



*V General Assembly of COPA  
Caracas, Venezuela  
November 23 to 27, 2003*

**General Information and Program**

**Note:** If your Adobe Acrobat PDF version is inferior to 5.0, please download this version free of charge at the following address : <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/main.html>

The V General Assembly, held in Caracas, Venezuela from November 23 to 27, 2003, brought together some 180 parliamentarians from 20 countries for the purpose of monitoring developments in the FTAA negotiations and debating the project of creating a Parliament of the Americas.

- [Recommendations](#)
- [Media Release](#) (pdf, 1 page)
- [General Information](#) (pdf - 18 pages)
- [Program](#) (pdf, 1 page)

2004-01-06



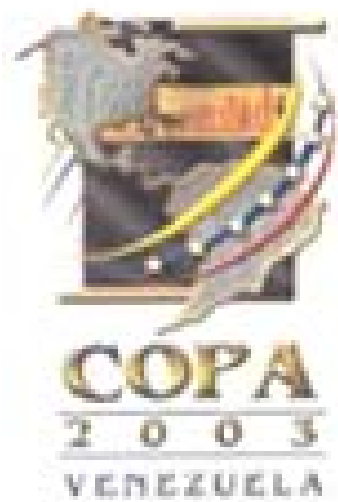
*V General Assembly of COPA  
Caracas, Venezuela*

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*Recommendations*

- Committee on Education, Culture, Science and Technology
- Committee on Health and Social Development
- Committee on Peace and Public Security - Recommendation presented by Ms. Jhannett Madriz Sotillo
- Committee on Peace and Public Security - Recommendation presented by Mr. Antonio J. Fas Alzamora
- Committee on the FTAA, Economy, Trade, Labour and Migration - Negotiation of the FTAA
- Committee on the FTAA, Economy, Trade, Labour and Migration - Declaration

2004-01-29



**V GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF COPA  
NOVEMBER 23 TO 27, 2003**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**CARACAS – FEDERAL DISTRICT  
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA**



## **BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA**

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is delighted to be hosting the V General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas, which will be held in the city of Caracas from November 23 to 27, 2003. This event will be an excellent opportunity to show, once again, the spirit of hospitality and fraternity typifying Venezuelans and, especially, Caracans.

This brochure contains basic information about various aspects of the venue of the event. In due time, it will be supplemented by working documents that will be remitted to each delegate upon his or her arrival in the capital.

## **LANGUAGE**

The official language of Venezuela is Spanish. However, English and French are spoken in most tourist centres and hotels.

## **CURRENCY**

The local currency is the bolivar (Bs.), whose present value as of September 10, 2003 was approximately 1 600 bolivares to the American dollar. International credit cards are accepted in most of Caracas' shopping centres and hotels.

## **TEMPERATURE**

The average temperature of the Federal District is 18° C.

*We wish you a most pleasant stay in our beautiful capital, which goes by the affectionate nickname of "the sultana of the Ávila" [Mt. Ávila].*



## **ACCREDITATION AND ACCESS**

All delegates, guests, and accompanying personnel must fill out the enclosed accreditation form and return it by email to: [parlamentoandino21@hotmail.com](mailto:parlamentoandino21@hotmail.com) or [parlamentoandino21@cantv.net](mailto:parlamentoandino21@cantv.net). The same information may be provided by telephone (58 212) 563.5868 / 564 7080 / or fax (58 212) 563 7303, in care of Ms. Francia Malvar or Ms. Ana Carolina Rodríguez no later than November 15, 2003.

## **REGISTRATION**

Registration fees are US\$100 per participant (delegate, guest, and accompanying personnel), and are to be paid at the time of registration on the premises of the event. You will then be given an ID pass that will entitle you to access to the locations for which you have received accreditation.

## **VISA REQUIREMENTS**

Numerous agreements have been signed between Venezuela and various countries of the hemisphere concerning visa exemptions in official passports, as well as regulations governing entry into Venezuela with a tourist card and a regular passport. We thus suggest that you contact the accredited diplomatic or consular representations of Venezuela in your country. The government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela will issue directives to these representations so that they may deliver courtesy visas to the delegates attending the V General Assembly of COPA. To obtain such visas, interested persons must present an official request from their government.

## **VISITOR RECEPTION AND TRANSPORTATION AT THE SIMÓN BOLÍVAR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

At the Simón Bolívar (Maiquetía) International Airport, all delegations will be given information and be greeted by members of the Protocol unit, who will direct them to immigration and transportation services both at arrival and departure.

Thus, it is important that you provide us with details relating to your flight and accommodations in the appropriate portion of the form so that we are able to meet and assist you properly.



## **AIRPORT TAX AND AIRPORT FEES**

The airport tax for travellers is US\$50. However, any holder of a foreign diplomatic passport is exempted from the airport tax at the time of his or her departure. The airport fee is approximately US\$15.

## **FIRST AID**

A continuous assistance and medical unit will be set up in the hotel and signs will indicate its location clearly.

## **SECURITY**

The government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela will provide a security service both at the airport and at the event venue. Likewise, hotel security staff will be present on all event locations. If you need assistance or have a particular request, please contact the COPA General Assembly Co-ordination Office.



## ACCOMMODATIONS

### **GRAN MELIÁ CARACAS\*\*\*\*\* (Event venue)**

Av. Casanova C/c El Recreo  
Caracas 1050 VE  
Telephone: (58) 212-762.81.11  
Fax: (58) 212-762.37.37  
Reservations: 1 800 2236800  
664 rooms

<b>Type of room</b>	<b>Special rate</b>
House room	US\$85
Standard	US\$85
Suite apartment, full service (type A)	US\$85
Suite apartment, full service (type B)	US\$95
Suite apartment, full service (type C)	US\$105



**HOTEL HILTON CARACAS\*\*\*\*\***

Av. Libertador Sur, 25

Caracas 1010-A VE

Telephone: 58212 5034173-4174

Fax: 58212 5035009

[www.hiltoncaracas.com.ve/](http://www.hiltoncaracas.com.ve/)

738 rooms

<b>Rooms</b>	<b>Rate in US\$*</b>
Single (deluxe)	US\$70
Executive floor	US\$120

**Observations**

- Check-in time: 3:00 p.m.; check-out time: noon.
- Rates are net daily, no commission.
- Rates include courtesy access to spa and fitness centre.
- These rates will apply for three days prior to, and subsequent to the event for the dates confirmed by group.
- Tax in effect for the dates of group's stay will be charged.
- Rates do not include breakfast.
- Rates are payable in bolivares at the average monthly rate, which will be forwarded by the hotel.



**RADISSON PLAZA EUROBUILDING CARACAS \*\*\*\*\***

Final calle La Guairita  
Chuau 1060 VE  
Telephone: 0212/ 9021111  
Fax: 0212/9022189/2200  
Reservations: (800) 3333333 USA  
(58-212) 9022188 Venezuela  
Email: [reservasradisson@telcel.net.ve](mailto:reservasradisson@telcel.net.ve)  
[www.radisson.com/caracas.ve](http://www.radisson.com/caracas.ve)

**Special rates for rooms:**

<b>Rooms</b>	<b>Corporate rates</b>
Business class	US\$120 (Single/double) breakfast included
Eurosuite rooms (40 m <sup>2</sup> )	US\$100 (Single/double) breakfast included
Torre Radisson	US\$80 (Single/double) breakfast included

- Rates do not include taxes (GST of 16% and tourism fund of 1%).
- Rates are calculated in US dollars at the exchange rate of day.



## BANKING SERVICES

In Caracas, you will find the offices and branches of all the banks in the country. The principal banks are listed below:

BANKS	TELEPHONE NUMBERS
BANESCO	05002262624
BANFOANDES	0212-9535842
CANARIAS	05002262742
CARIBE	0212-7052611
CARONI	05003227664
CENTRAL	0212-2640644
CITY BANK	0212-5055211
CORP BANCA	0212-2060111
CREDITO DE COLOMBIA	0212-9523409
EXTERIOR	0212-5025333
FEDERAL	05003337725
FONDOCOMUN	0212-5972222
MERCANTIL	0212-5032424
NORVALBANK	0212-2633700
PLAZA	0212-7615635
PROVINCIAL	05005087432
TEQUENDAMA	0212-9512122
VENEZOLANO DE CREDITO	0212-9054545
VENEZUELA	0212-4092222

## AIRLINES

AIRLINES COMPANIES	INITIALS	TELEPHONE NUMBERS
AEROMÉXICO		(0212) 285.4422
AEROPOSTAL	VH	0-800-2376252 / 0-800-284.6637
AMERICAN AIRLINES	AA	(0212) 209.8111
ASERCA		(0212) 9055252
AVENSA/SERVIVENSA		(0212) 9764754 / 9565353
AVIANCA	AV	(0212) 953.5732
BWIA	BW	0800 FLYBWIA
CONTINENTAL AIRLINES	CO	(0212) 953.6433/5144-/0-800 FLYCO00
GRUPO TACA	TA	(0241) 824.3130 / 2619
LAI		(0212) 3552322
LAN CHILE	LA	(0212) 285.4433
LASER		800-52.737 / 23732 / 73.737 -- 3552750
LÍNEA AÉREA COPA	CM	(0212) 953.6433 / 5144
LLOYD A. BOLIVIANO	LB	(0212)7619966
MEXICANA DE AVIACIÓN	MX	(0212) 2852132
SANTA BARBARA	S	(0212) 2044000
UNITED AIRLINES	UA	(0212) 278.4545



VARIG BRASIL	RG	(0212) 2382111
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### DIRECTORY OF EMBASSIES IN CARACAS

**ARGENTINA  
(Republic of)**

Avenida El Empalme, Edif. "Fedecámaras", Piso 3,  
El Bosque, Caracas  
Telephone: 731-33-11/ 30-58/31-59  
Fax: 731-26-59  
Trade section: 731-31-66 Fax: 731-32-55  
Opening hours: 9 h to 16 h  
Consular section: opening hours: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**BARBADOS**

Calle La Guarita, (à l'arrière de l'Hotel Eurobuilding)  
Edf. Los Frailes, Piso 5º, Ofc. 501,  
Av. Principal de Chuao, Caracas 1060  
Apartado Postal: 68829, Zona Postal 1062  
Telephone: 992-05-45/991-67-21  
Fax: 991-03-33  
E-mail: [caracas@foreign.gov.bb](mailto:caracas@foreign.gov.bb).  
Opening hours: Monday to Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**BOLIVIA  
(Republic of)**

Av. Luis Roche con 6ª Transversal de Altamira,  
Quinta "Embajada de Bolivia"  
Urb. Altamira, Caracas  
Telephone: 263-30-15 / 267-01-36  
Fax: 261-33-86  
E-mail: [embabobilia@cantv.net](mailto:embabobilia@cantv.net)  
Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**BRAZIL  
(Federal Republic  
of)**

Avenida Mohedano con Calle Los Chaguaramos  
Centro Gerencial Mohedano, Piso 6,  
La Castellana, Caracas  
Apartado Postal: 3977 Carmelitas- Caracas 1010  
E-mail: [brasembcaracas@cantv.net](mailto:brasembcaracas@cantv.net)  
Telephone: 261-55-05/75-53/65-29/24-33/34-57  
Fax: 261-96-01  
Opening hours: Monday to Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



- CANADA** Sexta Avenida entre 3ra. y 5ta. Transversales, Edf. Omni, Altamira, Caracas  
Apartado Postal 62-302 Caracas 1060-A  
Central: 264-08-33  
Fax: 261-87-41  
Opening hours: Monday to Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 13:00 p.m.  
Services consulaires, commerciaux et administratifs:  
Avenida Los Chaguaramos, Edf. Centro Gerencial Mohedano, PH, C y D, La Castellana, Caracas  
Telephone: 263-46-66  
Fax: 263-83-26/263-53-49  
Opening hours: Monday to Thursday: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- CHILI (Republic of)** Paseo Enrique Erazo, Ed. Torre La Noria, Piso 10, Sector San Román, Las Mercedes, Caracas  
Apartado Postal 51738 1050-A  
Telephone: 991-30-14/992-33-78/992-53-64/993-15-38/993-57-70  
Fax: 992-06-14  
E-mail: [echileve@cantv.net](mailto:echileve@cantv.net)  
Opening hours: Monday to Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
TRADE OFFICE  
Paseo Enrique Eraso, Torre La Noria, Piso 5, Ofc.5-B Sector San Román, Las Mercedes, Caracas  
Telephone: 991-19-67/26-60/67-57/992-78-79  
Fax: 991-16-21
- COLOMBIA (Republic of)** 2ª Avenida de Campo Alegre con Ave. Francisco de Miranda, Torre Credival, Piso 11, Urb. Campo Alegre, Caracas  
Telephone: 263-55-96/267-95-96/267-76-01/267-80-43  
261-65-92/262-15-27  
Fax: 261-13-58 / 263-89-74  
E-mail: [Colombia@telcel.net.ve](mailto:Colombia@telcel.net.ve)  
Consulat: 951-36-31/66-92  
Opening hours: 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- COSTA RICA (Republic of)** Av. San Juan Bosco, entre 1ª. y 2ª. Transversales Edf. For You, P.H., Urb. Altamira, Caracas  
Telephone: 265-78-89 / 267-11-04  
Fax: 265-46-60. Telex: 23574  
E-mail: [embcostar@cantv.net](mailto:embcostar@cantv.net)  
Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (continuous)



**DOMINICAN  
REPUBLIC**

Segunda Transversal entre Primera Avenida y Avenida  
Andrés Bello, Edf. Argentum, Ofc. 1 and 2,  
Los Palos Grandes, Caracas  
Apartado Postal 85 Carmelitas-Caracas  
Telephone: 283-92-79/95-24/35-44  
Fax: 283-39-65  
E-mail: [embaredo@telcel.net.ve](mailto:embaredo@telcel.net.ve)  
Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**ECUADOR  
(Republic of)**

Av. Principal de La Castellana con 2da. Transversal, Edf.  
BANCARACAS, Piso 8, Ofc. 8-05, La Castellana, Caracas  
Telephone: 265-08-01/25-10/264-77-90  
Fax: 264-69-17  
E-mail: [embajada@viptel.com](mailto:embajada@viptel.com)  
Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**EL SALVADOR  
(Republic of)**

Centro Comercial Ciudad Tamanaco (CCCT)  
Torre C, Piso 4, Ofc. 406, Chuao, Caracas  
Telephone: 959-08-17/-62-93/92-86  
Fax: 959-39-20  
Opening hours: Embassy: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (continuous)

**GRENADA**

Av. Norte 2, Qta. 330, Los Naranjos del Cafetal, Caracas  
Telephone: 985-5461 / 5626  
Cellulaire: 0416-624-7448  
E-mail: [egrenada@cantv.net](mailto:egrenada@cantv.net)  
Fax: 985-6391  
Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**GUATEMALA  
(Republic of)**

Av. Francisco de Miranda, Torre Dozsa, Piso 1,  
Urb. El Rosal, Caracas  
Apartado Postal: 65001 Caracas 1065-A  
Telephone: 952-11-66/00-52/52-47  
Fax: 952-19-92  
E-mail: [quateven@ven.net](mailto:quateven@ven.net)  
Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Public opening hours: 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**GUYANA  
(Cooperative  
Republic of)**

Av. El Paseo, Quinta Roraima, Prados del Este, Caracas, 1050  
Apartado Aéreo: 51054  
Telephone: 977-11-58  
Fax: 976-37-65  
E-mail: [Embaguay@caracas.org.ve](mailto:Embaguay@caracas.org.ve)  
Opening hours: Monday to Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



**HAITI  
(Republic of)**

Avenida Las Rosas, Quinta Flor, N° 59, Sector San Rafael  
Urbanización La Florida, Caracas  
Apartado 60.213 Caracas 1050  
Telephone: 730-72-20/ 730-17-35  
Fax: 730-46-05  
Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**HONDURAS  
(Republic of)**

Av. San Juan Bosco con 1° Ave. Altamira , Edf. Excelsior,  
Piso 5°, Apto. 52, Altamira, Caracas  
Apartado Postal: A-68259  
Telephone: 263-31-84 / 263-43-79  
Fax: 266-19-35  
E-mail: [embhondv@truevision.net](mailto:embhondv@truevision.net)  
Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**JAMAICA**

Calle La Guairita, Edf. Los Frailes, Piso 5, Urb.Chuao, Caracas  
Apartado 422, Caracas 1062  
Telephone: 991-61-33/ 69-55  
Fax: 991-57-08  
E-mail: [embjaven@cantv.net](mailto:embjaven@cantv.net)  
Opening hours: Monday to Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and  
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (continuous)  
Consular affairs: Monday to Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

**MEXICO  
(United States of  
Mexico)**

Calle Guaicaipuro con Principal de las Mercedes,  
Edf. Forum, Piso 5, El Rosal 1062, Caracas  
Apartado 61.371 Caracas 1060-A  
Telephone: 952-57-77/70-64/85-94/46-73/44-57  
Fax: 952-30-03  
E-mail - embassy: [embamexven@eldish.net](mailto:embamexven@eldish.net)  
E-mail - press: [prensa@eldish.net](mailto:prensa@eldish.net)  
Consular section: Telephone: 952-24-08  
Fax: 952-30-03  
Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**TRADE OFFICE  
OF MEXICO**

Av. Venezuela, Torre "ASOCIACION BANCARIA DE  
VENEZUELA", Piso 4, Oficina 44, El Rosal, Caracas  
Telephone: 951-40-06/51-47/60-78  
Fax: 951-24-94  
E-mail: herberta @viptel.com  
[Aherber@bancomext.gob.mx](mailto:Aherber@bancomext.gob.mx)  
[Jsolis@bancomext.gob.mx](mailto:Jsolis@bancomext.gob.mx)



**NICARAGUA  
(Republic of)**

Edificio Terepaima, 1era. Avenida Altamira Sur  
Piso 2, Oficina 207 – Chacao, Caracas  
Telephone: 263.0904, 263.0981  
Fax: 263.8875  
E-mail: [embanic@intercon.net.ve](mailto:embanic@intercon.net.ve)  
Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Consulate: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**PANAMA  
(Republic of)**

Calle La Guairita, Edf. Los Frailes, Piso 6, Ofc.6-A  
Urb.Chuao, Municipio Baruta, Caracas  
Apartado Postal: 1989 Carmelitas Caracas 1010-A  
Telephone: 992-90-93/91-82  
Fax: 992-81-07  
Consulate: 992-70-58  
Opening hours: Monday to Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**PARAGUAY  
(Republic of)**

Av. Ppal. Macaracuay N° 1960, Qta. Paraguay, entre Av. Cuicas y  
carretera del este (en face du Club Social Hidrocapital)  
Fax: 257-7256  
E-mail: [embaparven@cantv.net](mailto:embaparven@cantv.net)  
Opening hours: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**PERU  
(Republic of)**

Av. San Juan Bosco con 2da. Transversal, Edf. San Juan,  
Piso 5, Urb. Altamira, Caracas  
Apartado Postal 1947, Carmelitas 1010, Caracas  
Telephone: Central: 264-14-83/264-14-20  
Fax: 265-75-92  
E-mail: [embaperu123@cantv.net](mailto:embaperu123@cantv.net)  
E-mail: [leprucaracas@cantv.net](mailto:leprucaracas@cantv.net)  
Trade section: 265-49-68  
E-mail - trade section: [embaperu124@cantv.net](mailto:embaperu124@cantv.net)

**SURINAME  
(Republic of)**

4ta. Avenida de Altamira, entre 7ª. y 8ª. Transversales,  
Quinta No. 41, Urb. Altamira. Caracas  
Telephone: 261-27-24/ 263- 80-94/263-34-28  
Fax: 263-90-06  
E-mail: [embsurl@cantv.net](mailto:embsurl@cantv.net)  
Opening hours: Monday to Thursday: 8:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Consular section: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



**TRINIDAD AND  
TOBAGO  
(Republic of)**

4ta. Avenida entre 7ma. y 8va. Transversales, Quinta  
Serrana, Altamira Norte, Caracas  
Apartado: Del Este 61.322 Caracas 1060-A  
Telephone: 261-57-96/37-48/47-72  
Fax: 261-98-01  
E-mail: [embtt@c-com.net.ve](mailto:embtt@c-com.net.ve)  
Opening hours: Monday to Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 13:30 p.m.

**UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA**

Calle F con Calle Suapure, Colinas de Valle Arriba, Caracas  
Apartado de Correos: 62291 del Este  
Telephone: 975-64-11 (Máster)  
Fax: 975-67-10  
Opening hours: Monday to Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.  
to 5:00 p.m.

**URUGUAY  
(Oriental Republic  
of)**

Avda. Francisco de Miranda, Torre Delta,  
Piso 8, Oficinas A y B  
Altamira Sur. Caracas  
Apartado Postal: 60.366 Caracas 1060-A  
Telephone: 261-76-03/ 263-69-58/267-31-51  
Fax: 266-92-33  
E-mail: [uruvne@infoline.wtfe.com](mailto:uruvne@infoline.wtfe.com)  
Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.



## RESTAURANTS

Caracas, capital of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, has a wide range of restaurants that offer both national and international cuisine. You will be able to enjoy Creole traditional dishes like *pabellón criollo*, the savory *arepas*, the typical Christmas season dish *hallacas*, as well as international cuisine dishes.

Among others, you will find world renowned restaurant chains, as well as restaurants offering the best typical dishes of various countries like Italian cuisine, French cuisine, Chinese cuisine, Peruvian cuisine, Japanese cuisine, Mexican cuisine and many others.

## TRADITIONAL DISHES

**DAMA ANTAÑONA:** Jesuitas a Maturín, nro 14, Altigracia, Centro de Caracas

Telephone: 5635639

**CEGA:** Entre Av. Este 2 y Plaza Morelos, Quinta Herminia Los Caobos

Telephone: 5713359

**JAIME VIVAS:** Calle San Antonio, Edificio Manaure Sabana Grande

Telephone: 7634761

**MASTRANTO:** Calle New York entre Madrid y Río de Janeiro

Telephone: 9911618

## GRILL

**ARANJUEZ:** Calle Madrid, Quinta Anacoa, Las Mercedes

Telephone: 9931326

**LEE HAMILTON:** Av. San Felipe, esquina El Bosque, La Castellana

Telephone: 9638429

**CAMPANERO:** Av. Principal de Las Mercedes

Telephone: 9915120

**OUTBACK:** Av. Los Chaguaramos entre Mohedano y Santa Teresa, La Castellana

Telephone: 2643434



### **SPANISH CUISINE**

**LA QUINTANA** : AV. Francisco Solano, Edificio El Rosario, Sabana Grande  
Telephone: 7634861

**EL MESÓN DE ANDRES**: AV. Francisco de Miranda, Chacao  
Telephone: 2630092

**GUERNICA**: Alcabala a Peligro, La Candelaria  
Telephone: 5725013

**LA CITA**: Esquina de Alcabala, La Candelaria  
Telephone: 5728180

### **FRENCH CUISINE**

**CAFÉ ATLANTIC**: Edificio Atlantic, planta baja, AV. Andrés Bello, Los Palos Grandes  
Telephone: 2870630

**LE COQ D'OR**: AV. Rió de Janeiro, Torre Centro Lido de Janeiro, pb Las Mercedes  
Telephone: 9934320

### **ITALIAN CUISINE**

**IL CAMINETTO**: AV. Principal de Las Mercedes  
Telephone: 9911231

**VIZIO**: AV. Luis Roche, Casa Rómulo Gallegos, Altamira  
Telephone: 2855675

**DA RICHI**: 2da AV. Los Palos Grandes, Edificio Amalfi  
Telephone: 2836379

### **JAPANESE CUISINE**

**NOBŪ**: 2da AV. Entre cuarta y quinta transversal, C.C Las Cúpulas, local 9, Los Palos Grandes  
Telephone: 2856443

**YAMATO SUSHI BAR**: Calle Madrid entre Veracruz y Caroní. Las Mercedes  
Telephone: 9932228

(In all the shopping centres of the city) \*delivery: 0-800-9262667



### **MIDDLE-EASTERN CUISINE**

**CLUB LIBANO VENEZOLANO:** AV. Río de Oro Prados del Este

Telephone: 9782368

**DAMASCO:** Calle Guaicaipuro, C.C Metropolitano, Local 39. Chacao

Telephone: 2666695

### **BASQUE CUISINE**

**CASA IZA:** Quinta transversal con Quinta AV. C.C L'Orangerie, San Juan Bosco Altamira

Telephone: 2650012

**COSTA VASCA:** Calle Los Chaguaramos, frente al C.C Mohedano, La Castellana

Telephone: 2664276

**JAIA:** AV. San Juan Bosco, entre tercera y quinta. Transversal, Altamira

Telephone: 2616949

**BAR BASQUE:** Alcabala a Peligro, La Candelaria

Telephone: 5724857

### **CHINESE CUISINE**

**CHES WONG AND GRILL:** Plaza La Castellana, Edificio IASA, La Castellana

Telephone: 2665015

**NOA CHINA & THAI BISTRO:** Centro Comercial SAMBIL, Nivel Diversión

Telephone: 2655148

### **SPECIALTIES**

**TUPE:** Sexta transversal entre tercera y cuarta AV. Los Palos Grandes

Telephone: 2868080

**ANDREAS TABERNA GRIEGA:** Segunda calle de Campo Alegre, frente a la clínica Sanatrix

Telephone: 2643434

**BAR RESTAURANT EUROPA:** C.C San Ignacio, nivel Blandín

Telephone: 2632120

**BARRACUDA:** C.C San Ignacio. Nivel Chaguaramos, AV. Blandín, La Castellana

Telephone: 2632440



## **SHOPPING CENTRES**

The city of Caracas offers a diverse range of renowned companies as well as store chains where you will be able to buy a selection of articles like: jewelry; perfumes; designer clothes; women, men and children's clothes; shoes; household goods, handcrafted goods; cellular phones, pharmaceutical; department store goods; delicatessen, etc.

### **San Ignacio Shopping Centre**

Take advantage of the exclusive atmosphere of this Caracas Shopping Centre, which is a meeting place for families, children and teenagers. Av. Blandín et Santa Teresa de Jesús, La Castellana. Telephone: 2633953. [www.centrosanignacio.com](http://www.centrosanignacio.com)

### **El Sambil Shopping Centre**

This is one of the principal shopping centre chains in the country and in Latin America, which you will find as well in Valencia and Margarita Island. AV. Bolívar, Chacao. Telephone: 2678365. [www.sambilmall.com](http://www.sambilmall.com)

### **Ciudad Tamanaco Shopping Centre**

This is the oldest of the city's shopping centres. It is in the shape of an inverted pyramid. Urbanización Chuao, facing Generalísimo Francisco de Miranda Air Force Base.



**TENTATIVE PROGRAM**  
**V GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS (COPA)**

**THEMES:**  
**TOWARD THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE AMERICAS**  
**THE IMPACT OF THE FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS (FTAA)**

**HOTEL CARACAS HILTON (CH)**  
**Caracas, Venezuela, November 23 - 27, 2003**

**Saturday, November 22 and Sunday, November 23 - all day:**

Arrival of participants and special guests at the V General Assembly of COPA  
Maiquetia International Airport  
Transfer to hotel  
Registration of participants (lobby of the Hotel Caracas Hilton)

**Sunday, November 23**

- 2:00 p.m.** MEETING OF THE CONTINENTAL PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK OF THE WORLD SOCIAL FORUM  
Location: Boardroom, Hotel Caracas Hilton
- 5:00 p.m.** MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NETWORK OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS  
Location: Boardroom, Hotel Caracas Hilton

**Monday, November 24**

- 8:00 a.m.** **BREAKFAST** (Hotel Caracas Hilton)
- 9:00 a.m.** **MEETINGS**
- Meeting of the COPA Presidency with the COPA Vice-Presidency Special Program (Location: Boardroom, Hotel Caracas Hilton)
  - General meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas Special Program (Location: Boardroom, Hotel Caracas Hilton)
- 10:30 a.m.** MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COPA  
Special Program (Location: Boardroom, Hotel Caracas Hilton)

**1:00 p.m. LUNCHEON** (Hotel Caracas Hilton)

**3:00 p.m. CONTINUATION OF MEETINGS**

- General meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas Special Program (Location: Boardroom, Hotel Caracas Hilton)
- Meeting of the Executive Committee of COPA Special Program (Location: Boardroom, Hotel Caracas Hilton)

**7:00 p.m. COCKTAIL**

**Tuesday, November 25**

**9:00 a.m. OFFICIAL OPENING SESSION OF THE V GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF COPA**

Location: Boardroom Rios Reina, Cultural Centre Teresa Carreño

Program

- National anthem of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
- Address and report by Ms. Jhannett Madriz Sotillo, President of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas and President of the Andean Parliament
- Address of the Honourable Francisco Ameliach, President of the National Assembly of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
- Address of His Excellency Hugo Chávez Frías, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, declaring the opening of the V General Assembly of COPA
- Anthem of the Americas
- Official photo of the V General Assembly of COPA

**1:00 p.m. LUNCHEON** (Hotel Caracas Hilton)

**3:00 p.m. WORKING SESSIONS OF COPA PERMANENT WORKING COMMITTEES**

Location: Hotel Caracas Hilton

1. FTAA, Economy, Trade, Labour and Migration
2. Democracy and Human Rights
3. Education, Culture, Science and Technology

Presentation of the GAIA Document Databank on Gender Budgets  
(PARALLEL ACTIVITY)

**7:00 p.m. SOCIAL ACTIVITY**

**Wednesday, November 26**

**8:00 a.m. BREAKFAST** (Hotel Caracas Hilton)

**9:00 a.m. MEETINGS OF COPA PERMANENT WORKING COMMITTEES**

Location: Boardroom, Hotel Caracas Hilton

4. Health and Social Development
5. Environment and Sustainable Development
6. Peace and Public Security

**9:00 a.m. PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE SETTING-UP OF THE IBERO-AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK**  
(PARALLEL ACTIVITY)

**12:30 p.m. LUNCHEON** (Hotel Caracas Hilton)

**2:30 p.m. PLENARY SESSION OF THE V GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF COPA**

Location: Main Boardroom, Hotel Caracas Hilton

Program

- Presentation of each of COPA permanent working committees
- Election of the new Executive Committee of COPA
- Presentation of resolutions and declarations

**4:30 p.m. CLOSING ADDRESS BY MS. JHANNETT MADRIZ SOTILLO, PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS**

**8 p.m. VENEZUELAN DINNER**

Location: Main Boardroom, Hotel Caracas Hilton

**Thursday, November 27 - all day:**

Departure of participants and special guests

Transfer to Maiquetía International Airport.



*V General Assembly of COPA  
Caracas, Venezuela*

*November 23 to 27, 2003*

***PERMANENT THEMATIC WORKING COMMITTEE  
ON***

***EDUCATION, CULTURE, SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY***

***RECOMMENDATION***

WHEREAS Article 16 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter declares that “Education is key to strengthening democratic institutions, promoting the development of human potential, alleviating poverty, and fostering greater understanding among our peoples”;

WHEREAS in order to attain the aforementioned objectives, “it is essential that a quality education be available to all, including girls and women, rural inhabitants, and minorities”;

WHEREAS during the first Summit of the Americas, held in Miami in 1994, the Heads of State and government agreed to provide a primary education to all by 2010, to provide access to secondary education to 75% of young people, to reduce inequalities, and to put an end to illiteracy, and these commitments were reiterated during the Summits of Santiago in 1998 and Quebec City in 2001.

WHEREAS only 54% of Latin American youth currently reach secondary school;

WHEREAS it is important to increase investment in the education sector;

WHEREAS liberalizing trade in services might reduce the power of States to enact legislation in the education sector;

WHEREAS the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) provides the basis on which the FTAA text will be discussed, and the draft proposal of the FTTA agreement on investment draws on the provisions of Chapter 11 (on investments) of NAFTA;

WHEREAS the World Trade Organization has defined education and healthcare as public services and the Miami Ministerial Declaration, in paragraph 10, specifies that “the results of the negotiations must be WTO-compliant,” and, in consequence whereof, the liberalization of trade in services may possibly reduce the authority of States to legislate in the area of education;

RECALLING the recommendation adopted during the first meeting of the Permanent Thematic Working Committee on Education, Culture, Science and Technology, held in November 2002 in Ixtapan de la Sal, Mexico, which affirmed that education is a national responsibility of States and that education is a tool for preserving the national identity and social cohesion of a people;

WE, the representatives of the Congresses and Parliamentary Assemblies of the unitary, federal, federated, and associated states, regional parliaments, and interparliamentary organizations meeting in Caracas, Venezuela, for the Fifth General Assembly of COPA hereby:

COMMIT OURSELVES to having our respective parliaments recognize the right of all the young boys and girls of the Americas to a quality primary and secondary

public education system that is free, universal, and non-discriminatory and to work to prevent any type of trade liberalization that could restrict this right;

COMMIT OURSELVES to promoting, within our societies, reflection on the issues surrounding the liberalization of our public education systems;

COMMIT OURSELVES to becoming more deeply informed of the current status of FTAA negotiations as well as any multilateral rounds—particularly those surrounding the General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS)—so as to assess their potential impact on public education systems;

PETITION our respective governments to inform us of trade-related objectives, positions, and commitments having an impact on public education systems;

REQUEST that all the Parliamentary Assemblies in the hemisphere be provided with the opportunity to discuss and debate in greater depth the contents of the international agreement leading to the creation of the Free Trade Area of the Americas in those areas falling under their constitutional jurisdiction;

COMMIT OURSELVES to taking the necessary actions in order to guarantee that education services continue to be offered by the government and that education issues be eliminated from the texts of the FTAA and WTO agreements.

REITERATE the request made to the Heads of State and government of the Americas that a guaranteed minimum 6% of GDP be allocated for the education sector through gradual increases, while taking into consideration the conditions and needs of each country;

COMMIT OURSELVES to strive, in each of our countries, to develop science and technology, both of which are essential to the process of perfecting and developing education systems;

DEMAND that the governments of the hemisphere develop specific projects to assist in resolving problems related to literacy, intercultural education, and respect for cultural and linguistic diversity;

DEMAND that any future Agreement to create some sort of trade liberalization treaty exclude provisions that could be used or interpreted to justify undertaking groundless legal action against the governments of the Americas.



*V General Assembly of COPA  
Caracas, Venezuela*

*November 23 to 27, 2003*

***PERMANENT THEMATIC WORKING COMMITTEE***

***ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT***

***RECOMMENDATION***

WE, the representatives of the Congresses and Parliamentary Assemblies of the unitary, federal, federated and associated states, regional parliaments and interparliamentary organizations meeting in Caracas for the Fifth General Assembly of COPA declare that:

WHEREAS “the right of every person to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health” is stated in Article 12 of the United Nations Organization’s International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

WHEREAS the right to health implies that States ensure that it is respected, protected, and implemented by guaranteeing the universality and equality of access to healthcare and medicines;

WHEREAS international trade agreements can have a significant impact on access to healthcare and medicines, affecting, in particular, the most disadvantaged

populations among which women are often members;

WHEREAS one of the objectives of the Pan-American Health Organization's strategic plan for 2003-2007 is to "increase the number of countries able to demonstrate inclusion of health priorities in sustainable human development plans and/or in the negotiation and implementation of trade and integration agreements at regional, subregional, and national levels";

WHEREAS World Health Organization resolution WHA56.27, adopted unanimously in May 2003, "urges Member States to reaffirm that public health interests are paramount in both pharmaceutical and health policies";

WHEREAS World Health Organization resolution WHA55.14, adopted unanimously in May 2002, aims at "ensuring accessibility of essential medicines";

WHEREAS the Heads of State and government have made no commitment in this respect within the Summit of the Americas process, aside from the declarations of principle intended to "improve access to quality . . . healthcare services" (Miami Summit) and to "enhance the availability, access to, and quality of medicines and vaccines" (Santiago Summit);

REITERATING the commitments made at the most recent meeting of the COPA Permanent Thematic Working Committee on Health and Social Development, held in Ixtapan de la Sal, Mexico, in November 2002, to "to defend the public and universal nature of our healthcare systems, and to approve no law or policy that would aim to privatize them, thereby depriving the most underprivileged citizens of the care to which they are entitled," and to "to define a patent registration policy which, without causing harm to pharmaceutical companies with regard to fundamental research, will make it possible to reduce the costs of medication for underprivileged populations";

RECALLING the affirmations of the most recent meeting of the Committee, according to which "health is the

foremost responsibility of States” and that “the regulations governing international trade must not limit the ability of States to offer and protect public healthcare services and to guarantee universal access to medication”;

WE, the representatives of the Congresses and Parliamentary Assemblies of the unitary, federal, federated and associated states, regional parliaments and interparliamentary organizations meeting in Caracas for the Fifth General Assembly of COPA, hereby declare that:

- Protecting access to healthcare and medicines

COMMIT ourselves to promote and defend, within our respective States, the right to physical and mental health and the precedence of human rights over trade agreements;

COMMIT ourselves to hold public consultations and establish partnerships with civil society groups in order to identify our societies’ concerns regarding healthcare;

COMMIT ourselves to inform our governments of our citizens’ concerns in order to ensure that they take them into account when devising their negotiation objectives and positions;

COMMIT ourselves to inform our citizens about the impact produced by trade commitments on healthcare systems;

URGE our governments to demonstrate greater transparency regarding the impact of trade commitments on access to healthcare and medicines and to produce gender-based analyses;

- Monitoring trade negotiations from the perspective of health

INVITE the health committees of our respective parliaments to communicate directly with the negotiators of our countries in order to gather specific information

about the development of negotiations and, in turn, to inform them about citizens' concerns over healthcare;

URGE our governments to report back to the health committees of our respective assemblies at all stages of the negotiation process in order to inform us and have us participate in developing the trade-related objectives, positions, and commitments having an impact on healthcare systems;

COMMIT ourselves to mandate the Executive Committee of COPA to follow up on the Committee's recommendations;

- Preserving the capacity to adopt public health legislation

COMMIT ourselves to defend, within the WTO or any other international body, the right of each State to carry out reforms and take any required public health action, regardless of whether or not it is compatible with the provisions of trade agreements;

COMMIT ourselves to evaluate, on an ongoing basis, any decisions made by our Heads of States and governments in order to determine whether they meet the objectives that we have set regarding healthcare, in particular by ensuring that the allocated sums and available resources are used to achieve these objectives;

COMMIT ourselves, as legislators, to ensure that all adopted agreements are interpreted and implemented in our respective countries in as restrictive a manner as possible so as to mitigate the impact of trade agreements on public healthcare systems and to maintain the greatest control possible over health policy design and development; and

RECOMMEND that the Executive Committee of COPA draw up, in collaboration with the Pan-American Health Organization, a regional agreement that will have precedence over any trade agreement implemented in the Americas and whose objective will be to protect the right

of the parliamentary assemblies of the Americas to adopt public healthcare legislation.



*V General Assembly of COPA  
Caracas, Venezuela*

*November 23 to 27, 2003*

***PERMANENT THEMATIC WORKING COMMITTEE  
ON PEACE AND PUBLIC SECURITY***

***RECOMMENDATION***

WHEREAS the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) sees, among its guiding principles, to promoting basic human rights in the areas over which it has authority and among the government and international authorities concerned;

WHEREAS the peace and public security of all the peoples of the world demand reliable legal systems capable of guaranteeing the common good of citizens as well as legal safeguards governing the exercise of public power and the coexistence of citizens;

WHEREAS a number of formal government structures and power groups implement oppressive systems that repress the freedom and justice of the peoples subjected to such regimes, which have managed to preserve a deplorable degree of impunity;

WHEREAS the International Criminal Court was instituted by the Rome Statute to function in the capacity of a judicial authority for hearing violations of human rights and thus considered to be crimes against humanity;

BE IT RESOLVED by the General Assembly of the  
Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) to:

URGE all States that have not yet signed the Rome Statute  
of the International Criminal Court to take measures as  
soon as possible to sign it or to subscribe to its provisions  
and thus permit the legitimate and fair application thereof.

This recommendation shall come into force upon approval.

Drafted this 26th day of November 2003 in Caracas,  
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Introduced by:

Jhannett Madriz Sotillo, Representative

President of COPA

President of the Andean Parliament



*V General Assembly of COPA  
Caracas, Venezuela*

*November 23 to 27, 2003*

***PERMANENT THEMATIC WORKING COMMITTEE  
ON PEACE AND PUBLIC SECURITY***

***RECOMMENDATION***

In support of the request of the Puerto Rican people, who have demanded that the Navy of the United States and/or the government of the United States of the America decontaminate the soil and sea of Vieques Island, a situation resulting from more than six decades of naval exercises,

WHEREAS the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) is a permanent, autonomous association of the congresses and the parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federated and associated States, the regional parliaments, and the interparliamentary organizations of the Americas;

WHEREAS close ties of friendship and fraternity exist between the peoples of the Americas and Puerto Rico, as well as the common objective of complete respect for human rights and full access to these rights, in particular the inalienable right to life and health of their respective peoples;

WHEREAS the citizens of Vieques, the society of Puerto

Rico, the international community, and COPA have condemned the naval exercises conducted on Vieques by the United States of America, on account of the negative impact such operations have caused to the environment, health and security of the island, thus significantly impairing the quality of life of its inhabitants;

WHEREAS the United States Navy has definitively ended its naval exercises but, on the other hand, the soil and beaches of Vieques remain highly contaminated, a situation jeopardizing the health and lives of residents and visitors,

BE IT RESOLVED by the General Assembly of the (COPA) to:

CONDEMN any practice, in any area of the world whatsoever, that causes prejudice to human rights, in particular the right to life, health, a sound environment, security, and economic well-being;

URGE, respectfully, and without prejudice to its sovereignty, the government of the United States to honour its promise to decontaminate the soil and beaches of Vieques Island following more than sixty years of naval exercises on this island-municipality of Puerto Rico.

The General Assembly, by the authority invested in it by its by-laws, hereby shows its solidarity with the citizens of Vieques and the Puerto Rican people in their struggle to obtain from the government of the United States of America complete decontamination of this area and recover their peace and security.

A copy of this recommendation will be sent to the President of the United States of America, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the public media.

This recommendation shall come into force upon approval.

Drafted this 26th day of November 2003 in Caracas,

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Introduced by:

Senator Antonio J. Fas Alzamora

Vice-President of COPA, Caribbean Region

President of the Permanent Working Thematic Committee  
on Peace and Public Security

Speaker of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Puerto  
Rico



*V General Assembly of COPA  
Caracas, Venezuela*

*November 23 to 27, 2003*

***COMMITTEE ON FTAA, ECONOMY, TRADE,  
LABOUR AND MIGRATION***

***INVOLVEMENT OF COPA IN THE FREE TRADE  
AREA OF THE***

***AMERICAS (FTAA) NEGOTIATION PROCESS***

***RECOMMENDATION***

WHEREAS the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) is intended to promote growth and economic development, and thereby reinforce the objectives of the Summits of the Americas process—that is, solidify democracy, promote human rights, and resolve the region’s socio-economic problems;

WHEREAS the Trade Ministers recognized, at their meeting in Quito, on November 1, 2002, “the need to increase participation of the various civil society sectors in this hemispheric initiative, and . . . to foster a process of increased and sustained two-way communication with civil society to ensure that it has a clear perception of the development of the FTAA negotiation process”;

WHEREAS the Parliamentary Confederation of the

Americas was created in 1997 with the objective of “promoting the interests and aspirations of the populations of the hemisphere regarding the issues and impacts of hemispheric economic integration before the executive bodies of the Americas” and “developing and reinforcing the congresses' and parliamentary assemblies' means of action in the framework of hemispheric integration”;

WHEREAS it is our conviction that parliamentarians can and must, through their ideas and actions, contribute positively to the economic integration process in the Americas;

WHEREAS the involvement of parliamentarians in the negotiation process ensures a fuller representation of the spectrum of opinions;

WHEREAS the Tripartite Committee, composed of the Organization of the American States, Inter-American Development Bank, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, has been mandated to provide support in the form of analysis to the FTAA negotiation process;

We, the parliamentarians of the Americas meeting in Caracas, Venezuela, from November 23 to 27, 2003 within the framework of the Fifth General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas hereby:

REAFFIRM the importance of allowing all the parliamentarians of the Americas to make known their position on the future FTAA;

INVITE the governments of our respective States to maintain a sustained, open dialogue with parliamentarians throughout the FTAA negotiation process;

AFFIRM our desire to be directly associated in the FTAA negotiation process, particularly in the work of the Tripartite Committee, in order to promote the interests and aspirations of the people of the continent in regard to the FTAA, as well as to take on the experience that we have

acquired within COPA and our respective parliamentary assemblies when implementing the consultation and evaluation process concerning the impacts of the FTAA on our fellow citizens;

WE COMMIT ourselves to lobbying our respective governments with a view to establishing a formal relationship of cooperation between COPA and the Tripartite Committee;

REQUEST that the presidency of COPA convey this recommendation, as well as any other FTAA-related recommendation adopted during this General Assembly, to the Heads of States and governments of the 34 countries participating in the FTAA negotiations.



*V General Assembly of COPA  
Caracas, Venezuela*

*November 23 to 27, 2003*

***PERMANENT THEMATIC WORKING COMMITTEE  
ON THE FTAA, ECONOMY, TRADE, LABOUR, AND  
MIGRATION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY  
CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS (COPA)***

***DECLARATION***

***WHEREAS:***

One of the key missions of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) is to represent, to the governing authorities, the interests and aspirations of the populations of the hemisphere as regards the impacts arising out of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiation process, while contributing to the strengthening of parliamentary democracy and to the creation of a community of the Americas founded on peace, democracy, social justice and gender equality;

The Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) includes among its objectives that of promoting peace, tolerance, solidarity, cooperation and integration among the peoples of the hemisphere, the unrestricted respect of sovereignty, and the consolidation of a pluralistic and democratic system of government. For these reasons, it has decided to promote the holding of high-level meetings to provide for broad discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of the Free Trade Area of the Americas

(FTAA) for developing countries;

The democratically elected Heads of State and Government of the Americas, when they gathered in Québec City for the Third Summit, made a commitment regarding hemispheric integration and regarding national and collective responsibility, for the purpose of improving the economic well-being and security of our peoples;

Provision must be made for greater involvement by the parliamentarians of the Americas, as the legitimate representatives of their peoples, to encourage discussion and monitoring of the FTAA negotiations, from the parliamentary viewpoint and from that of civil society.

The Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas' (COPA) 4th General Assembly, held in Ixtapan de la Sal, Mexico, in November 2002, judged that the FTAA text under study gives considerable rights to investors, thereby limiting and placing undesirable conditions on the ability of parliamentarians to enact legislation based on the concerns of their fellow citizens;

At the same meeting, the COPA Assembly recommended that the organization participate actively in the Ministerial Meetings and Summits held by the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, acting through its Executive Committee or, if necessary, in concert with the permanent thematic working committee concerned;

At that meeting, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas were urged to set up a transparent negotiation process and, in this respect, to give account to the parliamentary assemblies throughout the process;

The member parliamentarians of COPA gathered at the V General Assembly of COPA in Caracas, in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in order to analyze the proposals aimed at consolidating the Parliament of the Americas and examining the impacts of the FTAA;

## **BE IT RESOLVED:**

First. To enjoin the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) to prepare, for the parliaments, a strategy for attendance and active participation in the international FTAA negotiation forums, including a plan for dissemination and for citizen participation, so as to facilitate the consultation process that the parliamentarians should follow in connection with the most important issues surrounding this agreement currently being negotiated.

Second. To encourage the member parliamentarians of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) to broadly disseminate the results of these meetings with the aim of informing parliaments on the status of the negotiations and of demonstrating to them the need to participate in them, and to monitor them more closely, since they are the legitimate representative bodies of the peoples, as regards the evaluation, supervision and monitoring of the negotiations.

Third. To seek the support of international technical organizations for the design of a system for the monitoring and examination of the FTAA negotiations, with the aim of providing the negotiators and parliaments with a decision process that corresponds to the interests of the nations that they represent, in accordance with the provisions of the Hemispheric Cooperation Program of the Quito Ministerial Declaration of 2002.

Fourth. To call upon the sub-regional integration organizations of Latin America and the Caribbean to refine their plans on an urgent basis in order to be able to move forward with agreements to reinforce a common position among blocks by December 2004, and thus to strengthen their negotiating power in relation to the FTAA.

Fifth. To propose to those parliaments which thus far do not have a body or committee responsible for examining the FTAA negotiations, that they create one in order to maintain a participation and monitoring of the negotiations

and an exchange of information with their citizens and with the other parliaments of the hemisphere.

Sixth. To create, within the framework of COPA, interparliamentary committees to represent the regions of North America, Central America, the Caribbean, the Andes and the countries of MERCOSUR, in order to improve the implementation of the participation strategies indicated in this declaration. In this regard, the agreement concluded between the Joint Parliamentary Committee of MERCOSUR and the Andean Parliament, for the creation of a permanent liaison mechanism between those two organizations, is acknowledged.

Seventh. To recall the necessity of including, in the FTAA, clauses which permit the adoption of policies that take into account the asymmetry characterizing the levels of economic development of countries, as set out in the declaration adopted at the Trade Ministers' Meeting held in November 2003.

Eighth. To ask the parliaments to include the treatment of the issue of gender equality in all FTAA negotiation processes. The same applies to the marginalization of indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups.

Ninth. To encourage the governments to provide all information relating to the FTAA negotiation process in a timely manner, so as to facilitate the active participation of parliaments.

Tenth. To ask COPA for a study of the effects of the public foreign debt on the ability to finance the economic and social development programs of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean that are necessary to facilitate fair and dignified inclusion, in solidarity, in the free trade process.

Eleventh. To propose an agreement whereby the international financial community, which holds the foreign debt of Latin America and the Caribbean, shall devote a portion of that debt to the financing of the economic and

social development programs of our countries, programs which are necessary for the creation of an economic and social investment capacity liable to guarantee greater well-being and to increase the ability of our countries to take up the challenges that they face.

Twelfth. To insist that the negotiation process make room for both the respect and the preservation of cultural diversity, which constitutes an inestimable wealth of heritage for humanity, as practical issues forming part of the negotiations; by giving priority to education and job training to guarantee the strengthening of democratic institutions.

Thirteenth. To ask the parliaments to include the theme of science and technology as a fundamental component of the negotiations, with the aim of changing the conditions that foster the competitiveness and productivity of the countries, thus giving them the possibility to better integrate at the global level. Furthermore, to verify the potential effects of applying additional intellectual property rules, in developing countries, on the economic and social rights of the peoples.

Fourteenth. To closely examine the limitations on the ability of parliaments to enact legislation that might stem from the FTAA agreements, particularly as regards the link between the state and foreign investors, expropriations, environmental standards, the treatment given to vulnerable groups, the development of policies to encourage the implementation of initiatives aimed at minorities and the questioning of decisions handed down by the national judiciary systems, as well as by a dispute settlement organization and by private arbitration mechanisms.

Fifteenth. To recommend to the parliaments and regional integration organizations that they incorporate, in particular, the effect of FTAA standards on the following issues:

a. subsidies aimed toward agriculture;

- b. consumer protection;
- c. conservation of resources threatened with extinction, beginning with the respect of the ecological balance of our hemisphere;
- d. maintaining public order, health and the fundamental interests of society;
- e. maintaining the power of direct taxation;
- f. control of access to domestic resources of which there are limited reserves;
- g. the unrestricted respect of the sovereignty of our peoples;
- h. preserving the capacity of the smaller economies so that they may maintain a joint bargaining position.

Sixteenth. Present this declaration at the meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) meeting scheduled to take place in Puebla, Mexico in early 2004.

Seventeenth. Acknowledge the efforts undertaken by the COPA President's office, the technical and logistical staff of the Andean parliament, and the COPA technical secretariats with a view to organizing the V General Assembly, and thank the Venezuelan people for their hospitality.

Eighteenth. Emphasize the importance and appropriateness of holding, in compliance with the laws of each country, popular consultations or referendums for the purpose of approving or rejecting the FTAA Agreement.

For broadcast and publication.

Prepared in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela,  
November 26, 2003.



## MEDIA RELEASE NO. 007

From November 22 to 27, 2003

### CARACAS TO HOST THE V GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS (COPA)

Parliamentarians from the countries of the Americas will be in Caracas from November 22 to 27, 2003 to attend the V General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA), to be chaired by Representative Jhannett Madriz, President of this hemispheric forum. COPA, whose primary objective is to perform follow-up on the Summits of the Americas, brings together parliamentarians from all parts of the hemisphere and has held four General Assemblies (Québec in 1997, Puerto Rico in 2000, Brazil in 2001, and Mexico in 2002), in which 350 parliamentarians have participated on average. This year, it is a Representative from Venezuela who has been chosen to preside over COPA, and at the last Assembly, the members voted that the V General Assembly be held in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Several topics are featured on the agenda of the V Assembly, including an analysis of the results of the Miami FTAA Ministerial Meeting; the impact of the FTAA in various areas such as healthcare, the environment, technology, human rights, migration, etc.; the establishment and organization of COPA electoral observers mission; and evaluation of the proposal to found the Parliament of the Americas.

#### **PROCEEDINGS TO BE OPENED BY PRESIDENT CHAVEZ**

The program will begin with the meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians on November 24, and, at the same time, the meeting of the Executive Committee. The opening session will take place on November 25 with the participation of Representative Francisco Ameliach, President of the National Assembly, and Mr. Hugo Chavez, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Afterwards, the committees will begin their work (in particular with the electoral observation training session). On November 26, the committees will sit in the morning (each addressing the theme of the impact of the FTAA agreement on in its respective area of concern); in the afternoon, conclusions and resolutions will be debated and adopted at the plenary session, with a closing ceremony to follow. The site of the event will be the Caracas Hilton, with the exception of the opening session, to be held at the Teatro Teresa Carreño.

#### **ACTIVITIES DURING 2003**

The most recent meeting of the COPA Executive Committee was held on Isla Margarita (Venezuela) in February 2003. During Representative Jhannett Madriz's presidency, various activities were carried out, such as the Parliamentary Summit on the FTAA in Ecuador and the International Seminar on Governmental Gender Budgets in El Salvador.

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In the Final Declaration of the Parliamentary Summit on the FTAA, participants “reiterate[ed] the requirement that the FTAA contain provisions conducive to the adoption of development policies, thus making for a balanced agreement and taking into consideration the asymmetries and varying degrees of economic development of countries.”

### **PARLIAMENTARIANS TO SERVE AS ELECTORAL OBSERVERS**

Parliamentarians participating in the V General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) in Caracas, Venezuela, from November 23 to 27, 2003, will receive a training session in electoral observation, provided by the office of the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec (Canada).

The President of COPA, Representative Jhannett Madriz, announced that this project had been approved by the COPA Executive Committee at its meeting on Isla Margarita last February. She emphasized the growing importance of foreign observer missions to reinforcing democratic mechanisms in our countries, thereby endowing the election process with greater credibility and influence among the international community.

“A mission of this sort is likely to meet with a reception that is all the more positive since it comes accompanied by a certain institutional prestige. From this perspective, nothing can have more prestige than an entity that represents parliamentarians from the entire hemisphere, as is the case with COPA,” asserted the Representative.”

The training session itself will be held on November 25, 2003, during the session of the Permanent Thematic Working Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, which Francisco Carrasquero, President of the National Electoral Council of Venezuela, will attend in his capacity as guest speaker. The training session itself will present principles and codes of conduct, the main participating bodies, and the organization, development, and follow-up of the mission. An electoral observation project will be set up at some future time and must be sanctioned by a declaration of the Electoral Observation Committee.

### **THE HARRISON INSTITUTE TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

When examining subjects such as the FTAA and the creation of the Parliament of the Americas, the support of experts is quite valuable. Thus, Messrs. William Warren and Travis Seegmillers, who are both members of the Harrison Institute of the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. and who both specialize in producing legal studies on political and economic democracy, have been invited to Caracas to offer technical support during the COPA debates.

Throughout the year, the Harrison Institute has been providing COPA with advice, and both speakers will present an analysis of the results of the FTAA Ministerial Meeting, scheduled to take place in Miami only a few days prior to the V General Assembly and at which they will be in attendance.

## **COPA TO PROVIDE VENUE FOR FURTHER DECLARATIONS**

In related developments, parliamentarians from the Americas and Europe will be meeting on November 23 within the framework of meetings of the Iberian Parliamentary Network and the Continental Network of the World Social Forum. At that time, they will draw up their respective declarations and present them to the plenary session of the V Assembly of COPA. The final results will be sent to the Summit of the Americas to be held in Argentina next year, or, possibly, in Mexico at the end of the year, if the Meeting of the Presidents of the Hemisphere is indeed held there.

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