

**First Meeting of the
Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum on Global Health
2–3 July 2015, Seoul, Republic of Korea
OUTCOME STATEMENT**

We, Parliamentarians, the participants of the First Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum on Global Health, hosted by the Republic of Korea's National Assembly and convened in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 2 to 3 July 2015, acknowledge:

1. That Parliamentarians contribute to health governance by: developing health policy and enacting health legislation; improving health service delivery through financing and reform; approving budget appropriation and mobilizing resources; and overseeing implementation towards universal health coverage;
2. That the powers and duties of parliamentarians cover a wide spectrum of health domains, such as:
 - i. health systems strengthening;
 - ii. health security in management of outbreaks and emergencies;
 - iii. prevention and control of communicable diseases;
 - iv. prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases
 - v. health promotion through the life-course, including for people with disabilities and older people, mothers and children;
 - vi. environmental protection and the health impacts of climate change; and
 - vii. the social determinants of health, defined as the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age – such as poverty, violence, gender and ethnicity – which are shaped by the inequitable distribution of power, money and resources;
3. That health interventions may be prioritized by countries according to national capacities, resources and needs;
4. Nevertheless, in light of globalization, that national health interventions are increasingly interconnected and interdependent, and that parliamentarians are also responsible for ensuring that national policies strengthen global health governance;
5. That this First Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum on Global Health provided invaluable insights and highlighted key lessons in global health security, particularly within the context of the recent outbreak of Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS);
6. That such international cooperation was demonstrated by the decisive actions of the Republic of Korea, supported by the World Health Organization (WHO), to contain the MERS outbreak and prevent the disease from escalating to a public health emergency of international concern;

7. That WHO technical support to countries in health remains essential to promote and protect global health security, as demonstrated recently during the MERS outbreak response; and

8. That given the dynamic and complex nature of health – which affects and is affected by sectors such as trade, industry, finance, education, agriculture and population movement – solutions for health require whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches that address the concerns of all stakeholders.

We, as parliamentarians and participants in the First Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum on Global Health, agree:

9. To establish this forum as a platform for parliamentarians in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as international partners, to exchange ideas on prioritizing health agendas and advancing sustainable actions at community, national and global levels;

- i. To initiate establishment of the forum by adopting the provisional draft Articles of Association;
- ii. To further review and revise the draft Articles of Association with the aim of approving the final Articles of Association at the Second Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum on Global Health;
- iii. To promote awareness of the forum and advocate action for human health and well-being among fellow parliamentarians;
- iv. To convene the Second Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum on Global Health in Malaysia in 2016, subject to confirmation by the proposed host government before 30 September 2015 (or convene the forum in the Republic of Korea in 2016 if Malaysia is unavailable);
- v. To convene the Third Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum on Global Health in Japan in 2017; and
- vi. To address emerging health and health-related issues through the forum in a timely manner.

We, as parliamentarians and participants of the First Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum on Global Health, appreciate the assistance of the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific in establishing the forum and request the Organization's ongoing administrative and technical support.

We, as parliamentarians and participants of the First Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum on Global Health, commend the initiative and leadership demonstrated by the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea in establishing this forum.