



**19th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM
23-27 January 2011, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**

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**RESOLUTION ON COOPERATION IN DISASTER
MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSES**

(Sponsored by Chile and Mongolia)

NINETEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM:

Underscoring the relevance of international and regional inter-parliamentary cooperation in natural disaster mitigation, given the growing role played by international and regional inter-parliamentary organizations –especially in the Asia-Pacific Region- in related social and humanitarian areas;

Deeply concerned about the suffering endured by the victims of natural disasters, loss of life, refugee flows, collective displacement of populations, and physical and financial destruction - and *considering* that this should serve to promote international inter-parliamentary cooperation aimed at mitigating human suffering and accelerating rehabilitation and reconstruction;

Also noting the growing number and complexity of human catastrophes and natural disasters, the impact of which exceeds the disaster-response capacity of many affected countries, in particular their ability to provide food, medicine, shelter and health care to disaster victims;

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Urge** the regional community of the Asia-Pacific region, particularly donor countries, international financial institutions and relevant international organizations, the private sector and civil society to extend their full support and assistance to the Governments of countries affected by natural disasters to mitigate the adverse impact of them by taking measures, such as providing market access to revive their economies and investing in medium- and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction projects. Parliaments of the Asia-Pacific region to support their disaster management by issuing related legal documents on emergency response interagency communication and coordination and improvement of national rescue and response capacity.

2. **Support** establishing standardized procedures and guidelines on emergency management and coordination of agencies which are involved in emergency response and training of national team and special taskforces, supplying them with techniques and equipments according to international team standards and conducting joint exercises.

3. **Ensure** the implementation of joint, effective and immediate disaster response under the circumstances exceeding national disaster response capacity through establishing bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements on cooperation and mutual assistance among countries in the region and joining respective agreements and treaties.

4. **Appeal** to international and regional parliamentary organizations, UN agencies and relevant regional and international organizations to redouble their efforts and develop programmes to heighten awareness of the damages caused by natural catastrophes.

5. **Underscore** the importance of a rapid response by the international community, particularly in the Asia-Pacific Region, to meet the needs of people affected by natural hazards that may become disasters, especially the people of severely affected countries such as Pakistan among others, who have sustained heavy losses as a result of the recent devastating floods, and *urges* all potential stakeholders to extend humanitarian aid to all those affected by such a disaster.

6. **Call upon** parliaments from the Asia-Pacific Region to urge their governments to prioritize compliance with international commitments such as the Kyoto Protocol and other agreements dealing with climate change.

7. **Encourage** all governments from the Asia-Pacific Region to further coordinate their international relief, reconstruction and recovery activities, among themselves and with humanitarian agencies, and to take concrete action to enhance people's understanding of the need for disaster-risk reduction through public awareness, education and training.

8. **Call upon** parliaments from the Asia-Pacific Region to urge their governments - through their legislative and oversight roles - the United Nations and its specialized agencies and all relevant regional and international organizations to develop disaster-risk-reduction strategies, facilitate the exchange of relevant technology, establish early warning systems, and develop rapid response mechanisms, in particular under the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) launched by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNDP and UNISDR.

9. **Issue** an urgent call for all nations belonging to the Asia-Pacific Region, acting within the framework of a strategy to manage unforeseen events, and in view of the need to ensure global security, to establish a global resource able to tackle unanticipated disasters and phenomena immediately.

