



## Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia

APA/ Res/2018/09  
2 December 2018

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

**Recalling** APA Resolutions, APA/Res/2013/07; APA/Res/2010/02; and APA/Res/2009/06;

**Recalling** the advises in the report of the Secretary-General on Achieving Health Equity in Asia, SG/Rep/2011/02 Dated 22 August 2011, submitted to the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 13-14 September, 2011;

**Taking** note of diversity of health equity status among countries in Asia;

**Stressing** the view that global net-working provides opportunities for Member Parliaments to engage in fruitful dialogue and exchange of best practices on health equity;

**Reaffirming** the significant role of parliaments both in advocating and promoting national policies and legislative measures for achieving health equity;

**Welcoming** the Sustainable Development Goals adopted on 25 September 2015 and reaffirming its pivotal role in enhancement of the health equity;

**Welcoming** the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, adopted on 19 September 2011, reaffirming the political will to effectively implement the commitments contained therein and referring to the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases;

**Recalling** United Nation General Assembly resolution 66/288 on “The future we want”, which recognized health as a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development;

**Recalling** the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health endorsed by the Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly in resolution WHA65.8 in May 2012;

**Recalling** the importance of placing equity and human centered policies in the core of health agenda and noting central role of enabling Universal Health Coverage to provide equitable access to quality health services without financial hardship and access to quality affordable medicine and medical technologies;

**Recognizing** that health inequities arise from social determinants of health, that is, the societal conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, and that these determinants include experiences in their early years, education, economic status, employment and decent work, housing and environment, and effective systems of preventing and treating ill health;

**Emphasizing** the need to comprehensively deal with social and health related problems emanating from drug and substances abuse and low quality drugs;

**Expressing** concern about the existing socio-economic inequalities and their impact on the poor and marginalized groups, as well as the remote geographical areas and underserved urban areas;

**Expressing** concern on deteriorating health effects of wars and armed conflicts by hindering provision and quality of health service and causing deprivation from fundamental human rights prospective to health, due to the inequalities in access and utilization of qualified health services.

1. **Welcome** the Report of the Secretary-General contained in SG/Rep/ 2014/02 dated 10 August, 2014;
2. **Underline** the report of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health for addressing the impact of socio-economic inequalities on health at global, regional and national levels;
3. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to incorporate the issue of Social Determinants of Health (SDH) more intensively in other APA themes and activities;
4. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to strengthen collaboration among themselves with a view to formulating a coherent approach with regard to social determinants of health in Asia, especially education, housing, and employment;
5. **Invite** the APA Member Parliaments to promote health equity in Asia through sharing experiences and best practices on identifying vulnerability and inequity and actively advocate the inclusion of social determinants of health in national policies and programs;
6. **Further invite** APA member Parliaments to develop a cross-sectoral collaboration for the advancement of health equity in Asia through comprehensive training and study exchanges on social determination of health (SDH) among policy makers and related stake holders;
7. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to adopt policies and measures to improve service provision, and health financing system including social protection system as well as health insurance plans for a more equitable resource distribution;
8. **Call on** Member Parliaments of APA to encourage their respective governments in order to establish networking among major governmental and non-governmental institutions dealing with health issues in Asia, and expand cooperation with academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society groups and the media with adequate safeguard in order to identify the main social determinants of health;
9. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to persuade their respective governments to create and implement more sharpened and targeted policies, activities, and programs to ensure a success in the achievement of SDGs including universal

health coverage with regard to health policies; and promoting access to quality, efficacious, safe and affordable medicines and medical technologies;

- 10. Call on** APA Member Parliaments to take necessary actions and to encourage their respective governments to ensure child nutrition needs with a focus on equity in order to create better a generation;
- 11. Determine** to take active part on the discussion of 2030 development agenda by delivering Asian views in the international arena to drive the global agenda;
- 12. Encourage** the APA Member Parliaments to actively participate in the process of arriving at common objectives which could form the basis of national legislations promoting health equity in Asia, with due attention to equitable social protection policies for health care, long term disability, and protection during unemployment and old age, as appropriate in the national context and priorities;
- 13. Request** Member Parliaments to inform the Secretary-General on the progress made on the implementation of this resolution in their respective countries in order to share them with all Member Parliaments.