

Plan of Action on Challenges and Opportunities of Globalization in Asia

COGNIZANT of the fact that Asia has played a great role in the advancement of the world economic, social and cultural transformation;

INSPIRED by the Charter of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) and based on the decision of Tehran Declaration;

RECOGNIZING that globalization, at both national and international levels, should be guided by the fundamental principles that underpin human society, such as equality, participation, accountability, non-discrimination, respect for diversity and international cooperation and solidarity;

EPHASIZING that globalization should be based on human dignity, equality in human relations, common prosperity and peace among nations;

ACKNOWLEDGING that globalization in a balanced way could uphold the standard of living and foster innovation, economic growth, managerial and technological skills;

EMPHASIZING that globalization has had significant impact on Asia with deep challenges and opportunities on its economy, society and culture;

AFFIRMING that globalization could provide increasing opportunities for Asian countries in transfer of technology and particularly in information technology;

NOTING that the population of Asia can become a significant asset for world economy, if sufficient investment is made in human resources development and economic infrastructure;

EXPRESSING CONCERN at the widening gap between the developed and developing countries and the marginalization of some developing countries, that adversely affects the full enjoyment of economic and social rights of Asian people;

UNDERLINING that the deep gap between the rich and the poor that increasingly divides human society poses a major threat to global prosperity, security and stability;

WARNING of the vulnerability of developing countries in facing with international economic fluctuations;

BEING CONCERNED that globalization neglects sustainable development, environment, poverty alleviation and economic disparity;

WORRING about increasing influence of transnational economic organizations and corporations that, in some cases, dilutes the sovereignty of states;

CONCERNED of the fact that globalization has brought challenges in regard to cultural identities and has increasingly undermined the original and traditional values and cultures of Asian communities;

To formulate policies and strategies to manage globalization impact, at both regional and continental levels, we, the members of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), approve the establishment of a “commission” within APA to facilitate the following mandates:

- To adopt appropriate policies such as transparency, accountability, predictability in order to participate effectively in the framing of the rules governing global organizations;
- To remove structural obstacles such as weak legal systems, corruption, and inadequate investment in human resources and infrastructure for economic integration in Asia as well as more effective role in the world economy;
- To concentrate efforts for staying competitive at the international level, especially by developing technology and human resources;
- To create warning systems which alert us to dangers of crisis in economy and monetary system before their occurrence;
- To improve the existing international arrangements to facilitate the developmental and environmental roles of foreign investors;
- To cooperate for improving the quality of goods in Asian countries, which conforms with international standards and facilitates fair trade;
- To exchange experience and information in the field of export promotion, services and goods in which countries have a comparative advantage;
- To share experiences among Asian countries regarding privatization and the operating sphere of the private sector;
- To adopt common policies inline with facilitating trade of goods and services and preventing smuggling in Asia;

- To transfer new and significant technologies, while attracting more intra-continental investment for creating technology centers in Asia;
 - To adopt common policies for improving domestic companies and industries to prevent them from closing down in the face of increased competition in the global markets by creating greater market access for Asian countries;
 - To invest in the development of a multimodal transportation network which will allow easy and inexpensive access to local and international markets;
 - To adopt common policies for the movement of labor within Asia, with the goal of facilitating the movement of skilled workers in a legal and transparent way and investing in labor intensive sectors with due regard for the real needs of each country;
 - To share best practices regarding medium and small enterprises and cooperatives for greater capacity-building for economic development in Asian countries;
 - To adopt common cultural programs to protect cultural diversity and prevent the marginalization of local cultures;
 - To facilitate the exchange of cultural goods and services such as handicrafts, books, films, and other visual and audio products by utilizing information technology;
 - To promote regional cooperation for expanding tourism, by utilizing educational and information dissemination networks particularly at public level;
 - To establish a comprehensive and up-to-date databank on tourism in Asia, with the aim of better understanding one another and respecting cultural diversity;
 - To attract investment to develop necessary infrastructure for tourism, especially in lesser know areas and providing consultation services.
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