

Resolution on the Rule of Law and Judicial Empowerment

**APA/Plenary/SC-Political/Res/2019/03**

 **16 December 2019**

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

Reaffirms the universal realization of the right of peoples under colonial, foreign and alien dominations, to self-determination is a fundamental condition for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights and for the preservation and promotion of such rights;

*Recalling* the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including those of sovereign equality and independence of all States, which are indispensablefoundations for a more peaceful, prosperous and a conflict free world;

*Recognizing* that the rule of law at national and international levelsis essential for all states equally, and respect for andpromotion of the rule of law and justice are the guiding principles for every state;

*Further* recognizing that all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, havea right to be accorded equal protection of the law and to be treated in accordance with the law, without any discrimination;

*Reaffirming* the duty of all Member States to settle their international disputes throughpeaceful means, including, negotiation, mediation, conciliation, arbitration and judicial settlement;

*Further reaffirming* that the rule of law is essential for independence of judiciary and the protection of human rights canbe realized through the empowerment of the judiciary;

*Convinced* that the rule of law and sustainable development are inextricably linkedand mutually reinforcing and contribute to the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

Supporting the principles of sovereign equality of states, non-intervention in the internal or external affairs of states and condemning as a violation of this principle any interference by states in the internal affairs of other states with the aim of forging change of legitimate governments;

Stressing that the key role in maintaining of the rule of law belongs to states and those international efforts to strengthen the rule of law should complement national efforts, but not substitute them;

1. **Stress** the importance of capacity development through rule of law;
2. **Emphasize** the importance of institutional strengthening by maintaining the rule of law;
3. **Stress** also the necessity for strengthening the international judicial cooperation among judicial authorities of all Member States.
4. **Urge** Member Parliaments to ensure compliance with internationally agreed human rights and humanitarianlaws.
5. **Encourage** the promotion of a system of justice which incorporates the full range of judicial measures to ensure accountability, justice, provide remedies to victims, reconciliation, and establish independent oversight;
6. **Reiterate** our strong and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism, extremism in allits forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to the rule of Law; and
7. **Emphasize** the importance of our continued efforts for promotion of the rule of law inall its aspects, and to take steps to strengthen the rule of law for realization of peace and security, human rights and development.