

# **Resolutions of the Standing Committees on Social and Cultural Affairs**

1. Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia
2. Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology
3. Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia
4. Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption
5. Resolution on APA Women Parliamentarians
6. Resolution on Promoting Dialogue and Harmony among Followers of World Religions
7. Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia
8. Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia
9. Resolution on the Promotion of Quality Child and Youth Development for Sustainable Society in Asia
10. Resolution on Ageing Society in Asia
11. Resolution on Human Development in Asia
12. Resolution on Tourism Cooperation in Asia
13. Draft Resolution on the Commission on Women (Deferred)
14. Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians in support of a more just multipolar world order reflecting its cultural and civilizational diversity



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

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

**Recalling** the 1970 UNESCO Convention on Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property to protect the cultural heritage in Asia;

**Also recalling** the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, 1954, and its protocols, where applicable and UNESCO 2005 Convention on Protection and Promotion of Diversity of Cultural Expression;

**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 protection, conservation and management of the diverse Cultural and Natural heritage of Outstanding Universal Value in Asia declared under the Convention concerning *the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, 1972 is the responsibility of its member states and joint collaborative efforts, wherever necessary, may be made towards their safeguarding for posterity;

**Recalling** the UNESCO 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage; and UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;

**Reaffirming** 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;

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

**Also 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;

**Noting** the active role of the Republic of Azerbaijan in promoting intercultural and interreligious dialogue by hosting the Seventh Global Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations in 2016 and the summits of the World Religious Leaders in 2010 and 2019, as well as through other similar World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue;

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

**Recognizing** that disaster risk is increasingly complex and systemic and that hazards can trigger each other with cascading impacts across cultural sectors and geographies, and that the interrelation of risks across multiple dimensions and scales and potential unintended negative consequences should inform development policies and investments, emphasizing that these policies should be oriented towards building resilience to future shock, including those that may jeopardize cultural heritage sites;

**Also noting** that globalization creates some opportunities for greater interaction among cultures and civilizations while bringing about challenges in preserving and celebrating the rich intellectual and cultural diversity in Asia;

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

**Deploring** the unrepairable damage brought to cultural and religious heritage by terrorism and organized crimes, especially damages to all religious and historical sites and holy shrines by indiscriminate bombing and shelling;

**Condemning** the loss, destruction, removal, theft, pillage, illicit movement, or misappropriation of and any acts of vandalism or damage, directed against cultural property in areas of armed conflict and territories that are occupied;

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

*We therefore,*

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 and good governance among 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, xenophobia and all other related forms of intolerance;
4. **Remain committed** to the protection of the rights of all communities, where applicable, so as to ensure the fulfillment of community rights;
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 are responsible for the impoverishment of the cultural identity of the countries of origin of such property;
7. **Decide** to remain cognizant of damages to religious holy places and historical sites by other terrorist organizations in our home continent;
8. **Resolve** to cooperate to prevent illegal import, export or transfer of cultural property and artifacts among Asian countries and beyond;
9. **Urge** Member Parliaments to consider ratifying the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;
10. **Underline** the importance of strengthening international cooperation and reducing vulnerability in the face of natural and human-made hazards, including weather-related as well as water-related hazards that may damage cultural heritage sites.
11. **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;
12. **Strongly recommend** APA Member Parliaments to promote tourism in association with conservation and protection of cultural heritage;
13. **Reiterate** that during armed conflict, states should adopt measures to safeguard the cultural and natural 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;
14. **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;
15. **Encourage** the parliamentarians to support their governments outreaching to civil society about the importance of cultural diversity in societies and developing strategic plans and projects to develop the cultural sector to promote dialogue among civilizations and cultures;
16. **Stress** the important role the private sector can play in promoting cultural diversity, encouraging the development of plans and mechanisms to create a space for dialogue between the private and public sectors to develop plans to manage,

protect, and promote cultural diversity in Asia;

17. **Also stress** the important role the parliamentarians can play in developing policies and legislation to promote the principles enshrined in the UNESCO World Day for Cultural Diversity in their countries and to develop appropriate mechanisms for developing plans and regulatory frameworks to manage the cultural heritage sites, by identifying the cultural importance of these sites, maintaining their authenticity and preserving their value while respecting international laws for cultural diversity;
18. **Call upon** APA Member's Parliaments to support the cultural diversity including respect to regional and national particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems.



## Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology

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

**Reaffirming** that right of access to accurate 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) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2008).

**Recalling** WSIS<sup>1</sup> Outcomes of 2003, 2005 held under UN aegis to build a people centered, democratic, inclusive and development oriented information society and relevant UN resolutions;

**Underlining** that Asian integration can be achieved through further dialogue, interaction, and communication among Asian people for the promotion of peace, liberty, equality, human rights, and welfare in Asia;

**Acknowledging** the fundamental role of information and communication technology as an indispensable factor in all areas of national regional, and global development;

**Being aware** that digital space is vulnerable to any acts of criminal or terrorist purposes that could cause disruption due to data and information leakage.

**Acknowledging** that to protect information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure across the Asian countries, it is important to formulate, guidelines and policies for securing ICT infrastructures of each other states;

**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;

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

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

**Deeply concerned** by the proliferation of misinformation and disinformation, hate speech, cyberbullying, child sexual exploitation and abuse, and highlighting the role of States and other stakeholders to counter violence which occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology;

**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;

**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;

**Reiterating** our unwavering commitment to uphold democratic values , rule of law, human rights, safeguarding dignity and well being , ensuring personal data protection of applicable intellectual property rights, privacy and security , fostering innovation and promoting, promoting open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT environment;

*We therefore,*

1. **Recognize** that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments such as an appropriate enabling environment, sufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity;
2. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to support vocational and technical education and capacity building in Asia in order to enhance people's digital literacy, skills and competitiveness in coping with the challenges of globalization based on digital technologies;
3. **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 transferring in improving access to ICTs and ICT-enabled services and technologies;
4. **Request** APA Member Parliamentarians to collaborate and take necessary measures inter alia to promote the development of ICT infrastructure through enabling policies, capacity building, building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;
5. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to support legislation requiring digital technology companies and developers to, in consultation with governments, develop industry accountability frameworks, that increase transparency and define responsibilities within the cyberspace;
6. **Call upon** member parliaments to formulation strategies aimed at safeguarding children and youth and reducing the sexual exploitation of women through modern communication channels, including the exchange of knowledge and experiences, policy coordination, and collaboration with the private sector;

7. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to prioritize initiatives aimed at bridging the digital divide within their countries by investing in and promoting regional collaboration for the deployment of telecommunication infrastructure in underserved and rural areas;
8. **Call upon** APA member parliaments to formulate guidelines and policies for securing the ICT infrastructure in their respective countries and share best cyber security practices with each other state;
9. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to collaborate on standardizing and upgrading ICT infrastructure across the region, focusing on the adoption of next-generation technologies such as 5G and fiber-optic networks to enhance regional connectivity;
10. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to establish and promote regional training programs, scholarships, and partnerships with international institutions for capacity building in key areas such as cybersecurity, network management, and ICT policy formulation;
11. **Encourage** the establishment of joint research centers, innovation hubs, and technology parks focused on emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, Internet of Things, etc.



## Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia

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

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

**Also recalling** 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;

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

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

**Noting** Astana Declaration adopted on 25-26 October 2018 reaffirming the commitments expressed in Alma Ata Declaration adopted on 6-12 September 1978;

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

**Also 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;

**Recognizing** that equitable access to medicines is one of the fundamental elements in achieving progressively the full realization of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

**Recalling** the importance of placing equity and people centric 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;

**Also recognizing** that health inequities arise from social determinants of health, that is, the societal conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work age their disability and gender;

**Emphasizing** the need to comprehensively combat social and health related problems emanating from illegal drugs, psychotropic, alcohol and tobacco products, and promote policies to prevent and control their use, abuse and addiction;

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

**Also expressing** concern on deteriorating health effects of wars and armed conflicts as well as Unilateral and Secondary Sanctions 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 including interactions with Special UN mandates;

**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;

**Having in mind** that access to basic health services and medicine is a universally accepted norm arising from fundamental elements of human rights;

*We therefore,*

1. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to incorporate Social factors of Health (SDH) more intensively in other APA themes and activities;
2. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to strengthen collaboration with a view to formulating a coherent approach with regard to Social factors of health in Asia, especially education, housing, and employment;
3. **Invite** APA Member Parliaments to promote Healthcare in Asia through sharing experiences and best practices on identifying vulnerability and inequity and actively advocate the inclusion of social factors of health in national policies and programs in accordance with national contexts and priorities;
4. **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 among policy makers and related stakeholders;
5. Call upon APA Member Parliaments to support and launch digital platforms and mechanisms for knowledge exchange to accelerate the sharing of expertise and experiences related to health equity among Member States. These platforms may include online forums, virtual workshops, and dedicated applications for the exchange of data and best practices in the field of health equity;

6. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to adopt policies and measures to improve service provision, primary health care, human resources for health and health financing system including social protection system as well as health insurance plans for a more equitable resource distribution;
7. **Provide** adequate, predictable, evidence-based and sustainable finances, while improving their effectiveness, to support national efforts in achieving universal health coverage, in accordance with national contexts and priorities, through domestic, bilateral, regional and multilateral channels, including international cooperation, financial and technical assistance, considering the use of traditional and innovative financing mechanisms;
8. **Call on** APA Member Parliaments 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, academia and the media with adequate safeguard in order to identify the main social determinants of health;
9. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to take action in their countries to increase health literacy and awareness as well as to enhance health promotion and disease prevention;
10. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to persuade their respective governments to create and implement targeted policies, activities, and programs in line with national contexts and priorities 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 diagnosis, therapeutics, medicines, and vaccines, and essential technologies, and their components, as well as equipment as appropriate;
11. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to undertake measures to coordinate responses to epidemics and to support international efforts to prevent, mitigate and address the impacts of infectious diseases and epidemics in accordance with the goal of advancing the 2030 Agenda;
12. **Invite** APA Member Parliaments to encourage their respective governments for enhancing the role of digital technologies, connectivity and access in public health, medical care and health services;
13. **Call on** APA Member Parliaments to take necessary actions and to encourage their respective governments to ensure child nutrition needs and to tackle malnutrition with a focus on equity for a healthier generation;
14. **Determine** to accelerate the achievement of SDG 2030 health targets and to take active part on the discussion of 2030 development agenda by delivering Asian views in the international arena to drive the global agenda forward, as appropriate in the national context and priorities;
15. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to adopt relevant legislations to support universal access of all population in Asia to basic health services and pharmaceutical products

inter alia, via persuading their respective governments to collaborate with other Asian Governments to devise an integrated Asian Mechanism of Health Insurance Coverage, in order to facilitate multilateral access of Asian People to medicine and health services in the continent;

16. **Call on** APA Member Parliament to reconsider the health legislation in force to ensure achieving the goal of universal health coverage for all, in addition to increase public allocations for health spending in the countries of the continent to internationally recognized rates, in a manner that enhances equal access to adequate and sustainable health services for all citizens of the continent, especially women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons and the poorest groups;
17. **Emphasize** that health problems are not only caused by local factors, but are also related to the work of other communities and the health of other people near and far, therefor, ensuring that everyone in every country has access to health care can indeed better protect everyone's health;
18. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to develop and implement targeted strategies to mitigate these emerging health threats, ensuring that they are integrated into national health policies and programs.



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## 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;

**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;

**Emphasizing** that corruption hinders the development process as well as building a state of law and institutions, and stands in the way of stability and security of societies, prosperity, as well as undermining the value of democracy, whereas the prevention thereof has become an urgent necessity and a comprehensive public interest;

**Recognizing** article 4 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption according to which parties shall carry out their obligations under the Convention in a manner consistent with the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and that of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States, and recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015;

**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 or illegally acquired 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, to the 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 preventing and 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. **Urge APA members** 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;
7. **Call on** Member Parliaments to empower civil society as an effective partner of parliaments and promote the role of the media in preventing and combating corruption in Asia;
8. **Invite** Member Parliaments to encourage their governments to engage the private sector in developing criteria and procedures to protect against corruption;

9. **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;
10. **Also invite** Member Parliaments to encourage their governments to implement strategies and policies aimed at preventing and combating corruption and to develop measures to combat impunity;



## Resolution on APA Women Parliamentarians

*We, the 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 and the APA Resolution on Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians (APA/Res/2014/16) superseding the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians, as well as other relevant resolutions;

**Recalling** United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, as the first resolution recognizing women's leadership role in international peace and security and their contributions to conflict prevention and peacekeeping;

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

**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 supports achieving the sustainable development;

**Noting** that women face obstacles in entering Parliaments includes political, socio-economic and cultural environment;

**Acknowledging** the necessity to place on the agenda of APA meetings matters of importance in this regard such as eliminating violence and discrimination against women, empowerment of women and their participation in political and economic life, and prevention of all kinds of harassments, sexual violence against women and girls, trafficking, and other types of exploitation including in situation of armed conflict particularly amid the humanitarian situations and emergencies;

**Considering** women's rights including gender stereotype women's empowerment, eliminating violence and discrimination which prevent them from enjoying access to health services, education, equal opportunity, and fair pay; and seek to engage women in political, economic and social aspects of life;

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

**Noting** that CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women) as well as the outcome documents of the Fourth World Conference on Women Beijing 1995, and its subsequent periodic follow-up conferences, being held every five years have all developed a comprehensive framework for the protection and empowerment of women and girls, eliminating all forms of discrimination against them and ensuring that they obtain their legitimate rights for it states parties;

*We therefore,*

1. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to ensure the full and effective inclusion of women in social, cultural, economic, political, and sustainable development affairs in Asia, at national, regional, and international levels as appropriate;
2. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to adopt legislations to facilitate women's equal representations in Asian Parliaments;
3. **Encourage** APA Women Parliamentarians to lead by example and place the interest of women at the heart of policy and decision making as an endeavor to encourage and engage more women into politics;
4. **Recommend** the importance of information and awareness campaigns to promote the integration of women into political participation and decision making with a view to facilitate reaching national and international parliamentary institutions;
5. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to recognize the concerns of and discrimination and inequalities experienced by women, and to effectively implement the relevant provisions of United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which promote gender equality and empowerment of women with respect for national and cultural particularities of the Member States, in line with international law, as applicable;
6. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to recognize that gender equality and empowerment of women as a stand-alone goal with clear targets and indicators that must be achieved through implementation of goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with respect to national and cultural particularities of the Member States, in line with international law, as applicable;
7. **Emphasize** the concept of family values as a basic unit to build a healthy and viable society;
8. **Determine** to enhance the activities of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarian through more effective exchange of views and close interaction;
9. **Express** grave concern at the dire situation of millions of women in all war-torn and conflict-ridden areas who are inevitably in danger of and impacted by mortality and morbidity of themselves and their family members particularly their children;
10. **Also express** support of APA Member Parliaments in advancing women, peace and security agenda, particularly by enhancing women's role peacebuilding

activities;

11. **Recommends** APA Member Parliamentarians to adopt special legislations to support and promote the special role women to deal with the challenges induced by climate change;
12. **Recommends** APA Member Parliamentarians to recognize the concerns of gender digital divide and to adopt special legislative measures for its reduction;
13. **Encourage** APA Member Parliamentarians to ensure inclusion of women in the policy making bodies;
14. **Encourage** APA Member Parliamentarians to bringing measures to ensure safety of women and girls from cyber-crimes;
15. **Encourage** APA Member Parliamentarians to take measures to provide education about prevention of drug / substance abuse to avoid its potential harmful consequence;
16. **Calling** APA Member Parliaments to ensure that all efforts they undertake regarding women will take into account those with multiple disadvantages, especially women with disabilities.



## Resolution on Promoting Dialogue and Harmony among Followers of World Religions

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

**Noting** the role of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in fostering the values of compassion, inclusion, and respect in working towards a more just peaceful, inclusive world, by promoting greater understanding, tolerance and respect among civilizations, cultures, religions and beliefs;

**Recalling** with appreciation various global, regional and sub-regional initiatives on mutual understanding and interfaith harmony including the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 65/5 (2010), the International Conference on Environment, Peace and the Dialogue among Civilizations and Cultures (2005);

**Being mindful** of the fact that, Inter-Faith harmony among followers of different religions of the world in general and Asia, in particular, is of utmost importance for the survival and harmony of mankind and the promotion of the culture of peace, understanding, respect, security and tolerance;

**Recognizing** the essential role of dialogue among followers of different faiths and religions in enhancing mutual collaboration, harmony and cooperation among their followers;

**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 in;

**Acknowledging** that the moral imperatives of all religions, convictions and beliefs call for peace, tolerance and mutual understanding;

**Commending** the initiatives taken by the United Nations in support of dialogue among civilizations and citizens and followers of religions, foremost among which is the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations UNAOC and Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID) in Qatar.

*We therefore,*

1. **Maintain** that a regular dialogue between the APA Member Parliaments become an effective supplement for addressing the challenges of ongoing international

conflicts based on religious differences and discrepancies;

2. **Denounce** the hatred stereotyping of persons based on their ethnicity and religion condemning any activity that leads towards the division between the followers of different faiths;
3. **Underline** the importance of moderation as a value within societies for countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism and for further contributing to the promotion of inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation and encourage efforts, as appropriate, to enable voice of moderation to work together in order to build a more secure, inclusive and peaceful world;
4. **Declare** that extremism and terrorism cannot be attributed or accredited to any religion or nationality as these are common enemies of all humanity;
5. **Consider** that any form of discrimination based on religion, belief, faith or ethnic adherence is contrary to the merits of inter-faith dialogue and has no place in the community of civilized nations;
6. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to consider providing a respective national legal instrument, with the aim of creating a conducive atmosphere for inter-faith dialogue and cooperation as well as harmony among all religions;
7. **Deplore** in the strongest terms, all atrocities and acts of violence, committed by extremist and terrorist groups under the guise of religion and call upon all states to refrain from providing any support to such terrorist groups;
8. **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 people of other religions and faiths;
9. **Condemn** the shameful acts and the exploitation of freedom of opinion and expression to offend religious beliefs and divine books, which constitutes a serious offense to the feelings of hundreds of millions of Muslims around the world;
10. **Strongly condemn** any advocacy of hatred based on religion or belief which constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media or any other means;
11. **Recommend** to jointly fight against all kinds of discrimination based on beliefs, and in particular stand against rising Islamophobia and Christian phobia which is an artificial and unreal expression of the efforts aiming to defame Islam and Christianity.
12. **Emphasize** on the importance of addressing Islamophobia and Christian phobia as a form of racism against followers of the Islamic and Christian faith and stressing the need for promoting dialogue and meetings that fosters a deeper understanding of the true traditions of Islam and Christianity, thereby encouraging mutual respect among religions.

13. **Urge** all APA Member Parliaments to intensify their efforts for the development of international and regional frameworks to promote best practices which leads towards the inter-faith harmony and collaboration;
14. **Invite** Member Parliaments to further promote reconciliation to help to ensure durable peace and sustained development, including by working with faith leaders and communities and through reconciliatory measures and acts of service and by encouraging forgiveness and compassion among individuals;
15. **Encourage** all Member Parliaments to pass laws and legislation to criminalize acts associated with defamation of religions and their sanctities, combat all forms of discrimination, and firmly renounce hate speech, including Islamophobia and Christian phobia.
16. **Emphasize** the importance of the concerted efforts of the international community in establishing specialized centers to combat extremist ideology and terrorism, in order to promote a culture of peace, security, and tolerance;
17. **Encourage** Asian countries to adhere to the principles and values set out in the Human Fraternity Document for World Peace and Living Together, reflecting the values of tolerance, moderation, and the rejection of racism;
18. **Encourage** Asian countries to develop a tolerance award to support the efforts in the fields of peace and tolerance.



## Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia

*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;

**Recalling** the relevant provisions where applicable on the protection of cultural heritage including the four Geneva Conventions (1949), the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and its related protocols, the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), the *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* (1972), UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001);

**Taking into account** the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 (2017) which aims at mainstreaming the protection of cultural heritage at the global level;

**Recalling** the United Nations General Assembly resolution 66/180 of 19 December 2011 on “Strengthening Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses to Protect Cultural Property, especially with regard to its Trafficking” and recalling also General Assembly resolutions 68/186 of 18 December 2013 on strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property;

**Welcoming** the important and active role that the UN and its relevant agencies play in countering smuggle of cultural artifacts, in particular, in Asia;

**Expressing** deep concern about the growing problem of smuggling of cultural items in Asia;

**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;

**Considering** the smuggling of cultural property 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 are smuggled abroad;

**Also recognizing** the need to enhance national capacities, including parliamentary capacity to reinforce national strategy to combat smuggling of cultural items;

*We therefore,*

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. Invite all APA member parliaments that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954), UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001) and the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003);
3. **Request** all APA Member Parliaments to strengthen their national legislation on protecting cultural properties and combatting all forms of smuggling in cultural property and related offences;
4. **Express** support for the further strengthening of the system of management to protect movable cultural heritage from theft and smuggling of cultural properties;
5. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments and national government to work more closely in the development of legislations and implementation of laws aiming at the combat of cross-border illicit trade and smuggling of cultural artifacts and other cultural assets, and the enhanced cooperation to ensure the return, restitution or repatriation of trafficked, illicitly exported or imported, stolen, looted, illicitly excavated or illicitly traded cultural property to countries of origin while also ensuring mutual support and assistance by law-enforcement bodies in the combat operations;
6. **Also urge** all Member Parliaments to exercise efforts to jointly register their shared tangible and intangible cultural heritages at UNESCO's relevant list.



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## Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia

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*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 of narcotic crops, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs, synthetic drugs and New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) psychotropic substances and their precursor chemical substances in Asia taking stock of the emerging threat of increased production of synthetic drugs in Afghanistan .

**Emphasizing** that the danger of illicit drug trafficking is pervasive so there is an urgent need to mobilize efforts of all countries to curb the production of opium, heroin, synthetic drugs and NPS in the Asian continent and to dismantle networks of illicit drug trafficking from all over Asia;

**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, synthetic drugs and New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) can be utilized for financing drugs related 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, synthetic drugs and NPS, psychotropic substances and their precursor chemicals 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 the areas most affected by the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs, synthetic drugs and NPS, psychotropic substances and their precursor chemicals in Asia, and to intensify training programs for their 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 synthetic drugs and NPS;

**Stressing** the need to enhance joint co-operation with the relevant law-enforcement agencies of APA Member Parliaments focusing on clandestine heroin-producing laboratories and organized criminal groups involved in the illicit drugs 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 sharing with 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 and their precursor chemicals within the region and beyond;

**Supporting** regional and international efforts to improve law enforcement in combating the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs, synthetic drugs and NPS, psychotropic substances and their precursor chemicals and curtailing drug related financial activities;

**Emphasizing** the need to assist countries most affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops in developing its economy and diversifying agriculture so as to reduce people’s dependence on revenues from the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops and trafficking, of narcotic drugs, synthetic drugs and NPS, taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and in line with national legislation;

**Reaffirming** that Alternative Development is crucial, lawful, viable and sustainable alternative to the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops, that it is an effective measure and one of the key components of policies and programs to counter illicit drug production and other drug-related crime challenges, and stressing that the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

**Stressing** the need to share best practices and take 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 drugs related terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, drug related organized crime and legalization of income derived from illicit drugs.

**Underscoring** that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, synthetic drugs and NPS of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs synthetic drugs and NPS and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, and other relevant international instruments constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system;

**Reaffirming** our unwavering commitment, including in the context addressing Narcotics Drugs, to ensure that all aspects of demand reduction and related measures, supply reduction and related measures, and international cooperation should be addressed in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, International Law, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among states;

*We therefore,*

1. **Stress** the need to exchange information and best practices within APA Member Parliaments on combating illicit drug trafficking;
2. **Remain vigilant** to the new modus operandi through the digital world and also the availability of the new substances of drug which are not yet listed in the respective national illicit drug lists and call for strong cooperation among APA Member Countries on these issues;
3. **Reiterate** the need to coordinate and improve law enforcement activities to combat the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs, synthetic drugs and NPS, psychotropic substances and their precursor chemicals and curtailing the flow of illicit drug more effectively;
4. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to consider adopting relevant legislation regulations to strengthen international cooperation to support comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, as an essential elements of successful crop control strategies, especially in areas affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of crops, taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and Member Parliaments with extensive

relevant expertise to continue to share best practices, upon request;

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 Member 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 terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and legalization of income derived from criminal activities;
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.



## Resolution on the Promotion of Quality Child and Youth Development for Sustainable Society in Asia

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

**Recalling** UN General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, during which the General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and recognized children and youth as critical agents of change;

**Recognizing** the role of parliaments in promoting the human rights and empowerment of children and youth in Asia;

**Stressing** on the commitment of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 4, 5, 8, 16, based on national rules and cultural backgrounds, in line with international law as applicable, as the basis for building sustainable, peaceful and inclusive societies in Asia;

**Recognizing** that the cooperation among APA Member Parliaments can be instrumental in promoting quality child and youth development in the region;

**Reaffirming** that the general principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, participation and survival and development, provide the international legal framework for actions concerning children to ensure that their rights are protected, based on national rules and cultural background and in line with international law as applicable;

**Reaffirming** the World Program of Action on Youth including the best interests of the youth, non-discrimination, participation, survival and development and provide framework of actions concerning youth; to ensure youth are protected in their rights;

*We therefore,*

1. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to recognize the importance of the quality child and youth development and to consider, with participation of children and youth, the provision of comprehensive social welfare, including access to health care, nutrition, quality education, training for skill development and other essential services to empower children and youth as healthy, responsible and productive members of society;
2. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to take appropriate measures to enhance

cooperation among Member Parliaments to promote quality child and youth development, care and assistance, as well as to protect all children including those with disabilities, and youth from all forms of violence , negligence, abuse, radicalization, exploitation and discrimination;

3. **Also encourage** APA Member Parliaments to strengthen and, where necessary, enact or reform legislations to ensure that all children and youth are protected against all forms of violence, as well as to improve child and youth development schemes;
4. **Emphasize** the urgent need for APA Member Parliaments to adopt strategies and legislation that enhances the support for guidance and counseling programs focused on building awareness and personal capabilities among children and youth, including the integration of career guidance and personal development strategies into educational curricula and youth development programs, thereby enabling them to set goals, cultivate leadership skills, and prepare for active and responsible citizenship;
5. **Urge** all APA Member Parliaments to cooperate and exchange experiences regarding policies and best practices for protecting children and youth from the harmful effects of technology, and to benefit from international expertise in this field;
6. **Encourage** member states to create and promote policies that foster economic opportunities for youth, including job creation, entrepreneurship programs, and access to financial resources, ensuring that young people can contribute meaningfully to their communities and economies.
7. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to strengthen and, where necessary, constitute parliamentary caucus on Child Rights enhancing the role of parliaments in protection of child rights and promotion of Social Welfare.



## Resolution on Ageing Society in Asia

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

**Recalling** its resolution 2017/12 on The Role of APA Parliaments in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and resolution 2017/17 on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia;

**Recalling** UN General Assembly Resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, and subsequent resolutions No. 59/150 of 01 February 2005 on the Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing;

**Welcoming** UN General Assembly Resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, in which the General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and stressing the need to ensure that issues of relevance to older persons are taken into account in its implementation in order to ensure that no one is left behind, including older persons;

**Recognizing** that the ageing population in many countries in Asia is rapidly growing whereas the fertility rates in those respective countries are significantly declining;

**Acknowledging** that the older persons in Asia are expected to account for over 17 percent by 2030, due to higher life expectancy;

**Being concerned** that misconception and prejudice remains a challenge to opportunity for and engagement of older persons in productive employment in some countries, taking into account the unique culture of respect towards older persons in Asia;

**Being mindful** that public adaptation and preparedness through a life-course, multifaceted approach are keys to help society effectively respond to the burdens as commonly regarded in aged society;

**Acknowledging** that older persons have made significant contribution to national social and economic gains and, therefore, enactment of effective legislation should be encouraged to remove barriers in realizing full potential of older persons;

*We therefore,*

1. **Calls upon** APA Member Parliaments to consider developing and adopting legislations on social protection, health-care services, and employment

opportunities for older persons, as well as exploring innovative legislations such as phased-retirement, job sharing and part-time work;

2. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to monitor the implementation of their respective governments' ageing policies and to accord priority to the availability of evidence-based, accurate, reliable and up-to-date data and information in order to ensure effective, efficient and sustainable implementation;
3. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to exercise their constituent authority to maximize opportunities for older persons, including through promoting flexible work and alternative employability arrangements, as appropriate;
4. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to work with their relevant constituencies and community-based mechanisms to promote an enabling volunteer environment for older persons, taking into account different social contexts and norms;
5. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to develop legislation and policies to promote an enabling environment to the lives of older persons and to proactively provide services to them and improve the quality of such services, particularly health services;
6. **Stress** the importance of promoting and supporting international efforts, particularly the efforts exerted by the United Nations, as the UN launched a set of goals that include raising awareness of the health needs of the older persons and their contributions to the communities in which they live;
7. **Call on** Member Parliaments to encourage their governments to continuously launch programs, initiatives, and events in social development centers in Asian countries in cooperation with the government and national institutions to raise awareness among all segments of society about the needs of the older persons, on the one hand, motivate the older persons and consolidate their role on the other hand. This, in turn, shall actuate all aspects of the active lives of older persons, and ensure their active and continuous participation in their communities;
8. **Encourages** the international community and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support national efforts to provide funding for research and data-collection initiatives on ageing, as appropriate, as well as to include indicators that provide an evidence base for the equitable delivery and effective monitoring of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;
9. **Call upon** States to promote policies further in respect of "protection and strengthening the family and maintain the young/dynamic population structure" at the national level, and to improve international cooperation and establish mechanisms to share knowledge and experience among countries.



## Resolution on Human Development in Asia

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

**Recalling** our commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for the years 2015-2030, which includes poverty eradication and focuses on providing good health, welfare, gender equality, appropriate education and work, and economic growth;

**Reaffirming** APA Goals to harness cooperation to use enormous human and natural resources, and to ensure the interests of all member states;

**Reminding** APA Member Parliaments to take collective procedures for supporting governments and other active parties in the region, and to promote the exchange of opinions and expertise with parliaments from other regions, in the context of poverty eradication and promoting equality;

**Recognizing** that human development is an extensive and accumulative process that, bears not only financial and economic aspects, but also covers social, cultural, health, natural environment and political domains, with an ultimate goal of human prosperity;

**Taking into consideration** acts related to the UN Development Program (UNDP) particularly the Human Development Report 2020: The next frontier: Human Development and Anthropocene;

**Emphasizing** that the human element is the basis of renaissance and material development in different societies;

**Emphasizing** the fundamental role of parliaments through the enactment of legislation, budget adoption, and their role in ensuring human development;

**Affirming** the need to train Asian human resources to realize one of the most important feature of economic globalization by enhancing their competitive capabilities in the world market while utilizing the dynamics of globalization in which the balance of economic power keeps changing;

*We therefore,*

1. **Encourage** setting a unified criterion for national capacity building;
2. **Urge** developed countries and also regional United Nation office in Asia to support

the proposed training center project and encourage their parliaments to take steps towards the realization of this goal in compliance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;

3. **Call on** APA Member Parliaments to increase the budgetary allocations for education, health, and housing for their direct impact on developing human capital, offer adequate opportunities for the human element for creativity, innovation, and active participation in looking ahead;
4. **Also call on** APA Member Parliaments to create strategic partnerships and work closely with governments and public institutions on issues related to promoting human development.



## Resolution on Tourism Cooperation in Asia

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

**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 and UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/75/229 on Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection;

**Recalling** its Resolution 2017/12 on The Role of APA Parliaments in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

**Recognizing** that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, health, cultural, rural, Agro and Sports tourism is a cross-cutting activity that effectively contribute to the three dimensions of sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including by fostering economic growth, alleviating poverty, creating full and productive employment and decent work for all, accelerating the change to more sustainable consumption and production patterns and promoting the sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources, promoting local culture, improving the quality of life and the economic empowerment of young people and development of better living conditions for rural populations;

**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 and acknowledging the contribution of tourism industry to the economic development of the societies and as a tool for promoting understanding, peace and prosperity among nations;

**Underlining** the vast potential of our region in the field of tourism and its ability to increase the region’s share in global tourism and emphasizing the need for protection and conservation of its natural and cultural heritage and safeguarding cultural richness, natural beauty, social values as well as local communities and traditions of the indigenous peoples;

**Re-emphasizing** cultural diversity and protection of cultural heritage in Asia and 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;

**Noting** the initiatives launched and the events organized at the sub regional, regional and international levels in the field of sustainable tourism;

**Highlighting** promotion of dialogue and harmony among followers of World Religions and different faiths;

**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. **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;
2. **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;
3. **Promote** Inter- regional tourism cooperation through regional integration organizations particularly ASEAN, ECO, OIC and other existing platforms and support regional tourism exchanges particularly for persons engaged in the tourism industry;
4. **Encourage** regional guidelines by competent institutions that will facilitate comfortable, safe and healthy travel among the Asian Parliamentary Assembly Member countries;
5. **Promote** Silk Road tourism through arranging events and festivals and in cooperation with the international community and relevant organizations will be revived;
6. **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 structure in tourism and travel sectors;
7. **Establish** our region as a peaceful and green tourism destination with diverse products

and high-quality services while ensuring responsible and sustainable tourism development and upgrading quality of life of the people through effective involvement of all stake holders throughout the process;

8. **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;
9. **Invite** the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to undertake concrete steps in line with the principles put forward by the UN Tourism to initiate multilateral mechanisms to further re-energize and promote tourism sector by coordinating and aligning efforts and measures taken by each nation in Asia;
10. **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 sectors, in order to promote the tourism sector;
11. **Facilitate** visa procedures for the citizens of the Region;
12. **Strengthen** and diversify tourism health/medical, culture, winter, sea, mountain desert, religious, sports and other niche areas/domains;
13. **Support** utilization of electronic media, and digital media human resource development and capacity building activities;
14. **Devise** and promote green tourism strategy in collaboration with international tourism bodies;
15. **Encourage** private sector and local community involvement in the tourism activities;
16. **Support** employment and hiring of tourism activists in the relevant regional and international organizations by encouraging relevant national authorities to follow a scheme in the said organizations such as UN Tourism;
17. **Encourage** establishing a Tourism Entrepreneurs Network among member states through APA (Iran);
18. **Encourage** exchange students among APA nations relevant Tourism Institutions and Academia.



## Draft Resolution on the Commission on Women

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

**Recalling** that the proposal to establish the Commission on Women was put forward and adopted at the 13th Plenary Session of APA held on 10 January, 2023 in Antalya, Republic of Türkiye;

**Recognizing** that despite the implementation of certain measures and decisive efforts towards the protection of women's rights **especially those with disabilities (Türkiye)** and the elimination of **gender (Iran) discrimination against women (Iran)** in the Asian region, serious problems still exist in this area;

**Drawing attention to** the fact, that during armed conflicts in the Asian region, women and children become the most vulnerable social group and they experience the consequences of violence and human rights abuses, suffer from displacement, loss, poverty, and disintegration of families;

**Underlining** that the regional conflicts exacerbate already existing forms of discrimination against women and girls and put them at risk of human rights abuses;

**Taking into account** the need to take effective measures to protect refugee and internally displaced women from violence;

**Considering** the negative impact and bitter consequences of the COVID- 19 pandemic on women;

**Realizing** that **gender-based (Iran) discrimination against women (Iran)**, women trafficking, violence against women, domestic violence, sexual exploitation of women and girls are widespread in the Asian region;

**Stressing** the existence of serious problems, related to the increase in the number of out-of-school girls and its negative consequences;

**Noting that widespread** early marriages, limit the life prospects of young girls, hinder their opportunities to study and work, increase pregnancy-related health risks and lead to maternal mortality;

**Underlining** the low level of participation of women in political life and low level of representation of women in parliaments and governments, the importance of recognizing women's participation in decision-making as a requirement for justice and democracy, as well as a necessary condition for taking into account their interests;

**Realizing** the impossibility of achieving the goals of equality justice (Iran), development and peace without the active participation of women at all (Iran) levels of decision-making;

**Stressing** the importance of measures to increase the number of women in decision-making leadership positions in civil service, business, civil society and all other areas of society;

**Noting** the non-participation or weak representation of women in economic decision-making, including the process of forming rules in the financial, monetary, commercial and tax sphere;

**Noting** the existence of gaps in the legislation of certain states regarding women's rights, and women empowerment the fact that certain states lack proper women's support programs and strategies, while in some other states such programs are not implemented in a sufficient and timely manner;

**Underlining** lack of awareness in the field of women's rights and gender equality (Iran) in society and in the mainstream media;

**Being aware** that the ~~violation of women's rights~~ Violence against women (Iran) and the existence of gender (Iran) discrimination against women (Iran) are among the biggest challenges in the field of human rights;

**Guided** by the purposes, principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations;

**Considering** some relevant international conventions as well as the decisions of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995) and its subsequent periodic follow-up conferences have all developed a comprehensive framework for the protection and empowerment of women and girls, ~~eliminating all forms of discrimination against them~~ eliminating discrimination against women and girls (Iran);

**Recalling** the adoption of the 2030 Agenda (Iran) for Sustainable Development (~~excluding any conflicting clauses to Sharia~~), with respect for national and cultural particularities of the Member States, in line with international law, as applicable, (Türkiye) recognizing its universal, integrated and indivisible nature, and acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda, inter alia, addresses the elimination of all forms of violence against all women and girls Elimination violence against women and girls, as well as ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls (Iran),

**Remembering** the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and

Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which provides a framework to effectively prevent and combat trafficking in persons,

**Recognizing** the need for the collection of information on the situation of women's rights;

**Stressing** that if urgent measures are not taken by states and international organizations to solve the mentioned problems, the risk of aggravation of the current situation will increase;

**Taking into account** that keeping the issue of protecting women's rights and elimination of ~~gender inequality~~ Gender injustice (Iran) at the forefront of the APA activities will be ~~expedient~~ crucial (Türkiye)

*Taking into account* the need to adopt special legislations to promote the special role of women to deal with the challenges induced by climate change. (Pakistan)

*Drawing* attention to recognize the impact of gender digital divide and to adopt special measures for its reduction. (Pakistan)

*Underlining* the need of inclusion of appropriate ratio women in the policy making bodies. (Pakistan)

*Drawing* attention to bringing special measures to ensure safety of women and girls from cyber-crimes. (Pakistan)

*To take measures* to provide education about prevention of drug / substance abuse to avoid its potential harmful consequence. (Pakistan)

We therefore,

1. **Decide** to establish the Commission on Women within the framework of the APA, which will make a significant contribution to the elimination of discrimination against women including the old-aged and those with disabilities (Türkiye) in Asian countries.
2. **Decide** that the Commission should mobilize the efforts and resources of APA Member Parliaments to draw attention to women's rights and ~~gender equality~~ gender Justice (Iran) problems and increase awareness on this issue on a systematic basis;
3. **Decide** that the Commission should support the creating conditions for women to ~~fully~~ (Iran) exercise their political, economic, social, cultural and civil rights;
4. **Decide** that the Commission should contribute to the raising awareness about the situation of women's rights (Türkiye) in the member states respecting the principle of national sovereignty (Iran);
5. **Decide** that the Commission should encourage APA Member Parliaments to strengthen the legal framework for the protection of women and girls in order to

end violence and ~~inequality~~ **Injustice (Iran)**;

6. **Decide** that the Commission shall encourage APA Member Parliaments to contribute to the strengthening of relevant national institutions on women's rights issues to improve the situation of women;
7. **Decide** that the Commission shall provide the consideration of women's rights and ~~gender equality~~ **gender justice (Iran)** issues within the framework of APA's activities;
8. **Decide** that the Commission shall, inter alia:
  - (a) Play the role of a data collection mechanism on the situation with women's rights and gender ~~equality~~ **justice (Iran)** in member states;
  - (b) Discuss the problems related to women's rights and gender ~~equality~~ **justice (Iran)** within the framework of APA,
  - (c) Make recommendations to the Executive Council of APA and Plenary, contributing to the process of solving existing problems in the sphere of women's rights and gender ~~equality~~ **justice (Iran)**;
  - (d) Submit an annual report on the situation ~~with~~ **of (Türkiye)** women's rights **(Türkiye)** in member states to the APA Plenary Sessions;
  - (e) Implement the systematic cooperation with other bodies of APA in order to more effectively promote the protection of women's rights;
  - (f) ~~Support the implementation of gender quotas regarding the composition of delegations in APA;~~ **(Iran)**
  - (g) Act as a mechanism for supporting women MP;
  - (h) Establish the relations between APA and committees on women's rights issues existing in national parliaments;
  - (i) Organize the relevant seminars and consultations in the sphere of women's rights and gender ~~equality~~ **justice (Iran)**
9. **Decide** that the Commission shall be composed of one APA delegate from each Member Parliament. The Commission shall have a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and ~~Rapporteur~~ **(Iran)**, taking into consideration equitable geographical distributions. The Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons, and Rapporteur will be elected from among the APA members for a two-year term of office by consensus. ~~The annual meeting of the Commission shall be convened by the Member Parliament hosting the previous Plenary, unless following mutual agreement of the President and the Permanent Secretariat, they may be hosted by another Member Parliament (Rule 15.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Plenary of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly).~~ **The meeting of the Commission takes place once a year, before the General Assembly, as is customary for APA meetings, and is hosted by the country holding the chairmanship of the Commission. (TÜRKİYE)**
10. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to take an active part in the activities of the

Commission on Women being created.

Qatar:

We do not support this resolution for the following reasons:

- It will lead to the proposal of resolutions related to children and youth, as well as the establishment of special committees for them.
- The issue of women is addressed in all permanent committees of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.
- We propose the establishment of a special forum for women parliamentarians, similar to the one in the Inter-Parliamentary Union.
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Saudi Arabia: Made reservation on whole text (in Baku)



## Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians in support of a more just multipolar world order reflecting its cultural and civilizational diversity

*We, the members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA),*

**Noting** the contribution of APA Member Parliaments to the development of inter-parliamentary dialog and multilateral cooperation between our countries on the basis of solidarity, mutual respect, justice, equality, consideration of national interests;

**Confirming** the common understanding of the irreversibility of forming a more just and sustainable multipolar (polycentric) world order, which would ensure sustainable security, preservation of cultural and civilizational identity, and equal development opportunities for all states, regardless of their geographical location, size of territory, demographic, resource and military potentials, political, economic and social structure;

**Operating** on the premise that the polycentric world order is based on including recognition of the interests of all participants in international relations, the diversity of development models of states, the supremacy of international law in regulating international relations, strict observance of the principles of the UN Charter in their entirety and interrelation, and collective solution of common problems.

**Being convinced** of the interdependence of the destinies of all countries and peoples in moving towards well-being and prosperity;

**Stressing on** the priority of conflict resolution by political means, the use of peaceful means to resolve international disputes, their settlement on the basis of mutual respect and compromise.

**Noting with deep concern** the alarming increase in incidents of discrimination, intolerance, terrorism, and extremism motivated by racial, national or religious hatred and prejudice against persons of different ethnic origin, religion or faith.

**Endeavoring** to preserve and enhance the world cultural heritage, based on respect for and cherishing the cultural contribution of each people;

**Drawing** on the definition of culture as a concept that includes ways of life, fundamental human rights and value systems, traditions and beliefs;

**Recognizing** that social well-being, overcoming poverty and inequality, child and youth development, support for ageing populations, cooperation in culture and education, sports and tourism, and responding to infectious threats are an important part of a just world order;

*We therefore,*

1. **Call** for the expansion and deepening of all spheres of interstate and social interaction in the APA space in order to enhance its role in the processes of establishing a multipolar world order;
2. **Confirm** our intention to deepen interparliamentary cooperation, including in the fields of culture and social issues, based on the following principles of a multipolar architecture of interaction: diversity and freedom of choice of models of internal development and foreign policy of states and their associations; indivisibility of the security space and interconnectedness of the world; responsible collective leadership of world and regional development centers; rejection of hegemony in international relations; cooperation based on equality, balance of interests and mutual benefit, respect for religious and cultural traditions of various faiths and civil societies; the rule of international law; strengthening cultural and civilizational diversity and the role of universal morality in international relations;
3. **Believe it is important** to promote the formation of a sustainable architecture of equal and indivisible security in the Eurasian space in order to jointly counter common challenges and threats, resolve existing regional conflicts and prevent new ones in order to maintain sustainable peace and stability on the continent;
4. **Note** that building such an architecture meets the goals of the peaceful development of the continent and will contribute to the intensification of the processes of consolidation and cooperation in the long term;
5. **Support** the search for mutually acceptable solutions through multilateral diplomacy, including parliamentary diplomacy, as an instrument for protecting the interests of countries and peoples;
6. **Stand** for inviolability and strict observance of the rights of believers of different confessions, guarantee of peaceful coexistence of religions;
7. Also support the promotion of intercultural dialogue through various global platforms, initiatives and events such as World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue;
8. **Note with concern** the continuation of the neocolonial policy of individual states and groups of states and declare our desire to increase joint efforts to counteract "cultural neocolonialism" aimed at leveling national identity, civilizational identity, culture, centuries-old traditions and spiritual and moral values of the APA member states;
9. **Express** our concern about the growth of terrorism in the world and strongly condemn terrorist and extremist manifestations in any form, including under religious slogans;
10. **Condemn** the glorification in any form of the Nazi movement, Neo-Nazism and militarism and call for the fight against them;
11. Also strongly condemn the growth of military conflicts in the world as well as provocations leading to them and their negative destructive impact on the cultural and civilizational property;
12. **Recognize** the negative impact on the world economy, trade, energy, health, food

security and the social situation of states, especially developing ones, of unilateral coercive measures that violate international law and are incompatible with the principles of the UN Charter;

13. **Call** for the expansion of information exchange channels between APA member countries on issues of inter-civilizational and inter-confessional dialogue, development of civil cultural and educational institutions of modern society, support of multilateral humanitarian events, including cultural, sports, cinematographic, youth and student festivals;
14. **Also** call for protection of cultural heritage and preservation of cultural identity through promotion of peace for culture, organization of cultural events, exchanges, and global campaigns;
15. **Support** the creation of conditions for strengthening traditional spiritual and moral values and education;
16. **Appreciate** the efforts of APA Member countries in development of multilateral cooperation and promotion of cultural and social agenda, in particular the UAE and Azerbaijan during their COP28 and COP 29 Presidency as well as Russian Federation within the framework of its BRICS Chairmanship in 2024;