



ASEAN Inter - Parliamentary Organization

The 23rd General Assembly

8-13 September 2002, Ha Noi, Viet Nam

Res. 23GA/2002/Eco/04

RESOLUTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Twenty-third General Assembly:

Recognizing that economic growth and social development are vital to environmental protection;

Expressing concerns that environmental degradation and natural calamities such as droughts, floods, forest fire, etc. are occurring in the region more frequently, causing enormous damage and losses for the environment and people;

Affirming nevertheless that the negative impacts of actual economic globalization and the unidirectional unfair North - South liberalization of trade are root causes of global environmental degradation;

Recognizing further that the rapid degradation of the regional and global environment is a corollary of commercial behaviours harmful to the environment, the excessive production and consumption, the population boom, poverty and hunger and environmentally-unfriendly technologies;

Understanding that environmental degradation is a global issue insurmountable without regional and international co-operation and the involvement of communities, international, regional and national organizations, and non-governmental organizations;

Noting with satisfaction that ASEAN member countries have been actively fulfilling their commitments under international and regional treaties and conventions on environmental protection;

Encouraged by the results produced by ASEAN's recent efforts in protecting the environment, such as the signing of the ASEAN Agreement on Cross-Border Haze; and

Reaffirming that AIPO and the entire ASEAN people welcome and support the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

Hereby resolves:

- a) **To call on** the ASEAN Governments to enhance public awareness in protecting the environment and to encourage their people to do their best in protecting our common home by concrete daily activities;
- b) **To call on** the ASEAN Governments to map out their respective national sustainable development strategies with the participation of their local authorities, organizations and individuals, aimed at harmonizing socio-economic development with environmental protection as well as promoting co-operation in environmental protection in order to build a "green, clean and beautiful" ASEAN and ensure sustainable development, thus contributing to preservation and protection of the global environment as a whole;
- c) **To call on** ASEAN Countries to coordinate actions at the national, regional and international levels with the aim to minimize the impacts of and prevent environmental degradation as well as restoring the environment for sustainable development;
- d) **To encourage** the formulation of concrete programs and measures at regional level, especially those on poverty alleviation and hunger eradication with a view to minimizing the negative social and economic impacts of environmental degradation on the people, particularly the most vulnerable groups;
- e) **To recommend** that ASEAN parliamentarians and Parliaments enhance their supervisory function, accord appropriate priority in the national budget for environmental preservation, and pay due attention to combining economic growth with social development and environmental conservation;
- f) **To call on** all ASEAN Member Countries to develop the legal framework and effective mechanisms to protect the environment;
- g) **To encourage** the participation, assistance and support of all countries, especially developed ones, international and regional organizations and non-governmental organizations in protecting the environment for the sustainable development of all countries in the region;

- h) **To call upon** the WTO Member Countries not to use environmental protection issues as a leverage to continue with unfair trade practices.
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