



APPF29/RES/09

RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN BALANCING DISEASE CONTROL, ECONOMY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS, AND IDEAS FOR INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION

Draft Resolution Sponsored by: Republic of Korea, Australia and Mexico

We, the parliamentarians of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), participating in the 29th Annual Meeting of the APPF held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, under the theme *The Role of Parliaments in Strengthening Resilience in the Post-COVID-19 Era*:

Reaffirming joint declarations and resolutions adopted at major international conferences on COVID-19 response, including the President's summary of the debate on the overall theme of the 142nd IPU Assembly, the Joint Statement of the Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019, resolutions adopted by the 73rd and 74th World Health Assemblies (WHA), the 2020 Riyadh G20 Leaders' Declaration, and the resolution adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council,

Concerned at the situation where public health measures have resulted in having an unintentional impact on human rights and the economy, including the shrinking of national economies in the Asia-Pacific region caused by unnecessary restrictions in travel between countries and regions, and how vulnerable groups were the hardest hit and basic rights ensured under the Constitution were in some cases unreasonably or arbitrarily limited, including infringement of individual freedom and personal information, in the process of controlling the spread of COVID-19,

Acknowledging disease control, economy, and human rights during the COVID-19 pandemic are goals no country can neglect,

Keeping in mind that medical health cooperation in vaccines and treatments vitalizes the economy by efficiently restoring daily life and improving universal access to public health, thereby building the foundation to achieve balance in disease control, economy, and human rights,

Emphasizing the need for cooperation and solidarity in the Asia-Pacific region to share experiences in achieving balance in disease control, economy, and human rights to strengthen crisis response capability and thereby enhance resilience in the post-COVID-19 era,

RESOLVE TO:

1. **Recommend** APPF Member Parliaments assess the balance in disease control, economy, and human rights, and gender equality by examining whether or not any of the measures adopted to control COVID-19 excessively restricted the economy and human rights, and monitor the government so that it can adopt a human-rights-based and gender-sensitive approach and take into account the inequality faced by vulnerable groups;
2. **Encourage** APPF Member Parliaments to devote efforts to protect human rights by taking into consideration human rights guidelines of international organizations, such as the Declaration of Human Rights and International Bill of Rights, during the deliberation of bills on disease control to prevent all forms of infringement on human rights that may arise in the process of responding to health crises in the COVID-19 and post-COVID-19 era;
3. **Recommend** APPF Member Countries to ease policies on travel between countries and regions that were put in place to curb the spread of COVID-19 and be committed to reviving the economy by restoring the freedom to travel and promoting trade; when appropriate to do so in keeping with public health best practices
4. **Urge** APPF Member Countries to cooperate in the preemptive establishment of a response

strategy so that balance may be achieved in disease control, economy, and human rights in case of a recurrence of a global health crisis in the post-COVID-19 era;

5. **Invite** APPF Member Parliaments to share experiences in disease control through the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum on Global Health (APPFGH) and other regional and international meetings and together, seek a more effective response measure that does not disrupt the economy or infringe upon human rights; and

6. **Call upon** APPF Member Countries to collaborate in the area of medical health to ensure fair and affordable access to vaccines and treatments, cognizant of their importance as a public good in achieving balance in disease control, economy, and human rights.