



STATEMENT ON THE FIRES AFFECTING THE AMAZON RAINFOREST REGION

Ottawa, September 3, 2019

The **ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change** would like to call attention to the increasing intensity and number of fires affecting the Amazon region in 2019. These fires are devastating large portions of the Amazon, a region of high importance to the world for the many ecosystem services it provides. The Amazon is critical to the maintenance of the globe's ecological diversity and in mitigating climate change. The region, known as the "planet's lungs", is key in capturing carbon dioxide; encompasses half of the world's tropical forests and diverse fresh water systems; and provides a home to a third of the world's known plants, animals and insects - many endemic to the region.

This environmental treasure needs to be protected, for this reason we call for parliamentarians and other stakeholders to take direct action to protect the integrity of the Amazon rainforest. We must ensure that this natural monument, home to rich biodiversity, and of utmost importance to the regulation and stability of the world's climate remains standing for generations to come.

Ana Belén Marín, member of the Legislative Assembly of Ecuador and president of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change, stated "On behalf of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change, I call for parliamentarians of the hemisphere to encourage government action to help conserve the Amazon region as well as their forests and natural areas. We need to promote an immediate and inclusive dialogue within our countries on this topic and find adequate solutions that can address it."