



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

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18APPF/RES/14

**RESOLUTION  
ON  
CLIMATE CHANGE**

*(Sponsored by Chile, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Philippines and Vietnam)*

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

**Recognizing** that climate change and environmental problems are global in nature and are among the most severe threats to humanity;

**Recognizing** that climate change will result in increased extreme weather conditions such as heat waves, floods, droughts and severe storms, melting glaciers and rising sea-levels and that these will lead to adverse impacts on socio-economic life and on human health and irreversible damage worldwide and in particular on and within developing countries, least developed countries, and small island developing states.

**Recognizing** that the adverse impacts of climate change will set back development achieved by developing countries, making it more difficult for them to meet the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015;

**Bearing** in mind that the phenomena related to climate change are fundamentally harmful to the environment and result from unsustainable development policies;

**Emphasizing** the important role of the Copenhagen Accord which the 15<sup>th</sup> COP decided to take note of; which however does not set an overall target for reducing GHG emissions;

**Recalling** that Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions are the main cause of climate change;

**Emphasizing** the need for comprehensive, efficient and effective measures to address the adverse effects of climate change and reduce GHG emissions and that a comprehensive, global agreement to address climate change can facilitate the progress towards global economic recovery, energy security and sustainable development;

**Realizing** the urgency for all countries to reach a binding agreement on GHG emission reductions before the expiration of the first Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol in 2012;

**Stressing** the immense global potential of renewable energy sources like biomass, wind, solar, hydro, tidal, wave and geothermal power to considerably reduce GHG emissions as well as contribute to energy security and conscious that for many countries renewable energy will be more economically efficient compared to traditional

fossil fuels, taking into account the rapid exhaustion and environmental impact of such traditional fossil fuels;

**Reaffirming** the central role that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol play in fostering international cooperation and action on climate change;

**Recognizing** the principles and provisions of the UNFCCC in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities;

**Welcoming** the efforts made by the international community in the run-up to and during the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009

**Recognizing** that the global nature of climate change requires the widest possible cooperation and action by all countries, including all Members of APPF, in an effective and synchronized international response, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities;

**Recognizing** the importance of national legislation by respective APPF Member Countries in supporting any global agreement on climate change;

**Recognizing**, that the financing component of the Copenhagen Accord, once operationalized, will benefit developing countries in mitigating the effects of climate change;

**Convinced** that the global fight against climate change involves developing policies and actions for mitigation and adaptation, which are essential to reduce the risks to life and development;

**Recognizing** that the convergence of objectives towards a common goal of mitigation and the identification of best options for adaptation to climate change, will allow us to collectively face this challenge;

**Convinced** that stabilizing GHG concentrations at an adequate level demands a gradual shift to low-emissions economic growth in all economies;

**Aware** that if actions to mitigate climate change lag behind, mankind will have to pay an enormous price because of the catastrophic impacts of rising GHG levels;

**Recognizing** that while climate change represents a cost and an obstacle to development, a successful global policy to tackle it can open new economic opportunities for the countries concerned;

**Acknowledging** the determination of the countries of the Asia-Pacific to firmly and determinedly resolve the serious problems posed by climate change and the deterioration of the environment;

**Convinced** that climate change has a long-term global impact that can only be addressed with vision and leadership, essential to the planning of human activities in a sustainable manner;

**Welcoming** the measures taken by countries to reduce their GHG emissions, including investments into climate-friendly and environmental technologies;

**Appreciating** that the leaders of the various countries have stated their own legitimate positions and have assumed common but differentiated responsibilities in accordance with the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol;

**Recognizing** that deforestation aggravates climate change, and that concrete efforts must be carried out to combat this practice and promote reforestation and afforestation, to reduce the impact of anthropogenic GHG emissions and to protect the biodiversity of the ecosystems in peril;

**Recognizing** the need for Asia-Pacific governments to be always prepared for climate change-driven natural disasters;

**Underscoring** the crucial role of local governments in providing immediate emergency and relief efforts after natural disasters;

**Noting** that preventive measures, such as emergency drills, and investment in emergency equipment will lower the loss of life brought about by calamities;

**Acknowledging** that emergency and relief assistance from developing countries in the Asia-Pacific Region is not sufficient to address large-scale humanitarian crises;

**Recognizing** the role of international aid agencies, such as the International Red Cross and Red Crescent and the World Food Program, in meeting the short term humanitarian needs of victims of natural disasters;

**Acknowledging** the role of APPF Member Countries in promoting climate change awareness and mitigation in their respective countries;

**Recalling the** concerns of multilateral and regional institutions like ASEAN, APEC, the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly and the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) on environmental protection and efforts to counter climate change which threatens the survival of countries in the region;

**Recalling** resolutions related to these problems which were adopted in past annual meetings of the APPF;

**Resolves to:**

1. **Take note of** the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recommendations to limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial temperature, and express confidence that this goal can be achieved through international coordination;
2. **Reaffirm** our call to the developed countries to take the lead in reducing GHG emissions by establishing ambitious goals and implementing plans and in providing the necessary amount of financial and technical assistance to help developing countries adapt to the impact of climate change and develop in line with the principles and provisions of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol;
3. **Welcome** pledges made by developed countries including Japan's pledge of 15 billion dollars for development assistance under the Hatoyama Initiative;
4. **Urge** all governments to build upon the Copenhagen Accord, and to conclude the Bali Roadmap negotiations within the framework of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol to reach a binding, comprehensive, ambitious and equitable climate change instrument that includes all countries in a meaningful way;
5. **Request** APPF Member Countries to support the Copenhagen Accord of which the 15<sup>th</sup> COP decided to take note as a basis for future negotiations, to actively contribute to the international negotiations aiming to establish a fair and effective international framework with participation of all major economies and to agree on their ambitious targets;
6. **Call upon** APPF Member Countries to set out ambitious quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets for Annex I Parties, and nationally appropriate mitigation actions for Non-Annex I Parties;
7. **Call upon** governments to develop their nationally appropriate mitigation actions, which can be subjected to international verification in accordance with guidelines adopted by the Conference Of the Parties (COP).
8. **Call upon** APPF Member Countries to work together towards strengthening the ability for adaptation to climate change, including disaster risk reduction, of developing countries, in particular least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, including through the further development of the "Asia Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Network";
9. **Call upon** APPF Member Countries to recognize the critical role of technology to respond to climate change and the need for technological breakthroughs and to cooperate among the Member Countries in dissemination of existing technologies and development, deployment and transfer of innovative technologies;

10. **Call upon** APPF Member Countries to actively undertake forest conservation, reforestation and afforestation and to promote a co-benefits approach that will lead to reducing GHG emissions and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
11. **Urge** APPF Member Countries to review their governments' actions in future United Nations Climate Change Conferences, particularly the forthcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP16/CMP6) which will be held in Mexico in November 2010;
12. **Urge** APPF Member Countries to share a common advocacy for greater emission cuts in various international parliamentary conferences and other international fora;
13. **Call upon** APPF Member Countries to undertake regulatory and legislative activities to address long-term challenges, namely climate change, noting that they play a pivotal role in the formation of political will towards low emissions economic growth;
14. **Call for** the formation of a joint mechanism in Asia Pacific, which consists of regional inter-parliamentary and inter-governmental organizations like APPF, AIPA, APEC, and ASEAN to effectively deal with the threats of climate change;
15. **Urge** APPF Member Countries to cooperate in the preservation and protection of marine biodiversity and in the sustainable utilization of water resources and in solving environmental issues such as cross border air pollution, deterioration of marine environment and water contamination;
16. **Call upon** APPF Member Countries to increase efforts for a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss, and express reinforcement of cooperation toward the tenth meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the fifth meeting of the Conference Of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to be held in Nagoya, Aichi, Japan in 2010;
17. **Stress** that Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), in addition to encouraging sustainable development, plays a fundamental role in promoting the care of the environment; this requires the efforts of all nations in terms of educating the public and making efficient recycling, reuse and garbage reduction methods available to the people;
18. **Call upon** APPF Member Countries to promote the building of sound material-cycle societies through the 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Initiative;
19. **Call on** APPF Member Countries to strengthen emergency and relief services, in cooperation with International Relief Organizations, to improve their disaster-preparedness based on new climate models;

20. **Urge** governments to increase funding to improve weather forecasting technology and to spread disaster education programmes in schools and universities;
21. **Urge** governments to streamline disaster coordination and improve communication systems and information dissemination among government agencies, the private sector including the media and civil society, and the communities.