# Resolution on Democracy for Development

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

*Recalling the United Nations Charter which is based on the most fundamental principle of democracy, that is, recognizing the will of the people as the source of sovereign authority of States;*

*Reiterating that democracy, dignity of human beings, rule of law and justice are universal, interconnected and mutually reinforcing;*

*Recognizing the centrality of the principals of democracy for the promotion of higher living standards, decent employment, and conditions for economic and social progress and development;*

*Taking note of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;*

*Also noting the importance of democratic governance for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the fulfillment of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the UN on 25 September 2015;*

**Therefore,**

1. **Reaffirm** that democracy is a universal and indivisible value and as a system of governance, contributes in human development, eradication of poverty, and building of peaceful societies;
2. **Acknowledge** the central role of Parliaments in strengthening democracy, and ensuring the will of the people in their socioeconomic development through transparent, accessible, accountable and effective institutions at all levels;
3. **Consider** democracy as the most suitable way to sustainably end poverty and promote shared prosperity and focus more attention to the non-income dimensions of poverty like inadequate access to education, health, housing, employment, and personal security;
4. **Recognize** the need for active engagement of young people in the democratic process and in the activities of governance at all levels, to achieve inclusive development;
5. **Decide** to uphold the democratic principles in the development cooperation, and encourage the international and regional development organizations to uphold these principles in issues of common concern to humankind;
6. **Stress** to remove all obstacles in the democratic administration of socio-economic polices and all forms of discriminations, including, but not limited to, those on the basis of race, colour, creed, cast, sex, language, religion, nationality, and ethnicity;
7. **Call** upon Parliaments to devise new methods to facilitate the active participation of citizens’ civil society organization in formulating the development policies to ensure equitable development;
8. **Mindful** of the fact that there is no single model of democracy to follow, and States have established democratic orders reflecting the diversity of their historical, cultural and political particularities, all the while, adhering to internationally recognized principles, norms and standards;
9. **Recognize** the vital linkages between human development, the features of democracy that include a strong and free operating civil society, effective political organizations, free and fair elections, open and free media, freedom of intellectual though and freedom of expression;
10. **Request** to reduce the democratic deficit by taking urgent steps to achieve equality between men and women in decision-making along with equality in all areas of life, and ensuring gender-responsive democratic processes that duly include women’s participation and perspectives;
11. **Decide** that Members will work to generate an informed debate and share experiences at APA platform on the democratic process and development in their respective countries. and promote greater cooperation for equitable economic development in Asia, and;
12. **Reaffirm** that APA Members States have the responsibility to ensure the full realization of SDGs including Goal 16 to promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies;