



APA/Res/2008/17
29 November 2008

Resolution on
Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution, APA/Res/2007/02, by which the text of the Plan of Action on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia was adopted and a Sub-Committee was established to consider how best to facilitate the implementation of the provisions of that Plan of Action,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity, SG/Rep/2008/03, dated 2 August, 2008, submitted to the meeting of the Sub-Committee held in Seoul on 21-22 August, 2008,

Recognizing the significant role of parliaments both in strengthening national cultural policies and in harmonizing Asian approach for promoting cultural diversity,

Expressing concern about negative impact of globalization on cultural identities of Asian societies; while also noting its positive impact in connecting culture more closely and enriching interaction,

Stressing the importance of a balanced and multicultural education, particularly from early childhood, on cultural and religious diversity,

Being concerned about collapse of family basis and also the negative impacts of modernism, such as increase in number of divorces, increase in number of unmarried individuals, psychological and social damages on men and women, homelessness, running away from family and children and youngsters without family,

Considering the sanctity and special position of family in the rich Asian culture, as the main pillar of moral growth of members of community and the main basis for growth and social developments,

Expressing determination to facilitate integration in Asia through respecting cultural diversity and promoting common cultural understanding,

1. *Decide to promote respect for cultural diversity by exchanging relevant information, strengthening family bases, best practices and joint programs in*

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Asia, including through identification of focal points in the executive branch of each Member Parliament and defining a networking scheme among them;

2. *Express determination* to rely on the spiritual heritage of Asian civilizations to further contribute to the global vision to counter the negative impact of globalization on cultural diversity;
3. *Underline* the importance of strengthening coordination between APA and international and regional organizations such as UNESCO, ISESCO and relevant NGOs active in this field, to both exchange experience and provide technical support for the implementation of APA Plan of Action on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity;
4. *Decide* to hold two regional workshops in 2009 to study the most appropriate relationship between economic development and culture, and to accord priority to this subject in the 2009 meeting of the Sub-Committee; the time and venue will be finalized through the APA Secretariat and APA President.
5. *Decide* to promote interfaith dialogue among Asian religions including through greater participation of Member Parliaments in the meetings of “Asian Conference of Religions for Peace”;
6. *Express concern* about smuggling of cultural items, particularly those that are in areas under foreign occupation;
7. Further concern about the dissemination of tangible and intangible cultural items which have negative impact and undermine the national and regional values. All cultural items that illegally smuggled to foreign country shall be returned back to the country of origin;
8. *Resolve* to develop and promote adoption of concerted legislation among Member Parliaments to combat smuggling of cultural items in Asia, and in this respect, request the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments and prepare a draft common legislation to combat smuggling of cultural items in Asia and submit a report thereon to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee;
9. *Express determination* to encourage relevant government agencies to increase facilitation, consular services as appropriate for citizens of Asian countries to allow for greater people-to-people interaction;

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10. To encourage respective government through APA Parliaments of Asian countries to offer support for children from international mixed marriages to promote mutual understanding with respect to cultural diversity in the region;
11. *Decide* to establish an award to be presented annually to an Asian artist; author, poet, film maker, painter, etc, who best conveys the APA message of Asian cooperation and integration, and in this context, request the Secretary-General to report on the relevant procedure and criteria for establishment of such award to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee;
12. *Welcome* a report to be prepared by the Secretary-General on usefulness and efficiency of establishing an Asian Cultural Foundation (ACF) as a non-governmental organization to strengthen coordination of cultural activities at the continent level, and request the Secretary-General to take into account the Asian and international organizations that already exist and deal with the issue of cultural diversity;
13. *Request* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on their efforts to implement this resolution and to submit a report thereon to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee in 2009, which will be held in a volunteer country or in the country of the APA President.