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THE ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF 30)  
26 - 29 OCTOBER 2022  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, BANGKOK, THAILAND



*"Parliaments and the Post-COVID-19 Sustainable Development"*

APPF30/RES/06

**RESOLUTION ON PARLIAMENTS AND SUSTAINABLE POST-COVID-19  
RECOVERY TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY, PEACE, AND SECURITY**

*Draft Resolution Sponsored by Chile, Indonesia and Mexico*

We, the parliamentarians of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), gathering in Bangkok, Thailand, for the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the APPF under the theme *Parliaments and the Post-COVID-19 Sustainable Development*:

**Determined** to increase the constructive impact that the APPF, as an inter-parliamentary forum, is called to have to achieve the objectives of peace, security, and sustainable development for the entire Asia-Pacific region for the benefit of all people, reflected in the Vancouver Declaration of 1997, the new Tokyo Declaration of 2012, and the Hanoi Declaration of 2018;

**Reaffirming** the UN General Assembly Resolution, A/RES/70/1, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" which adopted a comprehensive, far reaching and people-centered set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals, in particular its Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, and Goal 17 on international cooperation toward sustainable development, especially post-pandemic recovery, as well as other relevant instruments such as the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration;

**Recalling** the Madrid Declaration endorsed by the 143<sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly which emphasized that the COVID-19 pandemic has been the greatest world health crisis of our time that affects the people in the Asia-Pacific region in both political and socio-economic dimensions, and significantly undermines the democratic processes, leading to questioning of evidence-based decision-making and ultimately challenging the ability of the democratic model to cope with and recover from emergencies;

**Reaffirming** the 29<sup>th</sup> APPF Resolution on International Cooperation for Greater Economic Resilience and Inclusive Growth after the COVID-19 Crisis (APPF29/RES/06), and on the Role of Parliaments in Balancing Disease Control, Economy, And Human Rights, And Ideas for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation (APPF29/RES/09) adopted in Seoul, Republic of Korea;

**Reaffirming** the 29<sup>th</sup> APPF Resolution on Parliamentary Leadership for Peace and Security in the Asia-Pacific and Beyond (APPF29/RES/01) adopted in Seoul, Republic of Korea; the 28<sup>th</sup> APPF Resolution on Building Trust for Peace, Security and Sustainable Development in the Region (APPF28/RES/13) adopted in Canberra, Australia; and the 26<sup>th</sup> APPF Resolution on Promoting Parliamentary Diplomacy for Peace, Security, and Prosperity in the Region and the World (APPF 26/RES/05) adopted in Hanoi, Vietnam;

**Reaffirming** that development, democracy, and peace and security are interlinked and mutually reinforcing;

**Expressing concern** about the devastating impact of the COVID-19, not only on the economy but also democracy, especially in the context of procedural democracy where democratic agendas, such as elections, which may have been postponed due to social restrictions, therefore, it is necessary to safeguard democracy, along with its principles and values, as a system of government that promotes freedom, human rights, plurality, and political equality of people to sustain peace and security between and among States,

**Cognizant that** representative, transparent, accessible, oversight, accountable parliaments can ensure a stable and functioning democracy together with the rule of law as the solution towards a comprehensive approach to the post COVID-19 sustainable and resilient recovery in Asia-Pacific;

**Recognizing** COVID-19 further effect on the effectiveness of parliament in carrying out its duties, particularly the oversight role in order to keep the balance between the legislative and the executive in handling the pandemic, and in maintaining democracy, peace and security as key requirement not only to post pandemic recovery, but most importantly to conflict or crisis resolution;

(PP10) **Realizing** that the growing influence of the Parliaments in matters of the international agenda through parliamentary diplomacy to protect human rights, promote gender agenda, and address the climate phenomenon, among others, and that the COVID-19 pandemic has produced a severe and multidimensional outcome which may force unilateral measures that brings global implications towards the future of multilateralism, international cooperation and solidarity;

**Alarmed** by the recent escalation of tensions, and open conflicts of the Asia-Pacific region, through an upsurge of geopolitical tensions, that generate enormous damage and human losses, displacing refugees, the serious socioeconomic, energy and food consequences in the rest of the world, and with a negative impact on the international economy;

**Reprising** proposals related to the promotion of peace and conflict prevention, with the purpose of reducing strategic risks such as nuclear weapons and cyberwarfare; reformulating responses to all forms of violence; investing in prevention and peacebuilding; focusing security policies on women and girls; among others with respect to international law, as well as to refrain from the use of force and to resolve their disputes by peaceful means to safeguard international peace and security;

#### **RESOLVE TO:**

1. **Recommend** APPF Member Parliaments to assess the COVID-19 response policies and ensure that the democratic agendas, including human rights and fundamental freedoms of people are still feasible and suitable with the public health measures in their respective countries, as well as to take all the pertinent actions to build effective, transparent, responsible, and broadly participatory democratic institutions which include all stakeholders in decision-making for a sustainable and resilient recovery;

2. **Encourage** APPF Member Parliaments to maintain balance between legislative and executive role in handling the pandemic by adapting through optimal utilization of technology, with the hope that it still can carry its legislative, budgeting, representative and oversight duties to achieve a sustainable and inclusive development for all people;

3. **Call on** APPF Member Parliaments to promote resilience and sustainable development through more innovative parliaments, particularly by advancing digitalization, ICTs, and other mechanism to increase citizen's engagement in policy-making processes, to ensure that the post-pandemic recovery is comprehensive with renewed visions such as the promotion of clean energies and green transition, as well as micro and small businesses;
  4. **Call on** APPF Member Parliaments to be a part of the peaceful resolution of existing crisis through parliamentary diplomacy actions and to increase their active engagement in maintaining peace and stability in the region in order to strengthen multilateralism and international cooperation, respecting territorial sovereignty, international laws and human rights;
  5. **Urge** APPF Member Parliaments to work together in support of multilateralism to address international contemporary challenges such as the COVID-19 or any new pandemic, sustainable recovery, armed conflicts, forced people displacement, cyber-attacks, among others which requires collaborative efforts at regional and international levels;
  6. **Call on** APPF Member Parliaments, as people representative institutions, to maintain commitment to the principles of democracy, including freedom, rule of law, good governance, and check and balance, while working closely together towards an inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery and promoting their participation in relevant/respective inter-parliamentary organizations;
  7. **Encourage** APPF Member Parliaments to engage and consult with all relevant stakeholders, including the Civil Society Organizations and those who live in vulnerable situations, in addressing the adverse impacts of the current pandemic and obstacles to sustain democracy;
  8. **Ensure** that the prevalence of dialogue, consensus, and the peaceful resolution of disputes in multilateral forums for regional crises to be resolved as soon as possible.
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