



**31st Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF31)
23-26 November 2023, Manila**

**RESOLUTION ON ENHANCING REGIONAL COOPERATION ON CLIMATE
ACTION, BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION, AND
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

Sponsored by Japan and Philippines

We, the parliamentarians of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), gathering in Manila, Republic of the Philippines for the 31st Annual Meeting of the APPF under the theme "Resilient Partnerships for Peace, Prosperity, and Sustainability":

Recalling all the relevant resolutions in the United Nations General Assembly regarding the protection of the global climate for the present and future generations of human beings;

Recognizing the imperative to intensify and accelerate climate action under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other pertinent agreements including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction;

Underscoring the pivotal role of the Asia-Pacific region countries in championing and advancing ambitious global climate action including during the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) to the UNFCCC in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and in the UNFCCC process for the global stocktake and updating of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);

Welcoming the decision to establish a loss and damage fund as a part of the loss and damage support measures in COP27;

Expressing expectation for the start of its early operation after the designing of a detailed system in COP28;

Recognizing the role that can be served by the carbon market based on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement that is operated under the implementation guidelines decided in COP 26 and the rules decided in COP27;

Emphasizing the necessity of accelerating efforts by developed countries to at least double the contribution for adaptation in developing countries by 2025 compared to the level in 2019 based on the decision of COP26, in the context of achieving a balance between mitigation and adaptation in the provision of scaled-up financial resources;

Expressing concerns on the goal for the developed countries that was officially decided in COP16, namely “mobilizing jointly USD 100 billion per year by 2020, in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation,” remained unmet;

Looking forward to the prompt achievement of the succeeded goals for 2020 and 2025, and its first achievement in 2023;

Highlighting the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) adopted during the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, particularly emphasizing target 3, which aims to ensure and enable that by 2030, at least 30 percent of terrestrial and inland water areas, as well as marine and coastal areas, crucial for biodiversity are effectively conserved. This entails establishing ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories;

Emphasizing the necessity to considerably expand contributions to the Green Climate Fund that supports mitigation and adaptation, law enforcement and incentives in developing and least developed countries;

Welcoming the 2024 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Manila as the main regional platform in the Asia-Pacific for promoting coordination and cooperation on disaster risk reduction, and the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;

Acknowledging the imperative to combat plastic pollution, and *recognizing* the need for mutual understanding, fairness, and collaborative effort among APPF countries, in line with the Agreement on Plastic Pollution adopted at United Nations Environment Assembly 5.2. This Agreement seeks to actively mitigate plastic discharge into oceans, reflecting our shared commitment to safeguarding marine environments and addressing the critical issue of plastic pollution on a global scale;

Noting that the Asia-Pacific region is among the climate vulnerable regions, particularly cited by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its Sixth Assessment Report, underscoring that Asia-Pacific countries confront various climate impact drivers, including temperature increase, droughts, extreme precipitation events and related flooding, sea-level rise, ocean warming/stratification, and other climate-

related issues which interact with human disturbances, resulting in loss and damage, population displacement, impacts on agriculture and food systems, biodiversity and habitat loss, and human and ecosystems health;

Keeping in mind that the Synthesis Report of the Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC points out that “Global GHG emissions in 2030 implied by NDCs announced by October 2021 make it likely that warming will exceed 1.5°C during the 21st century and make it harder to limit warming below 2°C,”;

Acknowledging that action on adaptation to climate change is an urgent priority and a global challenge faced by all countries, in particular developing and least developed and least developed countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change;

Emphasizing the necessity of accelerating international cooperation on coping with the adaptation including according to the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) based on the Paris Agreement and the “Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation”;

Acknowledging again the goal of the Paris Agreement, namely to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and pursue efforts to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels;

Emphasizing the critical role that healthy ecosystems play in increasing climate resilience and enabling adaptation, including through nature-based solutions; and noting with concern that degradation of ecosystems undermines their capacity to address and minimize the impacts of climate change;

Acknowledging the inextricable links between climate change, biodiversity and sustainable development;

Recognizing the critical role of parliamentarians in the areas of national legislation, budgetary allocation and oversight of government performance, and in safeguarding the integrity and domestic implementation of international agreements;

Stressing that parliamentarians can further contribute to enhanced climate action, resilience-building, and conservation of biological diversity by encouraging the participation of various sectors and stakeholders in the exercise of their functions and strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation;

Noting that the APPF serves as a platform to identify and discuss issues of regional interest and concern such as impact of natural disasters on critical infrastructure, health care and E-commerce infrastructure, and vulnerability of digital infrastructure/information communication facilities, with the aim of promoting them in the global context;

Recalling the resolutions on climate change and disaster risk reduction at the past APPF Annual Meetings and highlighting RESOLUTION 10 on “Calling for Regional Cooperation on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation” adopted at the 26th Annual Meeting held in January 2018, urging all Member States to “integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction into their development agenda, plans, policies, programs and investments at the national and local levels and using a whole of society approach,” and, further, “to work towards a long-term legislative framework for action on climate change in the Asia-Pacific region” and, “to contribute to the capacity-building of parliamentarians in the development of policies for enhanced climate action and ambition”;

Recalling further that in earlier resolutions, the APPF resolved to implement an inter-parliamentary communication mechanism to share information, successful experiences, and knowledge for effective response to climate change, and appealed to Member-States to expand mutual cooperation;

Reconfirming our commitments in carrying out the resolutions regarding climate change that were adopted in the past APPF annual meetings; and

Confirming that APPF will serve a leading role for the promotion of dialogue between parliaments in the Asia-Pacific region and the acceleration of multinational cooperative actions in the Asia-Pacific region and the world, for responding to climate change;

RESOLVE TO:

1. **Call upon** all the Parties to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, especially major economies, to endeavor to align their 2030 NDC targets or long-term GHG emission development strategies (LTS) with a 1.5°C pathway and invest in clean energy technologies with a view to achieving net zero emissions by 2050;
2. **Recognize** the importance of the commitment confirmed in COP26, namely to accelerate efforts toward phase down of unabated coal power generation and phase out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, and require the governments of APPF member countries to consider the possibility of commitment to accelerate the phase down of unabated fossil fuels;
3. **Urge** all APPF Member-States to update their climate change adaptation and mitigation targets and integrate climate change action, biodiversity conservation, and disaster risk reduction into their development plans, policies and programs at the national and local levels, using a whole-of-society approach to build resilient communities;
4. **Enjoin** APPF Member-States to adopt a "whole of ecosystems" approach as a framework strategy to ensure that climate adaptation and mitigation measures,

as well as biodiversity conservation, in forms of policies, programs and actions, are anticipatory, based on best available science including indigenous and local knowledge, and aligned with the principles of climate justice and equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of national circumstances;

5. **Encourage** all APPF Member-States to strengthen cooperation in finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building, ensuring that just transition is facilitated globally, and that developing and least developed countries are supported in the transition;
6. **Reiterates** that according to the Paris Agreement, developed country Parties should continue to take the lead in mobilizing climate finance from a wide variety of sources, instruments and channels, noting the significant role of public funds, through a variety of actions, including supporting country-driven strategies, and taking into account the needs and priorities of developing country Parties, including mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage;
7. **Encourage** APPF Member-States who are recipient of contribution to secure appropriate implementation and management of supported projects so that they generate maximum effects;
8. **Call upon** the governments of APPF Member-States to consistently improve the investment environment for technology development, considering that innovation is essential to meet global net-zero emissions by 2050;
9. **Empower** all APPF Member-States to integrate nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation into national and local climate adaptation strategies, disaster risk reduction plans, and development policies, ensuring consideration of potential climate change impacts in order to strengthen the health and resilience of ecosystems and vulnerable communities;
10. **Inspire** all APPF Member-States to take ambitious action to address plastic pollution through regulatory, voluntary, and economic incentives to promote a circular economy and phase-out problematic plastics;
11. **Request** all APPF Member-States to work towards a long-term legislative framework for action on climate change in the Asia-Pacific region in line with the global blueprints for disaster risk reduction, climate change, and biodiversity conservation;
12. **Call upon** the governments of APPF Member-States to promote international cooperation in capacity-building for implementing Article 6 of the Paris Agreement;
13. **Request** the APPF to contribute to the capacity-building of parliamentarians in the development and enhancement of policies for enhanced climate change

adaptation and mitigation action, disaster risk reduction, and biodiversity conservation;

14. **Urge** APPF Member Parliaments to adopt laws and legislative models that support climate change mitigation and adaptation within and outside the country, and to fulfill obligations under the Paris Agreement; and
15. **Request** APPF Member Parliaments to continuously hold and enhance dialogues between parliaments in the Asia-Pacific region and the world on responses to climate change.