



Report of the Meeting

of

APA Sub-Committee

On

Alleviating Poverty in Asia

**Jakarta, Indonesia
12-13 June 2008**

1. The Sub-Committee on Alleviating Poverty in Asia held its 1st meeting from 12 to 13 June 2008 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Delegations composed of APA delegates and anti-poverty experts from the following 10 Member Parliaments participated in the meeting of the Sub-Committee: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, Lao PDR, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Turkey. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.
2. The Honorable, Mr. Abdillah Toha, Chairman of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation of Indonesian House of Representatives, was elected as the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee. The Honorable, Dr. Teo Ho Pin, Member of Singapore's Parliament, was elected as the Vice-Chairman of the Sub-Committee.
3. The list of documents before the Sub-Committee included:
 - Resolution on adoption of the Plan of Action on Alleviating Poverty in Asia and its Annex, APA/Res/2007/04 and APA/Res/2007/04/Annex.
 - Resolution adopted by the APA Plenary on the recommendation of the Economic and Sustainable Development Standing Committee, APA/Economic Com/2007/01.
 - Report of the Secretary-General to the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Alleviating Poverty, SG/Rep/2008/03.



4. The Report of the Secretary-General to the Sub-Committee on Alleviating Poverty in Asia contained in document SG/Rep/2008/03 had been forwarded to all APA Member Parliaments on 2 June 2008, and has been available on APA Secretariat's website since then.
5. The Sub-Committee expressed thanks and gratitude to the Indonesian Parliament for hosting the meeting and appreciated the Report of APA Secretary-General, SG/Rep/2008/03, on Alleviating Poverty, to Member Parliaments and the Sub-Committee for its consideration. The Sub-Committee exchanged views on many elements and ideas in the Report of the Secretary-General with a view to pursuing the objectives of the Plan of Action on Alleviating Poverty in Asia. The following is a summary of the viewpoints presented by the Sub-Committee members:
 - a) There is a need to strengthen the oversight function and to support budget for poverty alleviation programs in countries of APA Member Parliaments.
 - b) Concrete social safety net programs are required and should be adapted to the needs of different countries.
 - c) The richer and more developed countries should continue their assistance programs towards poverty alleviation in the least developed countries.
 - d) There is a need to seriously consider economic funds and industrial integration within Asia to provide a united front on economic development, particularly in alleviating poverty.
 - e) Poverty alleviation programs should be community driven supported by the favorable fiscal approach which gives priority to public services.
 - f) There is a need to match education with the real demand of the labor market.
 - g) As poverty is trans-national by nature, international cooperation is required.
 - h) Prevention and avoidance of new poverty should be part of the policies of each country.
 - i) There is a need to define the map and the size of poverty in Asia in order to be able to provide appropriate policies.
 - j) Combating corruption, as one of the major causes of poverty, and good governance should be encouraged through measures such as control of the use of assistance funds by the NGOs.
 - k) Coordination of natural disaster management is needed through creating a joint



emergency reaction force.

- l) There is a need to seriously deal with the continuing conflicts in some parts of Asia such as Afghanistan, Palestine and Iraq in order to create peace and stability, which are the major prerequisites to poverty alleviation.
 - m) Poverty alleviation programs should involve civil societies and international organizations, and should be goal oriented and conducted WITH the poor, rather than FOR the poor to give back self-esteem and dignity to the poor.
 - n) APA should draw on the successful experiences of some Asian countries in tackling poverty problems.
6. In this context, the Sub-Committee recommends the following draft resolution to the First Executive Council meeting of 2008, for referral to the APA Plenary of 2008 for consideration of the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development:



Draft Resolution

on

Alleviating Poverty in Asia

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution, APA/Res/2007/04, by which the text of the Plan of Action for Alleviating Poverty in Asia was adopted and a Sub-Committee was established to consider how best to facilitate the implementation of the provisions of that Plan of Action;

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on Alleviating Poverty, SG/Rep/2008/03, dated 2 June 2008, submitted to the meeting of the Sub-Committee held in Jakarta on 12-13 June 2008;

Recognizing the significant role of parliaments in strengthening national strategic plans for alleviation of poverty;

Expressing concern about the situation of the poor globally and in Asia;

Expressing determination to help strengthen national efforts to meet UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

1. *Decide* to mandate the Sub-Committee to continue to work, as appropriate, to strengthen the role of Parliaments in all phases of national poverty alleviation strategic plans, including benefiting from advisory groups as the need arises to provide technical advice to the Sub-Committee on a time-bound implementation of the Plan of Action on Alleviating Poverty.
2. *Decide* to strengthen coordination among international and regional organizations such as ADB, ESCAP, IDB, UNESCAP, and the relevant NGOs active in this field, to provide technical support to the implementation of APA Plan of Action on Alleviating Poverty.



3. *Request* the Sub-Committee to explore ways in which best practices in Asia in poverty alleviation could be exchanged, including identification of focal points in the executive branch of each Member Parliament and defining a networking scheme among them.
4. *Request* the Sub-Committee to expedite and report the possible establishment of a Poverty Alleviation Fund in Asia as reflected in article 16 of APA Resolution on Economic and Sustainable Development, APA/Economic Com/2007/01 dated 20 November 2007.
5. *Request* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on their efforts to implement this resolution and to submit a report thereon to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee in 2009, which will be held in a volunteer country or in the country of the APA President.



Annex 1

List of Participants in the Meeting of APA Sub-Committee on Alleviating Poverty in Asia

**Jakarta, Indonesia
12-13 June 2008**

(in alphabetical order)

I. APA Member Parliaments:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1) Afghanistan | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hon. Mr. Mohammad Daoud Kalakani (MP, Wolesi Jirga) 2. Hon. Mr. Gull Badshah Majeedi (MP, Wolesi Jirga) |
| 2) Bahrain | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Hon. Mr. Abdulrahman Abdulsalam (MP, Shura Council) 4. Hon. Mr. Sayed Abdulla Ala'ali (MP, Council of Representatives) 5. Hon. Mr. Sami Mohsen Mohammed Al-Bahiri (MP, Council of Representatives) 6. Mr. Hasan Qambar (Staff) 7. Mr. Tariq Al-Burshid (Staff) |
| 3) Cyprus | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Hon. Dr. Mrs. Eleni Theocharous (MP) |
| 4) Indonesia | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Hon. HR. Agung Laksono (Speaker, House of Representatives and Head of Delegation) 10. Hon. Mr. Abdillah Toha (Chairman of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation, House of Representatives) 11. Hon. Mr. Simon Patrice Morin (Vice Chairman of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation, House of Representatives) 12. Hon. Mr. Sutradara Gintings (Vice Chairman of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation, House of Representatives) 13. Hon. Mr. Tosari Widjaya (Vice Chairman of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation, House of Representatives) 14. Hon. Mr. Luthfi Hasan Ishaq (Vice Chairman of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation, House of Representatives) 15. Hon. Mr. Hakim Sorimuda Pohan (MP) |



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| 5) Iran | 16. Hon. Dr. Mehdi Sanaie (MP) 17. Hon. Dr. Seyed Shamseddin Hosseini (Deputy Minister of Welfare and Social Security) |
| 6) Kuwait | 18. Hon. Mr. Waleed Al-Tabtabae (MP) 19. Mr. Jamal Al-Khamees (Staff) |
| 7) Lao PDR | 20. Hon. Ms. Singkham Khongsavanh (MP) 21. Ms. Sisavanh Boupha (Staff) |
| 8) Saudi Arabia | 22. Hon. Dr. Hezam Al-Otaibi (MP) 23. Mr. Saad Alangari (Adviser) |
| 9) Singapore | 24. Hon. Dr. Teo Ho Pin (MP) 25. Hon. Dr. Ahmad Bin Mohamed Magad (MP) 26. Ms. Sharon Foo Mun Yee (Staff) |
| 10) Turkey | 27. Hon. Mr. Abdulkadir Emin Onen (MP, Head of the Turkish APA Group) |

II. Guests:

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| 11) Hanns Seidel Foundation (Philippines) | 28. Mr. Paul G. Schäfer (Resident Representative) |
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* Please report any errors in the above list to the APA Secretariat at:

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