



Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) Executive Committee Meeting

**Quito, Ecuador
August 18 and 19, 2005**

RESOLUTION ON HAITI

WHEREAS one objective of COPA is to “contribute to the strengthening of parliamentary democracy and to the building of a community of the Americas founded on the respect for dignity and human rights, peace, democracy, solidarity between peoples, social justice, and gender equality”;

WHEREAS escalating violence in Haiti in recent months continues to result in the loss of human lives;

WHEREAS the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince, has suffered a wave of violent incidents, particularly kidnappings and attacks on members of the interim government and the business sector;

WHEREAS the interim government of Haiti announced its intention to hold the first and second round of legislative and presidential elections on November 13 and December 18, 2005;

WHEREAS the holding of elections constitutes one of the essential elements for the resolution of the political, social and humanitarian crisis which Haiti faces at the moment;

WHEREAS the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), whose mandate has been renewed and numbers increased, has undertaken to ensure these elections are held in a stable and secure environment;

WHEREAS in the absence of measures to curb this violence, the elections planned for this fall—which are crucial to Haiti’s stability—may be compromised;

WHEREAS barely a fraction of the 4.5 million eligible voters are registered on the electoral lists to date;

We, the members of the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas meeting in Quito, Ecuador, on August 18 and 19, 2005,

REITERATE the terms of our previous resolutions on the situation in Haiti adopted in Brasília, Brazil, in March 2004; San Juan, Puerto Rico, in September 2004; and Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, in May 2005;

RENEW our appeal to the international community and international financial institutions to meet their commitments with regard to the strengthening of democracy in Haiti, especially by ensuring that the sums promised at the Washington Conference in July 2004 are quickly disbursed and make an effective contribution to restoring democracy and reducing the poverty that affects a majority of Haitians;

APPLAUD the signing on June 14, 2005, by 17 Haitian political parties of an electoral code of conduct whereby they committed to refrain from using violence during the elections in late 2005 in favor of “taking a legal and peaceful path to government power without the use of arms, physical aggression, slander, corruption, and discriminatory discourse as tools in the fight for power”;

CALL ON all Haitians to make national reconciliation and reconstruction efforts a priority, register in large numbers on the electoral lists, and participate in upcoming elections in an environment of stability and security;

CALL ON the international community to take the steps necessary to promote voter registration on the electoral lists and make a special effort to increase security and set up the infrastructures necessary to hold fair and transparent elections;

REITERATE the offer to send a COPA electoral observation mission to the upcoming legislative and presidential elections in Haiti if, in accordance with the By-Laws of COPA Electoral Observation Missions and in full respect of the national sovereignty of Haiti, the appropriate authorities of this country officially request this and if acceptable terms for security, stability, and probity are satisfied.

Quito, Ecuador, August 18, 2005