

## 2023 Seoul Declaration

*As adopted by the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of Asia Pacific Parliamentarian's Conference on Environment and Development (APPCED) in Seoul on June 15, 2023.*

1. *We, the Participating Parliamentarians at the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of Asia Pacific Parliamentarians' Conference on Environment and Development (APPCED);*
2. *Having met* in Seoul on June 14 and 15, 2023 at the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of Asia Pacific Parliamentarians' Conference on Environment and Development (APPCED);
3. *Noting* the adverse impact of crisis of climate change on the environmental, ecological, economical, and socio-cultural aspects, and well-being of people in the Asia Pacific region, and the closely intertwined biodiversity loss and environmental pollution affecting the region;
4. *Acknowledging* that the vulnerable communities in the Asia Pacific are most adversely affected by climate change;
5. *Understanding* that extreme weather events and sea-level rise are affecting the security and well-being of individuals, issues ranging from food, nutrition and health to economic income and safety;
6. *Noting with concern* the global surface temperature has risen 1.1°C above 1850–1900 in 2011–2020;
7. *Recalling* the 2022 Leaders' Declaration of APEC, which affirmed commitments to promote strong, balanced, secure, sustainable and inclusive growth and recognize that more intensive efforts are needed to address today's challenges including climate change, extreme weather and natural disasters, food security, and sustainable energy transitions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while ensuring energy resilience, access and security in the region, including by facilitating investments in relevant activities;

8. *Acknowledging* that national development strategies and policies should be implemented with a focus on the broader social and environmental pillars of sustainable development, with special attention on climate justice;
9. *Reaffirming* the importance of collective and stronger global efforts to effectively deal with climate change, in accordance with the principle of equity and CBDR-RC in light of different national circumstances;
10. *Recognizing* the importance of green growth and green economic transformation to achieve a low-carbon and resilient world of strong, inclusive, and sustainable growth;
11. *Noting* the importance of strengthening partnerships and enhancing cooperation to pool experiences and expertise in areas such as renewable energy, circular economy, green transport, green cities, climate resilient and smart agriculture and forest conservation;
12. *Emphasizing* that parliamentarians and legislators can and should play a key role in encouraging their respective governments to embrace climate resilient and green growth policies and craft legislations that effectively address the climate crisis in a fair, equitable and just manner, in accordance with the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement;
13. *Reaffirming* the need to collectively address the climate crisis and its adverse impacts, reflecting equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances, as well as the level of support each of the state is receiving;
14. *Noting* that, since the previous General Assembly of Asia Pacific Parliamentarian's Conference on Environment and Development in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, on December 11, 2019, the parliamentarians and legislators in this region have made progress to advance the climate agenda in their respective countries;

15. *Declare* our commitment as follows:

- (a) Encouraging our respective governments to develop and adopt national policies and strategies according to own circumstances and capabilities that will enable the full implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement;
- (b) Encouraging our respective governments to strengthen implementation of acceptable multilateral environmental agreements, as appropriately;
- (c) Encouraging our respective governments to enhance implementation efforts for their Nationally Determined Contributions, and to develop and implement Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategies, in accordance with equity and different national circumstances;
- (d) Ensuring that adequate resource allocations are made towards tackling climate and environmental issues;
- (e) Providing oversight and support to the executive branch of the government to take action, monitoring the activities of Ministries responsible to take action to tackle the climate crisis and mainstreaming climate and environmental issues in the activities of other Ministries including the ministries of finance;
- (f) Facilitating the transfer of green technology and mobilization of green finance from developed countries to assist developing countries, in particular, in their adaptation and mitigation efforts and to address loss and damage related to climate impacts;
- (g) Cooperating with governments of developing countries, in particular, to develop and implement collective measures to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change and to address loss and damage related to climate impacts;

- (h) Reaffirming that protection and promotion of the environment should be free from any coercive measures such as sanctions or unilateral action;
- (i) Enhancing efforts to build public awareness on the drivers and impacts of climate change and the response measures that need to be taken;
- (j) Convincing fellow legislators and members of other branches of our respective governments and all other stakeholders of the need to act urgently and decisively in responding to the climate crisis so as to avoid its worst consequences and to allow sufficient time for environmental, social and economic systems to adapt;
- (k) Encouraging our respective governments to implement climate change education as a subject at schools in order to create consciousness in the future generations;
- (l) Supporting regional and international cooperation to mitigate challenges on climate change and resolve environmental issues;
- (m) Considering the climatic damages caused to the region, especially dust storm, while emphasizing the promotion of the role of APPCED in climate parliamentary participation, dust monitoring activities in the region is recognized that it improves the lives of the people of the target countries, especially the nations who are affected by the imposing measures.

Done in Seoul, Republic of Korea, this Fifteenth Day of June in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.

*Signatures of participants to follow:*

**Signature on the Seoul Declaration**



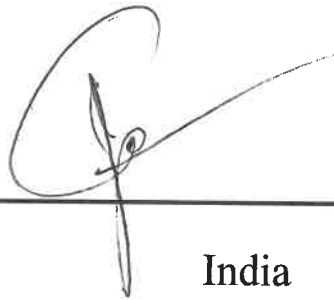
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**Cambodia**



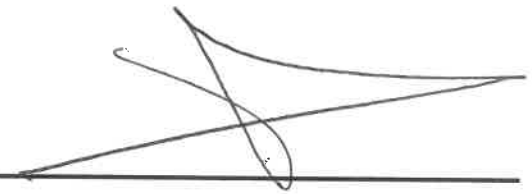
**China**



**India**



**Iran**



**Iraq**



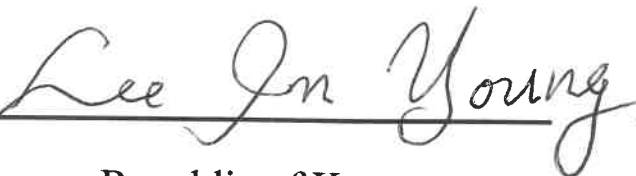
**Kazakhstan**



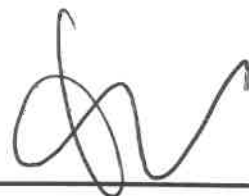
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**Republic of Korea**



**Lao PDR**



Mexico



Nepal



Thailand

