WHEREAS, During the past decade, most nations in the Latin American region have introduced regulatory frameworks for the water and sewerage sector and created new regulatory entities to implement and enforce regulations; and

WHEREAS, Citizen access to clean water and safe sanitation systems is a high priority for all nations; and

WHEREAS, In October 2001, representatives of ten Latin American regulatory entities (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama, and Peru-plus observers from the Dominican Republic and Venezuela) convened in Cartagena, Colombia to form a regional association of water regulators: ADERASA (Asociación de Entes Reguladores de Aguas de las Américas); and

WHEREAS, The stated objectives are to promote cooperation and coordination of efforts in the development of the water sector in Latin America by facilitating the exchange of experience and expertise related to the regulation; and

WHEREAS, In September 2002, 89 representatives from fifteen nations participated in the second ADERASA Conference in Santa Cruz, Bolivia; and

WHEREAS, NARUC and State commissions historically have provided assistance to international regulatory commissions in their development of transparent and credible regulatory processes; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened in its February 2003 Winter Meetings in Washington, DC, commends ADERASA for the initiatives described above; and be it further

RESOLVED, That it would be beneficial to both NARUC and ADERASA to collaborate on international activities for building expertise in utility reform and regulation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That NARUC explores ways to participate in ADERASA activities on a regular basis.

Sponsored by the Committee on International Relations

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors February 26, 2003