

30th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF)

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REGIONAL COOPERATION IN ASIA-PACIFIC:

PARLIAMENTS AND THE PROMOTION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY USE TO ACHIEVE CARBON NEUTRALITY/NET ZERO EMISSIONS

We, the parliamentarians of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), participating in the 30th Annual Meeting of the APPF held in the city of Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand, with the topic "Parliaments and Sustainable Development after COVID-19":

Considering the urgency of accelerating a new development paradigm, which must be strengthened with the support and cooperation of parliamentary institutions as policy and law makers;

Noticing that the planet is currently facing one of the most challenging threats of all time, the climate crisis, generated especially by human activities;

Bearing in mind that global warming represents the progressive increase in temperatures and the modification in environmental patterns, derived mainly from industrial processes and the burning of fuels to meet energy needs in the current context;

Recalling that one of the main purposes for the establishment of the APPF was to seek sustainable development, not only for its Member States, but for the world population in general, which can only be achieved through environmentally friendly practices;

Noting that coal is the main source of global warming and the international commitment to reduce its use, which represents 41% of the world's energy generation;

Being aware that energy is one of the main development vectors, but that its form of production to date represents the main cause of the climate collapse that threatens humanity, so that the mitigation of climate change depends on a radical transformation in obtaining energy sources worldwide;

Concerned because coal, oil and gas combustion produces greenhouse effect emissions that retain thermal radiation of the sun's heat on the earth's surface, causing an increase in temperatures and other concerning events such as forest fires, heat waves, droughts, and increasingly aggressive meteorological phenomena, in addition to the loss of fauna and flora, both terrestrial and marine;

Considering the seriousness of climate change, which in many cases results in forced displacement of people from their places of origin, most of whom are vulnerable, due to the negative impacts of this phenomenon;

Accompanying the commitment made by our governments during the 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 26) to impose stricter targets against the burning of coal and subsidies to inefficient fossil fuels, in addition to strengthening actions aimed at achieving the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);

Recognizing the importance of a responsible debate on the implementation of an effective green transition based on the use of renewable energies, which have proven to be a real alternative for climate change mitigation;

Recalling that the generation of clean energy benefits not only the climate and the environment but also the economy and helps social cohesion, so that they are good for the planet as well as for people;

Reconfirming that parliaments should present initiatives to move towards renewable energy sources and clean technologies, as well as generate the necessary instruments for financing the energy transition;

Resolve:

1. **Urging** APPF Member Parliaments to use their crucial role in the search for responses to climate change and the implementation of sustainable actions through legislative activities in addition to their own budgetary management and oversight functions that contribute to the process of achieving carbon neutrality and net zero emissions.
2. **Recommending** that the Parliaments of the Asia-Pacific region use their position as one of the powers of the State in the construction of consensual policies that contribute to short-, medium- and long-term responses to address climate effects. Likewise, to validate its role as a counterweight in the actions carried out by the other branches of government that could be detrimental to efforts aimed at carbon neutrality.
3. **Urging** APPF Members to create and promote new and better development paradigms for the just transition to sustainable low-carbon economies that act in accordance with the urgency of climate action at the international, regional, national, and local levels.
4. **Inviting** parliamentarians to consider climate change mitigation and adaptation as an opportunity to create new development models that put people, their demands and needs first when elaborating all public policies.
5. **Encouraging** APPF Members to support the implementation of renewable energy-based technologies from their position, which have a much lower environmental impact than conventional ones.
6. **Reiterating** the call to APPF Members for a redoubling of efforts to achieve the Paris Agreement goal of keeping the global average temperature increase well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.
7. **Calling** APPF Members to greater involvement to promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the reduction of inequality and the creation of quality jobs and decent living conditions, leaving no one behind. In addition to looking after the interests not only of current populations but also those of future generations.