

## Loja Declaration

The General Assembly of the Inter-American Organization for Higher Education (IOHE), convened at the Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja (UTPL), Ecuador, on November 12 and 13, 2007 during its *15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Congress*, has adopted the following *Loja Declaration*.

Considering governance as the ability of institutions to effectively meet society's needs by creating a social environment that encourages individual and collective fulfillment;

Considering the responsibility of institutions of higher education as regards sustainable development.

### The IOHE General Assembly:

1. Emphasizes that good university governance is a fundamental principle to accomplish the mission of higher education in order to guarantee the attainment of its primary objectives.
2. Highlights that institutions of higher education have a responsibility to influence and contribute to the governance of our peoples by creating a favourable atmosphere for the emergence of more just, equitable and prosperous societies.
3. Acknowledges that universities are committed to generating knowledge and educating managers and staff of public, private and civil society organizations by fostering, among other things, the use of information and communication technologies.
4. Recommends that academic programs and the university world promote a learning culture that encourages ethical and democratic values.
5. Establishes that university governance must bring about a relevant bond between higher education and the milieu in order to adequately satisfy the education needs of our countries' population..
6. Reasserts that university governance is based upon respect of academic freedom and autonomy of institutions of higher education.

Issued in:  
Loja, Ecuador  
November 13, 2007

