



*Group of the Twelve Plus
in the Inter-Parliamentary Union*

*Groupe des Douze Plus
à l'Union interparlementaire*

**DECLARATION ABOUT THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE
COMMITTEE ON PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN PREVENTING OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN
THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SOVEREIGN STATES
DHAKA, 5 APRIL 2017**

MP Duarte Pacheco (Portugal) – Chair of the Twelve Plus Group

The original text was not acceptable for two main reasons:

First, the text presented the principle of non-intervention as absolute, neglecting that there are interventions legitimized by the United Nations Security Council when there is serious and flagrant violation of international rules and human rights.

Second, it assumed that respect for human rights is an internal matter, while respect of Universal Human Rights is a matter of global concern as stated in the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In general, the Geopolitical Group of Twelve Plus expressed several reservations to the original text.

With more than 50 approved amendments, the text has certainly improved. However, it still presents some contradictions between preambular and operative paragraphs and did not fully convey the main message.

For what matters is to reaffirm clearly that no State under the principle of National Sovereignty can establish restrictive interpretations of the content of Human Rights and thereby compromise the legitimate possibilities of defending these rights, in accordance with International Law.

That is why the

Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Malta, Norway, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and United Kingdom,

Belonging to the Geopolitical Group of Twelve Plus, register clearly our reservations to these points of this resolution that limit the possibilities of international solidarity against serious violations of human rights in any country.

We trust that this declaration is duly registered for these purposes.