



**APA/ Res/2009/11
10 December 2009**

**Resolution
on
Alleviating Poverty in Asia**

We, the members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution on Alleviating Poverty in Asia, APA/Res/2008/02, dated 29 November 2008;

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on Alleviating Poverty in Asia, SG/Rep/2009/03/Rev.1 dated 22 July 2009, submitted to the meeting of the Sub-Committee held in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 27-28 July 2009;

Taking note of the deliberations of the Sub-Committee on Alleviating Poverty in Asia;

Emphasizing the constructive role the parliaments can play in all phases of National Poverty Alleviation Strategic Plan (NPASP);

Expressing concern that despite efforts to address the poverty problem at national, continental and international levels, the situation of the poor remains alarming;

Emphasizing the importance of Official Development Assistance (ODA) for the creation of jobs in developing countries;

Recognizing that the debt cancellation for the poorest countries in Asia is all the more necessary since economic globalization has created wealth in some regions of the world, but has unfortunately been of little benefit to the poorest nations;

Expressing alarm that the current global financial crisis has resulted in more unemployment and the increase in the number of the poor all over the world;

Requesting all Member Parliaments to pay serious attention to foreign debt problems of some Asian countries by adopting appropriate measures to reduce debt in the long term;

Determined to work together to improve the situation of the poor in Asia;

Emphasizing the importance of encouraging the private sector to be active in poverty alleviation schemes in rural areas through the establishment of relevant enterprises and the further strengthening of NGOs;

Recognizing the role of parliaments to strengthen national efforts to alleviate poverty in accordance with the targets defined by the Millennium Development Goals;

Recognizing also that poverty is more related to education, capacity, conditions on health, and reproductive health of the people;

Stressing the importance of capacity building in Member Parliaments to influence the development, implementation and monitoring of NPASP to help materialize the Millennium Development Goals in a timely manner;

1. *Invite* parliaments to adopt necessary integrated legislations on the poverty alleviation, to encourage the private sector to establish relevant enterprises and to further strengthen NGOs to study the overall potentials of deprived rural areas including the villagers' capabilities to increase their agricultural and husbandry products, to solve the software problems such as lack of access to the market, to help them adapt to the market needs and to educate and train them to improve their skills;
2. *Urge* APA Member Parliaments from developed countries to require their respective governments to honor their commitment to allocate 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) to Official Development Assistance (ODA), as required by the Millennium Declaration;
3. *Decide* to include in the agenda of the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Alleviating Poverty in Asia in 2010 technical aspects of poverty alleviation including the active participation of the private sector in poverty alleviation schemes in rural areas and the Poverty Alleviation Fund in Asia (PAFA) such as its practicality, modality and feasibility with the participation of advisory groups including experts on health and population issues, relevant regional and international organizations including NGOs as well as parliamentarians and national focal points;
4. *Decide further* to establish contact with parliamentarians from other Parliamentary forums and continents to exchange views and share experiences in poverty alleviation schemes *particularly in the area of social security* and encourage all Member Parliaments to strengthen coordination with international and regional organizations such as ADB, ESCAP, IDB and the relevant NGOs active in this field that may provide technical support to the implementation of the APA Plan of Action on Alleviating Poverty in Asia;

5. *Call on* all Member Parliaments to request their respective governments to set up a data bank system which is an integrated national data for common references among different government agencies with standard and uniform interpretation of poverty line income and profiling of the poor families;
6. Invite Member Parliaments to urge their respective governments to provide quality education for all citizens free of charge;
7. Urge Member Parliaments to adopt legislation to combat child labor;
8. *Call on* Member Parliaments to submit a report on their best practices and those of their executive branches to the APA Secretariat to be placed on the APA website;
9. *Request* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on their efforts to implement this resolution and to submit a report thereon to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee in 2010, which will be held in the Islamic Republic of Iran.