

**Call for the Establishment of a Standing Body of Parliamentarians Representing  
All Member Countries by the Parliamentarians Attending the Third Ministerial  
Conference of the World Trade Organization  
2 December 1999**

We, members of Parliaments who have been elected by our peoples, present in Seattle to attend the Third WTO Ministerial Conference, are convinced of the need to associate Parliaments and their members more closely to the work carried out by the WTO in order to enhance transparency and democratic legitimacy. Not only have we a crucial role to play in interacting with the citizens and representative organizations of our respective countries to address their concerns, but also to approve or legislate on the agreements negotiated under the auspices of the WTO.

We call today, on the occasion of the WTO Seattle Ministerial Conference, for the establishment of a Standing Body of Parliamentarians whereby members of Parliaments can exchange views, be informed and monitor WTO negotiations and activities. A meeting of such a body should be convened no later than February, 2001.