



ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

32<sup>nd</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
18 – 24 SEPTEMBER 2011, PHNOM PENH, KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

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Res32GA/2011/Soc/01

**RESOLUTION ON  
STRENGTHENING LAW ENFORCEMENT TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN  
PERSONS**

**The Thirty-Second General Assembly**

**Reaffirming** the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, and in particular, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime approved in 2000 and which entered into force in December 2003;

**Recalling** that 2011 marks the eleventh anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and recalling the previous AIPA and AIPO Resolutions on Trafficking in Persons;

**Recalling** the ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Children; and the ASEAN Declaration on Transnational Organized Crime;

**Welcoming** the ASEAN Leaders “Joint Statement in Enhancing Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons in South East Asia” and the progress achieved by ASEAN Member States to combat trafficking in persons;

**Recognizing** that although it is impossible to completely eradicate trafficking in persons, ASEAN Member States will try to reduce its impact by developing a preventive approach and by arranging stronger measures, policies, and cooperation in various stages. Weak economies and the lack of employment opportunities contribute to increased trafficking in persons, as poverty is believed to be the most influential factor that lures innocents to this evil trade;

**Recognizing further** that poverty, lack of access to education, and other economic and social inequalities cause persons, particularly women and children, to be vulnerable to trafficking. In some cases, trafficked persons have been prosecuted for violating immigration laws rather than being treated as victims. Stories of violence,

sexual abuse, and even loss of life among trafficked persons are common. Organized crime syndicates treat these unfortunate persons as mere commodities or pieces of property;

**Mindful** that trafficking in persons in ASEAN Member States is interrelated with human rights and migrant worker issues. Regional security issues have been discussed and closely coordinated within the framework of ASEAN Cooperation to combat transnational crime;

**Noting** that in conquering trafficking in persons in ASEAN Member States, no single country can combat trafficking in persons alone since it takes place both within and across national boundaries. Therefore countries must involve themselves in bilateral, regional, and international cooperation;

**Bearing in mind** the need to protect victims of trafficking in accordance with the ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children and where applicable, other relevant regional and international protocols and instruments on trafficking in persons;

**Being aware** that trafficking in persons is commonly associated with forced prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery, or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

**Hereby resolves to:**

**Call on** ASEAN and AIPA Member Countries to sign and ratify the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crimes and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crimes as soon as possible in order to accelerate the implementation and enforcement of the Convention and the Protocol;

**Call on** AIPA Member Countries to adopt or strengthen legislation, allocate necessary resources and other measures such as educational, social, economic and cultural measures through bilateral and multilateral cooperation to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, that lead to trafficking;

**Encourage** AIPA Member Countries to actively monitor and combat Trafficking in Persons towards the eradication of this evil trade.

**Adopted** this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September 2011, during the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, 18-24 September 2011