

# ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF)

## 27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

Draft Resolution Sponsored by: Japan

### DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum;

**Reaffirming** all the APPF resolutions on Disaster Risk Reduction, including the Resolution on Calling for Regional Cooperation on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation adopted at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the APPF in Hanoi, Vietnam, in January 2018;

**Recalling** the particular vulnerability of the Asia-Pacific region to natural disasters and the large number of recent natural disasters in our region;

**Noting** that the APPF is an organization that seeks to identify and discuss issues of regional interest and concern, with the aim of promoting them in a global context;

**Recalling** that the APPF Member States encourages and promotes regional cooperation at all levels on issues of common interest with a sense of cohesion, understanding and coordination;

**Recalling** the particular vulnerability of the Asia-Pacific region to natural disasters and the differentiated influence of the Pacific Plate, Nazca, Ring of Fire impacts, volcanic threats, tsunamis and El Niño – Southern Oscillation, among others;

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

**Recognizing** 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 line 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;

**Welcoming** the adoption of the resolution to designate 5 November as World Tsunami Awareness Day at the Plenary Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 22 December 2015 and ongoing related efforts;

**Recognizing** that the economic losses and damages from disasters and their impact on development tend to be exacerbated by current development patterns;

**Recognizing** 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, minimizing 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 to the substantial reduction of disaster losses in lives and in social, economic, cultural and environmental assets;

**Noting** that governments in the Asia-Pacific region, with the support of parliamentarians, have made significant progress in their legal frameworks to effectively influence the disaster risk reduction; and

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

## **RESOLVES TO:**

1. **Call upon** governments at all levels in the Asia-Pacific region to prioritize measures incorporating disaster risk reduction in their public policies and allocating adequate financial resources for this purpose;
2. **Encourage** parliamentarians from the Asia-Pacific region to formulate national laws designed to regulate and coordinate prevention and response to the affected population in case of disasters;
3. **Encourage** parliamentarians from the Asia-Pacific region to in turn encourage their governments and UN agencies, to conduct risk reduction strategies, exchange of technology, establishment of early warning systems and rapid response mechanisms, and to update the Risk Atlas, among others;
4. **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 regional cooperation frameworks such as APEC, ASEAN, the East Asia Summit (EAS) and the Trilateral Japan-China-ROK;
5. **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 disaster risk reduction at the regional and sectorial levels, and propose the necessary adjustments;

6. **Affirm** the importance of understanding the risks and effects of tsunamis and passing onto the predecessor's experience and knowledge of disaster risk reduction to future generations in order to protect as many precious lives as possible, and welcome the High School Student Summit on "World Tsunami Awareness Day 2018 in Wakayama" held on 31 October and 1 November, to which high school students from 48 countries participated;
7. **Urge** the countries of the region - through their governments, parliamentary systems, universities, research centers 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 characterization of threats;
8. **State** that protecting vulnerable people in disasters including women, children, people with disabilities and the elderly is a major social priority; and
9. **Affirm** the importance of clearly having positioned disaster risk reduction in the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development in order to mainstream disaster risk reduction.