

23rd Annual Meeting

Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum

Sponsored by: Australia, Japan, Chile, Mexico and Ecuador

RESOLUTION ON DISASTER PREVENTION

Recalling the particular vulnerability of the Asia-Pacific region to natural disasters and the large number of recent natural disasters in our region;

Noting that the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) is an organization that seeks to identify and discuss issues of regional interest and concern, with the aim of promoting them in a global context;

Recalling that the APPF Member States encourages and promotes regional cooperation at all levels on issues of common interest with a sense of cohesion, understanding and coordination;

Recalling the particular vulnerability of the Asia Pacific region to natural disasters and the differentiated influence of the Pacific Plate, Nazca, Ring of Fire impacts, volcanic threats, tsunamis and El Niño – Southern Oscillation, among others;

Recognizing that investing in reducing risk and improving economic and social disaster resistance not only provides a comprehensive response to save lives, but also promotes sustainable socio-economic development;

Recognizing the substantial contributions of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015 to the formulation of strategies and policies to reduce disaster risk, eradicate poverty, reduce inequality and implement a sustainable and inclusive development;

Appreciating that the ongoing process that seeks to establish a post-2015 global framework on the commitments to be adopted in the Post-Hyogo 2015 United Nations Conference on risk reduction to be held in Sendai-Japan;

Recognizing that the economic losses, damages from disasters and their impact on development tend to be exacerbated by current development patterns;

Recognizing the contributions of the Global Campaign "Developing Resilient Cities: My City is Getting Ready", so that societies are able to manage and prevent natural disasters, minimizing damage, and, in the case they occur, have effective, timely and coordinated measures for emergency, recovery and reconstruction;

Confirming that the international community should cooperate to the substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and in social, economic, cultural and environmental assets;

Noting that governments in the Asia-Pacific region, with the support of parliamentarians, have made significant progress in their legal frameworks to effectively influence the disaster risk reduction;

Stressing the importance of Asia-Pacific parliamentary cooperation in the mitigation of natural disasters, due to increasingly important role played by international and regional parliamentary organizations in social and humanitarian areas;

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Call** upon governments at all levels in the Asia-Pacific region to prioritize measures incorporating disaster risk reduction in their public policies, allocating adequate financial resources for this purpose;

2. **Encourage** Parliamentarians from the Asia-Pacific region to formulate national laws designed to regulate and coordinate prevention and response to the affected population in case of disasters;

3. **Encourage** Parliamentarians from the Asia-Pacific region to in turn encourage their governments and UN agencies, to conduct risk reduction strategies, exchange of technology, establishment of early warning systems and rapid response mechanisms, and to update the Risk Atlas, among others;

4. **Appeal** to Member States to expand mutual cooperation in disaster risk reduction as stated in the "Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015", as well as dealt with regional cooperation frameworks such as APEC, ASEAN, the East Asia Summit (EAS) and the Trilateral Japan-China-ROK, and welcomes as well the initiative of Japan in hosting the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015 in Sendai;

5. **Appeal** to Member States to work toward adoption of the new Global Framework Post-2015 to be presented in Sendai, to ensure the generation of resilience to disasters that is participatory, inclusive, accountable and effective in our region. This new framework will consider progress and challenges in implementing policies disaster risk management at the regional and sectorial levels, and propose the necessary adjustments;

6. **Urge** the countries of the region - through their governments, parliamentary systems, universities, research centers and scientific technical institutes - to work in an integrated way and to collaborate in the reduction of information gaps and the improvement of the analysis and characterization of threats;

7. **State** that protecting essential services, particularly schools and hospitals, is a major social priority;

8. **Affirm** the importance of clearly positioning disaster risk reduction in the post-2015 development agenda in order to mainstream disaster risk reduction.

Quito, January 14th, 2015