



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA



ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARIAN FORUM ON GLOBAL HEALTH  
-2nd Annual Meeting-

The Role of Parliamentarians  
in Achieving Health in the Sustainable Development Goals

24-25 November 2016  
Seoul, Republic of Korea

SEOUL DECLARATION

*We, Parliamentarians, participants of the 2nd Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health (the Forum), hosted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea and convened in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 24 to 25 November 2016;*

*We, Parliamentarians, delegates from 17 countries, including the Kingdom of Cambodia, Republic of Fiji, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Federated States of Micronesia, Mongolia, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Independent State of Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Philippines, Independent State of Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kingdom of Thailand, Kingdom of Tonga, Republic of Vanuatu, and Socialist Republic of Viet Nam :*

1. Affirming our collective commitment to promote and protect the health and well-being of all people through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
2. Pledging to leave no one behind;
3. Welcoming the unprecedented scope and significance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), conceived as aspirational to drive action and designed as operational to ensure actionability;
4. Recognizing the inherently integrated and indivisible linkages between the SDGs, particularly health, which is ostensibly enshrined in SDG 3 (good health and well-being), yet influences and is influenced by all the other SDGs, including SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2

(zero hunger), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 14 (life below water), SDG 15 (life on land), SDG 16 (peace and justice), and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals);

5. Recognizing further that the achievement of health in the SDGs must involve multi-sectoral action to engage sectors beyond health, including education, trade, industry, finance, environment, agriculture, labor, and housing;
6. Noting with alarm that South East Asia and the Western Pacific regions are particularly susceptible to conditions with wide-ranging implications for health and the SDGs, including climate change, rapid urbanization, emergencies and disasters;
7. Emphasizing the need for a paradigm shift that employs a whole-of-system, whole-of-government, and whole-of-society approach to break silos and embrace all relevant stakeholders;
8. Appreciating the universal applicability of the SDGs to all countries, while mindful that varying national contexts necessitate tailored implementation strategies for each individual country;
9. Considering the lessons learnt from the Millennium Development Goals, which pushed commendable progress in some areas but demonstrated that "one size fits all" strategies do not always work;
10. Confirming that Universal Health Coverage represents an effective and equitable platform for achieving the health-related SDGs and the SDGs overall;
11. Calling for international cooperation among countries, partners and donors, as essential to promote synergies in achieving the SDGs at the regional and global levels; and
12. Accepting with profound honor and humility the fundamental leadership role that parliamentarians are uniquely positioned to play in health governance and in implementation of the SDGs at the national, regional, and global levels.

*Acknowledge and appreciate :*

1. The 1st Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health, which highlighted the essential role of parliamentarians in strengthening health security at national and global level and called for the establishment of the Forum as a continuing platform for engagement, discussion and collaboration among the member countries, as reflected in the meeting's Outcome Statement;
2. This 2nd Annual Meeting of the Forum, which met its objectives to raise awareness about the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDG 3 and other health-related SDGs; to identify key entry points for multi-sectoral action and highlight the role of parliamentarians in implementing the SDGs at the national level; and to explore opportunities for international cooperation among member countries of the Forum towards advancing the SDG agenda at the regional level;
3. The Korean Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health, Seoul National University JW LEE Center for Global Health, and Yonsei University Asian Institute for Bioethics and Health Law, which contributed to the success of the 2nd Annual Meeting;
4. The World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WHO WPRO), which provided technical support to the 2nd Annual Meeting and continues to support Member States towards achieving health and the SDGs; and
5. The National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, which generously hosted the 2nd Annual Meeting as a demonstration of its long-term support for the Forum.

*Urge our fellow Parliamentarians :*

1. To accelerate the mainstreaming of the SDGs into national health plans by raising awareness of, advocating for, and championing the SDG agenda across governments;
2. To strengthen the rule of law towards achieving the SDGs by enacting legislations that prioritize health agendas, while maintaining policy coherence across sectors;

3. To secure the effective implementation of Universal Health Coverage for SDGs by approving budgets and mobilizing sustainable resources;
4. To promote transparency and accountability of governments by providing oversight and monitoring implementation of multi-sectoral actions to achieve the SDGs;
5. To ensure that no one is left behind in the implementation of the SDGs by fostering participation of constituencies at the national and subnational levels; and
6. To enhance alignment between global and regional commitments and national priorities for health and the SDGs by engaging in international partnerships.

*Request :*

1. WHO WPRO to continue providing support for the Forum and to scale up WHO WPRO's secretariat functions in future activities; and
2. The National Diet of Japan to host the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health in 2017.

*Adopt :*

This Seoul Declaration on 25 November 2016 in Seoul, Republic of Korea, as the outcome statement of the 2nd Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health.