



**18TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM
17 – 22 January 2010, Singapore**

18APPF/RES/3

**RESOLUTION
ON
PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS
AMID THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS**
(Sponsored by Mexico)

THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM:

Considering that the economic and financial crisis has exposed our growing interdependence, and the need to strengthen cooperation to achieve a more just and equitable development;

Noting that, in light of the negative effects of the economic and financial crisis, it is essential to intensify our cooperative efforts at national, regional and multilateral levels to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

Recalling the call made by the G20 to respond to the economic and financial crisis in a comprehensive manner, considering its social impact, and the conditions for stability and long-term sustainability;

Aware of the challenges facing the region in the field of health, education, infrastructure, and social protection systems, and the risk of a greater lag in the absence of comprehensive strategies to address the adverse effects of the economic downturn;

Acknowledging that parliaments, through the adoption of public budgets from a gender and social justice perspective, play a key role in reducing the adverse effects of the crisis on vulnerable groups;

Noting that recent signs of economic recovery should not encourage complacency but rather serve as a stimulus to lay the institutional and regulatory foundations that allow us to avoid past mistakes;

Recognizing that proper management of the global crisis opens a window of opportunity to address various issues of common concern in the Asia-Pacific region, such as energy and food security;

Resolves to:

1. **Urge** the parliaments of the region to assess the most effective means to mitigate the adverse effects of the crisis with particular emphasis on the most vulnerable in our societies;

2. **Encourage** governments to maintain and strengthen macroeconomic coordination to provide the stability necessary for the promotion of social development;
3. **Call** upon developed countries and international financial institutions to implement strategies consistent with national objectives of developing countries in terms of sustained growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development;
4. **Invite** governments to include parliamentarians in their official delegations to attend forums and conferences convened to promote coordinated responses to the economic and financial crisis;
5. **Encourage** governments to move towards greater trade liberalization, so that developing countries participate in and benefit from international trade, in favour of disadvantaged groups;
6. **Reject** any protectionist policy, inconsistent with the principles, rules and regulations of the World Trade Organization (WTO);
7. **Confirm** our commitment to achieving the MDGs and contribute to eradicating poverty and promoting social development, indispensable for full economic recovery;
8. **Urge** parliaments, governments, and international financial institutions to strengthen social security programs to address the damaging effects of the crisis, particularly on vulnerable groups;
9. **Encourage** governments to continue implementing policies of redistribution and economic stimulus programs, in order to protect jobs and boost domestic consumption.