



Resolution on Water and Sanitation in Asia for All

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1 December 2016

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recognizing the outcome document for the United Nations Summit for the adoption of Post- 2015 Development Agenda entitled “*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,*” adopted in September 2015;

Recalling United Nations’ General Assembly resolution (A/64/292) adopted on 28th July 2010, which formally recognized water and sanitation as human rights and UN Human Rights Council resolution (A/HRC/RES/18/1) adopted on the 28 September 2011, recognizing that the right to water and sanitation are part of the right to an adequate standard of living;

Welcoming the SDG goal 6 on ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, including universal and equitable access to drinking water, sustainable water resources management and wastewater treatment, providing a further anchor for sustainability in the water governance field;

Noting with interest relevant commitments and initiatives promoting the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, including the Abuja Declaration, adopted at the first Africa- South America Summit, in 2006, the Delhi Declaration, adopted at the third South Asian Conference on Sanitation, in 2008, the Sharm el-Sheikh Final Document, adopted at the Fifteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Movement of Non- Aligned Countries, in 2009, and the Colombo Declaration, adopted at the fourth South Asian Conference on Sanitation, in 2011;

Deeply concerned that approximately one billion people across Asia could face severe water shortage by 2050;

Stress upon the need for Asian Governments to focus in national policies on water and sanitation issues and contribute towards international efforts in resolving these issues;

1. **Welcome** the inclusion of water and sanitation in Post-2015 Development Agenda and the acceptance of human right to safe drinking water and sanitation by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council;
2. **Consider** the role of Parliamentarian critical in the implementation of human rights approach to water and sanitation in Asia, including particularly the adoption of legislative measures in the implementation of their human rights obligations;

3. **Reaffirm** that APA Member States have the primary responsibility to ensure the full realization of SDGs including Goal 6, and must take steps, nationally and through international assistance and cooperation, especially economic and technical, to the sanitation by all appropriate means;
4. **Request** Member Parliaments to urge their respective governments to cooperate with their regions to discuss the water scarcity challenge all over Asian countries and to study in depth the causes of the water scarcity and to provide appropriate solutions and strategies to overcome this challenge;
5. **Request** the APA Member States to ensure financing according to the available resources for the provision of affordable water and sanitation, and to develop indicators and data collection mechanisms to monitor progress and to identify shortcomings;
6. **Encourage** integrated water resource planning and management¹ for reducing widespread scarcity and pollution of freshwater resources in many regions and priority should be given to the fulfillment of basic needs and safeguarding of ecosystems in developing and using water resources;
7. **Urge** APA Parliamentarians to vigorously engage with executives on building inclusive frameworks between States for reduction of climate change impacts. These climate change impacts have severe consequences in the shape of water scarcity and flooding;
8. **Ask** APA Members to support advance technology transfers from developed countries to the developing countries of Asia and sharing of good practices for efficient allocation of water;
9. **Underline** the important role of the international cooperation provided by the United Nations, international development partners, as well as by donor agencies, in the achievement of the SDGs, and urges development partners to harmonize their strategies with the national initiatives and plans of APA Members related to safe drinking water and sanitation;
10. **Request** the Secretary-General to report, the achievement of APA Member Parliaments on this resolution, to the next Standing Committee on Sustainable Development.

¹ **Integrated water resources management (IWRM)** has been defined by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) as "a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems".