



Draft Resolution on Poverty Eradication

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution on Alleviating Poverty in Asia (APA/Res/2015/08) adopted at the 8th APA Plenary in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, December 2015 and other relevant APA resolutions,

Underlining the significance of the role of Parliaments both in advocating and oversight of achievements of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially on Poverty Eradication,

Welcoming the High-level Plenary meeting of the U.N. General-Assembly on the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015 and its outcome; entitled as “Transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development”, in particular referring to goal 2 of sustainable development to eradicate hunger, enhance food security and improve nutrition by promoting sustainable agriculture,

Reaffirming that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and strategies cannot be overemphasized in the poverty eradication; articulating that SDGs are interconnected and the role of economic growth is fundamental to poverty eradication, so much as investing in health and education,

Welcoming bilateral, triangular, regional and multilateral cooperation to eradicate poverty, create jobs, address the consequences of international financial crises, promote sustainable development, and advance market-based industrial transformation and economic diversification,

Underlining the fact that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions is an ethical, social, political, environmental and economic imperative of all humankind, and in this regard recognizing that there is a need to better understand and address the multidimensional nature of development and poverty in a multifaceted and integrated approach,

Emphasizing that the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development depends crucially on the transformation of rural areas, where most of the poor and hungry live,

Recalling that nearly 80 per cent of the extreme poor live in rural areas and work in agriculture and that devoting resources to the development of rural areas and sustainable agriculture and supporting smallholder farmers, especially women farmers, is key to ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions by, inter alia, improving the welfare of farmers,

Stressing at the same time the need for enhanced international cooperation on poverty eradication, and the obligation of developed countries to provide financial, technical and capacity building assistance along with support in the form of trade, investment and technological transfer to developing countries,

Realizing fully that the negative repercussions of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic have led to a sharp rise in unemployment rates, decline in production rates, lower growth rates, increased poverty and low development indicators, and that they have pushed millions of people in various countries of the continent into extreme poverty due to the sharp decline in economic activities, and that their effects have disproportionately affected the most vulnerable groups, especially women and children, people with disabilities, the poorest and other marginalized groups, which imposes concerted efforts by Asian countries to eradicate poverty in all its forms, being the biggest obstacle to achieving the goals sustainable development,

Noting that poverty alleviation is important to combat international terrorism, abuse of women & children and drug trafficking, arms smuggling, human trafficking, sea piracy and transnational crimes,

Acknowledging that any constraint on the political and economic development of any country would undermine the effort to poverty eradication and hamper the realization of other SDG's,

Recognizing that the SDGs balance all the three crucial dimensions of sustainable development, namely the economic, the social and the environmental,

Reaffirming that poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and its alleviation and, eventually, its eradication, is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,

Supporting also a publicity campaign to raise awareness in the society about SDG, utilizing the potentials of mass media,

Emphasizing that achieving food security requires efforts and coordination at both national and international level,

Recognizing the important role of agriculture in meeting needs of increasing world population, underlining that sustainable agriculture practices and rural development are key approaches to increase food security,

We therefore,

1. *Urge* APA Member Parliaments to work closely with their governments in the formulation and implementation of the measures which are outlined in the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development;
2. *Determine* to be more ambitious in our efforts to eradicate poverty, reduce

- inequality, ensure food security, access to healthcare and education;
3. *Develop* a developmental strategic vision in cooperation with Member Parliaments and their governments regarding poverty eradication, provided that developed vision shall contain plans with measurable and assessable indicators;
 4. *Urge* APA Member Parliaments to redouble their efforts in supporting activities of poverty eradication and encourage their respective governments to facilitate the implementation of effective policies to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
 5. *Urge* APA Member Parliaments to create awareness among general public about the importance of sustainable food consumption and production and take possible steps to ensure it and harness all parliamentary efforts to enact laws that work for the interest of food security;
 6. *Invite* APA Member Parliaments to adopt necessary legislation to:
 - a) improve labor market regulations;
 - b) support the informal sector and offering increased security to it;
 - c) establish legal savings and loan associations that can help to reduce the reliance on moneylenders;
 - d) promote modern agriculture which contributes essentially to reduction of poverty in urban and rural areas;
 - e) empower the poor to improve their living conditions and participate in decision-making which affects their lives;
 - f) help to upgrade the infrastructure and services in areas where the poor live and work with emphasis on creating better opportunities for the poor especially girls, which will contribute to increased female labor force participation;
 - g) improve disaster preparedness, disaster relief as well as post-disaster economic recovery;
 7. *Stress* the necessity to adopt strategies to improve life quality, offer higher levels of welfare, by developing necessary policies and laws to force establishments to comply with environmental regulations; to support the development of local technology, research and innovation, taking into consideration the obligations highlighted by the 21st Century Agenda, the Global Summit on SDGs, and UN Environment Program;
 8. *Encourage* APA Member Parliaments to support investment in climate resilient

agriculture and to adopt a unified approach to combat hunger by promoting public and private investments, increased access to inputs, lands and technologies;

9. *Invite* APA Member Parliaments to take appropriate legislative measures for poverty alleviation including providing social safety nets to the poor and the vulnerable;
10. *Recommend* APA Member Parliaments to support and strengthen the capacities of government and communities to prepare for and respond to acute hunger arising from disasters through community based on adaptation;
11. *Encourage* APA Member Parliaments to take joint action to organize aid campaigns, on a voluntary basis upon the request of a Member Parliament, for assistance in the context of alleviating poverty including to enhance domestic production of food by participating in agricultural technologies and training programs;
12. *Urge* APA Member States to give significance to development of sustainable agriculture practices while making national policies, to achieve Sustainable Development Goals;
13. *Call* for increased cooperation between developed and developing member countries for improving food security by means of bilateral, regional and multilateral information sharing, especially in an area of sustainable agricultural technology;
14. *Stress* the significance of women participation and contribution in agriculture sector for improving productivity, food security and eliminating poverty;
15. *Stress* the need to enhance and expand access by developing countries to appropriate technologies that are pro-poor and raise productivity and underlines the need for measures to increase investment in agriculture, including modern technologies as well as in natural resources management and capacity-building of the developing countries;
16. *Stress* that the achievement of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty also hinge on the ability and readiness of countries to effectively mobilize domestic resources, attract foreign direct investment, fulfil official development assistance commitments and use official development assistance effectively and facilitate the transfer of technology to developing countries, on mutually agreed terms;
17. *Affirm* the need for the parliaments of Asian countries, in the process of approving and recovering from the policies of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, to place the fight against poverty at the heart of response and recovery programs and policies, so that they introduce legislative amendments and approve financial allocations that achieve this goal, and to ensure that response recovery programs

are in the interest of the poor, and in an effort to raise their standard of living and to enhance their access to economic resources, basic services, natural resources, appropriate new technology, and financial services, including microfinance;

18. *Request* the Secretary General to request in his turn the Member Parliaments to offer their views regarding the efforts exerted for the implementation of this Resolution, and submit their reports before the next meeting of the Standing Committee 2021.