



### **1st Meeting of Legislative Workers of the Americas and the Caribbean**

We, representatives of workers of congresses and legislatures of the Americas and the Caribbean, met on the 20th and 21st of April 2105, in Mexico City, to establish a space for discussions, common understanding and joint action between our trade-union organizations and the legislative workers.

#### **STATEMENT**

##### **I. PRINCIPLES**

Workers are a fundamental part of parliaments, backbones of democracy and legislative work, with the responsibility of ensuring the daily activities at our workplaces, unconditionally defending the political and institutional quality of the congress and legislatures.

We are actors in defense of the intensification and consolidation of democracy in our region, as a fundamental cornerstone of the political, social and union relations of our people, towards the strengthening of peace, the intensification of progress and contributing to better governance in the countries of the region.

We handle negotiations and struggles to improve working conditions in the sector, job security and access to the legislative and/or administrative career; promote unionization, collective bargaining and social dialogue in the public sector in general and in particular, within the legislatures.

We have adhered to ILO conventions 87, 98, 151 and 154, the American Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We defend equal opportunities and conditions, equal pay for work of equal value, equality, respect for diversity and gender mainstreaming; we are against any kind of discrimination.

In a context of regional integration of States in the Americas and the Caribbean, trade-union organizations act by organizing, beyond our country's borders, in an independent and autonomous way.

ii- **Objectives**

To create and develop a trade union and workers instance that gathers Parliament , Congress and assembly workers in the region, in order to strengthen international solidarity, brotherhood, friendship, technical, work, cultural and sports bonds; of discussions, training and exchange of ideas, mutual support and advice; and of conflict resolution through the CONFEDERATION OF LEGISLATIVE WORKERS OF THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN - CONTLAC.

This organizational structure provides and promotes people's integration in all areas, respecting the existing multicultural composition in the Americas and the Caribbean, the social contexts and linguistic diversity.

We are convinced of the benefits of promoting dialogue among workers, State and the rest of the interacting sectors. We are aware that our knowledge, skills and background make us eligible to become actors and players in the future in face of international organizations such as ILO – International Labor Organization, COPA - Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas, IPU - Parliamentary Union, PARLASUR, among others.

This initiative is managed by Public Services International, an organization which is a world reference in terms of public services, in the fight for decent work and for respect and value for the work of each and every worker, for the full validity of labor and union rights and for the defense of quality public services.

Finally, we call ourselves for the First CONTLAC Congress, to be held in the autonomous city of Buenos Aires-Argentina, in March 2016.

And signed by:

Argentina: Carolina Pereyra Rozas, Juan Carlos Kozow, Diego Solofrano and Leandro Lucero of APL - Legislative Staff Association and Juan Gianello of APES - Congress Senior Staff Association.

Chile: Erwin Valencia, Hugo Cobian and Diego Araya of the Association of Sepado-AFUSEN workers.

Guatemala: Edwin Chávez, of the National Trade Union of Legislative Workers – STOL.

Mexico: Alberto Bautista Quintana of the Government Workers Trade Union of the Federal District – SUTGDF.

Nicaragua: Andres Ramirez and Liz Escoto of the German Pomares Ordonez Trade Union – SGPO.

Venezuela: José Vicente Rivero of the National Union of Legislative Officers and workers of the National Assembly – SINFUCAN.

And by written accession:

Paraguay: Juan Manuel Caló of the Legislative Workers Trade Union - SIDEPOL