

# ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF)

## 24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

### RESOLUTION APPF24/RES.25

#### STRENGTHENING THE GLOBAL RESPONSE TO HUMANITARIAN CRISES

*(Sponsored by Canada)*

The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum;

**Underscoring** that the overall number of people around the world who are in need of humanitarian assistance and protection has nearly doubled in the past decade;

**Concerned** that many of today's armed conflicts are characterized by widespread brutality, as well as a disregard for human rights and basic rules of international humanitarian law;

**Considering** that an estimated 60 million people – half of whom are children – have been forced from their homes as a result of conflict and violence, a level of global displacement not seen since the Second World War;

**Underlining** the large-scale, complex and far-reaching nature of many contemporary crises, and the protracted situations of displacement that frequently result from them;

**Mindful** that, in the Asia-Pacific region, humanitarian crises often arise because of natural disasters, which are increasingly frequent and severe;

**Drawing attention** to emerging humanitarian risks, such as those that may result from climate change and environmental degradation, resource scarcity, pandemics, rapid and unmanaged urbanization, and mass migration;

**Recognizing** the instrumental role of international, non-governmental and civil society organizations, and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in assisting people affected by crises;

**Aware** of international, regional and national efforts to strengthen the impact of humanitarian assistance, and to improve the coordination of that assistance with reconstruction and development activities;

**Cognizant** that targeted efforts to strengthen the resilience of individuals, communities and institutions can help to enable them to withstand, adapt to and recover quickly from crises;

**Reiterating** that humanitarian actions must take into account the needs of vulnerable groups, including women and girls, children and youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities, minorities and the poor;

**Underscoring** that women and girls are disproportionately affected by crises, and that humanitarian action must be designed in a way that empowers women as equal partners and leaders;

**Determined** to ensure that protection is prioritized in all humanitarian settings, including with respect to the prevention of all forms of sexual- and gender-based violence, the risk of which is especially acute in the context of migration, and to ensure that victims have access to necessary medical, legal and psychosocial services;

**Acknowledging** the financial contributions made by governments – including those in the Asia-Pacific region – in response to international humanitarian appeals;

**Concerned** about the significant proportion of humanitarian needs that remain unmet around the world;

**Stressing** that world leaders have pledged to ‘leave no one behind’ in the realization of the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a commitment that encompasses all people in situations of displacement and crisis;

**Welcoming** the UN Secretary-General’s decision to convene the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey in May 2016;

**Emphasizing** the imperative of a collective commitment to humanitarian action;

**Recognizing** the guiding humanitarian principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence;

**Reaffirming** the importance of full and consistent respect for international humanitarian law;

**Convinced** that parliamentarians must provide political will that can generate adequate, timely and effective responses to humanitarian crises, and promote the peaceful resolution of conflict through political means;

**RESOLVES TO:**

1. **Call on** APPF Member States to participate actively and constructively in the 2016 UN World Humanitarian Summit;
2. **Urge** APPF Member States and APPF Parliaments to contribute to a humanitarian system that is effective and inclusive, focused on affected people and communities, and based on the prioritization of dignity, protection and resilience;
3. **Ensure** that gender perspectives are mainstreamed in decision-making about the planning, allocation and evaluation of humanitarian assistance, which must respond to the specific needs of women and girls in a comprehensive and consistent manner;
4. **Insist** that, in all humanitarian contexts and conflict settings, the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, facilities, equipment, vehicles and supplies be assured in accordance with APEC's Emergency Travel Facilitation Initiatives;
5. **Promote** accountability for all violations of international humanitarian law;
6. **Urge** APPF Member States and APPF Parliaments to redouble efforts to find durable solutions to conflicts through conflict prevention, diplomacy and mediation;
7. **Provide** parliamentary oversight of national funding mechanisms and budgetary allocations related to humanitarian assistance to ensure their consistency with commitments made at the international level;
8. **Advocate** responses to humanitarian appeals that are timely and adequate, commensurate with national capacity and the needs identified by the international humanitarian system, and by understanding responsive local considerations;
9. **Prioritize** disaster risk reduction and resiliency, including by supporting implementation of the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030* at the international, regional, national and local levels;
10. **Appeal** to APPF Member States to respond – in a manner consistent with international refugee law and international human rights law – to the humanitarian dimensions of refugee and migrant movements, and to displacement caused by anthropogenic climate change and natural disasters;

11. **Encourage** APPF Member States to cooperate in sharing the burdens and responsibilities associated with refugee crises, including by providing support to those countries that are host to significant numbers of refugees;
12. **Call on** APPF Member States, and encourage non-Member states, to place special emphasis on ensuring a strong legal framework that facilitates the distribution of humanitarian aid, and one that is transparent and fights against corruption.