



Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology

APA/ Res/2018/08
2 December 2018

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Reaffirming that right to access to information is an integral part of the fundamental right of freedom of expression, as recognized by Resolution 59 of the UN General Assembly adopted in 1946, as well as by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966).

Recalling para.5 of article 3 of the Charter of the APA;

Recalling WSIS¹ outcomes of 2003, 2005 held under UN aegis to build a people centered, inclusive and development oriented information society and UN resolution 125 of the UN General Assembly adopted in its 70th session in 2016 on High level review of WSIS+10 on global ICTs development and measures to facilitate accomplishment of SDGs,

Recalling APA Resolution, APA/ Res/ 2014/11, and APA/Res/2014/13;

Underlining that Asian integration can be achieved through further dialogue, interaction, and communication among Asian people, parliamentarians, government officials, academic and educational institutions, and media for the promotion of peace, liberty, equality, human rights, and welfare in Asia;

Concerned with negative impact of globalization on widening the gap between the rich and poor in Asia, and the further marginalization of developing countries in the world;

Recognizing the fact that today Asia encompasses the biggest market in the world, the highest number of population; the largest amount of foreign currency reserves; and dynamic economic growth

Re-affirming the deep-rooted ties of history, geography, economics, culture, and civilization that bind Asian peoples together and the common interests pointing to the need for further cooperation;

Emphasizing the principle of free flow of information, on privacy protection, equitable access to communication, and access to new technologies at the national, regional and global levels;

Underlining the fundamental role of information and communication technology as an indispensable factor in all areas of national; regional, and global development;

¹ World Summit on Information Society held under the aegis of UN and ITU in 2003 and 2005

Stressing the view that global networking provides opportunities for APA Member Parliaments to share experiences and engage in fruitful dialogue on significant issues in Asia and facilitates further cooperation and coordination, on the way of Asian integration process;

Underlining that the Asian Virtual Parliament will pave the way for sharing information, harmonizing legislation and raising people's awareness about the activities of the legislative body and ensure a more profound feedback between society, power and individuals, and thus contribute to strengthening peace in Asia;

Emphasizing that, the role of parties, civil society, non- governmental organizations (NGOs) and other democratic structures in public sphere, provide opportunities in Asian countries for exchange of views, interactions and synergy to promote regional and global cooperation in order to reinforce the long term process for Asian Integration.

1. **Call Upon** and emphasis APA Member Parliaments to volunteer for providing knowledge and know-how, technical assistance, financial support, human resources; and other form of assistance in creating a "Virtual Asian Parliament" based on the report by the APA Secretary General on the subject matter in order to enhance collaboration and interaction among parliaments and parliamentarians in Asia and as a prelude to establishing a model of Asian Parliament;
2. **Determine** all the modern and traditional ways to help complete the plan to promote, publicize and disseminate information amongst citizens within the APA region; including the use of social media;
3. **Call Upon** APA Member Parliaments to support vocational and knowledge-based education in Asia in order to enhance people's life-skills and competitiveness in coping with the challenges of globalization;
4. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to share best practices and exchange experiences with a view to inspiring a common approach toward Asian integration through holding special workshops and forums among Asian Member Parliaments;
5. **Call upon** the UN and its affiliated organizations, particularly ITU, the UN Specialized agency in ICTs, to support the Members of this Assembly through collaboration in the development of digital connectivity and services in the region in partnership with regional organizations in particular Asia Pacific Tele-community in bridging the digital divide and UNESCO, to support the Members of this Assembly to surmount the hurdles, identified by research centers, think tanks and intellectuals, hampering circulation of ideas through available means for free flow of communication and information;
6. **Exhort** APA Member Parliamentarians to collaborate and take necessary measures to promote the development of ICT infrastructure through enabling policies, capacity building, building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, inter alia;
7. **Request** the Secretary-General to seek possible technical and financial assistance from Member Parliaments and other institutions to facilitate the implementation of this resolution and prepare a report with comprehensive approach to accelerate the process of Asian Integration.