

Declaration of the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities

We, the participants of the IX Inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities, held in Miami, Florida, United States of America, June 24-26, 2003, taking into account the urgent needs of our people and supporting the Meeting of Ministers and Top-Level Authorities within the Organization of American States, do resolve that:

- 1) We applaud the decision of the Organization of American States to hold a second Meeting of Ministers and Top-Level Authorities Responsible for the Policies of Decentralization, Local Government and Citizen Participation at the Municipal Level in the Hemisphere to take place in México, September 24 - 26 of the present year.
- 2) We urge our national governments to send their delegates who are specialists in these matters to this and future ministerial meetings and especially to include representatives of local governments in future meetings;
- 3) We commit ourselves to and urge our national governments to fortify participatory local government and the processes of decentralization in such a manner that they are a significant part of national policies for sustainable development and combating poverty;
- 4) We urge those meeting in Mexico City to urge the international agencies of cooperation such as the Inter-American Development Bank, to increase, and improve the possibility of direct access to credit for municipal governments in order to thus implement the diverse initiatives presented by our representatives for the development of our communities;
- 5) We request that the multilateral organisms of cooperation support the strengthening of the municipal governments of the hemisphere as well as their educational programs, environmental programs, training programs for citizen participation, programs of environmental security, and other activities;
- 6) We urge the national governments to deepen their efforts for making a reality of the Action Plan of the Summit of the Americas approved by the heads of state and of government, held in Quebec in April of 2001 in reference to the strengthening of local governments, decentralization, and democracy;
- 7) We support the Declaration of Arequipa, which came out of the First Latin American Summit for Local/Regional Development and Decentralization that took place in Arequipa, Perú in June of this year, and we urge the national governments, international organisms of cooperation, and multilateral organisms to exert every effort necessary for a successful implementation of the Declaration of Arequipa;
- 8) We sincerely hope for the participation of those meeting in Mexico City in the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities in order that leaders of both national and local governments can meet together to discuss ways to build stronger and more democratic local governance.

Given in Miami, Florida, United States, June 26, 2003