

**Draft Resolutions of Standing Committee on**

**Social and Cultural Affairs**

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As 25 September 2018



**Draft Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia**

**SC- Social/ Draft Res/2018/07**

**5 October, 2018**

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

***Recalling***APA Resolutions, APA/Res/2013/05; APA/Res/2010/05; APA/Res/2009/05; APA/Res/2008/17; and APA/Res/2007/02; on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia;

***Considering***the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, 1954, and its protocols;

***Recognizing***the significant role of parliaments both in safeguarding their respective national cultural heritage and in harmonizing Asian approach in respect of cultural diversity;

***Emphasizing***that cultural diversity is dependent on protection of cultural heritage, and the existence of common grounds among Asian ancient civilizations provide solid grounds for co-existence and co-operation among nations in the region;

***Re-affirming***that cultural heritage is a fundamental component of the cultural identity of a people and their social cohesion, and its disrespect, damage or destruction may have adverse consequences for human dignity and human rights; particularly the rights of marginalized communities;

***Recognizing*** that tolerance is one of the fundamental values of humanity, which entails promotion of cultural diversity, culture of peace, and dialogue among civilizations;

***Recognizing*** the increasing importance of culture, as an integral part of development plans of all nations in Asia and beyond;

***Promoting*** greater understanding and respect among civilizations, cultures and religions by means of concrete projects in the priority areas of youth, education, and media, in collaboration with governments, international and regional organizations, in line with the outcome of the first World Cultural Forum, in Bali, Indonesia in November 2013 and document entitled “Bali Declaration on the Alliance of Civilizations”, held in Bali, Indonesia, in 29 and 30 August 2014;

***Reiterating***that multicultural dynamism in Asia provides as an indispensable asset for making a strong Asian community based on mutual respect and recognition of all Asian cultures and civilizations;

**Acknowledging that Cultural heritage has always been considered as an important resource for tourism, an indispensable element for many travel tours (Viet Nam);**

**Noting the exploitation of cultural heritage in tourism activities should not make any negative consequences on the local culture and environment; (Viet Nam)**

***Noting***the opportunities offered by globalization for greater interaction among cultures and civilizations, as well as challenges brought about by its trends to preserving and celebrating the rich intellectual and cultural diversity in Asia;

***Considering*** the smuggling of cultural objects from Asia a threat to the richness of Asian cultural heritage, and underline the important role of parliaments to both raise public awareness about this challenge and to strengthen, where necessary;

***Deploring***the un-repairable damage brought to cultural and religious heritage by terrorism and organized crimes, ~~especially damages to Muslim and Christian historical sites and holy shrines and mosques by indiscriminate bombing and shelling in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan by ISIS and other terrorist groups~~; (India)

***Expressing*** grave concerns regarding theft, damage, or destruction to any place of worship of any religion, any cultural, religious, or historical heritage in Asia;

1. **Determine** to encourage and promote further intercultural dialogue and inter-religious exchanges throughout Asia;
2. **Resolve** to appreciate and promote the benefits of diversity in Asian nations, and encourage values such as justice, human rights, non-discrimination, democracy and respect within and among communities and nations;
3. **Reject** all manifestations of discrimination that are based on racism, ~~racial and caste discrimination,~~ xenophobia and related forms of intolerance; (India)
4. **Remain Committed** to the protection of the rights of ~~indigenous and ethnic~~ communities so as to ensure the fulfillment of indigenous community rights ~~in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;~~ (India)
5. **Urge** relevant governmental agencies to further facilitate consular services as appropriate for citizens of Asian countries to allow for greater people-to-people interaction;
6. **Acknowledge** that illegal import, export and transfer of ownership of cultural property and artifacts is responsible for the impoverishment of the cultural identity of the countries of origin of such property;
7. **Decide** to remain cognizant of damages to ~~Muslim and Christian~~ holy places and historical sites by ISIS terrorist organization in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan; (India)
8. **Urge** Member Parliaments to consider ratifying the International Convention for the Safeguarding of World Natural and Cultural Heritage and the International Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;
9. **Call Upon** APA Member Parliaments to consider **study of principles for** drafting a model legislation to combat smuggling of cultural objects in Asia; (India)
10. **Call Upon** all Member Parliaments to promote tolerance and empathy among Asian nations with a view to diminish distrust, misunderstanding, and conflict among religious communities;
11. **Strongly Recommend APA Member Parliaments to promote tourism in association with conservation and protection of cultural heritage; (Viet Nam)**
12. **Call Upon** APA Member Parliaments to support establishing an award to be presented annually to outstanding Asian artists; authors, poets, film makers, painters, etc, who best convey the APA’s commitment to cultural diversity in Asia;
13. **Condemn** all forms of contemptuous actions against religions, holy books, religious places and personalities and religious rituals;
14. **Reiterate** that during armed conflict, states should adopt measures to safeguard the cultural and historical heritage of a nation in conformity with international law and the principles and objectives of international agreements and UNESCO recommendations concerning the protection of such heritage during hostilities;
15. **Reiterate** that Member Parliaments should adopt measures to safeguard and restore the cultural and historical heritage of nations in conformity with International law and the principles of objectives of international agreements and UNESCO recommendations concerning the protection of such heritage during hostilities, including those caused by conflicts and violent extremism;
16. **Request** the APA Secretary General to uphold cooperation between APA and international and regional organizations such as UNESCO, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations(UNAOC), ISESCO and relevant Asian NGOs active in promoting cultural diversity and dialogue among civilizations;
17. **Request** the Secretary General to work with the Universities and research institutions in the Asian region to do researches and studies on the identification and promotion of common cultural aspects of the Asian countries;
18. **Request** the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on their efforts to implement this resolution;



**Draft Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology**

**SC- Social/ Draft Res/2018/08**

**5 October, 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*** WSIS[[1]](#footnote-1) 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;

***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** 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. **Emphasis on the common concerns in promoting connections between Asian Parliaments, especially the issue of finding financial resources and doing further research for the formation of the Asian Virtual Parliament; (Viet Nam)**
3. **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;
4. **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;
5. **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;
6. **~~Call upon~~** ~~the UN and its affiliated organizations, particularly UNESCO, to support the Members of this Assembly 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~~*;* **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*;* (India)**
7. **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; (India)**
8. **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.



**Draft Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia**

**SC- Social/ Draft Res/2018/09**

**5 October, 2018**

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

***Recalling*** APA Resolutions, APA/Res/2013/07; APA/Res/2010/02; and APA/Res/2009/06;

***Recalling*** the advises in the report of the Secretary-General on Achieving Health Equity in Asia, SG/Rep/2011/02 Dated 22 August 2011, submitted to the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 13-14 September, 2011;

***Taking*** note of diversity of health equity status among countries in Asia;

***Stressing*** the view that global net-working provides opportunities for Member Parliaments to engage in fruitful dialogue and exchange of best practices on health equity;

***Reaffirming*** the significant role of parliaments both in advocating and promoting national policies and legislative measures for achieving health equity;

***Welcoming***the Sustainable Development Goals adopted on 25 September 2015 and reaffirming its pivotal role in enhancement of the health equity;

***Welcoming*** the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, adopted on 19 September 2011, reaffirming the political will to effectively implement the commitments contained thereinand referring to the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases;

***Recalling*** United Nation General Assembly resolution 66/288 on “The future we want”, which recognized health as a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development;

***Recalling*** the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health endorsed by the Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly in resolution WHA65.8 in May 2012;

***Recalling*** the importance of placing equity and human centered policies in the core of health agenda and noting central role of enabling Universal Health Coverage to provide equitable access to quality health services without financial hardship and access to quality affordable medicine and medical technologies;

***Recognizing*** that health inequities arise from social determinants of health, that is, the societal conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, and that these determinants include experiences in their early years, education, economic status, employment and decent work, housing and environment, and effective systems of preventing and treating ill health;

***Emphasizing*** the need to comprehensively deal with social and health related problems emanating from drug and substancesabuse and low quality drugs;

***Expressing*** concern about the existing socio-economic inequalities and their impact on the poor and marginalized groups, as well as the remote geographical areas and underserved urban areas;

***Expressing*** concern on deteriorating health effects of wars and armed conflicts by hindering provision and quality of health service and causing depravation from fundamental human rights prospective to health, due to the inequalities in access and utilization of qualified health services.

1.  **Welcome** the Report of the Secretary-General contained in SG/Rep/ 2014/02 dated 10 August, 2014;

**2. Underline** the report of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health for addressing the impact of socio-economic inequalities on health at global, regional and national levels;

**3. Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to incorporate the issue of Social Determinants of Health (SDH) more intensively in other APA themes and activities;

1. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to strengthen collaboration among themselves with a view to formulating a coherent approach with regard to social determinants of health in Asia, especially education, housing, and employment;
2. **Invite** the APA Member Parliaments to promote health equity in Asia through sharing experiences and best practices on identifying vulnerability and inequityand actively advocate the inclusion of social determinants of health in national policies and programs;
3. **Further invite** APA member Parliaments to develop a cross-sectoral collaboration for the advancement of health equity in Asia through comprehensive training and study exchanges on social determination of health (SDH) among policy makers and related stake holders;
4. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to adopt policies and measures to improve service provision, and health financing system including social protection system as well as health insurance plans for a more equitable resource distribution;
5. **Call on** Member Parliaments of APA to encourage their respective governments in order to establish networking among major governmental and non-governmental institutions dealing with health issues in Asia, and expand cooperation with academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society groups and the media with adequate safeguard in order to identify the main social determinants of health;
6. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to persuade their respective governments to create and implement more sharpened and targetedpolicies, activities, and programs to ensure a success in the achievement of SDGs including universal health coverage with regard to health policies; and promoting access to quality, efficacious, safe and affordable medicines and medical technologies;
7. **Call on** APA Member Parliaments to take necessary actions and to encourage their respective governments to ensure child nutrition needs with a focus on equity in order to create better a generation;
8. **Determine** to take active part on the discussion of post-2030 development agenda by delivering Asian views in the international arena to drive the global agenda;
9. **Encourage** the APA Member Parliaments to actively participate in the process of arriving at common objectives which could form the basis of national legislations promoting health equity in Asia, with due attention to equitable social protection policies for health care, long term disability, and protection during unemployment and old age, as appropriate in the national context and priorities;
10. **Request** Member Parliaments to inform the Secretary-General on the progress made on the implementation of this resolution in their respective countries in order to share them with all Member Parliaments.



**Draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of**

**the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia (Deferred)**

**SC- Social/ Draft Res/2018/10**

**5 October, 2018**

Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly representing signatory states who are parties to the relevant international conventions and agreements;

***Acknowledging***that the development of migrant workers and the protection of their rights are in line with the principles of human rights and contribute to the development and promotion of friendly relations among countries;

***Recalling***the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant international instruments to which the States members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly are parties;

***~~Noting~~***~~that the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 97 on Migration for Employment, ILO Convention 143 on Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provision), established a broad legal framework for the protection of migrant workers;~~ (Russia)

***Taking note*** *of* the importance of ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and the Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers;

***Acknowledging*** the significance of ILO Conventions concerning the protection of the rights of migrant workers as well as UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking In Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime – 2000 in promoting human rights of Asian migrant workers without prejudice to their sex, race, language, religion, nationality, or ethnic origin;

***Noting***the adoption of ILO Convention Concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers at the 100th International Labour Organization (ILO) Conference in Geneva, 2011 as a global recognition on the existence of domestic workers where many of them are migrants;

***Underlining***the importance of establishing a national legal framework as well as a broad legal framework for the protection of migrant workers and noting the legal and illegal status of different cases;

***Deeply concerned***with the precarious conditions faced by migrant workers such as human rights abuse, harassment and violence, discrimination, low pay and low status jobs, unpaid jobs, and overwork;

***Underlining***the challenges that women migrant workers are facing such as forced confinement, low pay, non-payment, excessive working hours, physically strenuous activities and sexual harassment and abuse, human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and prostitution;

***Recognizing*** that unsettled status of immigrants prevents the establishment of conditions for full scale and comprehensive protection of their right by governments of sending and receiving countries;

***Emphasizing*** that adaptation of labour immigrants to local conditions and working activity in destination states as well as integration into recipient society are important factors which contribute to effective exercise of the rights of labour immigrants;

***Acknowledging*** the contribution of migrant workers to the society and economy of both receiving and sending states and their input to the development and prosperity of the region;

***Bearing in mind***the importance of friendly relationships and cooperation among governments, parliaments and the peoples of Asia in solving the problems relating toAsian migrant workers; and in particular, providing repatriation assistance services such as coordination with families, airport assistance, domestic transport, temporary shelter, medical and rehabilitation services;

***Recognizing*** the significant role of parliaments both in strengthening social and human rights policies, and in harmonizing an Asian approach on protecting the human rights of migrant workers in Asia;

***Confirming***that providing adequate measures on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers in Asia ~~is part of a shared responsibility among Asian Countries~~ (**is of critical importance for Asian countries** toward a common vision for security and prosperity, which focused on the improvement of the quality of life of its people; **(Russia)**

***Concerned*** with the mass exodus of people who have tried to flee from their homelands in Asia to some European countries, due to lack or deficiency of security, food, health service, accommodation, employment and so forth; many of whom are young migrant workers;

**~~Noting~~** ~~with great concern that ethnic and other forms of intolerance are the major causes of forced migration;~~(India)

1. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to consider accession to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families to stress Asian commitment on the protection of the rights of migrant workers and humanitarian issues in Asia;
2. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to enhance and harmonize their actions towards a better protection of migrant workers, especially women and children;
3. **Request** APA sending countries to provide migrant workers with adequate skills and knowledge in order to be able to fulfill their task and understand the culture, prevailing laws and regulation in the receiving countries;
4. **Emphasizing that the APA Member States should facilitate education, (~~Emphasizing that~~ Urge the APA Member States ~~should~~ to facilitate – India)(Encourage the APA Member States to consider facilitation of education – Russia) vocational training for migrant labor forces so that those migrant workers can integrate into the receiving country, ensuring their life and contributing to socio-economic development, stability and security in every country; (Viet Nam)**
5. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to ensure that their domestic laws shall be fair and just, equally applicable to both migrant workers and citizens who violate the laws;
6. **Encourage** the promotion of bilateral and regional cooperation among countries in all areas and issues of migrant workers to maximize the potential benefits and minimize the negative impacts of migration;
7. **Encourage** the respective States of the APA Member Parliaments to consider bilateral, or regional agreements ~~including~~ ~~Mandatory Consular Notification Agreement~~ **providing mandatory consular notification obligation** under the spirit of Vienna Convention on Consular Relations; whereby the sending countries are well informed on the legal problems faced by their migrant workers; **(Russia)**
8. **Emphasize** the importance of involving civil society, non-government organizations, and increasing their opportunity for participation and interaction with stakeholders to develop better policies and supervise the implementation of regulations on migrant workers issues;
9. **Recommend** APA Member Parliaments to provide adequate information on regulation, legislation and policies related to migrant workers in their respective countries, and to share information and best practices as well as opportunities and challenges encountered by Asian countries in relation to the protection and promotion of migrant workers’ rights and welfare;
10. **Urge** the APA relevant member countries to promote fair and proper working conditions, proper minimum wages, and adequate access to decent living conditions for migrant workers.
11. **Request** the Secretary-General to coordinate with APA Member Parliaments on the progress to implement this resolution and submit a report thereon to the meeting of the Standing committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.



**Draft Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption**

**SC- Social/ Draft Res/2018/11**

**5 October, 2018**

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

***Recalling*** APA Resolutions on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2013/09, December 2013; APA/Res/2010/01; APA/Res/2009/03; APA/Res/2008/18; as well as the APA Plan of Action on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2007/05/Annex;

***Taking note*** of the importance of the UN Convention against Corruption adopted by the General Assembly on October 31, 2003 and other anti-corruption conventions and relevant binding legal instruments;

***Recognizing*** that fighting corruption at all levels is a priority and that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation and diverts resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication and sustainable development;

***Reaffirming*** the importance of respect for human rights, the rule of law, good governance, and democracy in the fight against corruption;

***Recognizing***the important role of parliaments to promote transparency, participation, accountability and integrity as some of the principles of anti-corruption strategy;

***Acknowledging*** that the fight against all forms of corruption requires comprehensive anti-corruption frameworks and strong institutions at all levels;

***Expressing*** concern about the laundering and transfer of stolen assets and proceeds of corruption, and stressing the need to address this concern in accordance with the UN Convention against Corruption;

1. **Condemn** corruption at all levels and in all its forms, including bribery; money laundering; and abuse of power;
2. **Express** determination to prevent and combat corrupt practices in all forms and collaborate on facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to their legitimate owners, in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption;
3. **Welcome** the significant number of Member States that have already ratified or acceded to the Convention, and in this regard urges all APA Member Parliaments that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Corruption as a matter of priority, and urges all States parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures ensuring its full and effective implementation;
4. **Decide** to set up a working group under the auspices of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs to further consider the APA Plan of Action on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2007/05/ Annex with a view to taking effective measures for enhancing synergy and interactions among Asian Parliamentarians in fighting corruption.
5. **Consider** to improve and expand working relations with important Asian organizations such as ARPAC, SEAPAC, SAPAC, and GOPAC Chapter in order to enhance synergy and areas for cooperation and joint initiatives;
6. **Urges** States parties to United Nations Convention against Corruption that have not already done so to designate a central authority that shall have the responsibility and power to receive requests for mutual legal assistance and either to execute them or to transmit them to the competent authorities for execution;
7. **Request** the Secretary-General to prepare in consultation with interested APA Delegations, particularly APA delegates with interest and experience in anti-corruption efforts, the required draft documents for consideration by the working group set up in this respect;
8. **Request** also the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on implementation of this resolution.



**Draft Resolution on APA Women Parliamentarians**

**SC- Social/ Draft Res/2018/12**

**5 October, 2018**

*We, members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly*,

***Recalling*** the APA Plenary Resolution (APA/Res/2010/06, 30 November, 2010) on the establishment of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians;

***Mindful*** *of* the fact that despite all efforts made for the promotion of women’s rights, gender inequality and injustice still persists between women and men both in the extent of power at decision-making and in mechanisms to promote the advancement of women;

***Aware of***the importance of promoting the participation of women in scientific, social, political, cultural and economic affairs, and peace dialogue;

***Reaffirming*** that inclusion of women in positions of power and elected bodies, and also their involvement in the decision making process, strengthens the development of democratic principles in public life and increases the economic development;

***Noting*** that the main obstacles women face in entering Parliaments in Asia including political, socio-economic, culturalprejudices;

***Mindfu****l* of the necessity to put on the agenda of APA meetings matters of importance to women such as combating violence against women, empowerment of women in society, participation of women in political life, and prevention of all kind of harassments, sexual violence against women and girls, including in situation of armed conflicts if applicable;

***Stressing*** our resolve to participate and contribute actively in the deliberation of issues relating to women’s empowerment and women’s participation in APA meetings;

***Underlining*** the need to facilitate networking between women parliamentarians of Asia;

1. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to ensure the inclusion and effective participation of women in social, cultural, economic, political, and sustainable development affairs in Asia, at national, regional, and international levelsas appropriate.
2. **Encourage** Member Parliaments to adopt legislative regulations to facilitate women’s representations in Asian Parliaments;
3. **Recommend** theinclusionof at least one woman parliamentarian in APA delegations;
4. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to recognize the concerns of women, and to effectively implement the relevant provisions of United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which promote gender equality and empowerment, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, full and productive employment, and building accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
5. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to recognize that gender equality and empowerment of women must be established as a standing-alone goal and must be achieved simultaneously with *goal 5 of* the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG);
6. **Determine** to enhance the activities of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarian through more effective exchange of views and close interaction;
7. **Require** the Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians to expand the scope of its activities under the auspices of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs and to take appropriate measures to facilitate networking among women parliamentarians in Asia;
8. **Request** the APA Secretariat to assign one part of the website of the Assembly to facilitate networking among women parliamentarians of Asia covering updated information on the activities of the APA Women Parliamentarians;
9. **Express** concern at the dire situation of millions of women in all war-torn and conflict-ridden areas ~~such as Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Myanmar, and Afghanistan~~ who are in danger of violence, killing, rape, and captivity; (India)
10. **Request** the Secretary-General seek the views of Member parliaments on this resolution and submit a report thereon to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.



**Draft Resolution on Promoting Inter- Faith**

**Dialogue and Harmony among World Religions**

**SC- Social/ Draft Res/2018/13**

**5 October, 2018**

*We the members of Asian Parliamentary Assembly*,

***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 sixth global Forum of the United Nations alliance of Civilizations, held in Bali, Indonesia on 29 and 30 August 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**; **(Russia)**

***Mindful of*** the 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 nations of the world;

***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;

***~~Admitting~~*** ~~that the moral imperatives of all religions, convictions and beliefs call for peace, tolerance and mutual understanding~~; (Russia)

1. **Urge** all parliaments to support and spread the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill, as such mutual understanding constitutes important dimensions of the dialogue among civilizations and of the culture of peace;
2. **Maintain** that a regular dialogue between the parliaments of APA could become an effective supplement for addressing the challenges of international ongoing conflicts based on religious differences and discrepancies;
3. **Denounce** 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 terrorism, extremism and violence have no religion nor any borders, as these are common enemy of all humanity;
6. **Consider** any 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** parliaments of APA to exert their utmost effort for providing a respective national legal instrument, with aim of creating a conducive atmosphere for inter-faith dialogue and cooperation as well 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 Islam which hold no authentic reference to Islamic principles and no legitimacy among Muslims all around 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 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 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.

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**Draft Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural ~~Items~~ Property (Russia) in Asia**

**SC- Social/ Draft Res/2018/14**

**5 October, 2018**

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

***Recalling*** APA/Resolution/2013/05 of 9 December 2013 on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia;

***Expressing*** support for the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199 prohibiting the smuggling of cultural items by terrorist groups, including from Iraq and Syria;

***Welcoming***the important and active role that the UN, Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and FATF-style regional bodies play in countering money laundering and terrorist financing linked to trade in smuggled artifacts, in particular, in Asia;

***Expressing*** deep concern about the growing problem of smuggling of cultural ~~items~~ **property** in Asia; (Russia)

***Affirming***the important role of parliaments **prevailing upon the governments** to develop a national strategy including a legal framework to combat smuggling of cultural items; (India)

***Considering*** the smuggling of cultural objects from Asia a threat to the richness of Asian cultural heritage;

***Recognizing*** the role of parliaments to enhance public awareness about the threat to national identity and heritage of states from which cultural ~~items~~ **property** are smuggled abroad; (Russia)

***Recognizing***also the need to enhance national capacities, including parliamentary capacity to reinforce national strategy to combat smuggling of cultural ~~items~~ **property;** (Russia)

1. **Urge** all APA Member Parliaments to utilize their legislative role to prevent and punish the smuggling of cultural objects in Asia and facilitate concerted efforts to return the stolen items back to their original locations without any cost to the original owner country;
2. **Call on** all APA member parliaments that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the ~~International Convention for the Safeguarding of World Natural and Cultural Heritage~~, and the International Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage **Convention Concerning the Protection of the World’s Cultural and Natural Heritage**, and the **International** Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage; (Russia)
3. **Request** all APA Member Parliaments to consider and contribute to passing of a common legislation on protecting and safeguarding cultural objects and combating all forms and aspects of trafficking cultural property and related offences to be enacted on the basis of the principles prepared by APA Secretariat and annexed to this resolution, and in accordance with their own internal legislative procedures;
4. **Recommend the formation of a separate Corps Unit from APA Member Parliaments to protect and safeguard historical cultural properties from the perils of unlawful excavations, theft and smuggling [There should be common set of rules/clause and treaty regarding formation of above mentioned Courts and Corps Unit and their practices]; (India)**
5. **Suggest establishment and strengthening of a proper system of management to protect immovable cultural heritage from theft and smuggling of cultural properties. There should be one or two specific Courts for all APA member Parliaments, to deal with such cases for early disposal; (India)**
6. **Request** the Secretary-general to follow up preparation of a common legislation on combating the smuggling of cultural ~~item~~ **property** in Asia by APA Member Parliaments. (Russia)

**Annex**

**Principles for Drafting Common Legislation by Asian Parliaments**

**Concerning the Smuggling of Cultural ~~Items~~ Property (Russia)**

1. Lawful exchange of cultural and historical properties enriches cultural and social existence of nations; strengthens mutual respect and leads to amity and friendship among them;
2. Movable cultural heritage of every nation is considered as fundamental elements of culture and civilization of that nation, and an integral part of regional and human culture and civilization and thus necessitates regional cooperation to fight theft and smuggling of cultural property.
3. Protection and safeguarding of historical cultural properties from the perils of unlawful excavations, theft and smuggling, is inter alia the duty of the governments.
4. Clandestine excavations in archeological sites, theft, illicit import and export of cultural property constitutes as one of the main reasons for the cultural impoverishment of the countries of the origin of these objects.
5. Establishment and strengthening of a proper system of management to protect immovable cultural heritage and reinforce coordination and cooperation among concerned institutions for combating theft and smuggling of cultural property.
6. Documentation, preparation and completion of an inventory of national cultural property.
7. Proper supervision over archeological excavations, standardization of the means to protect cultural items at the site of discovery.
8. Taking educational steps to enhance public awareness on the necessity of protecting cultural objects.
9. Encouraging and developing the educational, scientific and technical institutions required for protecting cultural items, expanding museums, supporting cooperation and exchanging cultural objects among museums in Asian countries.
10. Issuing special permit for those cultural objects the export of which is authorized; and thwarting illicit import and export of cultural property with no permit, and ~~restitution~~ **return** thereof to the country of origin. (Russia)
11. Promoting international cooperation to combat smuggling of cultural items with the countries of origin on ~~restitution~~ **return** of cultural property as well as ~~extradition of those charged with theft and smuggling of cultural property.~~**in the sphere of mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and extradition (Russia)**.
12. Stress on the inalienable right of every country concerning classification and declaring as non-transferable certain cultural property and preventing entry into the national territory of those items.



**Draft Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia**

**SC- Social/ Draft Res/2018/15**

**5 October, 2018**

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

***Recalling*** the report of the Standing Committee meeting on Social and Cultural Affairs held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 13-14 September 2011;

***Mindful of*** the fact that illicit drug trafficking and its negative impact on health, safety, public order, governance, economic development and social health constitutes a prime concern in Asia and deserves a comprehensive consideration by the APA;

***Stressing*** the need to continue to take concentrated measures within the framework of the Paris Pact in order to strengthen cross-border cooperation and information exchanged with a view to countering illicit cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs in Asia;

***Emphasizing*** that the danger of illicit drug trafficking is so pervasive that may undermine international peace, security, and stability and there is an urgent need to mobilize efforts of all countries to curb the production of opium and heroin in Afghanistan and to dismantle networks of illicit drug trafficking from that country;

***Acknowledging*** that the States most affected by the transit of drugs, especially the developing countries among them, have made important contributions to and sacrifices in countering illicit drug trafficking and preventing illicitly trafficked substances from region and markets;

***Emphasizing*** afresh the continuing need to provide concrete, sufficient and sustainable technical and capacity- building support to the States most affected by the transit of drugs, especially the developing countries among them, in their efforts to curb illicit drug trafficking and deal with associated challenges;

***Recognizing*** that production and illicit trafficking of narcotics drugs can be utilized for financing of other organized crimes, including terrorism;

***Expressing*** the need to explore ways and means to intensify regional coordination among legislators to combat drug trafficking and make anti-drug policies a priority in programs of co-operation with, and of assistance to, the Asian countries which are affected by illicit drug trafficking;

***Recognizing***the interconnected challenges facing Asian countries, including continued illegal cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs that pose a serious threat to the region;

***Expressing*** the need to increase international and regional support for the capacity building of law-enforcement agencies in Afghanistan, and to intensify training programs for Afghan law-enforcement staff;

**Further recognizing** the importance of “Alternative Development” program as an approach to reducing the cultivation of plants containing drug substances through rural development measures that has been strongly endorsed by UN Commission on Narcotic Drug;

***Stressing*** the need to enhance joint operations with the relevant Afghan law-enforcement agencies focusing on clandestine heroin-producing laboratories and organized criminal groups involved in the illicitdrugs trade, emphasizing the urgent need to increase efforts by the relevant UN Stakeholders aimed at integrated rural development, building infrastructure and supporting farmers engaged in alternative production;

***Recognizing*** the need for more cooperation and intelligence sharingwith a result-oriented approach between the law enforcement agencies of the Member States in and including customs and border authorities in order to better tackle smuggling of narcotics and psychotropic substances within the region and beyond;

***Supporting***regional and international efforts to improve law enforcement in combating the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and curtailing drug related financial activities;

***Emphasizing*** the need to assist Afghanistan in developing its economy and diversifying agriculture so as to reduce dependence on revenues from the illicit drugs trafficking, in line with the Lima Declaration and International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development (November 2012);

***Stressing*** the need toshare best practices andtake adequate measures in preventing, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts;

***Expressing*** the need for more active and efficient international cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking in Asia;

***Attaching great importance*** to the efforts made by international and regional organizations including the United Nations (UN), office of drugs and crimes (UNODC) and the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) to combat the threats of international terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and legalization of income derived from criminal activity;

1. **Call upon** Asian Parliaments to coordinate among themselves to review relevant legislation to address different aspects of combating illicit drug trafficking by harmonizing laws and making minimum punishment stronger;
2. **Call upon** Asian Parliaments to adopt laws on extradition of convicted persons on terrorism and illicit drug trafficking to their countries of origin for fair trial based on national legislations
3. **Stress** the need to exchange information and best practices within APA Member Parliaments on combating illicit drug trafficking;
4. **Reiterate** the need to coordinate and improve law enforcement activities to combat the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and curtailing the flow of illicit drug more effectively;
5. **Underline** the importance of effectively using international financial assistance for the creation of alternative economic opportunities in order to ensure a sustainable anti-drug policy;
6. **Call upon** APA Asian Parliaments to enable civil society as an effective partner of parliaments and to enhance the role of mass media in combating drug trafficking in Asia;
7. **Encourage** all APA member Parliaments to support their respective governments in order to coordinate with international and regional organizations including the United Nations (UN) to combat the threats of international terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and legalization of income derived from criminal activity;
8. **Urge** that a regular dialogue on supporting joint actions of Asian governments against abovementioned threats within APA could become an effective supplement for addressing the challenges of international illicit drug trafficking and transnational organized crime in the region;
9. **Express** our commitment to encourage and enhance cooperation with all relevant states and international and regional organizations, on matters of common interest in the spirit of this resolution on rendering assistance to combat illicit drug trafficking;
10. **Encourage** networking of the relevant national agencies or organizations in Asia dealing with transnational crimes to further enhance information dissemination and intelligence exchange;
11. **Request** the Secretary General to seek the views of all Member parliaments on ways and means for effective implementation of this resolution.



**Draft Resolution on Humanitarian Aid**

**to Syria, Iraq, Yemen, And Myanmar on The Verge of the Humanitarian Catastrophe**

**SC- Social/ Draft Res/2018/16**

**5 October, 2018**

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

***Welcoming***the establishment of ceasefire regime in SAR ON 30 December 2016 and the Memorandum on the areas in the SAR, signed in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, on 4 May 2017;

***Recalling*** UN Security Council resolutions 2139 ~~and 2165~~; (Russia)

***Being***concerned about the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Myanmar and about deprivationsinflicted upon the internally displaced persons and refugees or any other affected in those countries;

***Acknowledging***that the international organizations, including parliamentary ones and NGOs andindividual countries shall support delivery of humanitarian aid to civilians trapped in a humanitarian crisis across the globe;

***Welcoming* Kingdom of Jordan for the announcement of opening internationally its borders to receive refugees; (Jordan)**

**Call upon** APA member-states to:

1. **Deliver** humanitarian support to Syrian, Iraqi, Yemeni and Myanmar civilians across conflict lines and bordercrossings both multilaterally and bilaterally in accordance with UN General Assembly Resolution 46/182; (Note: Palestine and Pakistan want to include Ghaza)
2. Support efforts of countries that host refugees and humanitarian aid and recommend to takeevery effortto facilitate aid delivery in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and Myanmar;
3. **Encourage** all relevant parties to further allow UN humanitarian agencies and their partners to utilize routes across conflict lines and border crossings in Syria in accordance with UN General Assembly resolution 46/182 and UN Security Council resolutions 2139 ~~and 2165~~; (Russia)
4. **Provide** assistance to Iraq, Syrian, Yemeni and Myanmar internally displaced persons and refugees, deprived of basic needs and desperate in search of shelter;
5. **~~Condemn~~** ~~any attempt in violation of International Humanitarian Law to block humanitarian delivery aid in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Myanmar~~**~~.~~**

**Stress that humanitarian aid delivery in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Myanmar should be carried on in accordance with International Humanitarian Law and National Legislations of these States and condemn any attempt to violate those laws. (Russia)**

1. **Assist in creating conditions for the safe and voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their original places of residence in Syria and Iraq (Russia)**

1. World Summit on Information Society held under the aegis of UN and ITU in 2003 and 2005 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)