

Resolution on Promoting Inter-Faith Dialogue and Harmony among World Religions

**APA/Plenary/SC- Social/Res/2019/06**

 **16 December 2019**

*We, the members of Asian Parliamentary Assembly*,

***Recognizing*** the valuable role of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in working towards a more peaceful, more socially inclusive world, by promoting greater understanding, tolerance and respect among civilizations, cultures and beliefs;

***Recalling*** with appreciation various global, regional and sub-regional initiatives on mutual understanding and interfaith harmony including the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/65/PV.34, and also resolution 57/6 of 4 November 2002 concerning the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, the International Conference on Environment, Peace and the Dialogue among Civilizations and Cultures, held in Tehran on 9 and 10 May 2005, the Asia- Europe Meeting Interfaith Dialogue on the theme "Building Interfaith Harmony within the International Community", held in Bali, on 21 and 22 July 2005, the High Level Conference on International and Inter-Religious Dialogue, held in Saint Petersburg, Russia on 3 and 4 July 2014, and the seventh global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 26 and 27 April 2016, the VI Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, held in Astana on 10-11 October 2018;

***Mindful*** ofthe fact that, Inter-Faith harmony between the different religions of the world in general and Asia, in particular, is of utmost importance for the survival of mankind and the promotion of the culture of peace, security and tolerance;

***Recognizing*** the essential role of dialogue among different faiths and religions in enhancing mutual collaboration, harmony and cooperation among their followers;

***Expressing*** the need to explore ways and means to intensify Inter-Faith Harmony and resultant cooperation to strengthen the international peace and security to make the world a better place to live;

***Acknowledging*** that the moral imperatives of all religions, convictions and beliefs call for peace, tolerance and mutual understanding;

We therefore,

1. **Decide** to apply for Asian Parliamentary Assembly’s membership to the Group of Friends of the UN Alliance of Civilizations as proposed by Turkey during the 11th General Assembly with a view to contribute the efforts of providing lasting solutions to the rising trends of discrimination, xenophobia and extremism;
2. **Maintain** that a regular dialogue between the APA Member Parliaments become an effective supplement for addressing the challenges of ongoing international conflicts based on religious differences and discrepancies;
3. **Denounce** the negative stereotyping of any religious, national or ethnic group and condemn any intentional and unintentional activity that leads towards the division between the followers of different faiths;
4. **Urge** all Member Parliaments to harmonize their efforts in promulgating laws and legislations in Asia for improved standards of cooperation between the nations to enhance the patience for the religious beliefs of others;
5. **Declare** that extremism and terrorism can not be attributed or accredited to any religion or nationality as these are common enemies of all humanity;
6. **Consider** thatany form of xenophobia based on belief, faith or ethnic adherence contrary to the merits of inter-faith dialogue has no place in the community of civilized nations;
7. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to consider providing a respective national legal instrument, with the aim of creating a conducive atmosphere for inter-faith dialogue and cooperation as well as harmony among world religions;
8. **Deplore**,in the strongest terms, all atrocities and acts of violence, committed by extremist and terrorist groups under the guise of religions which hold no authentic reference to religious principles and legitimacy in the world, and call upon all states to refrain from providing any support to such groups;
9. **Condemn** the misuse and distortion of religious beliefs, by extremist groups and their followers, which inflame intra-faith as well as inter-faith hatred and hold them accountable for instigation of ill-judgment, violence, and brutality against other faithful people**;**
10. **Call upon** the international community to be cognizant of humanitarian situations in Asia;
11. **Urge** all APA Member Parliaments to intensify their efforts in utilizing parliamentary diplomacy for the development of international and regional frameworks to promote best practices which leads towards the inter faith harmony and collaboration;
12. **Request** the APA Secretary-General to seek the views as well as measures taken by APA Member Parliaments to implement this resolution and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.