

Resolutions of the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development

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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 respective commitments on reducing the adverse effects of climate change taking into account the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the light of different national circumstances, 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 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 greenhouse emissions, and the creation of competitive markets for sustainable and low-emission 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 liberalization 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 competitive Energy Market, and coordinate between the government and private sectors in a bid to create partnerships that supports the promotion of economic prosperity in Asia;
3. **Support** the sustainable development, in a comprehensive manner and promote the investment in infrastructure and the use of technology that helps in improving alternative energy resources and address climate change;
4. **Call also** for emphasizing the importance of renewable and low-emission 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, in technology transfer and development, as well as in the optimal utilization of their natural resources, this can only be realized by achieving the optimal use of clean natural energy resources and exporting the surplus to other Asian countries 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 Covid-19 pandemic, as well as when developing legislation and approving governmental 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;
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.



Resolution on Environmental Issues

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, the United Nations Climate Action Summit in September 2019, the Climate Aspiration Summit in December 2020, and the Climate Adaptation Summit in January 2021;

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 and other relevant APA resolutions;

Welcoming the Report of the APA 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 developing countries of Asia which are facing adverse consequences of climate change;

Recognizing the need to pursue the sustainable development with its three pillars 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 –United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris agreement, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development among others is linked with global sustainable development agenda;

Recalling the preambular paragraph in the Paris Agreement that recognizes that sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production, with developed country Parties taking the lead, play an important role in addressing climate change;

Reiterating the importance of transition to sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production efforts to address climate change, as noted in the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan from the 27th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC in November 2022;

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 fires, 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;

Warning that the establishment of many and various economic projects exhausts the environment, whether through the use of non-renewable resource or through the waste or pollution caused by these projects. Therefore, sustainable development takes into account the safety of the environment and gives equal and parallel attention to environmental conditions together with other economic and social conditions. As well as that, environmental protection and balanced use of natural resources are an integral part of the sustainable development process, as it is one of the seventeen goals of sustainable development;

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 2023 climate action by developing country Parties, and we urge developed countries to honor their unfulfilled climate finance obligations, and to commit to their new collective quantified goal that goes well beyond the floor of USD 100 billion per year;

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 unimpeded technology transfer and financing from developed to developing countries;

Emphasizing that substantive involvement of APA in exchange of views among Member Parliaments on climate-related issues and striving for bringing as much coordination and collaboration as possible with 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 fires, air and water 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 and regional capacity to promote sustainable management of the environment and in the implementation of programs that take into account environmental considerations;

Highlighting the need to uphold and promote regional and international cooperation and to eliminate unilateral measures and green barriers, with adequate provision of means implementation and support by developed countries in order to mobilize stronger and more ambitious actions in mitigation and adaptation efforts by all Parties and non-Party stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, academia, 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 should preserve and conserve environment and that any ecological and environmental damage should be examined, according to parties' respective laws and regulations and reflecting 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 and the Paris Agreement 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 action plans and strategies in terms of developing solutions to environmental issues and supporting sustainable development goals in order to ensure greater transparency and accountability at both the national and the global levels;

Bearing in mind importance of encouraging parliaments to call on their governments to consider and give positive consideration on international resolutions established to protect the environment, and to confront climate changes and support the action plan to achieve the goals of sustainable development;

Emphasizing the importance of investing in scientific research and studies that would provide science-based evidence for decision-making processes solutions to address environmental issues, and the importance of investing in modern technology and innovation to reduce negative environmental impact 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. **Welcome** 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 human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment according to the UNGA76 the right to development and an ecologically-balanced environment;
4. **Calls upon** APA Member countries to consider taking steps, as suitable as per local circumstances, towards promotion of awareness and incentivizing adoption of sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption;
5. **Urge** Member Parliaments to modify, or enact, laws according to their respective priorities needs and circumstances to enforce effective protection of natural habitats and environment, as well as people, threatened by environmental deterioration; Support the goals of sustainable development more effectively with regard to environmental issues through the adoption of appropriate legislation for this purpose;
6. **Call upon** all Member Parliaments to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of targeted development programs through coordination with, inter alia, agencies within the UN Development System, especially UNDP efforts;
7. **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 and adapt to negative anthropogenic impact on climate and to adapt to the adverse

impacts of climate change with a view to achieving sustainable development;

8. **Urge** APA Parliaments to support Sustainable Development Goals more actively with regard to environmental issues by adopting appropriate legislations;
9. **Call on** APA member countries to uphold rule of law on environmental issues and to share good practices on that matter;
10. **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 easier and overcoming barriers 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 with a view to providing for a collective wisdom and support by Asia as their common interests which in turn shall strengthen Asian cooperation, partnership and 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 as well as the ways to remove the barriers which hampers unimpeded access to financial support within the agenda of financial and technological mechanisms of environment related instruments such as Global Environmental Facility(GEF) and Green Climate Fund (GCF), those operating within UNEP and the established technological and financial mechanisms in Durban in 2011;
11. **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 major environment related issues to the Secretariat to be compiled in a database for the reference and use by all Member Parliaments;
12. **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 fires, and air and water pollution and non-biodegradable marine debris;

13. **Call on** APA Member Parliament to urge their respective governments to implement projects and programs in line with their actions/measures 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;
14. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to support the objectives of the Paris Agreement on mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, finance support, technology transfer and capacity building, in line with international commitment in response to climate change as appropriate;
15. **Recommend** action be taken by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) within existing framework to assist the Asian region and especially its developing nations through an unimpeded access to its financial resources on the basis of equity common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in their climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts 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 disasters, 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 taking into account the role and contributions of Asian and Pacific Center for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM), a regional institution of the UNESCAP to deliberate a 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 low emission economies, the shift to economic patterns that are less harmful to the environment, the expansion of green economy and the recycling economy, renewable, low-emission and sustainable energy sources, and the application of measures in fulfillment of the Paris Agreement;
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; science based methodologies and programs to combat dust and sand storms; 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 2024.



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, the unilateral coercive measures and unlawful economic restrictions, and the increasing systemic risks that threaten financial stability;

Noting that a social order based on justice and equality 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 many 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 organizations that would improve welfare for all in Asia;

Noting that peace and stability in the region is an important contributor to economic growth while 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 and giving increasing voice to developing countries in global financial institutions;

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;

Recognizing that a sustainable and inclusive development and economic growth are achieved when all nations equally enjoy opportunities to thrive and prosper and when no State seizes such opportunity to the detriment of the others;

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 policy approaches to develop a comprehensive and innovative growth strategies needed to sustain a 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, respect for the dignity and value of all human beings and ensure adherence to human rights particularly the right to development 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 development 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 based on their national requirements 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 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 as well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for 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 people in vulnerable situations 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 vulnerable situations, in the support of the need for the financial integration of the underprivileged;
 14. **Recognize** the right to development and 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 and the means of implementation including capacity building technology transfer and financial support 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 at reasonable costs;
 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. **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 with

more participation from developing countries;

18. **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;
19. **Recommend** respective governments to establish 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;
20. **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;
21. **Strongly condemns** the use of sanctions or any mechanisms of financial and economic pressure on APA Member States applied for political purposes in violations of the international law and UN charter;
22. **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 2024.



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 conducting oversight function to ensure 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 overlooked 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, trilateral, 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, including through the development of cultural and creative industries and sustainable tourism;

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 three dimensional 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 persons in the most vulnerable situations especially women and children, people with disabilities, the poorest and other economically most disadvantaged groups in vulnerable situations in vulnerable situation, which imposes concerted efforts by Asian countries to eradicate poverty in all its forms, being the biggest obstacle to achieving the sustainable development goals;

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 as well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for 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 and sustainable 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 (2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development), 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 governments 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 interests 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 technologies, and financial services, including microfinance;

18. **Stress** the need to give the highest priority to poverty eradication within the framework of the United Nations development plan, and to address the problem of poverty at its roots and the challenges related to it by adopting integrated, coordinated and consistent strategies at all levels and that the member states of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly spare no effort in order to rid human beings from the degrading and inhumane conditions of extreme poverty, bearing in mind that the eradication of poverty is an issue above all other issues of sustainable development in the coming years, as it is one of the essential goals of the international community and the entire United Nations System;
19. **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 2024.



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” as well as emphasizing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for 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;

Welcoming Bali Roadmap adopted in the 3rd World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development (WPFSD) in 5 September 2019 which consists of forward-looking recommendations that represent various dimensions in addressing challenges of SDGs implementation;

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 development particularly in the areas of health, education, housing, food security, nutrition and environmental sustainability;

Emphasizing the need for Member States to address the risks of environmental degradation, which must be overcome, without abandoning the needs of economic development, and emphasizing the environmental dimension of the philosophy and content of sustainable development;

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 parliament 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. **Recommit** ourselves to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the outcome document of the UN Summit which adopted the SDGs as the new development framework 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 SDGs in general and APA priorities including environmental protection, poverty eradication, water, protection of the safety of energy market in Asia, economic growth of APA Member States;
3. **Invite** APA Member 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 as well as localizing SDGs by using national and local languages;

6. **Invite** APA members to involve all actors in sustainable development consideration to ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation process;
7. **Encourage** 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. **Call upon** international financial institutions and APA Members to provide adequate budgetary resources and adopt legislations which are relevant to support and monitor the successful implementation of the SDGs;
9. **Resolve** to strengthen the role of national parliaments in promoting of SDGs so that people understand that the SDGs are relevant to their lives;
10. **Request** the Standing Committees of APA to deliberate in a comprehensive manner issues of SDGs which are relevant to the work of their committees;
11. **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;
12. **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;
13. **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 insistent problem of future sustainable development objectives;
14. **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;
15. **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;
16. **Call Upon** APA member states to strengthen regional economic cooperation and integration to enhance regional connectivity in supporting the implementation of the SDGs;
17. **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, affirming the principle of partnership and joint Asian ownership;

18. **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



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;

Emphasizing that achieving the sixth goal of the sustainable development goals should be based on a fundamental pillar, which is that sustainable water management goes beyond just safe water supply and sanitation services (Objectives 6-1 and 6-2) and extends to addressing the broader water context such as water quality, wastewater management, water scarcity, use efficiency, water resource management, and protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems;

Stressing that one of the goals of sustainable development is also to ensure that everyone has access to adequate sanitation services and to put an end to everything that leads to water pollution and the spread of diseases that lead to hundreds of thousands of deaths due to unsafe drinking water or as a result of poor sanitation services that affect public health;

Noting with interest relevant commitments and initiatives promoting the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, including 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, thereby possibly leading to conflicts over water resources;

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 are encouraged to 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 within their regions to address the water utilization and to study in depth the causes of the water challenges and to provide appropriate solutions and strategies to overcome these challenges;
5. Encourage the APA Member States to take steps towards ensuring financing according to the available resources for the provision of affordable water and sanitation, and to develop indicators and data collection mechanisms on financing 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 executive branches to address the effects of climate change, that may manifest themselves in the form of water scarcity and flooding in different geographic areas;
8. **Encourage** 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 among sectors;
9. **Underline** the important role of the international cooperation including 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

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".

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. **Request** the Secretary-General to report, the achievement of APA Member Parliaments on this resolution, to the next Standing Committee on Sustainable Development;
12. **Promoting** the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028 which was held in New York on 22-24 March 2023 and its outcomes in accelerating actions on the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Resolution on Asian Climate Financial Initiative

We, the members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, its Kyoto Protocol and its Paris Agreement on developed countries' obligations to provide financial resources to developing countries on mitigation and adaption to climate change;

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);

Supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including goal 17 on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing 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 and the Declaration, adopted in Antalya on December 16, 2019, on the approval of a roadmap to provide incentive measures for sustainable 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;

Emphasizing the need to ensure just, balanced and sustainable energy transitions with due respect to the APA Member States' socio-economic interests and priorities;

Stressing the importance of financing efforts aimed at both emission reduction and adaptation to climate change;

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 carbon footprint of the APA Member States' systems, with adequate timely delivered and sustainable financial, capacity building and technological support from developed countries, including by strengthening adaptation measures;

Emphasizing the importance of natural resources, 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, taking into account different circumstances and developmental levels of the countries;

Emphasizing the role of parliaments in encouraging their governments to develop plans and strategies towards sustainable economy in order to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030;

We therefore,

1. **Announce** the establishment of the Asian Climate Financial Initiative (ACFI) which brings together the principles, approaches, intentions and actions common to all countries across the Asian Parliamentary Assembly with regard to financing sustainable growth in Asia;
2. **Call on** the efforts of states, businesses and institutional investors to develop and launch financial programs, including finance mobilization from developed to developing countries, discussion on the mechanisms and tools that promote the growth of timely delivered, adequate and grant based and concessional 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;
3. **Support on** an ongoing basis a program of in-depth researches and analysis of the impact of Asian natural resources that absorb and compensate the harmful effects of human economic activities on the environment and climate at the global level;
4. **Recommend** that the compensatory potential of Asian natural resources is taken into account at the global level, as part of measures to limit green-house 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 sustainable technologies in the economy and the

development of sustainable financial instruments, including transitional formats through providing finance, technology and capacity-building assistance for developing countries in a manner that does not impact the debt sustainability of the developing country adversely;

5. **Invite to** organize a study of best practices and exchange of experience between APA countries on the terms of financing sustainable development, development of programs to support and stimulate the issuance and circulation of sustainable financial instruments;
6. **Also recommend** the governments of APA Member States to consider the possibility of creating a permanent institution to promote the implementation of ACFI on the basis of intergovernmental agreement.