



APA/Res/2008/09
29 November 2008

Resolution on
Pursuing Implementation of the
Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the Resolution on the Friendship Pact in Asia, APA/Res/2007/06, dated 19 November 2007 and the Annex thereof,

Welcoming the Report of the Secretary-General on the Friendship Pact in Asia, contained in document SG/Rep/2008/04, dated 23 June 2008, to the Sub-Committee meeting on the Friendship Pact of Asia held in Manama on 23-24 June 2008,

Taking note of the deliberations of the APA Sub-Committee on the Friendship Pact of Asia, expressing support for Paragraph 3 of Section IV of the Report of the Secretary-General which underlines a prominent role for parliaments and entails a gradual approach to progress in implementation of the Friendship Pact of Asia,

Emphasizing the need to respect constitutional process of government engagement into Friendship Declaration gradually, as appropriate, by prioritizing functional cooperation,

Underscoring the enduring elements of peace and friendship in Asia in various arenas such as trade, environment, energy, culture and development,

Encouraging amity and friendly relations among Asian Nations and States based on sovereign equality, territorial integrity, the right of nations to self-determination, and good neighborly relations,

Recognizing the need to enhance solidarity in Asia to promote stronger ties among Asian nations through an established mechanism which will facilitate enhancing our relations, promoting our knowledge of one another and of our aspirations and challenges,

Resolving to promote the spirit of friendship throughout Asia in the interest of all peoples in Asia and beyond,

Inviting the respective governments of the APA Member Parliaments to reinforce the

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efforts of the APA for promotion of amity and friendship in Asia,

1. *Decide* to adopt “The Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia,” annexed to this resolution, which substantively corresponds to the “Friendship Pact in Asia” contained in document APA/Res/2007/06/Annex, dated 17 November 2007, with certain adjustments in wording,
2. *Resolve* to take appropriate measures for adoption of the “Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia” by our national Parliaments in accordance with our respective domestic laws and procedures,
3. *Express determination* to promote public awareness about the “Declaration” through the media, hearings from, and briefings by, executive officials, members of civil societies and non-governmental organizations,
4. *Recommend* that Member Parliaments take appropriate measures, in accordance with Paragraph 2 of Rule 46 of the APA Rules of Procedure, with due regard to their own domestic laws and practices, to engage their respective Governments in promoting the “Declaration” with a view to consider arranging a Joint APA Governments Meeting, when appropriate, and in support of the parliamentarian initiative on the “Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia”,
5. *Request* the Secretary-General to pursue the process of adoption of the “Declaration” by Member Parliaments, and seek their views on measures they have taken to implement this resolution and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee on the “Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia” to be held in a volunteer country or in the country of the President of the APA in 2009.



**APA/Res/2008/09/Annex
2nd November 2008**

**Declaration on Principles
of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia**

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Cognizant of the deep-rooted ties of history, geography, culture, and civilization which bind their peoples together;

Conscious of the shared challenges and opportunities facing the people of Asia as well as their common interests pointing to the need for further collaboration;

Being aware of the crucial role Asia plays in shaping the world future by reliance on its great human and natural resources, as well as its technological advancements;

Emphasizing the importance of regional arrangements for consolidation of ties among Asian countries in all fields;

Encouraging various methods of dialogue and peaceful interactions among Asian cultures and civilizations fostering cultural diversity and tolerance throughout the Asian continent;

Recognizing the constructive role of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in paving the way for strengthening the amity and friendly relations among the people of Asia with reliance on commonalities of the Asian States in all areas;

Convinced that effective structures for cooperation among Asian countries could augment the benefits of globalization and diminish their harmful effects in Asia;

Committed to promote peace and security, at global as well as continental levels, on the bases of justice and the rule of law through expanding cooperation with all peace-loving nations within and outside Asia;

- I. Unanimously declare our commitment to:
 - a) Promote permanent peace, enduring friendship and constructive cooperation among States and peoples of Asia;

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- b) Strengthen friendly relations among Asian States on the basis of equality and mutual respect;
 - c) Facilitate further advancement and sustainable development of all Asian States in economic, social, scientific and technological fields;
 - d) Explore potential capabilities of all Asian States for expanding collaboration in all areas of common interests.
- II. To achieve the aforementioned purposes, the APA Member Parliaments shall be guided by the following fundamental principles:
- a) Mutual respect to independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty of all states on the basis of non-interference in others internal affairs;
 - b) The right of all Nations to self-determination;
 - c) Respect for fundamental human rights and human dignity;
 - d) Renunciation of the threat or use of force and the utilization of peaceful means in international relations;
 - e) Cooperation on the basis of the rule of law.
- III. In pursuance of the purposes of this Declaration, the APA Member Parliaments shall endeavor to develop and strengthen their traditional, cultural, economic and historical ties of friendship. In this respect, they shall support further expansion of diplomatic and commercial relations among their respective States and further communication and interaction among their peoples.
- IV. Consistent with the provisions of the Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, the APA Member Parliaments shall encourage mutual confidence-building measures through appropriate regional arrangements in order to promote peace and stability throughout Asia and in the World.
- V. The APA Member Parliaments shall encourage collaboration within the United Nations to promote the role of Asia in the world community.
- VI. The APA Member Parliaments shall uphold cooperation with all Parliaments in Asia, on the bases of the purposes and principles of this Declaration, towards the ultimate goal of establishing an Asian Parliament.

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- VII. The APA Member Parliaments shall collaborate for the acceleration of the economic growth in Asia. To this end, they shall promote greater utilization of capabilities in research and development, exchange of information, transfer of technology and foreign investment, towards a viable and sustainable growth.
- VIII. The APA Member Parliaments shall intensify their concerted efforts in combating illiteracy, poverty, and environmental degradation. For this purpose, they shall support appropriate strategies at continental and regional levels for the mutual benefit of all Asian countries.
- IX. To promote and consolidate peace in Asia, the APA Member Parliaments shall encourage inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue among Asian civilizations.
- X. To strengthen economic and commercial relations among Asian States, the APA Member Parliaments shall support appropriate measures to create an integrated energy market in Asia.
- XI. The APA Member Parliaments shall provide for the exchange of information and experiences pertinent to reducing damages and alleviating the trauma inflicted by natural disasters.
- XII. The APA Member Parliaments shall collaborate in eradicating all roots of terrorism and other organized crimes in order to make a strong and secure community of nations in Asia.
- XIIV. The APA Member Parliaments shall intensify their efforts through bilateral and multilateral modalities in combating all sorts of illegal trafficking including the illegal trafficking of human beings, goods, weapons, and drugs.
- XIV. Denouncing all sorts of aggression and foreign occupation, the APA Member Parliaments shall disapprove any activity in the territories of their respective States that would constitute a threat or use of force against the security, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of other APA Member Parliaments.
- XV. The APA Member Parliaments shall maintain regular contacts and consultations with one another on international and regional matters in order to harmonize their views, actions and policies.