

**MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Brasilia, Brazil  
October 9, 2000**

**A. AGENDA OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE  
PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS**

1. Welcoming remarks
2. Approval of the agenda
3. Regional Vice-Presidents
  - Election
  - Duties of the Vice-Presidents and regional sub-secretariats
4. The Conference President's Work Plan and upcoming activities
5. Financing of the Conference
6. Executive Committee meeting just prior to the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, April 2001)
  - Preliminary draft program
  - Discussion of themes to be treated and proceedings
  - Set of themes of the Third Summit of the Americas
7. Third General Assembly of the Conference
  - Bids and selection process
  - Suggestions of themes
  - Proceedings
8. Other business
9. Conclusions of the meeting

## **B. REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING ON OCTOBER 9, 2000**

### **1. Welcoming remarks**

As the new Conference President, Mr. Geraldo Magela Pereira, Federal Representative of Brazil, welcomed all meeting participants on his own personal behalf and on behalf of the President of the Chamber of Representatives, Mr. Michel Temer. Mr. Magela said that he was honoured to have been elected President of the Conference at the Puerto Rico General Assembly.

He intends to take advantage of his term at the head of the organization to work toward its consolidation and promotion to all parliamentarians of the Americas. For that purpose, Mr. Magela counts on the valuable collaboration and support of all members of the Executive Committee.

### **2. Approval of the agenda**

The agenda for the meeting was approved.

### **3. Regional Vice-Presidents**

The discussion on this point began with a presentation of the electoral process used by the Conference Secretariat for the election of the Regional Vice-Presidents of the Conference.<sup>1</sup> Participants were also reminded that during the Puerto Rico General Assembly, the new members of the Executive Committee had suggested that the Vice-Presidents be elected by correspondence because of the short time then available.

During the week of October 3, 2000, the process was concluded through the sending of a letter from the President of the Conference to all Executive Committee members, informing them of the election results:

<b>North America:</b>	Vacant position
<b>Central America:</b>	Ms. Marisol Clachar Rivas, Chair of the Environment Committee of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica
<b>Caribbean:</b>	Mr. José González Espinosa, Vice-Chair of the External Relations Committee of the Senate of the Dominican Republic
<b>Andean Region:</b>	Mr. Oswaldo Molestina, Representative of the Congress of Ecuador
<b>Southern Cone:</b>	Mr. Eduardo Bazán Agrás, Representative of the Province of San Juan, Argentina

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<sup>1</sup> See attached document.

In Puerto Rico, Ms. Laura Pavón Jaramillo, Federal Representative of Mexico, was elected First Vice-President of the COPA. Also, one vice-presidency of the Conference is assigned *ex officio* to the President of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, a position currently held by Ms. Lyse Leduc, Member of the National Assembly of Québec.

The discussion then focused on the need for the organization to adopt precise rules for the election of its Regional Vice-Presidents. Among other things, it was suggested that Executive Committee members should not be allowed to cumulate more than one position, and that in future, the election of the vice-presidents should be held at the General Assemblies.

Another matter that was discussed was the need for the organization to define more precisely the duties assigned to the President and Vice-Presidents of the Conference. The Committee members nevertheless agreed upon the role and duties of the sub-secretariats, which the regional vice-presidents are to coordinate.<sup>2</sup>

It was also recommended that a more complete version of the organization's constitution be drafted, taking into account the guiding principles and strategic objectives of the organization, which were adopted in Puerto Rico.

### **RESOLUTION 1**

*Be it resolved by the Executive Committee to create a working group mandated to review the organization's constitution and to prepare regulations governing the election of vice-presidents.*

*This working group shall present a proposal to the members of the Executive Committee prior to the meeting in April 2001, during which the draft constitution and regulations shall be approved. That document shall later be submitted at the next General Assembly, for adoption.*

*This working group shall consist of: Mr. Orlando Pessuti, President of UNALE, Mr. Eduardo Bazán Agrás, Representative for San Juan and Vice-President of the Conference, as well as Mr. Oswaldo Molestina Zavala, Representative of Ecuador and Vice-President of the Conference. It was also agreed that Ms. Laura Pavón, Federal Representative of Mexico and First Vice-President of the Conference, be invited to join the working group.*

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<sup>2</sup> For more information on this subject, see the annexed document *Duties of vice presidents and regional sub-secretariats*.

#### **4. The Conference President's work plan and upcoming activities**

President Magela presented the Work Plan that he intends to implement in the course of his term as Conference President. This plan aims to make known the Conference, to disseminate information on the organization and process of the Summits of the Americas, and to develop services useful to parliamentarians. Mr. Magela proposes that the Conference publish an information bulletin and a magazine, that it create parliamentary networks on subjects of common interest, and a bank of legislative data on the Conference Internet site.

The President also intends to promote the Conference by means of official missions to a number of parliaments of the Americas. Mr. Magela will continue his efforts toward having Brazil confirm its intention to host the Third General Assembly of the Conference during the second half of the year 2001. In addition, he underlined the importance that must be placed on bringing the Conference closer together with parliamentary, governmental and non-governmental organizations that work toward the same objectives as the Conference. Several Committee members pointed out that these contacts are essential in particular in order to avoid the duplication of efforts in carrying out the activities of the COPA.

#### **RESOLUTION 2**

*Be it resolved by the Executive Committee to approve the President's Work Plan, taking into account the following recommendations:*

- *in the course of his official missions to parliaments of the Americas, the Conference President shall promote the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas and, to the extent possible, shall invite members of the Network Executive Committee to take part in these missions;*
- *specific efforts must be devoted to encouraging the presiding officers of parliamentary assemblies and organizations to take part in the meetings of the Executive Committee and in the General Assemblies of the Conference.*
- *in collaboration with the Executive Committee members, a schedule of official missions of the Conference President shall be developed in the near future.*

## **5. Financing of the Conference**

President Magela reminded members that for the present, the COPA does not have any independent source of financing. The financing of the General Assemblies and meetings is covered by the host assemblies, whereas the travel and accommodation expenses of the President, vice-presidents and other members of the Executive Committee on official missions of the COPA are covered by their respective parliamentary assemblies. In addition, all the operational costs of the General Secretariat are covered by the National Assembly of Québec.

It is therefore essential to rapidly develop a permanent financing plan for the Conference in which various possibilities will be evaluated, such as membership dues on the part of the parliamentary assemblies and organizations, contributions from the private sector, and from governmental and non-governmental organizations.

### **RESOLUTION 3**

*Be it resolved that the Executive Committee create a working group mandated to develop a proposal for the permanent financing of the Conference.*

*This working group shall present an interim report to the members of the Executive Committee prior to the meeting in April 2001, during which the financing proposal shall be approved. That document shall later be submitted at the next General Assembly, for adoption.*

*This working group shall consist of: Ms. Soad Salomón de Facussé, Representative of Honduras, Mr. Rodrigo Samayoa Rivas, Vice-President of the Central American Parliament, and Mr. Jean-Pierre Charbonneau, President of the National Assembly of Québec and Conference President (1997-1999).*

Nevertheless, until a permanent solution is found to the problem of financing for the Conference, it is important to gather funds in the short term to enable the Conference to consolidate and to carry out certain activities until the holding of the Third General Assembly.

### **RESOLUTION 4**

*Be it resolved by the Executive Committee that an emergency fund be created, by requesting a voluntary contribution ranging from US\$ 3,000 to US\$ 5,000 from the parliamentary assemblies and organizations of the Americas.*

**6. Meeting of the Executive Committee just prior to the Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, April 2001)**

Mr. Jean-Pierre Charbonneau, President of the National Assembly of Québec, presented the main outline of a draft program for the Executive Committee meeting to be held in Quebec City from April 16 to 20, 2001. The members of the Committee pointed out that the above meeting will be very important, since it will be the opportunity to demonstrate that parliamentarians intend to take part in the debates of the Heads of State and Government concerning hemispheric integration. It was also agreed that the meeting of the Executive Committee would take place over a two-day period, and that it would be preceded by a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas.

**RESOLUTION 5**

*Be it resolved by the Executive Committee that the Conference President, the First Vice-President and the former Presidents of the organization be mandated to prepare the agenda and the strategy for the meeting of the Committee, which is to be held in Quebec City in April 2001.*

Among other things, it was generally agreed that it is highly important, at the Summit, that the Heads of State and Government receive representatives of the Conference in order that the Puerto Rico Parliamentary Declaration may be submitted to them, as well as the recommendations adopted at the second General Assembly of the COPA.

**RESOLUTION 6**

*Be it resolved by the Executive Committee that the President of the Conference send a letter to all the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, requesting their support for the participation, with observer status, of a COPA delegation at the Summit. In addition, he shall request that parliamentarians be included within their national delegations that will take part in the Summit.*

**7. Third General Assembly of the Conference**

President Magela reminded participants that at the last meeting in Puerto Rico, the Executive Committee had decided to accept bids to host the Third General Assembly of the Conference until October 31, 2000.

**RESOLUTION 7**

*Be it resolved by the Executive Committee to extend the period for the submission of bids to host the Third General Assembly of the Conference until November 30, 2000.*