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## Draft Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption

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*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;

**Welcoming** the adoption of resolution 8/14 – Promoting good practices in relation to the role of National Parliaments and other Legislative Bodies in preventing and combating corruption in all its forms – by the 8th Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption held from 16 – 20 December 2019 in Abu Dhabi, UAE;

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

**Recognizing** that fighting corruption at all levels and in all its forms 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;

**Bearing in mind** that corruption is a transnational phenomenon and that prevention and eradication of corruption is the responsibility of all States and that they must cooperate with one another;

**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 and multidisciplinary approach including 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 United Nations Convention against Corruption;

*We therefore,*

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 United Nations Convention against Corruption, 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. **Resolve** to promote exchange of good practices and experiences regarding the role of Parliaments in preventing and countering corruption, including by raising awareness among public, reviewing and strengthening anti-corruption legislation, exercising parliamentary oversight, fostering a culture of transparency and accountability, promoting rule of law and strengthening institutions at national level;
5. **Recognize** the importance of strengthening Parliaments, role in combating corruption and promoting the exchange of good practices and national experience among Parliamentary Institutions as called for by the Resolution 8/14 adopted by the 8th Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention Against Corruption held from 16 – 20 December 2019 in Abu Dhabi, UAE;
6. **Invite** the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption to consider holding thematic discussion on strengthening the role of national parliaments in fighting corruption, including promoting the implementation of this Convention;
7. **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;
8. **Consider** to improve and expand working relations with important Asian organizations such as GOPAC ( Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption) Chapter in order to enhance synergy and areas for cooperation and joint initiatives;
9. **Urge** 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;

10. **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;
11. **Call on** member parliaments to empower civil society as an effective partner of parliaments and promote the role of the media in combating corruption in Asia;
12. **Also call on** member parliaments to encourage their governments to allocate a budget to support the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to promote the role of supreme audit institutions in preventing and combating corruption more effectively and strengthening cooperation between supervisory and anti-corruption bodies;
13. **Invite** member parliaments to encourage their governments to engage the private sector in developing criteria and procedures to protect against corruption;
14. **Urge** member parliaments to encourage their governments to provide and harness the full potential of employing education and technology in preventing and combating corruption to reduce the likelihood of the spread of corruption;
15. **Also invite** member parliaments to encourage their governments to implement strategies and policies aimed at combating corruption and to develop measures to combat impunity;
16. **Request** the APA Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on implementation of this resolution.