

## DECLARATION

### 16<sup>th</sup> ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly

#### *Accelerating Progress on Agenda 2030: Good Practices for Parliamentary Action*

October 30 – November 1, 2019 | Asuncion, Paraguay

We, parliamentarians representing 21 countries of the Americas and the Caribbean, have convened in Asuncion, Paraguay, from October 30 to November 1, 2019, on the occasion of the 16<sup>th</sup> ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly, with the overarching theme of *Accelerating Progress on Agenda 2030: Good Practices for Parliamentary Action*.

During this Plenary Assembly we shared valuable experiences, knowledge and good parliamentary practices, and we discussed our regional challenges and progress in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Plenary Assembly's working sessions provided a space for us to meet with experts from international and civil society representatives to dialogue and explore collaborative actions, as well as to revisit the commitments and efforts to implement the SDGs that were reported to the 13<sup>th</sup> ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly: *Strengthening Parliaments and Building Resilient Societies to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals* held in Mexico City in 2016.

In view of the above and,

#### ***Recognizing:***

That the agreements adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, expressed in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, are of the utmost importance for the economic, social, and environmental well-being of individuals and communities;

The Sustainable Development Goals are an urgent call to action by all countries, recognizing that the principles of inclusion and leaving no one behind must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, spur economic growth, all while continuing the fight against climate change.

That our region has progressed towards achieving the SDGs and dedicated funds to advance this agenda, however further actions are needed to guarantee an inclusive, equitable, sustainable world that offers a resilient future for generations to come;

That the 2016 Declaration on the Institutional Strengthening for Sustainable Development in the Americas signed at the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, and the 2015 Hanoi Declaration of the Inter-Parliamentary Union entitled "The Sustainable Development Goals: Turning Words into Action" establish a frame of reference to direct institutional efforts in the implementation of the SDGs;

That parliaments have a critical role to play in supporting the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda, and in overseeing government policies and programmes to advance the implementation of the SDGs;

That the multidimensional character of sustainable development and the efficient achievement of the SDGs demands the institutional strengthening of parliaments so that they are more efficient, responsible, and transparent and promote the highest standards of ethics and probity;

That all 17 SDGs are interconnected and indivisible, which calls for the need to develop holistic solutions to the multidimensional challenges of obtaining sustainable development;

That parliamentarians can effectively support the 2030 Agenda and promote its core principles of Universality, Integration and Leaving no one behind, in order to create a world that is inclusive, equitable, sustainable and that offers a resilient future for generations to come;

That the successful achievement of the 2030 Agenda will require further collaboration between parliaments, national and local governments, civil society organizations, private sector and other actors, with special attention to women and traditionally marginalized groups such as youth, persons living in situations of poverty, persons with disabilities, Afro-descendant and Indigenous peoples, refugees and displaced persons and migrants.

That it is necessary to strengthen the institutions responsible for collecting, processing, analyzing, and disseminating disaggregated statistical information, in accordance with principles of transparency and inclusion, to support the monitoring and evaluation of progress towards the SDGs and to allow for evidence-based legislative decision-making;

***Therefore, we commit to:***

1. Effectively advancing the 2030 Agenda and the implementation of all SDGs through the exercise of our lawmaking, oversight, budget allocation and representation functions, as well as within internal parliamentary processes;
2. Fostering awareness about how gender equality is central to the achievement of each of the 17 SDGs, and ensuring that gender equality is mainstreamed in all aspects of our work and that women play a significant role in sustainable development decision-making processes;
3. Adopting innovative and ambitious climate solutions to achieve SDG 13 and the Paris Agreement to keep the average temperature rise well below 2°C, avoiding the negative impacts climate change has on the sustainable development of our societies as well as on the environment and economy of our countries;
4. Facilitating the meaningful participation of all segments of the population in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including women and traditionally marginalized groups such as youth, persons living in situations of poverty, persons with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, refugees and displaced persons and migrants;
5. Scrutinizing resources allocated to the achievement of the SDGs – including international development funds – to ensure that they produce sustainable and impactful results, as measured through the national adaptation of SDG indicators;

6. Promoting the dissemination of parliamentary actions to advance the SDGs within the Voluntary National Reviews that are submitted to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF);
7. Establishing new and strengthening existing mechanisms to improve citizen participation in decision-making process related to the implementation of the SDGs, and ensuring that those who are most impacted by current unsustainable social, environmental and economic practices can voice their needs and contribute to the development of solutions;
8. Encouraging multi-stakeholder collaboration and the development of partnerships to advance the 2030 Agenda, as established in SDG 17, recognizing that the complexity and interconnectedness of the SDGs requires diverse perspectives but also unified action from all levels of government, parliaments, civil society, academia, private sector and media, and should consider the views of individuals from different ages, backgrounds, and gender identities;
9. Promoting a just transition towards the achievement of these ambitious goals and encouraging the closure of the inequality gaps in our societies to continue promoting compliance with the core principles on which the 2030 Agenda is based.
10. Working across party lines to find consensus on actions that allow for better parliamentary involvement in the implementation of the SDGs and to create internal awareness on the most pressing related needs;
11. Taking concrete measures to reinforce collaboration with national and local governments, as well as with oversight institutions to contribute to the development, adoption and monitoring of national frameworks and plans to successfully implement the 2030 Agenda;
12. Advocating for the development of national SDG indicators where they have yet to be defined internationally, and stressing the importance of open and accessible data, disaggregated by gender and other social factors, to measure progress against these SDG indicators;
13. Promoting openness and transparency in regard to parliamentary actions being taken to advance the 2030 Agenda, their impacts and the budget and financial resources being allocated for such efforts, contributing to strengthen more inclusive and accountable public institutions;
14. Continuing to strengthen the capacity of our parliaments to ensure that frameworks, mechanisms, processes and strategic plans that address the 2030 Agenda and its Goals are established and effectively support the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs;
15. Supporting and contributing to ParlAmericas' efforts to strengthen inter-parliamentary dialogue and multi-stakeholder cooperation and the exchange of legislative good practices related to the promotion of the SDGs within national parliaments.

*Adopted in Asuncion, Paraguay, November 1, 2019*