



APA/Res/2010/13
30 November, 2010

Resolution on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, Climate Change and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the Resolution on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, Climate Change and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia, APA/ Res/2009/10 dated 10 December 2009;

Welcoming of the Report of the Secretary-General on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia, contained in document SG/Rep/2010/10 dated 30 May 2010, to the Sub-Committee meeting on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia held in Moscow on 16-17 June 2010;

Taking note of the deliberations of the Sub-Committee on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia;

Recognizing the need to strike a balance between the economic development and protection of environment;

Emphasizing the importance of realization of sustainable development objectives and the decisions of the 1992 Rio Conference bearing in mind the existence of different capacities and conditions of Asian countries;

Stressing the importance of raising public awareness with regard the issue of sustainable development and the environmental priorities and, in this regard, *calling for* developing programs for environmental education at the national level and the design of general and specialized environmental courses for the Asian countries at the regional and continental levels;

Noting that the development and deployment of new and renewable energies constitutes an essential step towards low carbon sustainable development particularly in the developing world, and, in this context, *encouraging* adoption of new policies and measures for energy production and consumption with the aim of using new and renewable energies;

Being aware that good governance is important for combining economic development and environmental protection;

Expressing concern about the negative impacts of environmental degradation in Asia;

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

Acknowledging the importance of enhancing the role of civil society, NGOs, policy think tanks, business and academia in the protection of environmental issues through their inputs in the environmental policy formulation at the local, national and regional levels;

Being aware of resource and infrastructure constraints of Asian developing countries to fight environmental degradation;

Calling for the implementation of obligations under the 1992 Climate Change Convention, 1997 Kyoto Protocol, 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity and 1994 Convention to Combat Desertification;

Urging the formulation of national strategies, plans and programs for the sustainable use of biological diversity;

Encouraging the Commemoration of the year 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity;

Determined to prevent the destruction of forests and support their expansion and development;

Urging the formulation of a comprehensive and long-term strategy to combat desertification, thus improving the living conditions of the people living in arid areas;

Recognizing the responsibility of developed countries and international institutions to meet the special needs of Asian countries, particularly 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 environmentally sound technology from developed to developing countries;

Encouraging the private sector to play a complimentary role in promoting sustainable development in Asian countries;

Taking into consideration the negative effects of wars, conflicts and occupation on environment;

Urging the industrial countries to fulfill their commitment, especially in reducing emission;

1. *Urge* Member Parliaments to adopt the following measures:

- Establishing a commission/committee or any other suitable mechanism for sustainable development and the protection of environment in line with domestic policies;
- Moving towards a national strategy for sustainable development.
- Allocating a budget required for: a) realizing the objectives of sustainable development; b) tackling environmental crises such as drought, destruction of wetlands and forests or environmental pollution; c) implementing policies and

programs related to climate change in particular those regarding the use of energy from new and renewable sources and the change in the consumption pattern in the society including through education; d) preserving ecosystems that are on the verge of extinction or the special protected areas and e) optimal use of arid areas and those areas prone to drought .

- Expanding the parliamentary oversight on issues related to environmental programs through holding hearings.
 - Adopting new policies on development, transfer and deployment of technologies with the aim of using new and renewable energies, sustainable policies in order to address climate change, energy efficiency and to protect biological diversity.
 - Calling on the government to promote regional arrangements for the conservation of biodiversity and combating desertification.
 - Adopting measures to control greenhouse gases in accordance with international norms including the principles enshrined in the 1992 Convention on Climate Change and Kyoto Protocol.
 - Elaborating on guidelines towards an Asian Clean Energy Strategy and advising the governments to adopt necessary measures in the light of this strategy;
 - Adopting legislation to conserve biodiversity and protect wildlife and species that are on the verge of extinction.
 - Commemorating the year 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity.
2. *Recommend* APA Member Parliaments to exchange information on environmental issues among Asian countries and transferring environmental technology, in particular scientific and technical assistance, from those countries with high capabilities in the area of sustainable development to less developed countries in Asia.
 3. *Emphasize* the need for the unimpeded access of all Asian countries to advanced technologies to deal with environmental problems effectively, *reaffirm* the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities", *recognize* the responsibility of developed countries and international institutions in this regard and *encourage* them to provide financial and technical assistance to developing countries in their efforts for an environmentally sustainable development;
 4. *Invite* Member Parliaments to adopt necessary measures to enhance the role of civil society including women and young people as well as non-governmental organizations in the protection of environment through their participation in the relevant parties and fora at the local, national and regional levels for addressing environmental issues;
 5. *Call upon* Member Parliaments to provide, on a voluntary periodical and consistent basis, the data concerning issues related to sustainable development, climate change, bio-diversity and desertification to the Secretariat to be compiled in a database for the reference and use by all Member Parliaments;
 6. *Invite* Member Parliaments, in a position to do so, to offer possible assistance, technical and vocational training and environmental courses, upon request, to other APA members for the implementation of the goals and policies recommended in this resolution;
 7. *Call on* companies to compensate for the damages they have caused to the

environment in Asia;

8. *Call* to end all practices that destroy the environment which are practiced by Israel in destroying trees, especially olive trees, in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and to stop its bad exploitation of water resources in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories;
9. *Request* the Secretary General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on the implementation of the present resolution and report thereon to the next session of the Sub-Committee in 2011.