

The Manila Call for Action of Parliamentarians on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

18 October 2008

We, Parliamentarians from the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, Costa Rica, Ghana, the Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Uganda, and the East African Legislative Assembly, met at the first UNISDR Consultative Meeting with Parliamentarians on 17-18 October 2008 in Manila, Philippines, focusing our discussions on making Disaster Risk Reduction a tool for Climate Change Adaptation, we parliamentarians convinced that:

- (1) Pro-active and preventive strategies are needed to decrease human vulnerability to disaster and climate change, especially that of the poor and with particular attention to women, to safeguard human security, promote sustainable development, and alleviate poverty;
- (2) Disaster risk reduction is an international, national and community priority and is the first line of defense for adapting to climate change;
- (3) A comprehensive strategic approach is needed for creating an enabling environment for political and

financial commitment in reducing human, social, economic and environmental vulnerability to climate related hazards.

We, Parliamentarians, recognizing:

- (4) That climate change, increasing urban vulnerability and rapid environmental degradation are exacerbating the magnitude and impact of disasters, especially in developing countries, making adaptation a matter of urgency.
- (5) That industrialized countries have a historical responsibility for climate change and are morally obliged to financially and technologically assist developing countries in their efforts to reduce their vulnerability and adapt to its consequences, while reducing their own GHG emissions.
- (6) The European Parliament resolution calling for a long-term financing goal for the EU's Global Climate Change Alliance.
- (7) That climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction are closely linked, that effective disaster risk reduction will enhance adaptive capacity; and therefore that immediate action is needed to synergize disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation as a requirement for attaining the Millennium Development Goals and ensuring sustainable development.

We, Parliamentarians, commit:

- (8) To promoting close collaboration between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction experts and institutions with a view to increasing efficiency and effectiveness in reducing peoples' vulnerability to climate-related disasters.
- (9) To promoting the implementation of the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* to reduce climate-related risks and vulnerabilities.
- (10) To advocating policy changes to advance disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at national and international levels.
- (11) To enacting legislation for disaster risk reduction at national level and promoting it at international and local levels.
- (12) To promoting an enabling political environment to establish cooperative and mutually beneficial relationships between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

We, Parliamentarians, call on:

- (13) Parliamentarians around the world, especially in countries vulnerable to disasters, to take a pro-active role in advancing disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in order to protect lives and livelihoods.

- (14) The Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations to work together in developing and elaborating an international legal framework to secure the synergy between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.
- (15) The international community to provide greater priority to and more resources for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.
- (16) National governments to ensure better use of existing resources by making disaster risk reduction a tool for climate change adaptation.

We, Parliamentarians, take immediate action and will:

- (17) Deliver statements in our respective Parliaments to report on the outcome of the Manila Consultative Meeting.
- (18) Call on Governments to make disaster risk reduction a tool for climate change adaptation at national and local levels, including in the National Adaptation Plans.
- (19) Inquire into the compliance of Government with the Hyogo Framework for Action.
- (20) Propose legislation to mandate the mainstreaming of gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction in national and regional development plans, including for climate change adaptation.

(21) Establish, where possible, regional networks of parliamentarians in Asia, Africa and Latin America similar to Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE) -Europe/EU to promote the linkage between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, among other issues.