



Forum of Asia Pacific Parliamentarians for Education (FASPPED)

• STATUTES •

PREAMBLE

We, Parliamentarians of Asia and the Pacific region, representing 16 countries, meeting at Jakarta (Indonesia) from 24 to 25 October 2008,

Considering that Education is a fundamental right which should be promoted at the constitutional level, guaranteed to each individual in an equal manner and effectively realized by our education policies;

Inspired by the cultural and spiritual values of Asia-Pacific countries which reaffirm that education as an integral dimension of our cultural identity today and in the future;

Noting the situation of schooling and the continuing inadequate enrolment, achievement and literacy rates for currently excluded groups of learners, especially for women and girls and those living in rural areas;

Mindful of the importance and necessity of conceiving and developing appropriate, planned and concerted actions to achieve the Education for All (EFA) goals in our countries;

Convinced of the central role and responsibility of the Parliaments of Asia and the Pacific which should devote themselves to finding and implementing suitable solutions within a harmonized framework to effectively fight against ignorance, illiteracy and poverty;

Committed to undertake a continuous critical review and assessment of national education policies within the framework of sustainable development for Education for All (EFA) goals in Asia-Pacific countries, and to consider new innovative ways and means of taking the lead in promoting and strengthening appropriate educational policies;

Being resolved to carry out the relevant actions in accordance with the resolutions of International Conferences and in line with the Durban Declaration of Commitment which stipulates "We resolve to involve the entire civil society, as well as non governmental organizations, the private sector, media organizations, parliamentarians, other ministries, religious organizations and teachers and parents organizations in the planning and execution of programmes and in mobilization of resources both financial and human. The furtherance of decentralization and greater sharing of responsibility are helpful measures in this regard, and we are determined to promote these ideals";

Have decided to create the Forum of Asia Pacific Parliamentarians for Education and have, to that effect, adopted the present Statutes:

CHAPTER I – GENERAL PROVISION

Article 1: Nomenclature

An organization which shall go by the name of Forum of Asia Pacific Parliamentarians for Education is established. The acronym of the Forum is FASPPED (herein referred to as the 'Forum').

Article 2: Definitions

For the purpose of the implementation of these statutes, the following definitions shall have effect:

- Member: any Parliamentary Committee having acceded to the Forum,
- Parliamentarian: any person or group of persons elected or appointed to a national legislative body acting in a national Parliament, a Senate, a Federal Chamber or any other national legislative body,
- Parliamentary Committee: any national Parliamentary Committee or Commission dealing with matters relating to Education or any other Parliamentary organization accepted by the General Conference.

Article 3: Seat

The seat of the Forum shall be located in Paris in the premises of the UNESCO Headquarters. It may be transferred to any other place following a decision by the General Assembly of the Forum. In case of emergency, the decision to transfer may be taken by the Bureau. It will, however, need to be validated at the next session of the General Assembly.

Article 4: Emblem and Official Seal

The Forum shall have a logo for an emblem and an official seal. The emblem and the official seal shall be adopted by the General Assembly on a proposal from the Bureau.

Article 5: General Objectives

The Forum's mission is to:

- **Strengthen and welcome** the important contributions of indigenous and local mechanism and tradition for the achievement of EFA;
- **Facilitate**, within each Parliament and where applicable, the creation and functioning of a Parliamentary Committee for Education;
- **Establish** a framework for exchanges and meetings between Parliamentarians among countries, in order to share information and promote policy dialogue relating to education and to facilitate coordination of their activities;
- **Increase** public awareness and understanding about sustainable development of EFA goals, by mainstreaming and expanding the learning and insights gained into public awareness strategies including the promotion and capacity building of the media;
- **Encourage** youth in the design and implementation of EFA goals, by strengthening the commitment, solidarity and potential of youth and their organizations and networks in order to foster young people's ownership of EFA issues and challenges;
- **Act** in order to find and mobilize greater resources for education, at local, national and international levels, from both public and private sectors;
- **Conduct** a periodic assessment of the results of the different international conferences and normative instruments;
 - The World Declaration on Education for All, Jomtien (1990);
 - The Dakar Framework for Action and Education for All goals (2000);
 - UN Millennium Development Goals;
 - Other UN guiding instruments.and ensure that their commitments are reflected in domestic law and;

- **Urge** Parliamentarians, where appropriate, to act as mediators in resolving school or university crises which pose a serious threat to the functioning of the education system;
- **Encourage** greater role of international agencies and donors in matching national efforts and improved co-ordination and greater responsiveness to country priorities.

Article 6: Specific Objectives

The Forum shall be particularly committed to:

- **Ensuring** realization of the six EFA goals in all countries of the Asia-Pacific region;
- **Fighting** against illiteracy and poverty, so as to break the reciprocal cause and effect relationship between these two phenomena;
- **Ensuring** education for women and girls, in order to eliminate gender disparities;
- **Supporting** the development of inclusive education systems providing quality education for all individuals, including minorities, the poor, refugees and migrants, people with disability and those living in areas of conflict and disaster and learners affected by HIV/AIDS;
- **Promoting** education for peace and sustainable development, to help in the emergence of democratic, pluralistic and tolerant societies where Human Rights are respected;
- **Ensuring** that Information and Communication Technologies are maximized as a tool in furthering the development of education;
- **Encouraging** the enhancement of scientific excellence, research and new knowledge development within the Asia-Pacific regions to achieve EFA goals through the involvement and collaboration of higher education institutions and research networks.

Article 7: Accession

Members of the Forum are the Parliamentary Committees that have agreed to the current Statutes. Non-member countries that attend the General Assembly for the first time will become members of the Forum.

Article 8: Representation

Each National Parliament shall be represented at the Forum by its Parliamentary Committee. Each National Parliament (or its Committee) shall have one vote at the General Assembly.

Article 9: Conditions of eligibility for national structures

The Parliamentary Committees will be opened to all Parliamentarians without any form of discrimination.

CHAPTER II -ORGANISATION

Article 10: Structuring of the Forum

The Forum is structured according to 5 sub-regions:

- Central and West Asia
- East Asia
- South Asia
- Southeast Asia
- The Pacific

Article 11: Enumeration

The organs of the Forum are:

- The General Assembly;
- The Bureau and
- The Secretariat.

A - THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 12: Composition

The General Assembly comprises all the Parliamentary Committees where applicable that have agreed to the current Statutes.

Article 13: Frequency and Agenda of Meetings

- The General Assembly shall be held biannually, and in the following cases, an Extraordinary Meeting may be convened:
 - By a resolution of the Executive Bureau, or
 - Upon the demand of more than one third of the Forum's membership.
- The General Assembly shall compose a new Executive Bureau, and the Agenda shall be decided upon by agreement of the Host Country of the General Assembly and the Executive Bureau.

Article 14: Powers

The General Assembly:

- Elects the members of the Bureau;
- Adopts a two year Action Plan from a proposal from the Bureau;
- Endorses the activity programmes of FASPPED and
- Exercises any other power which is conferred upon it by these Statutes.

Article 15: Quorum

The quorum required for any deliberation of the General Assembly shall be at least one-third of the number of Members of the Forum.

Article 16: Majority

Subject to the provisions of article 28, the General Assembly takes decisions on the basis of a majority of the members present.

Article 17: Activity report

The President shall submit an Activity Report to the General Assembly every 2 years. The Secretariat shall assist him/her in this task.

Article 18: Temporary replacement of the President

In the absence of the President, one Vice-President shall preside over the meeting.

B – THE EXECUTIVE BUREAU

Article 19: Composition

1. The Executive Bureau comprises of the following members representing each sub-regions:
 - A President
 - Immediate Past-President
 - Four Vice-Presidents

Article 20: Election

- The President and the Vice-President are elected by the General Assembly, on the basis of an equitable representation of the regions and gender;
- The term of office of the President and the Vice President of FASPPED is two years and shall commence immediately upon the conclusion of the current General Assembly;
- The President of FASPPED shall be the Speaker of the Parliament (ex officio) or the Chair of education committee of the national parliament (ex officio).

Article 21: Frequency of meetings

The Bureau shall meet in ordinary session at least once a year. It may meet in extraordinary session at the request of the President or of three of the Vice-President.

Article 22: Role and powers

The Bureau ensures the functioning of the Forum and supervises the implementation of the Activity Programme. It also ensures that the Forum is represented at Parliaments and international organizations. It makes proposals, to be approved by the General Assembly, for the Activity Programme. The President and the Vice-Presidents receive no remuneration.

Article 23: Modalities for decision taking

The decisions of the Bureau are taken by simple majority. In case the votes are equal, the President has a casting vote.

C -THE SECRETARIAT

Article 24: Composition

The Secretariat is ensured by UNESCO (Sector for External Relations and Cooperation's Section for UNESCO Clubs and New Partnerships in consultation with the UNESCO Bangkok Office, the Regional Office for Education in the Asia and the Pacific and the EFA International Coordinating Team).

Article 25: Role of the Secretariat

The Secretariat is in charge of:

- The administration of the Forum;
- The execution of the Activity Programmes, and
- Representing the Forum, on the authority of the President, at national or international meeting.

CHAPTER III -FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 26: Coming into force

These statutes come into force, in the States whose Parliamentarians have, with the express authorization of their National Parliament, adopted these Statutes, on the date on which they have been adopted.

Article 27: Revision of the statutes

The Parliamentary Committees shall submit to the Secretariat any proposal for amendment of these statutes at least three months prior to the General Assembly. An amendment must be passed by two-third majority of the Members present.

Article 28: Dissolution

The dissolution of the Forum may be pronounced by the General Assembly.

Acceded by the following countries on 7 July 2010: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nepal, Pakistan, Palau, The Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, Tuvalu, and Vietnam.

(Amended by the First Session of General Assembly of FASPPED, Jakarta, Indonesia, 6 – 7 July 2010)