

THE 15TH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

APPF-15/RES/4

JOINT EFFORTS IN COMBATING PANDEMIC DISEASES

(Sponsored by the Russian Federation, New Zealand, Indonesia)

THE 15TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC
PARLIAMENTARY FORUM,

Reaffirming the APPF member countries' commitment on the need to prevent and overcome the spread of avian flu influenza and the risk of the virus made during the 14th Annual Meeting of APPF, i.e. through the promotion of cooperation between member countries and increase capacity building to prevent and contain an emerging epidemic and initiate early intervention in response to potential outbreaks;

Noting the growing interdependence and deepening of globalization in the International community,

Noting that the danger of pandemic diseases has become more and more alarming, infectious diseases being one of the critical factors of human ill health and death,

Expressing concern about the fact that this situation is aggravated by emerging of new and regeneration of traditional diseases such as Lass and Ebol viral hemorrhagic fevers, Avian influenza and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS),

Stating that the Avian influenza virus is currently pandemic in several areas of Indonesia where, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), 75 cases of this disease have already been confirmed, and of Vietnam, and also in some places in Cambodia, China and Thailand,

Proceeding from the fact that the growing damage caused by infectious diseases severely impacts upon socioeconomic situation as a whole,

Acknowledging the importance of efficient measures taken at the local, regional and international levels in order to reduce general risks of Avian influenza disease,

Welcoming the practice by the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) member countries to detect the cases of infection with Avian influenza and notify each other about them, along with close cooperation and coordination of actions to withstand the disease,

Reaffirming the important role of the World Health Organization (WHO) as the global specialized organization to promote health and security from disease.

Welcoming the operation of the Global Net for Notification and Urgent Response to infective episodes with the coordinating role of the World Health Organization (WHO) as well as the establishment of the International Partnership for Avian and pandemic influenza in September 2005.

Considering that under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreements on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement), the parties to the Agreement formalized in August 2003, can allow the production of patented medicines in cases of public health emergency;

Noting that HIV/AIDS eradication is one of the Millennium Development Goals defined by the United Nations;

Welcoming that a significant amount of resources have already been committed to respond to avian influenza and that regional cooperation initiatives are underway to strengthen capacity, develop partnerships, share information and improve coordination on avian influenza prevention and control, and pandemic preparedness and response;

Recognizing that the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Animal Health Organization (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and, in the Pacific, the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC) are working jointly to contain the threat of highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses

and that international collaboration will be critical in preventing the spread of avian influenza;

RESOLVES TO:

1. *Call* the APPF member countries to carry on the arrangements for urgent response to epidemics and create a strategic stock of antiviral medications,
2. *Encourage* the efforts of governments of the APPF member countries in such areas as evaluation of the state of national preparedness for pandemics, measures for early detection and diagnosis of infectious diseases,
3. *Welcome* working out measures at the local, regional and international levels for prevention of pandemics and other infectious diseases, establishment of epidemiological centers,
4. *Call* the APPF member countries for strengthening cooperation in monitoring the infectious diseases, extending access to their prevention and treatment as well as minimization of epidemic consequences of natural disasters and man-caused (technogenic) catastrophes,
5. *Approve support* by the APPF member countries of the efforts of the World Health Organization (WHO), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other international institutions to stop spreading of infectious diseases on a global scale,
6. *Call* the APPF member countries to be strictly consistent with the new standards of the World Health Organization (WHO) aimed at enhancing the safety of international trade of poultry and poultry products,
7. *Urge* APPF member countries to work in close collaboration with WHO and the international scientific community including WHO Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network and the APEC Emerging Infectious Network to effectively contain and cure infectious diseases on the basis of scientific research;
8. *Stress* the importance of enhancing cooperation between the veterinary and healthcare sectors of the countries in the region,

9. *Call* the APPF member countries to encourage wide dissemination among the rural population of the information on the links between the animal diseases, people conduct and the risk of getting infected,

10. *Call* the international community to increase supplies of beneficial medication and medical equipment to the countries in need, sending specialists there, implementation of modern medical technologies taking into account the decisions made in 2006 at the G-8 Summit in St. Petersburg,

11. *Welcome* the efforts of mass media to inform timely the general public of the countries in the region regarding the danger of emergence of epidemic situation and about the measures to eliminate infection threats.

12. *Urge* APPF member countries to align all policies, programs and initiatives on the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS within the framework of the United Nations Millennium of the year 2000, which set the time frame "...to halve, halt and begin to reverse..." the spread of HIV/AIDS;

13. *Urge* APPF member countries to support the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria with the goal of eradicating HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria;

14. *Encourage* developed countries to assist developing countries to improve their capacity to utilize AIDS funds efficiently and effectively and to monitor performance and impact;

15. *Prioritize* the management and eradication of avian influenza in domestic poultry through the provision of adequate funding and resources to ensure that all avian influenza outbreaks are contained at the national level.