



APA/Res/2010/14
30 November, 2010

Resolution on Alleviating Poverty in Asia

We, the members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution on Alleviating Poverty in Asia, APA/Res/2009/11, dated 10 December 2009;

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on Alleviating Poverty in Asia, SG/Rep/2010/12 dated 7 June 2010, submitted to the meeting of the Sub-Committee held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 12 October 2010;

Taking note of the deliberations of the Sub-Committee on Alleviating Poverty in Asia;

Underscoring that MDGs are approaching 10 years of commitment and taking into consideration that APA member countries have taken necessary actions in supporting MDGs with various level of implementation;

Referring to the keynote speech by Indonesia of the significant role of Parliaments both in advocating and overseeing to achieve MDG 2015 Goals, especially Goal One on Poverty Eradication;

Recognizing the importance of the United Nations Summit to review progress on MDG and the participation of parliamentarians therein;

Emphasizing the constructive role the parliaments can play in all phases of National Poverty Alleviation Strategic Plan (NPASP);

Expressing great concern on the situation of the poor which remains alarming;

Stressing the significance of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to alleviate poverty in developing countries;

Expressing alarm that as a result of the current global financial crisis, fewer people can flee poverty;

Encouraging the adoption of sound social protection programs, 'pro-MDG' stimulus packages and 'pro-poor' economic growth policy to assist the poor;

Supporting the adoption of legislations on poverty alleviation programs including in rural areas;

Encouraging regional cooperation on poverty alleviation schemes;

Emphasizing the importance of South-South cooperation on poverty alleviation;

Emphasizing also the importance of encouraging the private sector to be active in poverty alleviation schemes in rural areas;

1. *Call on* APA Member Parliaments to participate actively in the achievement of MDGs and *urge* Member Parliaments to encourage their governments to formulate sound social protection programs to assist the poor, to formulate 'pro-MDG' stimulus packages and to facilitate adoption of 'pro-poor' economic growth policy;
2. *Invite* Member Parliaments to adopt necessary legislations that could expedite the process on poverty alleviation to a) reform the tax system and improve the collection of taxes, b) ensure that land and water rights and modern technologies are granted to the poor in rural areas, that they have access to market information and better roads, and that they are enabled to play a better role in the local institutions relevant to the poor, c) simplify trade, custom and FDI regulations with regional countries and d) offer the private sector appropriate incentives, such as better exchange rates, tax relief and subsidies, to invest in areas related to the needs of the poor;
3. *Urge* Member Parliaments from developed countries to require their respective governments to honor their commitment to allocate 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) to Official Development Assistance (ODA), as required by the Millennium Declaration;
4. *Decide* to promote regional cooperation and global cooperation on poverty alleviation schemes and, in this regard, *urge* Member Parliaments to encourage their governments to take the necessary measures, with the assistance of regional and international organizations as well as NGOs, to formulate regional mechanism to alleviate poverty;
5. *Call on* Member Parliaments to cooperate with each other to facilitate South-South cooperation including in the area of foreign aid;
6. *Urge* Member Parliaments to consult the parliaments of major donor countries to encourage them not to reduce the proportion of ODA going to agriculture;

7. *Decide* to support the Asian Development Fund (ADF) and in this context, *urge* Member Parliaments, in a position to do so, to establish national funds in support of Asian Development Bank's activities to reduce poverty in Asia;
8. *Call on* Member Parliaments to submit a report on their best practices and those of their executive branches to the APA Secretariat to be placed on the APA website;
9. *Request* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on their efforts to implement this resolution and to submit a report thereon to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee in 2011.