

- 1- A plural, participatory and multidisciplinary approach based on the strengthening of spaces and public policies regarding governance mechanisms on the issue of climate change and renewable energy is needed to strengthen the role of civil society as a dynamic actor in the implementation of laws related to these issues;
- 2- Spaces and participation mechanisms for civil society to be part of designing, writing and implementing public policies aimed at the enhancement of renewable energy should be priorities in the implementation of regulatory frameworks;

Thus, we express:

Our deep interest in presenting this declaration at the 15th General Assembly of COPA in order to address and prioritize these issues in the legislative agenda of these countries, in the context of sustainable development goals.

We thank the Chamber of Deputies of Salta, Argentina, for organizing this meeting and welcome the parliamentarians who have contributed to the development of this space to exchange their experiences;

Thus, we resolve:

TO ENCOURAGE the development of national plans for renewable energy in member countries of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas;

TO CALL ON COPA parliamentarians to promote this declaration in their parliament in order to strengthen legislation on renewable energy.

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

The logo for COPA (Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas) features the acronym 'COPA' in large, white, serif capital letters. The letters are set against a light blue background that includes a stylized map of the Americas and a sunburst graphic.

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