



RESOLUTION ON HAITI

Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) Executive Committee Meeting

San Juan, Puerto Rico, September 24 and 25, 2004

REITERATING the resolution on Haiti adopted by the COPA Executive Committee in March 2004 in Brasilia, Brazil, calling upon the interim government, all political parties, and civil society representatives to work towards a peaceful solution to the conflict, the strengthening of the rule of law and democratic institutions, and the holding of fair, free, and transparent elections within a reasonable timeframe;

NOTING that the security situation in Haiti is still precarious more than six months after the departure of former president Jean-Bertrand Aristide on February 29, 2004;

CONCERNED by the fact that certain rebel forces still refuse to turn in their arms;

WHEREAS the economy is in a critical state in Haiti, with 75% of the population living on less than two U.S. dollars per day;

WHEREAS Resolution 1529 adopted on February 29, 2004, by the United Nations Security Council appeals to member countries to “further the constitutional political process now underway in Haiti,” and Resolution 1542 of April 30, 2004, establishes the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH);

WHEREAS a resolution adopted in Quito, Ecuador, on June 8, 2004, by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) recognizes the interim government of Haiti and instructs the Permanent Council of the OAS to undertake “all necessary diplomatic initiatives, including good offices, to foster full restoration of democracy in Haiti;”

WHEREAS at the Donors Conference organized on the initiative of the United Nations, the World Bank, the European Commission, and the Inter-American Development Bank last July 19 and 20 in Washington, close to \$1.4 billion in loans and donations was promised to the interim Haitian government for reconstruction of the country;

WHEREAS an accord was signed between Haiti, the United Nations, and the Organization of American States (OAS) on August 23, 2004, setting out the organization of presidential, parliamentary, and local elections in 2005;

We, the members of the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on September 24 and 25, 2004,

CALL ON the still-armed and active rebel forces to cooperate with the interim Haitian government and forces of order by surrendering their illegal arms to the authorities;

REITERATE our appeal to all Haitians to renounce the violence that compromises security and the establishment of a peaceful political climate in the country;

LEND our support to the 6,700 soldiers of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) under Brazilian command, which took over from the interim military forces on June 25, 2004;

CALL ON the international community and international financial institutions to meet their commitments with regard to the strengthening of democracy in Haiti, especially by ensuring the sums promised at the Donors Conference make an effective contribution to the restoration of democracy and the reduction in the poverty that affects a majority of Haitians;

EXPRESS our solidarity toward the Haitian people after the tragedy of the tropical storm Jeanne and call on all countries of the Americas to make every possible effort in terms of humanitarian assistance.