

DRAFT PROPOSAL DECLARATION OF THE PARLIAMENTARIAN FORA FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

March 16th, 2002

We, the parliamentarians of the world, hereby agree that, in the framework of the International Conference on Financing for the Development, which will take place in the city of Monterrey, Mexico, from March 18th – 22nd, 2002, that we have to establish our position regarding the topic of the Conference.

We, the world parliamentarians, fully agree that the first and foremost objective in the world is the fight against poverty and to guarantee a sustained economic growth, which would lead to an increase in the welfare of the society as a whole, in every country of the world. We consider that it is time to narrow the existing gap, which has been more profound, of living conditions between developed and developing countries.

During the last years, globalization has forced a great number of countries in the world to undertake important structural reforms, which have contributed to ameliorating their macroeconomic variables, thus attaining important reductions in inflation and governmental deficit indexes. Nevertheless, in many countries these measures have not yet been translated into an increase of the standard of living of the population, neither in the creation of modern and efficient productive systems nor in the generation of better jobs. On the contrary, in some countries there is now a greater polarization of income distribution, in addition to the increasing indexes of poverty and unemployment coupled with an increasing external and internal governmental debt, this situation not only undermines the future development but also social stability.

Additionally, the process of globalization and the gradual opening of borders have generated that developing countries, in particular, lose their national protagonist capability in strategic or important sectors of their national life, which is due, amongst other reasons, to the difficulty of accessing competitive financing, as opposed to transnational corporations' capital availability.

We are certain that the International Conference on Financing for the Development represents a unique opportunity to agree upon strategies and policies which can contribute to a more prosperous and just world, where existing differences between developed and developing countries can be narrowed and tend to rise living conditions of all the population, generating honorable, permanent and well remunerated jobs, guaranteeing the access to food, education and health services for the society as a whole.

We considered that the actions governments have to undertake within their countries would necessarily have to be complemented with other multilateral ones, which would contribute to fortify the internal and regional processes of development. Therefore, as representatives of our societies, we the legislators are in favor of the adoption of the following measures

In a domestic scope:

- a) Establishment of efficient, equitable and balanced fiscal systems, as well as credit regimes, which support small and medium enterprises and strengthen internal consumption, mainly in the most vulnerable groups.

- b) Strengthen economic, labor and social policies with emphasis on gender and on those oriented to vulnerable groups.
- c) Impulse domestic and civil participation in the economic process and productive investments.
- d) Strengthen efficiency processes in the public administration, fighting against corruption and increasing social productivity.
- e) Allocate adequately national and international financial resources (foreign investment) to productive investment and to trainings and workshops on development.

In an international scope

- f) Equal access and favorable conditions, by developed countries and to those who are going through economic difficulties, to international financial resources, to promote and improve living conditions of the population in general and to strengthen their productive systems.
- g) Implement financial and external debt reduction aid, and assistance in its management, fundamentally in developing countries more vulnerable to economic crisis.
- h) Mechanisms that contribute to avoiding the propagation of economic crises and how to counteract them, by helping those countries which suffer them.
- i) Establishment of an "early alert system" that allows to detect and/or avoid economic crises in vulnerable countries.
- j) Transform the international financial system and multilateral organizations, by allowing a greater and a more democratic participation, to adapt them to the requirements of development.
- k) Adapt, the main multilateral financial organizations, conceived in Bretton Woods more than 55 years ago, to the needs of a more interdependent world.
- l) Transform international trade as the engine for development, promoting Institutions, policies and solid laws, to prevent distortions in the strategy for development.

We, the Legislators of the signatory organizations to the present Declaration, commit ourselves to launch a concerted parliamentary action to follow-up-on and promote the implementation of the results of the International Conference on Financing for the Development, as well as to strengthen the exchange of information and proposals amongst our national congresses, regional and international parliamentary organizations, local governments and multilateral financial and trade organizations.

We, the legislators, reinforce our role as guarantors, so that actions and practices undertaken by governments and international financial organizations correspond to the goals and objectives of social and economic development, in keeping with the powers constitutionally ordained to each respective legislature and in the national plans that guide the governmental action.