

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

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

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

**Recalling** APA Resolutions, APA/Res/2013/05; APA/Res/2010/05; APA/Res/2009/05; APA/Res/2008/17; and APA/Res/2007/02; on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia;

**Also Recalling** the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at the 31st session, held in Paris on November 2, 2001";

**Considering** the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, 1954, and its protocols 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, in line with the outcome of the first World Cultural Forum, in Bali, Indonesia in November 2013 and document entitled “Bali Declaration on the Alliance of Civilizations”, held in Bali, Indonesia, in 29 and 30 August 2014;

**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 biennial World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue organized in partnership with UNESCO, UNAOC, UNWTO, the Council of Europe and ICESCO within the “Baku process” and #Peace4Culture Global Call initiated in partnership with UNAOC and ICESCO;

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

**Acknowledging** that Cultural heritage has always been considered as an important resource for tourism and indispensable element for gaining knowledge about country’s history and culture;

**Recognizing** the significance of responsible tourism on local economies and the global cultural exchange;

**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;

**Realizing** that the establishment of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC) under the framework of the International Conference of the Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) shall serve as an important platform for culture of peace, sustainable development, human connectivity and innovation at the Siem Reap Declaration;

**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;

**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 in Syria, Iraq ,Afghanistan and Yemen;

**Condemning** Israeli attacks on Al-Aqsa mosque, the excavations and infringements on all Islamic and Christian holy sites in the 1961 occupied Palestinian territories and refuse Israel's<sup>1</sup> failure the Occupying Power to comply with UNESCO resolutions concerning the Old City of Jerusalem and its walls<sup>2</sup>;

**Also 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 ISIS and 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;

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<sup>1</sup> Iran registered its reservation on word "Israel"

<sup>2</sup> The Philippines registered its reservation on whole para

10. **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;
11. **Strongly Recommend** APA Member Parliaments to promote tourism in association with conservation and protection of cultural heritage;
12. **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;
13. **Emphasize** on the illegality of any change brought about by the Israeli occupation in the Old City of Jerusalem and its surroundings, as it is included in the list of World Heritage in Danger, and rejecting any change in its historical, civilizational, religious and cultural character, in violation of international conventions, such as the Geneva and Hague Conventions, and the relevant UNESCO and UN Security Council resolutions, which considered all these measures null and void, and demanded their immediate halt, and allow the UNESCO mission to investigate the facts about the excavations and tunnels carried out by the occupation under the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque;
14. **Reiterate** that Member Parliaments should adopt measures to safeguard and restore the cultural and natural heritage of nations in conformity with International law and the principles of objectives of international agreements and UNESCO recommendations concerning the protection of such heritage during hostilities, including those caused by conflicts and violent extremism;
15. **Request** the APA Secretary General to uphold cooperation between APA and international and regional organizations such as UNESCO, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), ISESCO, Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) and relevant Asian NGOs active in promoting cultural diversity and dialogue among civilizations;
16. **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;
17. **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 based on mutual respect, towards consolidating the concept of humanity and promote human rights, dignity, and identity;
18. **Stress** on 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;

19. **Also stress** on 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;
20. **Call upon** the 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, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, as part of intangible asset and heritage of human culture.
21. **Encourage** the member states of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to enhance the status of their archaeological sites, by promoting their history and importance locally and regionally, and attract the public thereto through innovative events and programs, in addition to activating the role of the surrounding local community and encouraging cooperation with all private and public institutions to improve their conservation and preservation efforts.



## 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) bearing in mind its article 29 and limitations therein, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966) in compliance with its article 19 in particular respecting rights of others, national security or order, national health and morals ;

**Recalling** para.5 of Article 3 of the APA Charter;

**Also Recalling** WSIS<sup>3</sup> Outcomes of 2003, 2005 held under UN aegis to build a people centered, democratic, inclusive and development oriented information society and UN resolution 125 of the UN General Assembly adopted at its 70<sup>th</sup> session in 2016 on High level review of WSIS+10 on global ICTs development and measures to facilitate accomplishment of SDGs;

**Noting** APA Resolution, APA/ Res/ 2014/11, and APA/Res/2014/13;

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

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

**Awaring** that cyberspace is susceptible to any acts of cyber warfare that could cause disruption due to data and information leakage;

**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;

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<sup>3</sup> World Summit on Information Society held under the aegis of UN and ITU in 2003 and 2005

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

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

**Deeply concerned** by the proliferation of fake and fabricated news, misinformation and disinformation resulting due to misuse of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) which generate sentiments, hostility and divisiveness among communities and highlighting the accountability and responsibility of big tech companies in this regard;

**Stressing** the view that global networking provides opportunities for APA Member Parliaments to share experiences and engage in fruitful dialogue on significant issues in Asia and facilitates further cooperation and coordination, on the way of Asian integration process;

**Also underlining** that the Asian Virtual Parliament will pave the way for sharing information, harmonizing legislation and raising people's awareness about the activities of the legislative body and ensure a more profound feedback between society, power and individuals, and thus contribute to strengthening peace in Asia;

**Emphasizing** that, the role of parties, civil society, non- governmental organizations (NGOs) and other democratic structures in public sphere, provide opportunities in Asian countries for exchange of views, interactions and synergy to promote regional and global cooperation in order to reinforce the long term process for Asian Integration;

**Welcoming** the active implementation of the “Digital Silk Road”, which aims to create a new telecommunication backbone route between Europe and Asia by utilizing the existing capabilities/ infrastructure of interested countries in the region;

*We therefore,*

1. **Call upon** and emphasis APA Member Parliaments to volunteer for providing knowledge and know-how, technical assistance, financial support, human resources; and other forms of assistance in creating a “Virtual Asian Parliament” based on the report of APA Secretary General on the subject matter in order to enhance collaboration and interaction among parliaments and parliamentarians in Asia and as a prelude to establishing a model of Asian Parliament;
2. **Determine** the modern and traditional ways to help to complete a plan to promote, publicize and disseminate accurate information amongst citizens within the APA region, including through the use of social media;
3. **Recognize** that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major



impediments, in particular unilateral coercive measures, that developing countries face in accessing the new the new technologies, such as an appropriate enabling environment, sufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity;

4. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to support vocational and 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;
5. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to share best practices and exchange experiences with a view to inspiring a common approach toward Asian integration through holding special workshops and forums among Asian Member Parliaments;
6. **Also call upon** the UN, its specialized agencies, affiliated organizations, particularly ITU, the UN Specialized agency in ICTs, to support the Members of this Assembly through collaboration transferring in improving access to ICTs and ICT-enabled services and technologies for the undeserved in the region in partnership with regional organizations in particular Asia Pacific Tele-community with an aim to bridge the digital divide and transfer of technologies and UNESCO, to support the Members of this Assembly to surmount the hurdles, identified by research centers, think tanks and intellectuals, hampering circulation of ideas through available means and for flow of communication and information subject to national legal and morals frameworks;
7. **Aware** that cyberspace is susceptible to any acts of cyber warfare that could cause disruption due to data and information leakage;
8. **Exhort** APA Member Parliamentarians to collaborate and take necessary measures to promote the development of ICT infrastructure through enabling policies, capacity building, building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, inter alia;
9. **Request** APA Member Parliaments to promote parliamentary action to address the proliferation of fake and fabricated news, misinformation and disinformation caused by the misuse of ICTs and include initiatives to make digital platforms including social media responsible and accountable for their behavior in ICTs environment by promoting, information awareness, fact-checking collaboration and the establishment of complaint procedure mechanism, where necessary, without limiting the Asian Citizen's fundamental rights to know and freedom to access information as well as freedom of expression;
10. **Call upon** the international community to establish a specialized organization whose role is to reduce the risks of ICT abuses and detrimental impact thereof on all countries of the world, and to enhance cooperation in the fields of cybersecurity among the member states of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to protect against potential digital threats.

11. **Invite** the APA Secretary-General to seek possible technical and financial assistance from Member Parliaments and other institutions to facilitate the implementation of this resolution and prepare a report with comprehensive approach to accelerate the process of Asian Integration.



## 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** Alma Ata Declaration adopted on 6-12 September 1978 which defined differences in health as a common concern of all countries and invited all to work towards the highest attainable standard of health for all and to reduce the gap between health status, and Astana Declaration adopted on 25-26 October 2018 reaffirming the commitments expressed in Alma Ata Declaration;

**Taking note** of difference of health equity status among countries in Asia;

**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, reaffirming the political will to effectively implement the commitments contained therein and referring to the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases;

**Recognizing** United Nation General Assembly resolution 66/288 on “The future we want”, which recognized health as a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development;

**Considering** the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health endorsed by the Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly in resolution WHA65.8 in May 2012;

**Emphasizing** on United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/138 proclaiming 12 December as International Universal Health Coverage Day and calling upon APA Member Parliaments to benefit from this day to raise awareness and promote Universal Health Coverage in their policies;

**Also welcoming** the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on universal health coverage held on 23 September 2019 under the theme "Universal Health Coverage: Moving Together to Build a Healthier World" aimed at accelerating progress towards universal health coverage;

**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 and age and gender that these determinants include experiences in their early years, education, economic status, employment and decent work, housing and environment, and effective systems of preventing and treating ill health and also from the difference in levels of development of countries and their respective capacities;

**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 by hindering provision and quality of health service and causing deprivation 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;

**Noting** that the Covid-19 pandemic has revealed serious shortcomings in preparedness for, timely and effective prevention and detection of, as well as response to and recovery from

public health emergencies, including in the capacity and resilience of health systems, indicating the need to better prepare for future health emergencies;

**Acknowledging** the importance of developing, strengthening and maintaining the capacities to detect, access, notify and report events and the importance of timely notification of events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern in accordance with relevant provisions of the International Health Regulations (2005), and acknowledging the critical role played by international cooperation and timely and transparent sharing of epidemiological and clinical data, biological samples, knowledge and information, including timely sharing of pathogen genetic sequence data alongside sharing the benefits arising from utilization of such resources, and in this context recalling the Convention on Biological Diversity and its objectives and principle and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

**Emphasizing** the need to promote initiatives aimed at ensuring timely, affordable and equitable access to, as well as the distribution of diagnostics, therapeutics, medicines and vaccines, and essential health products and technologies, and their components, as well as equipment to combat COVID-19 pandemic along with the knowledge sharing and to support the achievement of universal health coverage including preventive measures and actions;

**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;

**Emphasizing** that the equitable distribution of any pandemic including Covid-19 vaccines and medical countermeasures for future health emergencies, based on humanitarian and ethical standards, has brought global benefits necessary to save lives, and that keeping the vaccine for a limited number of countries will lead to the prolongation of the pandemic, the continuation of its moral, health and economic repercussions on all the world countries, and will lead to the failure of efforts to eradicate this pandemic;

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

**Bearing in mind** that the Covid-19 pandemic was a global challenge and even after declaration of the end to Covid-19 as a global health emergency, remains a public health problem, which affects the welfare of the humanity and disproportionately impacts on the most vulnerable people and regions across the globe;

**Taking into consideration** that the states are facing problems and challenges regarding the protection from, diagnosing and treatment of the Covid-19, and that the health system and hospitals in many countries are under pressure;

**Recognizing** that the global challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic can only be overcome by international solidarity and cooperation, particularly in the fields of anti-Covid-19 vaccine procurement allocation, distribution and inoculation as well as enhancement the worldwide production capacity of the vaccine;

*We therefore,*

1. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to incorporate Social Determinants of Health (SDH) more intensively in other APA themes and activities;
2. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to strengthen collaboration with a view to formulating a coherent approach with regard to social determinants of health in Asia, especially education, housing, and employment;
3. **Invite** the APA Member Parliaments to promote health equity in Asia through sharing experiences and best practices on identifying vulnerability and inequity and actively advocate the inclusion of social determinants 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. **Urge** the 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;
6. **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;
7. **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;
8. **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;

9. **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;
10. **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;
11. **Also Call upon** APA to encourage their respective governments to cooperate and coordinate for successful negotiations of a Pandemic Treaty under the aegis of WHO, that is balance, operationalizes global health equity and strengthens capacity of all Asian countries for pandemic prevention, preparedness, response and recovery;
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. **Calls upon** APA Member Parliaments to take action in their countries and persuade governments and other stakeholders for timely and transparent sharing of epidemiological and clinical data, biological samples, knowledge and information, including timely sharing of pathogen genetic sequence data alongside sharing the benefits arising from utilization of such resources, avoid using this data in matters beyond the controls of scientific research and medical treatment and emphasize respect for the privacy of the human personality when conducting research on human genes and in this context recalling the Convention on Biological Diversity and its objectives and principle and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its objective;
16. **Calls upon** APA Member Parliaments to support the ongoing consideration in WTO on a Covid-19 vaccine Intellectual Property Rights waiver and the use of flexibilities of the TRIPS agreement and the Doha Declaration on TRIPS Agreement and Public Health;

17. **Encourage** the APA Member Parliaments to actively participate in the process of arriving at common objectives which could form the basis of national legislations promoting health equity in Asia, with due attention to equitable social protection policies for health care, long term disability, and protection during unemployment and old age, as appropriate in the national context and priorities;
18. **Support** the free and full access of all nations, especially the Asian nations, to all health capabilities and facilities in the event of a pandemic, including Covid-19, as a human right. In this regard, express grave concern over restrictive and punitive measures illegally imposed on our nations at bilateral and multilateral levels, with negative impact on the right of health, right of free and full access to health and medicine in time of current pandemics;
19. **Call upon** the international community to continue support and assist developing countries in Asia and avoid all politically motivated measures aimed at hampering their access in this regard;
20. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to adopt relevant legislations to support universal access of all population in Asia to basic health services and pharmaceutical products;
21. **Demand** Israel<sup>4</sup> - the occupying power - to fulfill its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention to provide the Palestinians in the occupied territories since 1967 with anti-Coronavirus vaccines, because the ultimate responsibility for providing them with full health services is the Israeli occupation responsibility until the occupation is completely finished, and asking the Israeli occupation to ensure the freedom of mobilization of patients from Gaza Strip, which has been besieged for 14 years, and evacuate the patients for treatment outside Gaza Strip, while emphasizing the free access of all medical and health supplies;
22. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments as appropriate in light of national context, to inform the Secretary-General on the progress made on the implementation of this resolution in their respective countries in order to share them with all Member Parliaments;
23. **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 and the poorest groups;
24. **Confirm** that the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly have the will to promote solidarity and cooperation in the fight against Covid-19 pandemic;
25. **Call for** the nations to take further steps especially regarding equitable access to the anti-Covid-19 and other pandemic vaccines and more effective international solidarity

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<sup>4</sup> Iran registered its reservation on word "Israel".



on sharing the existing anti-Covid-19 vaccines with the most vulnerable population and notes with appreciation in this regard the UN Human Rights Council's and the General Assembly's resolutions on ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the coronavirus disease including (COVID-19) pandemic;

26. **Exhort** the nations to share the information, experiences and data concerning the Covid-19 pandemic and measures taken as well as the developments on diagnostics, treatments and prevention, including the anti-Covid-19 vaccines;
27. **Invite** the nations to look into possibilities to participate in vaccine development studies carried out in the Member Countries of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.
28. We 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.



## Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption

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

**Recalling** APA Resolutions on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2013/09, December 2013; APA/Res/2010/01; APA/Res/2009/03; APA/Res/2008/18; as well as the APA Plan of Action on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2007/05/Annex;

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

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

**Recognizing** that fighting corruption at all levels and in all its forms is a priority and that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation and diverts resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication and sustainable development;

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

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

**Reaffirming** the importance of respect for human rights, the rule of law, good governance, and democracy in the fight against corruption;

**Recognizing** the important role of parliaments to promote transparency, participation, accountability and integrity as some of the principles of anti-corruption strategy;

**Acknowledging** that the fight against all forms of corruption requires comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach including anti-corruption frameworks and strong institutions at all levels;

**Expressing** concern about the laundering and transfer of stolen assets and proceeds of corruption, and stressing the need to address this concern in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

*We therefore,*

1. **Condemn** corruption at all levels and in all its forms, including bribery; money laundering; and abuse of power;
2. **Express** determination to prevent and combat corrupt practices in all forms and collaborate on facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to their legitimate owners, in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption;
3. **Welcome** the significant number of Member States that have already ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and in this regard urges all APA Member Parliaments that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Corruption as a matter of priority, and urges all States Parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures ensuring its full and effective implementation;
4. **Resolve** to promote exchange of good practices and experiences regarding the role of Parliaments in preventing and countering corruption, including by raising awareness among public, reviewing and strengthening anti-corruption legislation, exercising parliamentary oversight, fostering a culture of transparency and accountability, promoting rule of law and strengthening institutions at national level;
5. **Recognize** the importance of strengthening Parliaments, role in combating corruption and promoting the exchange of good practices and national experience among Parliamentary Institutions as called for by the Resolution 8/14 adopted by the 8th Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention Against Corruption held from 16 – 20 December 2019 in Abu Dhabi, UAE;
6. **Invite** the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption to consider holding thematic discussion on strengthening the role of national parliaments in fighting corruption, including promoting the implementation of this Convention;
7. **Decide** to set up a working group under the auspices of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs to further consider the APA Plan of Action on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2007/05/ Annex with a view to

taking effective measures for enhancing synergy and interactions among Asian Parliamentarians in fighting corruption;

8. **Consider** to improve and expand working relations with important Asian organizations such as GOPAC ( Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption) Chapter in order to enhance synergy and areas for cooperation and joint initiatives;
9. **Urge** States Parties to United Nations Convention against Corruption that have not already done so to designate a central authority that shall have the responsibility and power to receive requests for mutual legal assistance and either to execute them or to transmit them to the competent authorities for execution;
10. **Request** the Secretary-General to prepare in consultation with interested APA Delegations, particularly APA delegates with interest and experience in anti-corruption efforts, the required draft documents for consideration by the working group set up in this respect;
11. **Call on** member parliaments to empower civil society as an effective partner of parliaments and promote the role of the media in combating corruption in Asia;
12. **Also call on** member parliaments to encourage their governments to allocate a budget to support the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to promote the role of supreme audit institutions in preventing and combating corruption more effectively and strengthening cooperation between supervisory and anti-corruption bodies;
13. **Invite** member parliaments to encourage their governments to engage the private sector in developing criteria and procedures to protect against corruption;
14. **Urge** member parliaments to encourage their governments to provide and harness the full potential of employing education and technology in preventing and combating corruption to reduce the likelihood of the spread of corruption;
15. **Also invite** member parliaments to encourage their governments to implement strategies and policies aimed at combating corruption and to develop measures to combat impunity;
16. **Request** the APA Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on implementation of this resolution.



## 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;

**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;

**Being aware** of the importance of promoting the full and effective participation of women in scientific, social, political, cultural and economic affairs, and peace dialogue particularly in upcoming issues, including COVID- 19 pandemic response and recovery;

**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 increases 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 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 issues, including gender stereotype women's empowerment, eliminating violence and discrimination which prevent them to enjoy 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 decisions of the Fourth World Conference on Women Beijing 1995, and its subsequent periodic follow-up conferences, being held every five years from Beijing +1 to Beijing + 5, 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;

**Underlining** the need to facilitate networking between women parliamentarians of Asia to meet the challenges in women's issues, including in humanitarian situation, amid the Covid-19 pandemic and in combating the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures;

**We express** our deep concern about the negative and unfortunate consequences of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic that have affected women in general, and the breadwinners in particular; and call on states and governments to take this matter into consideration, and they embark on the process of developing pandemic response and recovery policies;

*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 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;

**Emphasizing** the concept of family values as a basic unit to build a healthy and viable society,

7. **Determine** to enhance the activities of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarian through more effective exchange of views and close interaction;
8. **Request** the Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians to expand the scope of its activities under the auspices of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs and to take appropriate measures to facilitate networking among women parliamentarians in Asia;
9. **Request** the APA Secretariat to assign one special part of the website of the Assembly to facilitate networking among women parliamentarians of Asia covering updated information on the activities of the APA Women Parliamentarians;

**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. **Express** support of APA Member Parliaments in advancing women, peace and security agenda, particularly by enhancing women's role peacebuilding activities.



## 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), the Asia- Europe Meeting Interfaith Dialogue on the theme "Building Interfaith Harmony within the International Community" (2005), the High Level Conference on International and Inter-Religious Dialogue (2014), and the seventh global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, (2016), the VI Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, (2018), the "Human Fraternity Document for World Peace and Living Together" issued by Human Fraternity Meeting, (2019);

**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;

**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;



*Also welcoming* the initiatives of some countries who promote dialogue among people of different religions, including the Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICID), which was established in 2012, and the Global Center for Peaceful Coexistence that was established in 2018 and the inauguration of the Chair for Interfaith Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence at Sapienza University in Rome in 2018;

*We therefore,*

1. **Decide** to apply for Asian Parliamentary Assembly's membership to the Group of Friends of the UN Alliance of Civilizations as proposed by Turkiye during the 11<sup>th</sup> General Assembly with a view to contribute the efforts of providing lasting solutions to the rising trends of discrimination, xenophobia, intolerance and extremism;
2. **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;
3. **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;
4. **Underline** the importance of moderation in as a value within societies for countering violent extremism 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;
5. **Declare** that extremism and terrorism can not be attributed or accredited to any religion or nationality as these are common enemies of all humanity;
6. **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;
7. **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;
8. **Deplore**, in the strongest terms, all atrocities and acts of violence, committed by extremist and terrorist groups under the guise of religions and call upon all states to refrain from providing any support to such terrorist groups;
9. **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;

**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. **Call upon** the international community to be cognizant of humanitarian situations in Asia;
12. **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;
13. **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;
14. **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 and Islamophobia;
15. **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;
16. **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;
17. **Encourage** Asian countries to develop a tolerance award to support the efforts in the fields of peace and tolerance;
18. **Request** the APA Secretary-General to seek the views as well as measures taken by APA Member Parliaments to implement this resolution and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.



## 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), the New Delhi UNESCO Recommendation of 1956 concerning excavations undertaken in occupied territories, the inscription of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls at the request of Jordan on the World Heritage List (1981) and on the List of World Heritage in Danger (1982) and related recommendations, resolutions and decisions of UNESCO, (UNESCO, the World Heritage Committee, Decision: 42 COM 7A.21, Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan, C 148 rev);

**Underlining** the obligation for all States Parties to urgently implement the provisions in paragraphs 15 to 17 of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199 (2015), in reference to the cultural heritage at risk in Iraq and Syria;

**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”, in which the Assembly urged Member States and relevant institutions, as appropriate, to reinforce and fully implement mechanisms to strengthen international cooperation, including mutual legal assistance, in order to combat all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences, such as the theft, looting, damage, removal, pillage and destruction of cultural property, and to facilitate the recovery and return of stolen and looted cultural property, and recalling also General Assembly resolutions 68/186 of 18 December 2013 on strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking 69/196 of 18 December 2014, entitled “International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses

with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences”, and 70/76 of 9 December 2015 on return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin;

**Welcoming** the important and active role that the UN and its relevant agencies play in countering money laundering and terrorist financing linked to trade in smuggled 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;

**Recognizing** also 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. **Call on** 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 to be enacted on the basis of the common principles prepared by APA Secretariat and annexed to this resolution, and in accordance with their own internal legislative procedures;
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 parliament 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, 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.



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

*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, psychotropic substances and their precursor chemical substances in Asia;

**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 and heroin 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, psychotropic substances and their precursor chemicals can be utilized for financing of other organized crimes, including 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, 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, 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;

**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, 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, 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 terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and legalization of income derived from criminal activity;

**'Underscoring** that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 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 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. **Call upon** Asian Parliaments to coordinate among themselves to review relevant legislation to address different aspects of combating illicit drug trafficking by harmonizing laws and making minimum punishment stronger;
2. **Call upon** Asian Parliaments to adopt laws on extradition of convicted persons on terrorism and illicit drug trafficking to their countries of origin for fair trial based on national legislations;
3. **Stress** the need to exchange information and best practices within APA Member Parliaments on combating illicit drug trafficking;
4. **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 between APA Member Countries on these issues;
5. **Reiterate** the need to coordinate and improve law enforcement activities to combat the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursor chemicals and curtailing the flow of illicit drug more effectively;



6. **Encourage** the 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;
7. **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;
8. **Call upon** APA Asian 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;
9. **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;
10. **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;
11. **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;
12. **Encourage** networking of the relevant national agencies or organizations in Asia dealing with transnational crimes to further enhance information dissemination and intelligence exchange;
13. **Request** the APA Secretary General to seek the views of all Member Parliaments on ways and means for effective implementation of this resolution.



## 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 between 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 and youth from all forms of violence, 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. **Request** the APA Secretary-General to submit, in collaboration with APA Member Parliaments, a report to the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs Parliaments on the implementation of this resolution.



## Resolution on Ageing Society in Asia

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

**Recalling** its resolution 2017/12 Resolution 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 works;
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, and a better understanding of Covid19 pandemic's impact on them in order to achieve the 2030 sustainable development objectives;
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, in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing and to provide policymakers with more accurate and more specific information with regard to ageing, 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, the New Urban Agenda 20 and national policymaking, as well as to gain a better understanding of

how to promote ageing in a way that is not adversely affected by rapid urbanization and gentrification;.



## 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; Especially in view of the need to contain the repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak on these areas in the countries of the continent; and the need for response and recovery policies from the pandemic to include a guarantee that reverses the negative impact of the pandemic on it; and the return of the sustainable development process to the right track;

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

**Reminding** parliament members of APA 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** on 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 Resolution on The Role of APA Parliaments in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

**Recognizing** that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, health tourism, cultural tourism, pilgrimage 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 the our region in the field of tourism and its ability to increase the region’s share in global tourism and calling upon 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 Membercountries;
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 United Nation World Tourism Organization 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 and other niche areas/domains;
13. **Support** utilization of electronic 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 will be strengthened;
16. Requests the Secretariat to submit to the next meeting of...,a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including recommendations on ways and means to promote sustainable tourism in Asia, in a balanced and integrated manner;



## 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 and the elimination of gender discrimination 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 discrimination, 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, development and peace without the active participation of women at all 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 in society and in the mainstream media;

**Being aware** that the violation of women's rights and the existence of gender discrimination 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;

**Recalling** the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (excluding any conflicting clauses to Sharia), 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, as well as ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls,

**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 at the forefront of the APA activities will be expedient

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 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 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 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 in the member states;
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;
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 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 in member states;
  - (b) Discuss the problems related to women's rights and gender equality 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;
  - (d) Submit an annual report on the situation with women 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;
  - (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
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, 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).
10. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to take an active part in the activities of the Commission on Women being created.