



## Draft Resolution on Tourism Cooperation in Asia

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

***Being cognizant*** of the economic significance of the tourism and travel sectors as well as their roles in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular in the protection of cultural and natural heritage and contribution to enhanced mutual understanding and better relations among peoples as a platform for peace and stability;

***Recalling*** our commitment to the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2015, titled “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (A/RES/70/1), which exhorts to develop and implement policies to promote more resilient, inclusive and sustainable tourism sector, and acknowledges the role of tourism in creating jobs and promoting local culture and products as well as preserving them for the future generations;

***Taking into account*** the recommendations and guidelines set forth by the United Nations World Tourism Organization for actions to be taken to mitigate the adverse impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on tourism and for recovery plans and programs for tourism;

***Recognizing*** the potential of multilateral regional frameworks such as the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), an Asia wide forum which declared “culture and tourism” as well as “education and human resource development” as two out of its six priority areas of cooperation;

***Considering*** the deep-rooted, comprehensive and ever-growing relations between the Asian Parliamentary Assembly Member States, including in trade, tourism and travel as well as the need to make best use of this potential;

***Recognizing*** the significant role of parliaments in promoting tourism industry, which employs and provides livelihoods to high number of people in the Member Countries;

***Further acknowledging*** the short and long-term economic and social impacts of the COVID- 19 pandemic and the need for a speedy and safe recovery in all sectors following the overall guidance of relevant international organizations and initiatives;

***Noting*** that COVID-19 pandemic had severe negative impacts on tourism industry worldwide and compelled countries to introduce safe travel measures that need to be standardized and institutionalized for future similar pandemics;

**Emphasizing** the need to consider tourism and travel sectors, which are among the hardest-hit sectors by the pandemic, as a vital pillar of recovery efforts;

**Referring** to the importance of increasing bilateral, regional and international cooperation for the purpose of mitigating the adverse impacts of the pandemic on tourism and travel sectors.

**Bearing in mind** that worldwide international tourist arrivals dropped down 88 per cent in the first quarter of the year 2021 compared to the same period in the year 2019 according to data released by the United Nations World Tourism Organization,

**Acknowledging** the significance of harmonizing and coordinating the recovery efforts of the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly and their commitments to increase exchanges of best practices among the Member Countries in coping with the adverse impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on tourism sector in the post-Covid-19 era,

**Emphasizing** that simplified procedures that will encourage travels among the Member Countries for touristic purposes will not only help our people interact more, will also make our destinations of cultural and historical values better-known to our people.

*We, therefore,*

1. **Encourage** enhanced dialogue and cooperation in the areas of culture and tourism among the Asian Parliamentary Assembly Member Countries, also within the framework of relevant multilateral fora;
2. **Recognize** that tourism plays a significant role in strengthening people to people contact, cultural cooperation and social and economic development, which will contribute to the regional integration and connectivity in Asia;
3. **Call for** the mobilization of our resources in all tourism-related areas and sectors such as transportation, accommodation, gastronomy, public health by relevant institutions, and ensuring broader participation of all stakeholders to generate a sustainable recovery from COVID-19 in tourism and travel;
4. **Encourage** regional guidelines by competent institutions that will facilitate comfortable, safe and healthy travel among the Asian Parliamentary Assembly Member countries;
5. **Encourage** our citizens to travel to the Member Countries and to work with our respective tour operators, airlines, hotels and all relevant stakeholders and ensure close cooperation between our respective tourism, transportation and health authorities;
6. **Invite** the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to undertake concrete steps in line with the principles put forward by the United Nation World Tourism Organization to initiate multilateral mechanisms to re-energize and promote tourism sector by

coordinating and aligning efforts and measures taken by each nation in Asia in the post-Covid-19 pandemic era;

7. **Support** to establish a cooperative regional mechanism such as Asian Tourism Forum under the aegis of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, with participation of stakeholders across different levels of public and private sector, in order to promote the tourism sector and seek a swift and robust revitalization of the sector across Asia in the aftermath of the post-Covid-19 pandemic era.