



Draft Resolution on Environmental Issues

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the decisions of the United Nations Climate Action Summit in September 2019, the Climate Aspiration Summit in December 2020, and the Climate Adaptation Summit in January 2021; All of which affirmed the determination of the international community to critically address environmental and climate change issues, and broaden the scope of emission reduction targets; Given the threat that climate change poses to human life and stability,

Recalling APA Resolution on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, Climate Change, and Planting Billions of Trees Throughout Asia (APA/Res/2015/07) adopted at the 8th APA Plenary in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, December 2015, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and other relevant APA resolutions,

Welcoming the Report of the Secretary-General on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia, contained in document SG/Rep/2016/03-2 dated 20 July 2016,

Adhering to the important role of environment in the sustainable development and meeting needs of increasing world population particularly countries of Asia which are facing dire consequences of climate change,

Recognizing the need to pursue the sustainable development namely the economic growth, social development and environmental protection in a balanced and mutually supportive manner,

Highlighting the link between sustainable development and other relevant ongoing processes such as that the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Paris agreement UN Convention Biological Diversity (UNCBD), UN Convention to Combat Desertification and the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development among others is linked with global sustainable development agenda,

Emphasizing the natural capital such as forests, biodiversity, freshwater, and coastal and marine ecosystems as being essential to making “green economies” a reality; and we shall maintain and protect these capitals from any threats that might harm it or any of its elements,

Recognizing that climate change represents an urgent and potentially irreversible threat to human societies and the planet and thus requires the widest possible cooperation by all

countries, and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, with a view to accelerating the mitigation and adaptation efforts as well as accelerating provision of Means of Implementation including finance mobilization from developed to developing countries (MOI),

Underlining the necessity of a comprehensive and long-term strategy to combat drought, forest fire, air pollution, sand and dust storms, desertification land degradation and marine life deterioration, thus improving the living conditions of the people living in arid, semi-arid and coastal areas,

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

Recognizing the urgent need to enhance the provision of finance, technology and capacity-building support by developed country Parties, in a scaled up, easily accessible, adequate, new, additional and predictable manner, to enable enhanced pre-2023 climate action by developing country Parties,

Concerned about the negative environmental impact of unbridled energy consumption on a global scale and particularly in Asia,

Encouraging Asian parliaments of the countries which supported the Doha amendment to the Kyoto Protocol to speed up their acceptance of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, in order to provide further momentum for global climate action for the years leading up to 2023,

Calling up on developed countries and international institutions to assist 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 from developed to developing countries,

Emphasizing that substantive involvement of APA in the latest state of affairs as regards the ongoing negotiations within the context of UNFCCC, exchange of views among Member Parliaments and striving for bringing as much coordination and collaboration as possible in relevant negotiating for a view to serving and improving the common regional interest of Asia is a compelling imperative,

Acknowledging the role of civil society, NGOs, policy think tanks, business and academia in the protection of environment through their inputs to the environmental policy formulation as well as implementation at the local, national and regional levels,

Emphasizing the importance of cooperation among Member Parliaments with regard to efforts to combat drought, desertification, land degradation, sand and dust storms, forest fire, air

pollution, and non-biodegradable marine debris,

Recognizing the success by Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) in raising global awareness and international collaboration in the economic and environmental fields and the promotion of transparency,

Recalling the role of United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in strengthening and building national capacity to promote sustainable management of the environment and in the implementation of programs that take into account environmental considerations,

Agreeing to uphold and promote regional and international cooperation in order to mobilize stronger and more ambitious action in mitigation and adaptation efforts and the mean of implementation by all Parties and non-Party stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, financial institutions, cities and other sub-national authorities, local communities and indigenous peoples, as applicable,

Stressing that all parties as well as all the stakeholders, including the business sectors have responsibility to preserve and conserve environment and that any ecological and environmental damage should be held responsible, according to the prevailing laws and regulations with respect to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances,

Stressing the central role of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in providing collective international response to the challenges of global climate change,

Realizing that although global emissions have decreased by about 6% during the first months of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, in order to serve the sustainable development goals related to climate change, the economic and industrial downturn resulting from the outbreak of the pandemic is not a substitute for sustainable climate action that enables economies to Growth and job creation, simultaneously addressing climate issues and environmental protection,

Emphasizing the role of parliaments in encouraging their governments to develop plans and strategies in terms of developing solutions to environmental issues and supporting sustainable development goals,

The importance of encouraging parliaments to call on their governments to agree to all international resolutions established to protect the environment, and to confront thermal emissions and climate changes, according to confirmed international agreements and decisions issued by the United Nations and other international conferences in support the action plan to achieve the goals of sustainable development,

Emphasizing the importance of investing in scientific research and studies that would provide solutions to reduce environmental issues, and the importance of investing in modern technology and innovation to reduce environmental issues and support sustainable development goals,

We therefore,

1. *Take into* account the adoption of Paris Agreement at the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties of UNFCCC in December 2015;
2. *Urge* the adoption of the Paris Agreement Work Programme (PAWP) at the 24th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in December 2018 for operationalization of the Paris Agreement, 2015; We also welcome the decisions of the Climate Ambition Summit in December 2020 and the Climate Adaptation Summit in January 2021;
3. *Invite* Members of APA parliaments to be mindful of the right to an ecologically-balanced environment;
4. *Urge* Member Parliaments to modify, or enact, laws according to their respective needs to enforce strict protection of natural habitats and environment, as well as people, threatened by environmental deterioration;
5. *Call* upon all Member Parliaments to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of targeted development programs through coordination efforts, including by UNDP;
6. *Call* upon APA Member countries to take more concrete steps for public awareness concerning environmental protection and facilitating implementation of a global-scale system of interconnected collective and national efforts to mitigate negative anthropogenic impact on climate with a view to achieving sustainable development;
7. *Urge* APA Parliaments to support Sustainable Development Goals more actively with regard to environmental issues by adopting appropriate legislations;
8. *Call on* APA member countries to uphold rule of law on environmental issues and to share good practices on that matter;
9. *Invite* the APA Member Parliaments to proceed with legislation and other legal actions deemed appropriate and instrumental in encouraging the governments to formulate and implement legislations, policies and measures with regard to the following:
 - Integrating climate policies in broader development policies with a view to making implementation and overcoming barriers easier as appropriate;
 - Financing and encouraging R&D for low carbon or cleaner technologies with a view to stimulating technological advances, reduce costs, and enable progress toward stabilization;

- Legalizing the necessity of observing the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) as a step towards bringing a balance between the three pillars of sustainable development namely: economic growth, social development and environmental protection;
 - Encouraging the maximum possible interaction, coordination, integrity and solidarity among Asian delegations involved in climate change negotiations with a view to providing for a collective wisdom by Asia as their common interests which in turn shall strengthen Asian regionalism and contribute to the cause of an Asian integration;
 - Interacting with and make collective attempts with other Asian States Parties for pushing the environmental priorities and urgencies of Asia within the agenda of financial and technological mechanisms of environment related instruments such as Global Environmental Facility(GEF), those operating within UNEP and the established technological and financial mechanisms in Durban in 2011;
10. *Invite* APA Member Parliaments to exchange experiences and best practices on environmental issues and provide, data and information concerning issues related to sustainable development, climate change and other environment related major issues to the Secretariat to be compiled in a database for the reference and use by all Member Parliaments;
 11. *Invite* also APA Member Parliaments who are in a position to do so, to provide means of implementation including finances, technology development and transfer, and capacity building support to APA members in their efforts to combat climate change and drought, desertification, land degradation, sand and dust storms forest fire, and air pollution;
 12. *Call on* APA Member Parliament to urge their respective governments to implement projects and programs in line with their contribution/commitments as mentioned in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs); in line with the Paris Agreement as appropriate; and intensifying qualitative environmental campaigns with the development of preventive and remedial environmental plans;
 13. *Urge* APA Member Parliaments to support the objectives of the Paris Agreement on mitigation, adaptation, finance support, technology transfer and capacity building, early complete the system of law and policy in line with international commitment in response to climate change as appropriate;
 14. *Note* with concern that the estimated aggregate greenhouse gas emission levels in 2025 and 2030 resulting from the nationally determined contributions do not fall within least-cost 2°C scenarios;

15. *Recommend* action be taken by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) within existing framework to assist the Asian region and especially its developing nations on the basis of equity with mitigating the effects of climate change and protecting natural resources in order to ensure a healthy environment for future generations to promote mitigation, as appropriate and adapt to the increasing effects of climate change and the protection of natural resources;
16. *Call* upon APA to expand partnership with countries and partners outside the region, particularly the European Union, to exchange information on climate change, and natural disaster, mobilized financial resources to invest in project related to clean and energy saving technologies, and establish a research center in Asia to provide aid to the developing Asian countries in support for national policy programs with regards to sustainable Information and Communication Technology (ICT);
17. *Recommend* APA Members to deliberate the mechanism for an Asia wide response in times of natural disasters and calamities to provide timely aid and rescue to those in need of help;
18. *Call on* the parliaments of Asian countries to make among the priorities of the response and recovery programs from the Covid-19 pandemic to inject the required investments to accelerate the removal of carbon from Asian economies, the shift to economic patterns that are less harmful to the environment, the expansion of green economy and the recycling economy, renewable and sustainable energy sources, and the application of sustainable climate measures in fulfillment of the Paris Agreement requirements to combat climate change;
19. *Request* APA Member Parliaments who are in a position to do so to offer advice and support to the other members on how to acquire and effectively utilize the tools to combat economic shocks resulting from climate change, such as damage to property and infrastructure, lost productivity, and coping costs through the preparation of sustainable policies pertaining to disaster preparation programs with special attention given to the needs of the rural population; rain water harvesting; green roofs; river embankment strengthening; food silos; early warning systems; and information and communication technology to facilitate information sharing;
20. *Request* the Secretary General to seek views of APA Member Parliaments on the implementation of the present resolution and report there on to the next session of the Standing-Committee in 2021.