



**18TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM
17 – 22 January 2010, Singapore**

18APPF/RES/7

**RESOLUTION
ON
WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**
(Sponsored by Mexico and Singapore)

THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM:

Reaffirming that economic growth, social development and environmental protection are the three dimensions of sustainable development;

Acknowledging that the challenges towards achieving water and environmental sustainability are interrelated and complex, and will require long-term forward planning to balance developmental demands with the need to preserve water resources and protect the environment;

Cognizant that a comprehensive and integrated approach through concerted individual, regional and international action will be necessary to stem further deterioration of environmental and water quality;

Aware that water is the basic element of life and an indispensable resource for our welfare, prosperity and global stability;

Recognizing that sustainable management of water for human consumption is an essential tool to eradicate poverty and promote economic and social development of our peoples;

Recognizing the rising international concern over environmental degradation resulting from rapid urbanization and population growth, and the urgent need to improve existing conditions of the environment and waterways;

Deeply concerned by the progressive degradation of ecosystems, especially those that naturally capture, filter, store, and release water;

Aware that the integrated management of water resources can help address the environmental and social problems resulting from the unsustainable consumption of water;

Stressing the need to devote more resources not only for infrastructure, but also to promote decentralized management of water resources and institutional capacity building;

Recognizing the importance of strengthening the links between the global, regional, national and local actions to prevent, respond and mitigate the effects of natural disasters;

Reiterating the urgent need to coordinate and strengthen measures to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002, including the goal of halving, by 2015, the proportion of people without access to safe water, and the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation;

Recognizing the results of the Fifth World Water Forum, held in Istanbul, Turkey in March 2009, including the Ministerial Declaration and the recommendations of the Istanbul Water Guide;

Emphasizing the important role of parliamentarians and local authorities to increase sustainable access to water and sanitation services and to promote the integrated management of water resources;

Committed to make every effort to provide water and sanitation to the population that still does not have these services;

Resolves to:

1. **Promote** the adoption of public policies aimed at conservation and protection of ecosystems through sustainable management of water resources:
2. **Include** the global water agenda in national development strategies, and strengthen international cooperation to achieve the integrated management of water resources:
3. **Encourage** the adoption of appropriate technologies and measures for management of water demand, in order to improve efficiency in water use, as well as promote efforts to intensify regional and international cooperation in the exchange and implementation of environmentally sustainable practices, including Research and Development, information exchange and application of environmentally-sound technologies:
4. **Urge** the parliaments of the region to refine the legal framework on water resources, taking into account their interaction with national, regional and local policies on land use:
5. **Foster** partnerships and collaborations and promote greater ownership amongst stakeholders in the public and private sectors to keep our environment and waterways clean through environmental education programmes and campaigns;
6. **Promote** legislative initiatives to conserve and protect aquatic ecosystems and their impact on the formation and preservation of water supplies for human consumption;
7. **Promote** financial and technical cooperation, and capacity building in conservation and environmental protection, including water supplies for human consumption;

8. **Urge** the countries of the region to promote proactive initiatives for the implementation of the 2002 Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development;
9. **Call** for greater concerted efforts by our governments to ratify regional and international Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), and to fulfill their obligations and actively participate in the activities under such MEAs;
10. **Support** the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development's Water Action Network Database;
11. **Support** active participation in international water and environment forums in the Asia Pacific such as the Singapore International Water Week, the Asia-Pacific Water Summit, and the World Cities Summit, so as to share best practices and build up capacities of APPF Member Countries;
12. **Urge** our governments to enhance capabilities to address the challenges of balancing developmental demands while maintaining water and environmental sustainability, by seeking to leverage on technologies, such as water recycling, waste water treatment and technologies that reduce energy consumption of water production and treatment;
13. **Continue** to work with governments, local authorities and local communities in the sustainable management of water resources, including issues related to access to safe water and sanitation services.