

**ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF)
25th ANNUAL MEETING**

RESOLUTION APPF25/18

**COOPERATION IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN THE ASIA
PACIFIC REGION**

(Sponsored by Japan and Chile)

The 25th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum;

Reaffirming all the APPF resolutions on Disaster Risk Reduction, including the Resolution on Building Resilience to Disasters and Crises adopted at the 24th Annual Meeting of the APPF in Vancouver, Canada, in January 2016;

Recalling the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Disaster Report issued on 27 October 2015 which highlights that the region's existing risks are exacerbated and new risks are created by rapid economic growth, rising population, burgeoning cities, and the consequent impact these interrelated processes have on environmental buffers;

Reiterating all the resolutions adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) adopted in Manila in April 2005, in Bangkok in April 2010 and in Switzerland in October 2010 which summon parliaments and the whole international community to carry out a consistent cooperation on disaster-prevention efforts;

Reaffirming Resolution 56-195 on International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, adopted by the United Nations on 21 January 2002 and the Final Statement of the 6th United Nations International Disaster and Risk Conference held in Davos in September 2016;

Emphasising the vulnerability of the Asia-Pacific region to natural disasters and the large number of recent natural disasters in our region, in particular the differentiated influence of the Pacific Plate, Nazca, Ring of Fire impacts, volcanic threats, tsunamis and El Niño – Southern Oscillation, among others, and that they are cross-border in nature;

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

Taking note of 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;

Welcoming the expansion of mutual cooperation in accordance with Sendai Declaration and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan on 14-18 March 2016, and the designation

of 13 October as the International Day for Disaster Reduction, and November 5 as World Tsunami Awareness Day at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly in New York on 21 December 2009 and on 22 December 2015 and ongoing related efforts;

Recognising that the economic losses and damages from disasters and their impact on development may be exacerbated by current development patterns;

Recognising 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, minimising 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 on the substantial reduction of disaster losses in lives and in social, economic, cultural and environmental assets;

Noting that parliaments of APPF Member States, with the support of parliamentarians, have made significant progress in their legal frameworks to effectively influence disaster risk reduction; and

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

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Call upon** APPF Member States to prioritise measures incorporating disaster risk reduction in their public policies and allocating adequate financial resources for this purpose;
2. **Urge** APPF Member States to strengthen national policy and regulatory frameworks to assure synergy among disaster risk reduction, climate change adjustment, poverty alleviation and social development, in order to shield the interest of those at risk of geological and climate-related catastrophes;
3. **Encourage** parliamentarians from APPF Member States to formulate national laws designed to regulate and coordinate prevention and response to the affected population in case of disasters;
4. **Engage** APPF Member States to follow a long-sighted approach and to conduct risk reduction strategies, exchange technology, establish early warning systems and rapid response mechanisms as well as update the Risk Atlas, among others;
5. **Urge** parliaments of APPF Member States to promote strong cooperation in terms of sharing technology, information and expertise for disaster preparedness;
6. **Appeal** to APPF Member States to further expand mutual cooperation in disaster risk reduction as stated in the "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030", as well as dealt with in regional cooperation frameworks such as APEC, ASEAN, the East Asia Summit (EAS) and the Trilateral Japan-China-ROK;

7. **Promote** Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 with APPF Member States, 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 on disaster risk reduction at the regional and sectoral levels, and propose the necessary adjustments;
8. **Affirm** the importance of disseminating knowledge on tsunamis and raising people's awareness and promote countermeasures against tsunamis worldwide in order to protect as many precious lives as possible, and welcome the High School Student Summit on "World Tsunami Awareness Day in Kuroshio" held in November 2016, to which high school students from 30 countries participated;
9. **Urge** parliaments of APPF Member States through their governments, parliamentary systems, universities, research centres 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 characterisation of threats;
10. **State** that protecting vulnerable people in disasters including women, children, people with disabilities and the elderly is a major social priority; and
11. **Affirm** the importance of clearly including disaster risk reduction in the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development in order to mainstream disaster risk reduction.