



11<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly  
*Mainstreaming Sustainability*  
September 25-27, 2014 – Santiago, Chile

Working Group 2: “Post-2015 Development Agenda: Legislative Perspectives”

## **STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT ON THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA IN THE AMERICAS**

During the 11<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas, we – national parliamentarians representing 23 legislatures from across the Americas – have convened in Santiago, Chile, alongside representatives of civil society and international organizations, in order to set out a course of legislative action that advances sustainable development objectives at a time when our national governments are finalizing the United Nations’ post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda.

As a point of departure, our discussions started with the Agreements reached at the Working Table on “The Parliament as a Main Actor in the Effective Dialogue for Sustainable Economic Development, Climate Change, and Social Inclusion” of the Inter-American Meeting of Presidents of the Legislative Branch held in Lima, Republic of Peru, on July 18, 2014.

*Recalling this commitment to the above-mentioned Agreement adopted by the participating presidents of the legislative branch in the Americas,*

### *We reaffirm that:*

1. It is imperative to increase political will to prioritize the post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda across the Americas and Caribbean.
2. Establishing sustainable development processes must be participatory, inclusive, and democratic in nature, respecting the dignity of human beings, and must be carried out in consideration of social, political, and economic conditions, as well as cultural conditions.
3. Increased awareness about climate change, poverty, and inequality starts at home and presents an important opportunity for legislators to introduce initiatives that address these challenges.
4. Regional cooperation and exchanging best practices through legislator-led workshops is necessary for implementing structural changes that improve current models of development.
5. Building dialogue and participation with civil society – as well as building agreement among all branches of government in a way that improves the efficient administration of public resources – contribute to our citizen’s wellbeing and ensure the quality of life of future generations.

### *We commit to advance the following concrete actions within our countries to fulfill the points of Agreement:*

1. Increase efforts to educate citizens about development issues and challenges and guarantee their access to relevant, timely information in order to empower citizens to become solution-driven leaders.
2. Strengthen the capacity of the legislative branch to respond to new sustainable development challenges and direct financial resources that support projects addressing these challenges.
3. Integrate to the debate the need for a legal framework that allows implementing awareness and integrative public outreach policies – supported by adequate financial resources – that have shared benefits for our countries while respecting the diversity of the countries of our hemisphere.
4. Explore possibilities to harmonize legislation, recognizing that climate change has no borders.
5. Reinforce parliamentary engagement and collaboration with multilateral organizations at the sub-regional and local levels in order to improve the effectiveness of public policies.

### *We commit to:*

Report, in writing or in person, on the advances and/or challenges of sustainable development at the 12<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas to be held in 2015 with active contributions from delegations of our parliaments.

*Santiago, Chile, September 27, 2014*