

Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia

**APA/Plenary/SC- Social/Res/2019/03**

**16 December 2019**

*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 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;

***Welcoming*** the Report of the Secretary-General contained in SG/Rep/2014/02 dated 10 August, 2014;

***Underlining*** the report of WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health for addressing the impact of socio-economic inequalities on health at global, regional and national levels;

***Recalling*** Alma Ata Declaration adopted on 6-12 September 1978 which defined differences in health as a common concern of all countries and invited all to work on the fullest attainment of health for all and to reduce the gap between health status, and Astana Declaration adopted on 25-26 October 2018 reaffirming the commitments expressed in Alma Ata Declaration**;**

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

***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 thereinand 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;

***Welcoming*** United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/138 proclaiming 12 December as International Universal Health Coverage Day and calling upon APA Member Parliaments to benefit from this day to raise awareness and promote Universal Health Coverage in their policies;

***Appreciating*** United Nations’ decision to hold a high level meeting on Universal Health Coverage during its 74th General Assembly which will take place in September 2019;

***Recognizing*** that access to medicines is one of the fundamental elements in achieving progressively the full realization of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

***Recalling*** the importance of placing equity and people-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 gender 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 illegal drugs, psychotropic, alcohol and tobacco products, and promote policies to prevent and control their use, abuse and addiction;

***Expressing*** concern about the existing socio-economic inequalities and their impact on the poor, marginalized and vulnerable 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 depravation from fundamental human rights prospective to health, due to the inequalities in access and utilization of qualified health services;

***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;

***Having in mind*** that access to basic health services and medicine is a universally accepted norm arising from fundamental elements of human rights;

We therefore,

1. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to incorporate Social Determinants of Health (SDH) more intensively in other APA themes and activities;
2. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to strengthen collaboration with a view to formulating a coherent approach with regard to social determinants of health in Asia, especially education, housing, and employment;
3. **Invite** the APA Member Parliaments to promote health equity in Asia through sharing experiences and best practices on identifying vulnerability and inequityand actively advocate the inclusion of social determinants of health in national policies and programs;
4. **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 among policy makers and related stake- holders;
5. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to adopt policies and measures to improve service provision, primary care and health financing system including social protection system as well as health insurance plans for a more equitable resource distribution;
6. **Call on** APA Member Parliaments 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;
7. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to take action in their countries to increase health literacy and awareness;
8. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to persuade their respective governments to create and implement more sharpened and targetedpolicies, 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;
9. **Call on** APA Member Parliaments to take necessary actions and to encourage their respective governments to ensure child nutrition needs and to tackle malnutrition with a focus on equity for a healthier generation;
10. **Determine** to accelerate the achievement of SDG 2030 health targets and to take active part on the discussion of 2030 development agenda by delivering Asian views in the international arena to drive the global agenda;
11. **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;
12. **Call upon** the international community to continue support and assist developing countries in Asia and avoid all politically motivated measures aimed at hampering their access in this regard;
13. **Invite** the APA Member Parliaments to adopt relevant legislations to support universal access of all population in Asia to basic health services and pharmaceutical products;
14. **Request** APA 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.