



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

18APPF/RES/6

**RESOLUTION
ON
GLOBAL ECONOMIC SITUATION –
PROMOTING TRADE LIBERALIZATION
AND COMBATING PROTECTIONISM**
(Sponsored by Australia and Singapore)

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

Recalling the Resolution APPF/RES/6 on the World Economic Situation adopted at the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum on 11-15 January 2009 in Vientiane, Lao PDR and the APPF's role in "open and non-exclusive cooperation for the expansion of free trade and investment"¹;

Recognizing the severe impact of the global financial and economic crisis and its negative repercussions on the global economy, particularly its severe adverse effects on world trade volumes, resulting in increased domestic pressure for protectionist measures;

Emphasizing that maintaining open markets, increasing trade liberalization and close cooperation both within and outside the Asia-Pacific are critical to global and regional economic recovery;

Noting that continued inability to conclude the Doha Round could prolong global economic uncertainty and threaten the credibility of the multilateral trading system;

Aware that more liberalized and sustainable trade has already delivered significant benefits to countries in the Asia-Pacific region by accelerating economic growth and raising millions of people out of poverty;

Aware of the threat to global economic recovery if increasing protectionism and backsliding on trade liberalization and competition occurs;

Welcoming the favourable signs of recovery in Asia-Pacific economies with the effective implementation of economic stimulus policies, and bolstered by the continued efforts to reject protectionism and keep markets open across the region;

¹ 2(b) of the APPF Rules of Procedure

Resolves to:

1. **Recognize** the crucial importance of concluding the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations, consistent with its mandate and based on the progress already made including with regard to modalities;
2. **Reaffirm** the pledges made in various forums, including the G20 Summit in Pittsburgh, the 15th ASEAN Summit in Thailand, the 17th APEC Economic Leaders meeting in Singapore, and most recently the 7th WTO Ministerial Conference in Geneva, calling for the ambitious and balanced conclusion of the Doha Round in 2010 to provide global economic stimulus and insurance against trade protectionism;
3. **Emphasize** the need for APPF WTO members to translate these recent high-level political commitments to concluding the Doha Round into substantive progress by exercising maximum flexibility and pragmatism, bearing in mind the centrality of the multilateral process and utilizing all possible avenues to accelerate the pace of negotiations in order to secure convergence on a final package;
4. **Stress** the importance of cooperating with the WTO and other relevant Bretton Woods Institutions to promote trade liberalization and governance reforms, combat protectionism and strengthen the momentum towards strong, sustainable and balanced global economic growth by supporting and strengthening their mechanisms;
5. **Affirm** our commitment to work with our respective governments to reject all forms of protectionism and to refrain from introducing new barriers to trade and investment, including measures that may be considered as WTO-consistent but nonetheless have a significant protectionist effect, and to promptly rectify such measures where implemented;
6. **Call on** APPF Member Governments to continue the growth momentum of the economies of the Asia-Pacific region – the fastest-growing region in the world – by working closely, including through Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the proposed regional trade agreements PACER Plus and Trans-Pacific Partnership to facilitate open and fair trade across the region;
7. **Support** the recommendations from the 7th WTO Ministerial Conference in Geneva aimed at strengthening the WTO's role in the upholding of agreed rules and regulations for international trade, and at ensuring that the organization remains credible and relevant.