



31st Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF31)
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**RESOLUTION ON STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF PARLIAMENTS TO
 PROMOTE REGIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY**

*Sponsored by Indonesia, Chile, Russian Federation, Japan, Mexico, Australia, and
 Philippines*

We, the parliamentarians of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), gathering in Manila, Republic of the Philippines, for the 31st Annual Meeting of the APPF under the theme "Resilient Partnerships for Peace, Prosperity, and Sustainability":

Bearing in mind that Asia Pacific is the most economically dynamic region in the world, as well as the most populous, making it a market of remarkable dimensions, and has experienced explosive growth that places it at the center of production, trade and physical and digital connectivity networks in the global economy;

Aware that the center of growth and development in the global politics and economy is shifting to the Asia-Pacific region and that the new role the region's states play in global affairs is becoming one of the determining vectors of international relations;¹

Inspired by the shared purpose of making the Asia-Pacific region in the 21st Century a space filled with opportunities, energy, and hope for the future, as affirmed in the Valparaiso Declaration issued at the 9th Annual Meeting of the APPF, and ***aware*** that achieving this vision requires collective efforts to address risks, threats, and challenges to peace, security, and stability not only in the region but also worldwide;

Deeply alarmed by widening geopolitical polarities that threaten international peace and security;

Concerned at the destructive effects of the escalating tensions, armed conflicts, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, ICT threats, transnational crimes, risks surrounding artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies, climate change, emerging diseases and public health emergencies to human survival, economic sustainability of affected countries and national security, but also to the very foundation of democracy, namely the parliamentary system, the rule of law, and human rights;

¹ Australia with reservations

Affirming the adherence of the APPF Member Parliaments to the fundamental principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), and affirmed in the 1982 Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes and the 1970 Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations Among States prioritizing mutual respect for independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; settlement of disputes through peaceful means and renunciation of threats or use of force; and effective cooperation among nations;

Emphasizing the importance of the obligation under the principle of pacific settlement of disputes as set out in Article 33 of the United Nations Charter, which requires parties to any dispute that are likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and stability to “seek a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice;

Recognizing the importance of helping ensure compliance with international humanitarian law and the increasingly crucial role that multilateral organizations providing humanitarian assistance, including the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, play in helping alleviate the humanitarian impact of conflicts;

Cognizant that the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, which is based on five key dimensions: people, prosperity, planet, collective participation, and peace, also known as the “5 Ps” and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration;

Mindful of APPF’s lasting commitment to support the realization of the 16th UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 16) of promoting peace, justice, and strong institutions, and that achieving SDG 16 requires reducing all forms of violence and related mortality rates worldwide, as well as restoring trust and strengthening the capacity of institutions to ensure justice for all and facilitate peaceful transitions to sustainable development;

Affirming the intrinsic value of safeguarding human rights as a foundation of conflict prevention and the cultivation of sustainable peace;

Also noting the strategic position of the Asia-Pacific Ocean region as one of the busiest global shipping route and home to huge abundance of marine resources including reserves of oil, natural gas and fisheries which contribute to spur economic growth and create prosperity of the Asia-Pacific countries;

Recognizing that freedom of the high seas is a fundamental principle of maritime order and is essential for the peace and prosperity of the international community as a whole;

Recognizing that a maritime regime in the region based on international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) that sets out a legal order for the peaceful use of the seas and oceans, including freedom of navigation and overflight, and other internationally lawful uses of the sea related to these freedoms, has facilitated our region's impressive economic growth;

Considering the many maritime security issues ranging from Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, militarism², sea piracy, illicit drug trafficking, illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber, trafficking of persons and people smuggling to actions that contravene the international law of the sea in the Asia Pacific region;

Emphasizing the importance of enhancing maritime security cooperation in creating regional peace, security, and stability and contributing to the economic growth of the Asia Pacific;

Recognizing the importance of establishing maritime security and stability as necessary for the protection of the marine environment and biodiversity, promoting the blue economy and the economic health of coastal communities;

Noting that Parliaments represent their societies, and the promotion of inter-parliamentary collaborative relationships can serve to improve links and understanding between societies;

Determined to enhance the constructive impact that APPF, as an inter-parliamentary forum, is called upon to have in achieving the goals of peace, security, and sustainable development for the entire Asia-Pacific region for the benefit of all peoples;

Recalling all previous APPF resolutions on peace, security, and sustainability, including the 30th APPF Resolution on Parliaments and Sustainable Post-Covid-19 Recovery to Promote Democracy, Peace, and Security (APPF30/RES/06); 29th APPF Resolution on Parliamentary Leadership for Peace and Security in the Asia-Pacific and Beyond (APPF29/RES/01) adopted in Seoul, Republic of Korea; the 28th APPF Resolution on Building Trust for Peace, Security and Sustainable Development in the Region (APPF28/RES/13) adopted in Canberra, Australia; and the 26th APPF Resolution on Parliamentary Diplomacy for Peace, Security, and Prosperity in the Region and the World (APPF 26/RES/05) adopted in Hanoi, Vietnam;

Convinced that parliaments that are representative, transparent and open to citizens, capable of listening to and involving the people, and effective in fulfilling their functions of legislation, government oversight, representation and equitable allocation of budgets, play an important role in ensuring social peace and stability in the societies of the region; and

Noting that Parliaments can also use their budgetary, oversight and representative roles to promote peace by supporting investments conducive to peace and stability,

² The opinions or actions of people who believe that a country should use military methods, forces, etc., to gain power and to achieve its goals (Encyclopedia Britannica)

using committee systems to hear from experts and publish reports promoting their findings, and raising public awareness of issues;

RESOLVE TO:

1. **Call upon** Member Parliaments to consider revisiting, strengthening, and aligning their country's existing legislative framework in adherence to international law, including the United Nations Charter, International Humanitarian Law (IHL), International Human Rights Law (IHRL), and other relevant conventions, treaties, or international agreements;
2. **Reaffirm** our commitment to support our Governments' efforts to meet Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to achieve peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, where we can all live without fear and without violence;
3. **Enhance** cooperation among Member Parliaments with the view to intensifying efforts on addressing challenges and threats including terrorism, nuclear proliferation, ICT threats, transnational crimes, climate change, emerging diseases and public health emergencies;
4. **Promote** the enhancement of confidence-building measures (CBMs) to effectively alleviate tensions, proactively prevent disputes, and mitigate the escalation of ongoing disputes between or among states in the Asia-Pacific Region;
5. **Urge** the member Parliaments to support the continued adherence and promotion of the 1982 Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes, which encourages states to make full use of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, including the procedures and means provided for therein, particularly Chapter VI, concerning the peaceful settlement of disputes;
6. **Further urge** the Member Parliaments to work together to advance multilateralism as a framework for addressing security threats, as well as tensions and conflicts, through open dialogue, international cooperation, and in collaboration, as appropriate, with various regional organizations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and the Pacific Alliance, among others;
7. **Call on** governments to consider ways in which parliamentarians can make useful contributions to the conduct of international diplomacy, including participation in international negotiations, and diplomatic conferences, membership in national delegations, and undertaking special roles for which a parliamentarian has specific knowledge or experience;
8. **Actively promote** parliamentary endeavors that prioritize citizen engagement through public dialogues, enhanced accessibility to public information and the

implementation of periodic accountability mechanisms, with the view to fostering trust in institutions, fortifying social stability and upholding the principles of democracy;

9. **Encourage** Member Parliaments to support UN's efforts on conflict prevention, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding;
10. **Urge** Member Parliaments to affirm the international community's vision of a world free of nuclear weapons and to support international efforts to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, including through the full and effective implementation of Nuclear Weapons Free Zones in Southeast Asia, South Pacific, Latin America, and Mongolia; to promote transparency and accountability of nuclear weapon states in complying with their nuclear disarmament obligations; and to advocate nuclear risk reduction measures as an interim measure pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, but not as a means to legitimizing their continued existence;
11. **Reinforce** existing modes of peaceful settlement of disputes as outlined by the UN Charter and the 1982 Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes, while also exploring the establishment of additional dispute settlement mechanisms;
12. **Encourage** APPF member countries to promote a comprehensive approach to security that includes aspects such as the economy, health, food and environmental protection, which pose interrelated challenges for the peoples of the Asia-Pacific region to build a future of prosperity, well-being and peaceful coexistence;
13. **Take steps** to ensure that Parliaments reflect the societies they represent so that they include the widest possible range of perspectives, drawing especially from groups that tend to be marginalized on issues of peace and stability such as women and young people;
14. **Recognize** that promoting peace and stability requires grassroots involvement, and that the capacity of parliaments to promote peace and stability will be strengthened insofar as they focus on inclusive engagement to build stronger physical infrastructure and central government institutions;
15. **Recognize** that restarting local economies to create sustainable economic opportunities is as important to promoting peace and stability as high-level political negotiations;
16. **Urge** the governments of the APPF Member States to enhance their human resource contributions as well as financial contributions to humanitarian assistance necessary due to conflicts and disasters taking place in many parts of the world, and further embolden the parliaments of the APPF Member States to strengthen humanitarian assistance by their States;

17. **Encourage** Member Parliaments to actively participate in inter-parliamentary forums and conferences, with the aim of enhancing parliamentary capacities through constructive dialogue, exchange of information, sharing of expertise and best practices, and promoting joint initiatives;
18. **Encourage** the adoption of inter-parliamentary cooperation initiatives, within the framework of the APPF or bilaterally or plurilaterally among national parliaments, to strengthen the institutional capacities of parliaments, through the exchange of experiences, the training of their staff, and the implementation of joint projects in different areas of parliamentary work and its links with citizens;
19. **Support and promote** global and regional institutions – such as the APPF, the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association – that promote collaboration between Parliaments, giving parliamentarians opportunities to share information about their countries' experience challenges and perspectives, and expertise and best practice in areas relevant to fostering peace and security;
20. **Call** for deepened synergy and concerted efforts between Member Parliaments and international organizations, such as the United Nations, and other regional bodies which offer training programs, expertise, resources, and technical assistance aimed at strengthening parliamentary capacities in promoting peace and stability, mediation and conflict resolution;
21. **Call upon** APPF Member Parliaments to strengthen their commitment to and increase their efforts in promoting and maintaining peace, security, stability, safety, and freedom of navigation and overflight across the Asia Pacific region by: adhering to the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea; adhering to the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea; supporting the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGs), the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention; the Code of Unplanned Encounters at Sea and the rules and regulations issues by the International Maritime Organization; and
22. **Encourage** improvements in securing the safety of Sea Lines of Communications; effectively dealing with Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing protecting the marine environment and biodiversity and promoting a safe and sustainable blue economy that can benefit all nations.