



**APA/Res/2008/03
29 November 2008**

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 the Economic and Sustainable Development in Asia, APA/Economic Com/2007/01, dated 20 November 2007,

Welcoming the Report of the Secretary-General on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia, contained in document SG/Rep/2008/05, dated 6 July 2008, to the Sub-Committee meeting on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia held in Damascus, the Syrian Arab Republic on 21-22 July 2008,

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

Being aware of the undeniable importance of promoting development and economic progress for Asian countries,

Expressing concern about rapid environmental degradation in Asia resulting, *inter alia*, from its unsustainable growth patterns,

Recognizing the need to create a balance between the prerogatives for development of the Asian countries and the protection of their environment,

Also recognizing the responsibility of developed countries and international institutions to special needs of Asian countries in their strive towards the protection of environment,

Acknowledging the importance of cooperation among Asian countries to share experiences and best practices in dealing with the environmental degradation in Asia,

Emphasizing the need for achieving the targets defined by the Kyoto Protocol and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) including MDG 7,

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1. *Encourage* Member Parliaments to call upon their respective governments to prepare a sustainable development strategy, a strategy on climate change and a national action plan to achieve yearly energy savings to be adopted by the parliaments;
2. *Urge* Member Parliaments to work closely with their respective governments to achieve MDGs including MDG 7;
3. *Urge further* Member Parliaments to devote more attention in the budget to environmental issues, to strengthen environmental aspects of all legislations and to scrutinize the activities of their respective governments related to environmental issues, climate change and mass tree-planting program;
4. *Emphasize* the need for the access of all Asian countries to advanced technologies to protect their environment and *recognize* the responsibility of developed countries and international institutions in this regard;
5. *Invite* Member Parliaments to encourage their respective governments to work more closely with United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) on different aspects of planting billions of trees throughout Asia;
6. *Decide* to designate ‘Global Warming and Climate Change’ as the theme for further discussions in the next session of the Sub-Committee and to continue with discussions on other aspects of the work of the Sub-Committee in its subsequent sessions;
7. *Decide also* to discuss a Plan of Action among Asian countries for environmental issues, global warming, climate change and planting billions of trees throughout Asia when the discussions referred to in the operative paragraph 6 are exhausted;
8. *Welcome* the initiative of the Secretary General to communicate with UNEP on planting billions of trees throughout Asia and *Request* the Secretary General to report to the next session of the Sub-Committee the results of his communication with UNEP;
9. *Request further* 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 to be held in the Republic of Korea in 2009 as proposed by the Korean Parliament;
10. *Encourage* the developed countries to provide financial and technical assistance to the less-developed countries in their efforts for an environmentally sustainable development;

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11. *Emphasize* the need to dispose of the wastewater generated by the factories, power plants and all industrial users in an environmentally safe way;
12. *Strongly recommend* to use the unutilized lands for tree plantation purposes;
13. *Decide* to promote environmental education and public awareness in our countries;
14. *Commit* ourselves to do all in our capacities with respect to efficient use of water resources and observing internationally recognized standards and guidelines including environmental economics;
15. *Stress* the necessity of engaging other stake-holders such as NGOs and the Civil Society in the campaign for protection of environment in our countries;
16. *Request* APA Secretariat to collect data from the Member Countries on a voluntary basis, through their parliaments, concerning environmental issues such as higher temperatures, melting of ices, planting trees, food security, environmental degradation, water shortage and pollution, bio-diversity, and environmental technical know-how in order to prepare a database for the reference and use by all APA Member Parliaments;
17. *Invite* the members of APA, in the position to do so, to provide assistance to other APA members who need external assistance for implementation of the goals and policies recommended in this resolution;
18. *Request* UNEP (United Nation Environmental Program) to provide technical assistance to APA member countries that are in need of such assistance to enforce environmental policies;
19. *Propose* the adoption of slogans such as “planting new trees for new born children;”
20. *Underline* the necessity of transferring environmentally sound (green) technologies to developing countries at an affordable cost;
21. *Encourage* the use of Compact Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles and alternative sources of energy such as solar, wind, etc.