



APA/Res/2009/06
10 December 2009

Resolution
On
Achieving Health Equity in Asia

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution, APA/Res/2008/20, dated 29 November 2008,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on Achieving Health Equity in Asia of, SG/Rep/2009/07, dated 6 June, 2009, submitted to the meeting of *the Sub-Committee held in Tehran, 29-30 June, 2009;*

Referring to the final report of WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CSDH) submitted to the Director-General of WHO 2008;

Taking note of WHA Resolution (No.WHA 62.14) on "Reducing health inequities through action on the social determinants of health (SDH)" that was submitted to the 62nd Session of the World Health Assembly 2009;

Noting the global consensus of the United Nations Millennium Declaration to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 related to social determinants of health;

Recognizing that effective intervention on social determinants will reduce inequalities in health;

Recognizing that social approach to the health is feasible and proven to decrease health inequity;

Reaffirming the importance of the shared responsibilities on health inequity reduction;

Reaffirming the significant role of parliaments both in advocating and promoting national policies and legislative measures for achieving health equity;

Stressing the role of parliaments in adopting a harmonizing Asian approach in dealing with social determinants of health in Asia;

Expressing concern and dissatisfaction about the existing socio-economic inequalities and their impact on the poor and disadvantaged groups, as well as the remote geographical areas.

Concerned about the emerging diseases compounded with the grave dangers of global financial crisis and its negative impact on health equity within and among countries in Asia, and emphasized the need to strengthen the cooperation among Asian pharmaceutical industries to produce needed vaccines, drugs and other health related items with affordable prices.

Stressing the view that global net-working provides opportunities for Member Parliaments to engage in fruitful dialogue and exchange of best practices on health equity issues for Asian countries.

- 1- *Welcome* the Report of the Secretary-General contained in SG/2009/07, dated 06 June 2009.
- 2- *Take note of* the report of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health for addressing the impact of socio-economic inequalities on health at global, regional and national levels.
- 3- *Encourage* the APA Member Parliaments to promote health equity in policies and share experiences and best practices, and strengthen collaboration among Member Parliaments with a view to formulating a common Asian strategy.
- 4- *Call on* Member Parliaments of APA to promote networking among major governmental and non-governmental institutions dealing with health and social determinants of health in Asian countries.

- 5- *Invite* Member Parliaments to adopt policies and measures to encourage people's participation in promoting health equity in Asia.
- 6- *Invite* member parliaments to strengthen cooperation with government, non-government and civil society groups in order to identify the main social determinants of health and take measures to remove inequities in health.
- 7- *Underline* the importance of consensus-building process among Member Parliaments for drafting common legislation to promote health equity.
- 8- *Underline* the importance of incorporating and promoting the issue of Social Determinants of Health (SDH) more intensively in other APA themes so as to alert other parties that the themes will significantly influence the quality of health of people in particular area/region.
- 9- *Request* the Secretary-General to seek inputs from Member Parliaments on the progress to implement this resolution and submit a report thereon to the next Sub-Committee meeting.