



Draft Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Reaffirming that right of 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 APA Charter;

Also Recalling WSIS¹ 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 at its 70th session in 2016 on High level review of WSIS+10 on global ICTs development and measures to facilitate accomplishment of SDGs;

Noting 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;

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; especially after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic has revealed the negative impact of misleading and false news that impeded the efforts of the international community to confront the pandemic;

Reaffirming the deep-rooted ties of history, geography, economy, culture, and civilization that bind Asian peoples together and the common interests pointing to the need for further cooperation;

Emphasizing on the principle of flow of information, privacy protection within the domestically applicable legal frameworks and also equitable access to communication and access to new technologies at the national, regional and global levels;

¹ World Summit on Information Society held under the aegis of UN and ITU in 2003 and 2005

Deeply concerned by the proliferation of fake and fabricated news, misinformation and disinformation resulting due to misuse of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) which generate sentiments, hostility and divisiveness among communities;

Underlining the transformational role of ICTs in daily life as an enabling factor in all areas of economy 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;

Also 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;

We therefore,

1. **Call upon** and emphasis APA Member Parliaments to volunteer for providing knowledge and know-how, technical assistance, financial support, human resources; and other forms of assistance in creating a "Virtual Asian Parliament" based on the report of 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. **Determine** the modern and traditional ways to help to complete a plan to promote, publicize and disseminate information amongst citizens within the APA region, including through the use of social media;
3. **Recognize** that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing the new the new technologies, such as an appropriate enabling environment, sufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity;
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. **Also call upon** the UN, its specialized agencies, affiliated organizations, particularly ITU, the UN Specialized agency in ICTs, to support the Members of this Assembly through collaboration in improving access to ICTs and ICT-enabled services for the undeserved in the region in partnership with regional organizations in particular Asia Pacific Tele-community with an aim to bridge the digital divide and transfer of technologies 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 and for flow of communication and information subject to national legal frameworks;
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;
8. **Request** APA Member Parliaments to promote parliamentary action to address the proliferation of fake and fabricated news, misinformation and disinformation caused by the misuse of ICTs and include initiatives to promote, information awareness, fact-checking collaboration and the establishment of complaint procedure mechanism, where necessary, without limiting the Asian Citizen's fundamental rights to know and freedom to access information as well as freedom of expression and assuming the responsibility of social media for their behavior in ICTs environment;
9. **Invite** the APA 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.