



Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development

10 January 2023
Antalya, Republic of Turkiye

Final Report

The Meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development was held on January 10 in Antalya, Turkiye and chaired by the Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain. Parliamentary delegations from following member countries participate in the Meeting:

Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Pakistan ,Palestine, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkiye, UAE and Yemen.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Participants unanimously adopted the Draft Agenda.

[\(Attachment I\)](#)

2. Opening remarks by the Chairperson:

H.E. Dr. Abdul-Aziz MP from the Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain and Chairman of the meeting welcomed all the participants and briefed them on the main subjects under discussion at this Committee and expressed his wish to see them all in Manama for the March IPU and APA meetings. [\(Attachment II\)](#)

3. Report of the Secretariat:

The Secretariat presented a summary report on the latest activities of the Standing Committee.

4. Consideration of the Draft Resolutions recommended by the Executive Council:

Out of the 8 Draft Resolutions, 6 drafts were adopted with minor changes and Draft resolutions on “*Economic Growth*” and “*Water and Sanitation in Asia for all*” were deferred to the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

A number of member parliaments addressed the preamble and operative paras of draft resolution on Water and Sanitation. The Chair reminded that this document will be deferred to the next Standing Committee meeting for further consideration. The issue concerning the necessity of addressing shared water resources between neighboring countries was also raised by few participants. Participants emphasized on the importance of water sanitation for all countries in Asia and debated on the way forward to solve this vital topic. The optimization of usage of water in all sectors was highlighted by few delegations as well.

There were some minor amendments on the part of the participants on several draft resolutions. The Chair requested participants to forward them in written form to the APA Secretariat.

[\(Attachment III\)](#)

5. Any other matters.

No issue was raised.

Attachment I

Asian Parliamentary Assembly



Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development

**Antalya , Türkiye
8-10 January 2023**



Draft Agenda

(12/12/2022 by APA Secretariat)-V6

- 1- Adoption of the Agenda
- 2- Opening Remarks by Chairperson
- 3- Report of the Secretariat
- 4- Consideration of Draft Resolutions recommended by the Executive Council
- 5- Any other matters.

Opening Remarks by Chair of Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development

- Bahrain was elected as VP and Chair of St. Com on Economic and Sustainable Development in 2020
- The virtual meeting of this committee was held on May 2021 in Manama.
- After extensive discussion on 8 Draft resolutions, 6 were adopted with minor changes.
- the Chair ruled that the draft resolution on Economic Growth be differed to the next meeting,
- Also the draft resolution on Water and Sanitation in Asia was deferred.

Draft Resolutions of the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development

1. Draft Resolution on the Establishment of an Asian Energy Market
2. Draft Resolution on Environmental Issue
3. Draft Resolution on Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth
4. Draft Resolution on Poverty Eradication
5. Draft Resolution on “The Role of APA Parliaments in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals”
6. Draft Resolution on Water and Sanitation in Asia for All
7. Draft Resolution on Adopting a Road Map Providing for Measures to Stimulate Green Finance
8. Draft Resolution on Asian Climate Financial Initiative



Draft Resolution on the Establishment of an Asian Energy Market

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the United Nations' 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) adopted by world leaders in September 2015 for a more prosperous future, and that is through the promotion of prosperity, increase of social welfare, and protection of the planet,

Calling upon Asian parliaments to fulfill their commitments on reducing the effects of climate change in accordance with the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, to adopt effective policies to improve the use of natural resources in Asia and to promote economic growth,

Suggesting the establishment of clean energy markets that will enable Asian countries make optimal utilization of their natural resources and export the surplus to other Asian countries,

Stressing on the importance of protecting and developing this important sector which plays an integral role in the prosperity of Asian societies,

Believing that an Asian Energy Market will contribute in creating energy production projects, in particular renewable energy projects, which will provide for investment partnership opportunities for the establishment of alternative energy projects between the public and private sector, and among countries of the Asian continent,

Aiming to realize four of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) 2030 by the use of green energy instead of traditional energy sources, achieve economic growth, and reduce poverty through job creation and the creation of partnerships among Asian countries,

Supporting the efforts to reduce the use of fossil fuels gradually in a way that does not harm their economic growth as they produce the highest greenhouse emissions, and the creation of competitive markets for sustainable energy according to national circumstances, needs and priorities,

Realizing that the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic has impeded local efforts in many countries of the continent to fulfill previously made climate commitments, such as postponing important climate initiatives, suspending programs to "reduce carbon emissions", and extending deadlines granted to companies to meet environmental standards Postponing tenders to build several renewable energy projects,

Stressing the importance of joint efforts by Asian countries to provide energy at reasonable prices for the Asian energy market,

We therefore,

1. *Call for* the liberation of production and service in the energy sector in Asia, in order to support the international measures for combating climate change, and to move forward in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations for the year 2030;
2. *Encourage* cooperation among Asian countries to achieve the SDG's by establishing a Joint Energy Market, and coordinate between the government and private sectors in a bid to create partnerships that may become means for the promotion of economic prosperity in Asia;
3. *Support* the comprehensive green and blue development for sustainable development, and promote the investment in infrastructure and the use of technology that helps in improving alternative energy resources and reduce climate change;
4. *Call also* for emphasizing the importance of renewable energy and energy efficiency in achieving sustainable development and the protection of environment by the use of environment-friendly substances for future generations;
5. *Welcome* the assistance provided for the least developed Asian countries in the use of alternative energy, and the assistance in the optimal utilization of their natural resources, in order to improve their economy and create a sustainable work environment;
6. *Call on* the parliaments of Asian countries to take into account, when adopting response and recovery policies from the Corona pandemic, as well as when developing legislation and approving budgets for this purpose, to ensure the achievement of a sustainable and comprehensive recovery from the pandemic in which energy transformation is at the heart of its concerns, in order to accelerate the shift towards alternative and renewable energy sources that are environment sensitive;
7. *Urge* member parliaments on the importance of legislation and enactment of laws of renewable energy to activate the role of Asian parliaments in the future of renewable energy.



Draft Resolution on Environmental Issues

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the decisions of the United Nations Climate Action Summit in September 2019, the Climate Aspiration Summit in December 2020, and the Climate Adaptation Summit in January 2021; All of which affirmed the determination of the international community to critically address environmental and climate change issues, and broaden the scope of emission reduction targets; Given the threat that climate change poses to human life and stability,

Recalling APA Resolution on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, Climate Change, and Planting Billions of Trees Throughout Asia (APA/Res/2015/07) adopted at the 8th APA Plenary in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, December 2015, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and other relevant APA resolutions,

Welcoming the Report of the Secretary-General on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia, contained in document SG/Rep/2016/03-2 dated 20 July 2016,

Adhering to the important role of environment in the sustainable development and meeting needs of increasing world population particularly countries of Asia which are facing dire consequences of climate change,

Recognizing the need to pursue the sustainable development namely the economic growth, social development and environmental protection in a balanced and mutually supportive manner,

Highlighting the link between sustainable development and other relevant ongoing processes such as that the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Paris agreement UN Convention Biological Diversity (UNCBD), UN Convention to Combat Desertification and the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development among others is linked with global sustainable development agenda,

Emphasizing the natural capital such as forests, biodiversity, freshwater, and coastal and marine ecosystems as being essential to making “green economies” a reality; and we shall maintain and protect these capitals from any threats that might harm it or any of its elements,

Recognizing that climate change represents an urgent and potentially irreversible threat to

human societies and the planet and thus requires the widest possible cooperation by all countries, and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, with a view to accelerating the mitigation and adaptation efforts as well as accelerating provision of Means of Implementation including finance mobilization from developed to developing countries (MOI),

Underlining the necessity of a comprehensive and long-term strategy to combat drought, forest fire, air pollution, sand and dust storms, desertification land degradation and marine life deterioration, thus improving the living conditions of the people living in arid, semi-arid and coastal areas,

Recognizing the significance of exchanging information on environmental issues among Asian countries and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, in particular scientific, capacity building and technical assistance, from those states with high capabilities in the area of sustainable development to less developed countries in Asia,

Recognizing the urgent need to enhance the provision of finance, technology and capacity-building support by developed country Parties, in a scaled up, easily accessible, adequate, new, additional and predictable manner, to enable enhanced pre-2023 climate action by developing country Parties,

Concerned about the negative environmental impact of unbridled energy consumption on a global scale and particularly in Asia,

Encouraging Asian parliaments of the countries which supported the Doha amendment to the Kyoto Protocol to speed up their acceptance of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, in order to provide further momentum for global climate action for the years leading up to 2023,

Calling up on developed countries and international institutions to assist Asian developing countries, in their efforts to deal with negative consequences of environmental degradation effectively and *reiterating* the importance of devising a proper mechanism for technology transfer and financing from developed to developing countries,

Emphasizing that substantive involvement of APA in the latest state of affairs as regards the ongoing negotiations within the context of UNFCCC, exchange of views among Member Parliaments and striving for bringing as much coordination and collaboration as possible in relevant negotiating for a view to serving and improving the common regional interest of Asia is a compelling imperative,

Acknowledging the role of civil society, NGOs, policy think tanks, business and academia in the protection of environment through their inputs to the environmental policy formulation as well as implementation at the local, national and regional levels,

Emphasizing the importance of cooperation among Member Parliaments with regard to

efforts to combat drought, desertification, land degradation, sand and dust storms, forest fire, air pollution, and non-biodegradable marine debris,

Recognizing the success by Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) in raising global awareness and international collaboration in the economic and environmental fields and the promotion of transparency,

Recalling the role of United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in strengthening and building national capacity to promote sustainable management of the environment and in the implementation of programs that take into account environmental considerations,

Agreeing to uphold and promote regional and international cooperation in order to mobilize stronger and more ambitious action in mitigation and adaptation efforts and the mean of implementation by all Parties and non-Party stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, financial institutions, cities and other sub-national authorities, local communities and indigenous peoples, as applicable,

Stressing that all parties as well as all the stakeholders, including the business sectors have responsibility to preserve and conserve environment and that any ecological and environmental damage should be held responsible, according to the prevailing laws and regulations with respect to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances,

Stressing the central role of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in providing collective international response to the challenges of global climate change,

Realizing that although global emissions have decreased by about 6% during the first months of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, in order to serve the sustainable development goals related to climate change, the economic and industrial downturn resulting from the outbreak of the pandemic is not a substitute for sustainable climate action that enables economies to Growth and job creation, simultaneously addressing climate issues and environmental protection,

Emphasizing the role of parliaments in encouraging their governments to develop plans and strategies in terms of developing solutions to environmental issues and supporting sustainable development goals,

The importance of encouraging parliaments to call on their governments to agree to all international resolutions established to protect the environment, and to confront thermal emissions and climate changes, according to confirmed international agreements and decisions issued by the United Nations and other international conferences in support the action plan to achieve the goals of sustainable development,

Emphasizing the importance of investing in scientific research and studies that would provide solutions to reduce environmental issues, and the importance of investing in modern

technology and innovation to reduce environmental issues and support sustainable development goals,

We therefore,

1. *Take into* account the adoption of Paris Agreement at the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties of UNFCCC in December 2015;
2. *Urge* the adoption of the Paris Agreement Work Programme (PAWP) at the 24th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in December 2018 for operationalization of the Paris Agreement, 2015; We also welcome the decisions of the Climate Ambition Summit in December 2020 and the Climate Adaptation Summit in January 2021;
3. *Invite* Members of APA parliaments to be mindful of the right to an ecologically-balanced environment;
4. *Urge* Member Parliaments to modify, or enact, laws according to their respective needs to enforce strict protection of natural habitats and environment, as well as people, threatened by environmental deterioration;
5. *Call* upon all Member Parliaments to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of targeted development programs through coordination efforts, including by UNDP;
6. *Call* upon APA Member countries to take more concrete steps for public awareness concerning environmental protection and facilitating implementation of a global-scale system of interconnected collective and national efforts to mitigate negative anthropogenic impact on climate with a view to achieving sustainable development;
7. *Urge* APA Parliaments to support Sustainable Development Goals more actively with regard to environmental issues by adopting appropriate legislations;
8. *Call on* APA member countries to uphold rule of law on environmental issues and to share good practices on that matter;
9. *Invite* the APA Member Parliaments to proceed with legislation and other legal actions deemed appropriate and instrumental in encouraging the governments to formulate and implement legislations, policies and measures with regard to the following:
 - Integrating climate policies in broader development policies with a view to making implementation and overcoming barriers easier as appropriate;
 - Financing and encouraging R&D for low carbon or cleaner technologies with a view to stimulating technological advances, reduce costs, and enable progress toward stabilization;

- Legalizing the necessity of observing the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) as a step towards bringing a balance between the three pillars of sustainable development namely: economic growth, social development and environmental protection;
 - Encouraging the maximum possible interaction, coordination, integrity and solidarity among Asian delegations involved in climate change negotiations with a view to providing for a collective wisdom by Asia as their common interests which in turn shall strengthen Asian regionalism and contribute to the cause of an Asian integration;
 - Interacting with and make collective attempts with other Asian States Parties for pushing the environmental priorities and urgencies of Asia within the agenda of financial and technological mechanisms of environment related instruments such as Global Environmental Facility(GEF), those operating within UNEP and the established technological and financial mechanisms in Durban in 2011;
10. *Invite* APA Member Parliaments to exchange experiences and best practices on environmental issues and provide, data and information concerning issues related to sustainable development, climate change and other environment related major issues to the Secretariat to be compiled in a database for the reference and use by all Member Parliaments;
 11. *Invite* also APA Member Parliaments who are in a position to do so, to provide means of implementation including finances, technology development and transfer, and capacity building support to APA members in their efforts to combat climate change and drought, desertification, land degradation, sand and dust storms forest fire, and air pollution;
 12. *Call on* APA Member Parliament to urge their respective governments to implement projects and programs in line with their contribution/commitments as mentioned in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs); in line with the Paris Agreement as appropriate; and intensifying qualitative environmental campaigns with the development of preventive and remedial environmental plans;
 13. *Urge* APA Member Parliaments to support the objectives of the Paris Agreement on mitigation, adaptation, finance support, technology transfer and capacity building, early complete the system of law and policy in line with international commitment in response to climate change as appropriate;
 14. *Note* with concern that the estimated aggregate greenhouse gas emission levels in 2025 and 2030 resulting from the nationally determined contributions do not fall within least-cost 2°C scenarios;
 15. *Recommend* action be taken by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) within existing framework to assist the Asian region and especially its developing nations on

the basis of equity with mitigating the effects of climate change and protecting natural resources in order to ensure a healthy environment for future generations to promote mitigation, as appropriate and adapt to the increasing effects of climate change and the protection of natural resources;

16. *Call* upon APA to expand partnership with countries and partners outside the region, particularly the European Union, to exchange information on climate change, and natural disaster, mobilized financial resources to invest in project related to clean and energy saving technologies, and establish a research center in Asia to provide aid to the developing Asian countries in support for national policy programs with regards to sustainable Information and Communication Technology (ICT);
17. *Recommend* APA Members to deliberate the mechanism for an Asia wide response in times of natural disasters and calamities to provide timely aid and rescue to those in need of help;
18. *Call on* the parliaments of Asian countries to make among the priorities of the response and recovery programs from the Covid-19 pandemic to inject the required investments to accelerate the removal of carbon from Asian economies, the shift to economic patterns that are less harmful to the environment, the expansion of green economy and the recycling economy, renewable and sustainable energy sources, and the application of sustainable climate measures in fulfillment of the Paris Agreement requirements to combat climate change;
19. *Request* APA Member Parliaments who are in a position to do so to offer advice and support to the other members on how to acquire and effectively utilize the tools to combat economic shocks resulting from climate change, such as damage to property and infrastructure, lost productivity, and coping costs through the preparation of sustainable policies pertaining to disaster preparation programs with special attention given to the needs of the rural population; rain water harvesting; green roofs; river embankment strengthening; food silos; early warning systems; and information and communication technology to facilitate information sharing;
20. *Request* the Secretary General to seek views of APA Member Parliaments on the implementation of the present resolution and report there on to the next session of the Standing-Committee in 2021.



Draft Resolution on Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA resolution on Ramification of International Financial Crisis for the Economies of Countries of APA Member Parliaments, APA/Res/2015/13 and other relevant APA resolutions;

Expressing concern on repercussions of the sovereign defaults and financial markets volatility to the economic growth in APA countries;

Also Expressing concern on the adverse impact of the continuing fragility of the global economy, the slow pace of the restoration of global growth and trade, increasing protectionism and inward-looking policies, with increasing systemic risks that threaten financial stability, including in developing countries.

Noting that a social order based on justice and egalitarianism is of critical importance to accelerate social and economic progress everywhere, help in achieving international peace and harmony;

Appreciating the measures that have already been taken by Asian Parliaments and their governments to contain the negative impacts of economic crisis in their economies, and expect them to take further steps to stimulate their respective economies;

Noting that the economic growth in Asian Economies has not been shared equally in the society whereby the Gini Coefficient, as reported by the Asian Development Bank, has grown significantly over the past decades and that regional cooperation which have already existed in Asia could serve as a platform for enhancing cooperation among sub regional economic organization that would improve welfare for all in Asia;

Noting that peace and stability in the region is an important contributor to economic growth and that occupation, violence and political instability act as inhibitors for economic development and that maintaining regional collaboration on political stability is crucial;

Recognizing also the necessity to effectively reform the current global financial architecture so as to achieve a more balanced world economic and financial order;

Encouraging parliaments to adopt policies through enactment of law and legislations, their legislative and scrutiny roles aiming to enhance the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and the role of the private sector and increasing its contribution to economic integration, in

order to create the appropriate job and jobs opportunities to achieve a comprehensive economic development on human and financial levels in Asia;

Emphasizing that the international financial system should bolster sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, sustainable development and job creation, promote financial inclusion and support efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, while allowing for the coherent mobilization of all sources of financing for development.

Also Emphasizing on the role of the private sector by influencing national expenditure policies through the roles of parliaments, particularly with regard to discussions and approval of budgets and financial accounts, as well as the adoption of investment laws and the provision of incentives and guarantees for private sector growth;

We therefore,

1. **Call** upon Asian governments to adopt new policy approaches to develop a more comprehensive and innovative growth strategies needed to sustain a more resilient, balanced, sustainable and inclusive economic growth as necessary means to create decent jobs and reduce inequalities to promote the formation of a regional SME's network;
2. **Urge** Member Parliaments to remove all obstacles to socio-economic progress and all forms of discriminations,
3. **Call upon** APA Parliaments to ensure by all means, respect for the dignity and value of all human beings and ensure adherence to human rights and social justice by legislative and oversight means, ensuring equality of opportunity for all;
4. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to work on an informal debate at APA platform on the potential benefits of social justice in their respective countries and promote greater cooperation for equitable economic development in Asia;
5. **Call upon** APA member parliaments to support the development of Asian-led multilateral bank and its capacity to promote equitable economic growth, improve national and trans-boundary connectivity and to seek possible establishment of a regional stabilization fund in times of economic crisis;
6. **Encourage** APA member governments to create a protocol to enhance resilience to economic crisis which regulates the allocation for some budget reserves for economic crisis mitigation;
7. **Also encourage** APA member governments to promote cross-border private investments while ensuring an institutional capacity and prudent regulatory frame work to enable countries to absorb large capital flows, while at the same time using bilateral swap arrangement to promote the role of local currency in

financing cross-border trade;

8. **Urge** APA Member Legislatures to promote social justice and development in their respective policies as a common interest of all nations of Asia by encouraging, promoting and endorsing national and regional efforts and execute developmental plans and strategies to raise the living standards of people;
9. **Recommend** APA Member Parliaments to promote adoption of Basel III to improve supervision on financial sector governance and to fill any financial gap in case of any monetary crises.
10. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and focus on policies that alleviate poverty, including improving access to health, education, capital, employment and social protection to help close income inequalities;
11. **Call on** APA member parliaments to consider reviewing their respective legislations, where appropriate, to give more support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by giving access to low interest credit loan and to provide capacity building and regional networking to integrate SMEs into regional and global value chains;
12. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to support financial inclusion for the poor and other vulnerable segments of society in each respective country and to share best practices of financial inclusion in the region;
13. **Also Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to support the conduct of comprehensive studies, with regional and global coordination regarding weak community groups, in the support of the need for the financial integration of the underprivileged.
14. **Stress** the importance of investing in human development and activate the concept of partnership among member states and to provide sufficient public funding for education and health for everyone, without discrimination, to face the future global and Asian economic demands;
15. **Stress** the critical importance of a stable, inclusive and enabling global economic environment for the advancement of sustainable development, for the reliable and effective financing of development and for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, mobilizing public and private, as well as domestic and international resources.
16. **Request** the APA Member governments to channel more funds in joint research and development (R&D) activities as a means to spur innovation and viable economic growth strategies to sustain a more resilient economic growth;
17. **Also request** the APA Member governments to promote the implementation of low carbon economy despite the global economy deceleration;

18. **Call** upon the APA Member Parliaments to continuously promote the need for reform in global financial institutions and architecture, financial technology regulation, with the view for a balanced world economic and financial order;
19. **Call Upon** APA member countries to strive to create an enabling institutional and business environment that can promote financial stability, financial inclusion, and efficient mobilization and utilization of the available resources;
20. **Recommend** establishment of a Technical Working Group so as to study the terminology issues related to green funding, classification of relevant financial instruments, methodology for standardizing such instruments and their subsequent certification;
21. **Call Upon** APA member countries to facilitate investing their sovereign funds and encourage their private investors to invest more in Asia and to create an appropriate and attractive environment for Asian investment;
22. **Strongly Express Its Concern** to the use of sanctions or any mechanisms of financial and economic pressure on APA Member States applied for political purposes;
23. **Request** the Secretary General to seek the views of APA Member Parliaments on the implementation of the present resolution and report there on to the next session of the Standing-Committee in 2018;



Draft Resolution on Poverty Eradication

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution on Alleviating Poverty in Asia (APA/Res/2015/08) adopted at the 8th APA Plenary in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, December 2015 and other relevant APA resolutions,

Underlining the significance of the role of Parliaments both in advocating and oversight of achievements of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially on Poverty Eradication,

Welcoming the High-level Plenary meeting of the U.N. General-Assembly on the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015 and its outcome; entitled as “Transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development”, in particular referring to goal 2 of sustainable development to eradicate hunger, enhance food security and improve nutrition by promoting sustainable agriculture,

Reaffirming that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and strategies cannot be overemphasized in the poverty eradication; articulating that SDGs are interconnected and the role of economic growth is fundamental to poverty eradication, so much as investing in health and education,

Welcoming bilateral, triangular, regional and multilateral cooperation to eradicate poverty, create jobs, address the consequences of international financial crises, promote sustainable development, and advance market-based industrial transformation and economic diversification,

Underlining the fact that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions is an ethical, social, political, environmental and economic imperative of all humankind, and in this regard recognizing that there is a need to better understand and address the multidimensional nature of development and poverty in a multifaceted and integrated approach,

Emphasizing that the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development depends crucially on the transformation of rural areas, where most of the poor and hungry live,

Recalling that nearly 80 per cent of the extreme poor live in rural areas and work in agriculture and that devoting resources to the development of rural areas and sustainable agriculture and supporting smallholder farmers, especially women farmers, is key to ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions by, inter alia, improving the welfare of farmers,

Stressing at the same time the need for enhanced international cooperation on poverty eradication, and the obligation of developed countries to provide financial, technical and capacity building assistance along with support in the form of trade, investment and technological transfer to developing countries,

Realizing fully that the negative repercussions of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic have led to a sharp rise in unemployment rates, decline in production rates, lower growth rates, increased poverty and low development indicators, and that they have pushed millions of people in various countries of the continent into extreme poverty due to the sharp decline in economic activities, and that their effects have disproportionately affected the most vulnerable groups, especially women and children, people with disabilities, the poorest and other marginalized groups, which imposes concerted efforts by Asian countries to eradicate poverty in all its forms, being the biggest obstacle to achieving the goals sustainable development,

Noting that poverty alleviation is important to combat international terrorism, abuse of women & children and drug trafficking, arms smuggling, human trafficking, sea piracy and transnational crimes,

Acknowledging that any constraint on the political and economic development of any country would undermine the effort to poverty eradication and hamper the realization of other SDG's,

Recognizing that the SDGs balance all the three crucial dimensions of sustainable development, namely the economic, the social and the environmental,

Reaffirming that poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and its alleviation and, eventually, its eradication, is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,

Supporting also a publicity campaign to raise awareness in the society about SDG, utilizing the potentials of mass media,

Emphasizing that achieving food security requires efforts and coordination at both national and international level,

Recognizing the important role of agriculture in meeting needs of increasing world population, underlining that sustainable agriculture practices and rural development are key approaches to increase food security,

We therefore,

1. *Urge* APA Member Parliaments to work closely with their governments in the formulation and implementation of the measures which are outlined in the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development;
2. *Determine* to be more ambitious in our efforts to eradicate poverty, reduce

- inequality, ensure food security, access to healthcare and education;
3. *Develop* a developmental strategic vision in cooperation with Member Parliaments and their governments regarding poverty eradication, provided that developed vision shall contain plans with measurable and assessable indicators;
 4. *Urge* APA Member Parliaments to redouble their efforts in supporting activities of poverty eradication and encourage their respective governments to facilitate the implementation of effective policies to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
 5. *Urge* APA Member Parliaments to create awareness among general public about the importance of sustainable food consumption and production and take possible steps to ensure it and harness all parliamentary efforts to enact laws that work for the interest of food security;
 6. *Invite* APA Member Parliaments to adopt necessary legislation to:
 - a) improve labor market regulations;
 - b) support the informal sector and offering increased security to it;
 - c) establish legal savings and loan associations that can help to reduce the reliance on moneylenders;
 - d) promote modern agriculture which contributes essentially to reduction of poverty in urban and rural areas;
 - e) empower the poor to improve their living conditions and participate in decision-making which affects their lives;
 - f) help to upgrade the infrastructure and services in areas where the poor live and work with emphasis on creating better opportunities for the poor especially girls, which will contribute to increased female labor force participation;
 - g) improve disaster preparedness, disaster relief as well as post-disaster economic recovery;
 7. *Stress* the necessity to adopt strategies to improve life quality, offer higher levels of welfare, by developing necessary policies and laws to force establishments to comply with environmental regulations; to support the development of local technology, research and innovation, taking into consideration the obligations highlighted by the 21st Century Agenda, the Global Summit on SDGs, and UN Environment Program;
 8. *Encourage* APA Member Parliaments to support investment in climate resilient

agriculture and to adopt a unified approach to combat hunger by promoting public and private investments, increased access to inputs, lands and technologies;

9. *Invite* APA Member Parliaments to take appropriate legislative measures for poverty alleviation including providing social safety nets to the poor and the vulnerable;
10. *Recommend* APA Member Parliaments to support and strengthen the capacities of government and communities to prepare for and respond to acute hunger arising from disasters through community based on adaptation;
11. *Encourage* APA Member Parliaments to take joint action to organize aid campaigns, on a voluntary basis upon the request of a Member Parliament, for assistance in the context of alleviating poverty including to enhance domestic production of food by participating in agricultural technologies and training programs;
12. *Urge* APA Member States to give significance to development of sustainable agriculture practices while making national policies, to achieve Sustainable Development Goals;
13. *Call* for increased cooperation between developed and developing member countries for improving food security by means of bilateral, regional and multilateral information sharing, especially in an area of sustainable agricultural technology;
14. *Stress* the significance of women participation and contribution in agriculture sector for improving productivity, food security and eliminating poverty;
15. *Stress* the need to enhance and expand access by developing countries to appropriate technologies that are pro-poor and raise productivity and underlines the need for measures to increase investment in agriculture, including modern technologies as well as in natural resources management and capacity-building of the developing countries;
16. *Stress* that the achievement of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty also hinge on the ability and readiness of countries to effectively mobilize domestic resources, attract foreign direct investment, fulfil official development assistance commitments and use official development assistance effectively and facilitate the transfer of technology to developing countries, on mutually agreed terms;
17. *Affirm* the need for the parliaments of Asian countries, in the process of approving and recovering from the policies of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, to place the fight against poverty at the heart of response and recovery programs and policies, so that they introduce legislative amendments and approve financial allocations that achieve this goal, and to ensure that response recovery

programs are in the interest of the poor, and in an effort to raise their standard of living and to enhance their access to economic resources, basic services, natural resources, appropriate new technology, and financial services, including microfinance;

18. *Request* the Secretary General to request in his turn the Member Parliaments to offer their views regarding the efforts exerted for the implementation of this Resolution, and submit their reports before the next meeting of the Standing Committee 2021.



Draft Resolution on “The Role of APA Parliaments in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals”

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Acknowledging the outcome document of the United Nations Summit for the adoption of Post-2015 Development Agenda entitled “*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,*” adopted in September 2015,

Referring to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Hanoi Declaration on The Sustainable Development Goals: Turning Words into Action, adopted at its 132nd Assembly, held in Hanoi, Vietnam, March 2015; and other relevant inter-parliamentary organizations resolutions,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Being convinced that the SDGs are integrated and indivisible, global in nature and universally applicable, upholding the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, taking into account different national capacities, levels of development, and respecting national policies and priorities,

Underlining that strong political will and leadership of the parliaments and governments are essential for the achievement of the SDGs,

Emphasizing the need for a solidarity among governments, parliaments and the people to recognize the importance of the development particularly in the areas of health, education, housing, food security, nutrition and environmental sustainability,

Noting the significant progress made by countries in strengthening their public-private partnership readiness and institutional capacities through legislation and establishment of public-private partnership units in relevant government departments,

Welcoming the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals Commission in each

Asian parliaments as the best practices to pursue the objectives of the SDGs at national level,

Bearing in mind that the unprecedented outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the disastrous effects it has caused throughout the world, have made achieving the sustainable development goals more difficult, given that the economic, social and humanitarian impacts resulting from the pandemic have eroded the efforts made at the level of the Asian continent to achieve the sustainable development goals, and therefore most Asian governments alone will not be able to reverse that impact, which requires uniting their efforts and mobilizing their resources in order to achieve the sustainable development goals,

Noting that, over the course of thirty years, human development rates have been achieving gains year by year at an average global level, but the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the health, education and income levels has changed this continuous trend of gains and has even reversed it in many Asian countries, whereas many countries are witnessing a significant decline in the areas of basic human development, in the largest decline ever recorded,

We therefore,

1. *Endorse* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the outcome document of the UN Summit which adopted the SDGs as the new development frame work for 2015- 2030. The list of the SDGs is annexed;
2. *Urge* APA Member Parliaments to uphold Parliamentary Diplomacy as an instrument to improve the implementation of SDG's in general and APA priorities including environmental protection, poverty eradication, protection of the safety of energy market in Asia, economic growth of APA Member States and preventing of Water crisis in particular;
3. *Invite* APA Members States to review and assess opportunities and legislative gaps to engage the private sector to invest in infrastructure on a sustainable basis;
4. *Call upon* Member Parliaments to develop strategies in support of government efforts regarding SDGs, and how to expand the use of clean and renewable energy such as solar, hydro and wind energy;
5. *Decide* to be actively involved in the integration of SDGs into national development programs and the formulation of national policies to support the mainstreaming and implementation of SDGs;
6. *Invite* APA members to involve all actors in sustainable development consideration to ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation process;
7. *Urge* the Asian Parliaments to contribute to the national efforts towards achieving the SDGs including through the establishment of the appropriate mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development

Agenda at national level;

8. *Recommend* to Asian Parliaments and Governments to consider establishing an Asian information center in order to provide independent, scientific and reliable data and analytical information in reference to sustainable development indicators;
9. *Call upon* APA Members to provide adequate budgetary resources and adopt legislations which are relevant to support and monitor the successful implementation of the SDGs;
10. *Resolve* to strengthen the role of national parliaments in promoting of SDGs so that people understand that the SDGs are relevant to their lives;
11. *Request* the Standing Committees of APA to deliberate in a comprehensive manner issues of SDGs which are relevant to the work of their committees;
12. *Recognize* Parliaments role in the private sector, by promoting national expenditure policies, through parliament's regulatory roles, particularly regarding the discussion and adoption of budgets and final accounts, and for the endorsement of investment laws, supply of sufficient incentives and securities for private sector growth;
13. *Stress* the importance to develop data and indicators to setup a proper follow-up mechanism on the implementation of SDGs and the need to strengthen statistical capacities of all countries to support the progress;
14. *Call upon* parliaments to contribute, through its roles, to highlight the priority to the enhancement of sustainable agriculture as food security, will constitute the most insisting problem of future sustainable development objectives;
15. *Urge* Asian governments to engage in bilateral, regional or multilateral partnerships in order to build infrastructures and sustainable development projects, using governmental and sovereign funds;
16. *Circulate and exchange* the experiences, procedures and measures that represent successful models in the field of sustainable development among all members of the association in order to benefit, replicate, build upon and be guided by them;
17. *Call Upon* APA member states to strengthen regional economic cooperation and integration to enhance regional connectivity in supporting the implementation of the SDGs;
18. *Call on* Asian countries to adopt a coordinated and comprehensive multilateral response in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic that puts the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals back on track; Under the leadership, insight, innovation and adequate, coordinated and coherent financing, and cooperation between all governments and stakeholders, and with the participation of the United Nations bodies and other relevant intergovernmental and regional bodies,

and relevant civil society institutions, affirming the principle of partnership and joint Asian ownership;

19. *Request* all APA Member Parliaments to report their achievements in the implementation of the SDGs to the APA Secretariat in order to provide information for further discussion in the next Economic and Sustainable Development Standing Committee upcoming meetings.

Sustainable Development Goals

- Goal 1 End poverty in all its forms every where
- Goal 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promotes sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10 Reduce in equality within and among countries
- Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*
- Goal 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institution sat all levels
- Goal 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

*acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change



Draft Resolution on Water and Sanitation in Asia for All

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recognizing the outcome document of the United Nations Summit for the adoption of Post-2015 Development Agenda entitled “*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*,” adopted in September 2015;

Recalling United Nations’ General Assembly resolution (A/64/292) adopted on 28th July 2010, which formally recognized water and sanitation as human rights and UN Human Rights Council resolution (A/HRC/RES/18/1) adopted on the 28 September 2011, recognizing that the right to water and sanitation are part of the right to an adequate standard of living;

Welcoming the SDG goal 6 on ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, including universal and equitable access to drinking water, sustainable water resources management and wastewater treatment, providing a further anchor for sustainability in the water governance field;

Noting with interest relevant commitments and initiatives promoting the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, including the Abuja Declaration, adopted at the first Africa-South America Summit, in 2006, the Delhi Declaration, adopted at the third South Asian Conference on Sanitation, in 2008, the Sharm el-Sheikh Final Document, adopted at the Fifteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, in 2009, and the Colombo Declaration, adopted at the fourth South Asian Conference on Sanitation, in 2011;

Deeply concerned that approximately one billion people across Asia could face severe water shortage by 2050;

Stressing upon the need for Asian Governments to focus in national policies on water and sanitation issues and contribute towards international efforts in resolving these issues;

We therefore,

1. **Welcome** the inclusion of water and sanitation in Post-2015 Development Agenda and the acceptance of human right to safe drinking water and sanitation by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council;
2. **Consider** the role of Parliamentarian critical in the implementation of human rights approach to water and sanitation in Asia, including particularly the adoption of legislative measures in the implementation of their human rights obligations;
3. **Reaffirm** that APA Member States have the primary responsibility to ensure the full realization of SDGs including Goal 6, and must take steps,

nationally and through international assistance and cooperation, especially economic and technical, to the sanitation by all appropriate means;

4. **Request** Member Parliaments to urge their respective governments to cooperate with their regions to discuss the water scarcity challenge all over Asian countries and to study in depth the causes of the water scarcity and to provide appropriate solutions and strategies to overcome this challenge;
5. **Request** the APA Member States to ensure financing according to the available resources for the provision of affordable water and sanitation, and to develop indicators and data collection mechanisms to monitor progress and to identify shortcomings;
6. **Encourage** integrated water resource planning and management¹ for reducing widespread scarcity and pollution of freshwater resources in many regions and give priority to the fulfillment of basic needs and safeguarding of ecosystems in developing and using water resources;
7. **Urge** APA Parliamentarians to vigorously engage with their governments' executives on building inclusive frameworks between States for reduction of climate change impacts. These climate change impacts have severe consequences in the shape of water scarcity and flooding;
8. **Ask** APA Members to support advance technology transfers from developed countries to the developing countries of Asia and sharing of good practices for efficient allocation of water;
9. **Underline** the important role of the international cooperation provided by the United Nations, international development partners, as well as by donor agencies, in the achievement of the SDGs, and urges development partners to harmonize their strategies with the national initiatives and plans of APA Members related to safe drinking water and sanitation;
10. **Adopt** awareness programs by Member States parliaments to inform their citizens about the problem of water scarcity in order to reduce their wastefulness, prevent pollution or waste, and limit their use to the necessary human needs without any other uses;
11. **Propose to establish** an open ended group in the context of this Resolution to discuss continuously the different dimensions of Water Crisis in Asia and use the Parliamentary Diplomacy among APA States in this region to properly address the disastrous life of the peoples of this region and protect the safety of the environment;
12. **Request** the Secretary-General to report, the achievement of APA Member Parliaments on this resolution, to the next Standing Committee on Sustainable Development.

¹ **Integrated water resources management (IWRM)** has been defined by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) as "a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems".



Draft Resolution on Adopting a Road Map Providing for Measures to Stimulate Green Finance

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the decisions taken by the Working Group on Green Finance (19 April 2019, Naryan-Mar Russia), Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development (26 June 2018, Pissouri, Cyprus), as well as the final results of development and consideration of a Road Map providing for measures to stimulate Green Finance that is prepared in pursuit of implementing the mentioned decisions,

Recommend

1. To approve and adopt for implementation a Road Map providing for measures to stimulate Green Finance within the APA member-countries contour,
2. To establish the **Asian Climate Financial Initiative (ACFI)**, an international information and methodology center, in order to build and further the process of information and methodological support for developing the Green Finance system within the APA member-countries contour and to arrange the works on verification, certification and introduction of a combined register of the Green Finance instruments,
3. To establish the APA Supervisory Board to involve organization's members for coordinating and monitoring the **ACFI** activity and strategic development,

Call on the APA member-parliaments and governments to contribute to engaging in the joint work within the **Asian Climate Financial Initiative** the national agencies working in the field of Green Finance and central banks, ministries of ecology and other government institutions jointly with professional community empowered with the matters of Green Finance.



Draft Resolution on Asian Climate Financial Initiative

We, the members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Supporting the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including goal 17 on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, adopted by country leaders in September 2015 for a more prosperous future, and through this movement towards prosperity, greater public welfare and the protection of the planet, and in pursuance of the Resolutions of the APA Committee for Sustainable Development and Economy in The Declaration, adopted in Antalya on December 16, 2019, on the approval of a roadmap to provide incentive measures for green finance, the creation of a common Asian energy market, as well as the role of APA parliaments in supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Approving the Agenda for Sustainable Development for the period till 2030, the outcome document of the UN Summit, where the SDGs accepted new development framework for 2015-2030 and convincing that the SDGs are global in nature and universally applicable, taking into account different national capacities and priorities,

Noting the important role of Asia in the recovery of the global economy and its further development in the post-crisis space, as well as the key role of environmental quality in sustainable development and meeting the needs of the growing world population, especially Asian countries,

Striving to achieve economic growth and poverty reduction through job creation, social development and environmental protection in a balanced and mutually supportive manner as appropriate,

Recognizing the critical problem of climate change and the need for large-scale funding of measures to mitigate the harmful effects of human economic activity on the environment, as well as joint actions to reduce the use of fossil fuels and reduce anthropogenic pressure on the planet's ecosystem, as appropriate including by strengthening adaptation measures,

Emphasizing the value of natural capital, the need for a long-term strategy to combat drought, sand and dust storms, forest fires, air pollution, desertification, land degradation and degradation of marine flora and fauna and encouraging increased investment in infrastructure while meeting increased environmental requirements,

Recognizing the importance of exchanging information on environmental issues among Asian countries and improving disclosure standards on environmental and climate risks for the development of long-term environmental investment with private capital,

Emphasizing the role of parliaments in encouraging their governments to develop plans and strategies to green economy in according to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030,

Announcing the establishment of the Asian Climate Financial Initiative which brings together the principles, approaches, intentions and actions common to all countries across the Asian Parliamentary Assembly with regard to financing sustainable green growth in Asia,

We therefore,

1. *Call on* the efforts of states, businesses and institutional investors to develop and launch financial programs, including finance mobilization from developed to developing countries mechanisms and tools that promote the growth of environmental and climate finance in order to reduce accumulated environmental damage, prevent environmental pollution and reduce anthropogenic impact on human health and the planet's climate;
2. *Support on* an ongoing basis a program of in-depth researches and analysis of the impact of Asian natural assets that absorb and compensate the harmful effects of human economic activities on the environment and climate at the global level;
3. *Recommend* that the compensatory potential of Asian natural capital is taken into account at the global level, as part of measures to limit greenhouse gas emissions and the contribution to reducing the harmful impact on the climate and the environment of the APA countries results of actions, including improving energy efficiency of economies, promoting reforestation, increasing the share of green technologies in the economy and the development of green financial instruments, including transitional formats through providing finance, technology and capacity-building assistance for developing countries;
4. *Encourage* APA Member Parliaments to establish a Supervisory Council composed of the representatives of APA Member-States so as to coordinate and monitor ACFI activities and its strategic development; provided that developed initiatives and plans shall contain plans with measurable and assessable indicators;
5. *Invite to* organize a study of best practices and exchange of experience between countries in the APA outline on the terms of financing sustainable development, development of programs to support and stimulate the issuance and circulation of green financial instruments;
6. *Urge* the development of a taxonomy of sustainable economic activities, including those that ensure the transformation of the economy, formulate general

principles and model methods for assessing adaptive or replacing segments of the green economy, provide methodological support for the development of national green financing systems, including issues of standardization of financial instruments and their verification;

7. *Also recommend* the creation of parliamentary commissions for legislative and regulatory support for the development of green finance systems at the national levels, to use and to disseminate effective practices for regulating and stimulating green investments from both institutional investors and individuals;
8. *Call for* the promotion of the development of standards and rules for public disclosure of information by issuers of green bonds and other financial instruments, whose funds are attracted for the purposes of investing in projects and programs of sustainable development, as well as standards for responsible investment by financial market participants, as appropriate;
9. *Encourage* the expansion of partnerships and pursue consistent policy with recognized international centers for standardization and monitoring of information on green and climate finance, to ensure synchronization of approaches and mutual recognition of methodologies and practices;
10. *Recommend* creating an international information and methodological center of the Asian Climate Finance Initiative (ACFI) with the aim of providing information and methodological support for the development of the green finance system within the APA member countries and organizing verification, certification and maintenance of a joint register of green finance instruments;
11. *Also recommend* the governments of APA member states to consider the possibility of creating an information and methodological center of ACFI as a permanent institution for the implementation of this initiative on the basis of an intergovernmental agreement.