



THE 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF  
THE ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF)  
15 – 20 January 2006, Jakarta – Indonesia

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APPF-14/Res/23

**RESOLUTION ON  
PANDEMIC DISEASE (AVIAN FLU)**

**(Sponsored by Australia, Canada, Indonesia, the Philippines and Chile)**

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum,

*Noting* the spread of avian influenza in poultry and humans in the Asia Pacific region and the risk of the virus mutating into a strain that is easily transmissible between humans causing a pandemic;

*Concerned* that infectious diseases have endangered socio-economic development and have become one of the world's main health and economic threats, as evidenced by avian influenza, SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) and HIV/AIDS;

*Recognising* the critical importance of effective surveillance and detection, emergency preparedness and response capabilities of countries in the region;

*Acknowledging* the importance of ongoing domestic, regional and international preparedness planning and cooperation in reducing the global health and economic risks posed by avian influenza;

*Welcoming* endorsement by Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economies at the November 2005 Economic Leaders' Meeting of the APEC Initiative on "Preparing for and Mitigating an Influenza Pandemic", which commits economies to effective surveillance, transparency and openness, and close domestic, regional and international coordination and collaboration;

*Further welcomes* in this regard the initiative of Vietnam to host the APEC Ministerial Meeting on the Avian Influenza and Emerging Communicable Diseases in 2006.

Resolves to:

1. *Call* on member countries to take all necessary steps to better understand, prevent, prepare for and respond to the avian and pandemic threat;
2. *Encourage* member countries to strengthen surveillance and diagnostic capacities to enable early detection of outbreaks;

3. *Call* on member countries to extend all possible support to ensure rapid, transparent and accurate risk communications among participating countries, including immediate sharing of epidemiological data with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and international community;
4. *Encourage* member countries to increase capacity building to prevent and contain an emerging epidemic and initiate early intervention in response to potential outbreaks;
5. *Promote* cooperation between member countries at a regional level including through mechanisms such as the APEC initiative on "Preparing for and Mitigating an Influenza Pandemic";
6. *Urge* member countries to support the efforts of international organisations such as the WHO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza (IPAPI);
7. *Urge* the international community to consider mechanisms to compensate poultry farmers in developing countries and least developed countries (LDCs) affected by measures to control Avian flu; those mechanisms must contain provisions that will act as deterrents and penalize abuses that could arise from the existence of the proposed benefits.
8. *Urge* APPF member countries to facilitate and promote the implementation of the WTO General Council Decision of 30 August 2003, which establishes in accordance with the WTO Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) the margins for trade of patented pharmaceutical products in order to advance the eradication of infectious diseases; and new
9. *Encourage* the media to take a more pro-active stance, coordinate more closely with public health officials and health care providers, and provide the public with accurate, relevant and timely information on the disease.