

RESOLUTION ON DEVELOPING HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND FACILITATING EQUAL ACCESS TO PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

Draft Resolution Sponsored by Thailand

We, the parliamentarians of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), gathering in Bangkok, Thailand, for the 30th Annual Meeting of the APPF under the theme *Parliaments and the Post-COVID-19 Sustainable Development*:

Conscious of the fact that transmitted diseases and pandemics which continue to emerge as threats to good health and well-being of the global citizens adversely affect the way of life of people, impede the economic growth around the world and increase hindrances to health care services;

Bearing in mind the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Global health and foreign policy: an inclusive approach to strengthening health systems (A/RES/74/20), adopted in 2020, recognizes that primary health care brings people into first contact with the health system and provides efficient approach to enhance people's holistic health;

Recalling the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040, adopted in 2020 by APEC leaders, seeking to ensure 'Strong, Balanced, Secure, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth' in the Asia-Pacific by 2040 so that better health and well-being of all peoples will be achieved;

Also recalling the Aotearoa Plan of Action (2021) which sets out how to implement and track the progress of the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040, especially the collective actions that economies should play a part in strengthening health care systems, with a view to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC);

Welcoming the reaffirmation at the 12th APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy (HLM12) held on 25th-26th August 2022 in Bangkok of the balance of health and economy in the region to better respond to pandemics in the future and to realize the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040;

Emphasizing that every people should have the right to access essential healthcare services from their respective Government without financial hardship;

Reaffirming the commitment to attain the Sustainable Development Goal 3: ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages, especially target 3.8 which aims to "Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all";

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic poses enormous catastrophe to the global community and the need for cooperation among APPF Member Countries to better prepare for the future health threats;

Highlighting the significant role of the Parliaments of the APPF Member Countries to support the UHC including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services and telemedicine as well as safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all; and

Mindful that the effective action for our member countries' Parliaments is to pass laws in close consultation and cooperation with the executive branch for the best result for Public Health Services.

RESOLVE TO:

1. *Call Upon* APPF Member Parliaments to provide legislative support for the enactment of legislation related to public health for the improvement of the provision of and access to quality essential healthcare services;
 2. *Encourage* APPF Member Parliaments to update local and national laws that promote equal access to health services and decrease inequality and barrier to health services, especially among the vulnerable groups;
 3. *Call Upon* APPF Member Parliaments to engage in and, where necessary, establish the open and fair discussion among various stakeholders, both public and private sectors including civil society organizations (CSOs) in order to comprehensively expand more collaboration in the development of primary health care that best suits local communities, as well as strengthen the roles community health volunteers;
 4. *Urge* APPF Member Parliaments to exchange and share health information, innovative technology, good practices, and best practices, as well as promote digitization of health services;
 5. *Urge* APPF Member Parliaments to work closely with their Governments in ensuring more investment in national health security and to examine the best possible recommendations for effective budgeting for such investment;
 6. *Call Upon* APPF Member Parliaments to encourage their Governments to achieve UHC for their citizens;
 7. *Urge* APPF Member Parliaments to support their Governments in implementing UHC and allocating sufficient health budget, subsidies, and other resources for this implementation, especially in the developing countries;
 8. *Encourage* APPF Member Parliaments to commit to good health and wellbeing of all, as reaffirmed by the HLM12, by supporting their Governments in the allocation of budget that is well-balanced and inclusive while taking into account the interdependence between public health and economy as drivers for sustained and prosperous Asia-Pacific community;
 9. *Call upon* APPF Member Parliaments to ensure that public health decisions affecting the people must respect their dignity and promote their human rights; and
 10. *Encourage* APPF Member Parliaments to strengthen health literacy among the general population and support organizations, both public and private, to become health liberated.
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