

## ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

### Resolution on Mitigating Child Labour

Sponsored by the Philippines

THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF),

**Recalling** the 5<sup>th</sup> APPF resolution on Human Rights and the Exploitation of Children and Women (APPF 5);

**Recognising** that child labour, according to International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions, is work that harms children's well-being and hinders their education, development and future livelihoods;

**Aware** that hundreds of millions of children around the world are still engaged in hazardous and agricultural work;

**Cognisant** that child labour continues to be largest in the Asian and Pacific regions of the world, having 127.3 million children working in the 5-14 age group;

**Realising** that child labour hinders boys and girls from completing a full course of primary and secondary schooling;

**Realising** that child labour is not a consequence solely of poverty, but also of other socio-economic, cultural, and legislative conditions;

**Reiterating** that a more persuasive implementation of resolutions on child labour, as well as greater inter-parliamentary cooperation, would enhance the welfare and protection of the rights of children;

**Welcoming** the efforts of the International Labour Organization, through its International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), in collaborating with other international organisations in trying to eliminate or mitigate child labour in agriculture, especially in hazardous work;

**Resolves to:**

1. **Call upon** APPF member parliaments to enact tougher anti-child labour legislation and oversee their proper enforcement in cooperation with their respective governments;
2. **Call upon** all APPF member parliaments to ratify all international instruments that pertain to the eradication of child labour;

3. **Stress** the need for member countries to continue working diligently towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular, those concerning children and their educational rights;
4. **Emphasise** the need for a better primary educational system to further develop the full potential of children, to lead them away from a destitute future;
5. **Urge** member countries to promote the modernisation of rural economies, specially agricultural communities, in order that children be less extensively involved in labour;
6. **Urge** governments to focus on poverty reduction through economic development in low-income generating communities of their country;
7. **Insist** on the strict implementation of countries enforcing compulsory education so as to limit child employment.