



PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL
ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

RESOLUTION No.

The Asia Pacific Regional Executive Committee (APREC), meeting in Singapore on 15-16 September 2022 :

Expresses deep concern over the catastrophic floods in Sindh and Baluchistan provinces occurring in Pakistan, that have killed more than 1400 people, displaced at least 33 million, damaged most of the country's agriculture, contaminated drinking water and spread waterborne diseases, placing unprecedented demand on under-staffed and under-resourced health and emergency services workers.

We extend our respect and solidarity to the workers on the frontlines of this catastrophe and to PSI affiliates and other unions who immediately responded to the crisis, providing relief to the most vulnerable communities and galvanising workers.

We recognise the particular role of the Lady Health Workers who are playing a leading role in relief & rescue activities. In that respect we call on the government and international community to ensure the health budget is significantly increased to at least 5% of GDP as recommended by WHO and to ensure there are sufficient funds to pay the primary health care work force a living wage with sufficient staff.

We recognise that this is a symptom of the climate crisis caused by over consumption of fossil fuels, primarily in high income countries. We also recognise that Pakistan has been ranked as one of the most vulnerable countries on the Global Climate Risk Index and will continue to face climate related disasters in the future. The situation in Pakistan demonstrates, once again, that the climate crisis impacts most brutally on the people who have contributed the least to the problem.

We are concerned that the high debt burden and economic crisis facing Pakistan will be exacerbated by the disaster. We know that the IMF and other global institutions have historically used disasters and sovereign debt crises as reasons to impose austerity. Debt servicing is eating up limited resources that should be used to reduce poverty, pay workers and tackle the crisis. We call on the IMF and all creditors to cancel the sovereign debt of Pakistan and for countries to recognise that high polluting countries have climate debts that should result in the cancellation of sovereign debts in highly impacted countries. APREC welcome the move of the PSI affiliates in Pakistan to join a regional campaign on debt relief.

We call on the government of Pakistan to implement the ILO guidelines on decent work in public emergency workers.

We resolve to provide solidarity to affiliates in Pakistan in their responses to this crisis, to improve health and safety for workers responding to the crisis, to advance a Just and Equitable Transition of the economy and to build union power for quality public services. We will encourage PSI affiliates around the world to contribute to a solidarity fund.