

THE 15TH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

APPF-15/RES/18

**STRENGTHENING COOPERATION IN THE ASIA PACIFIC
REGION TO COMBAT CORRUPTION**

(Sponsored by the Philippines, Russian Federation and China)

THE 15TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC
PARLIAMENTARY FORUM,

Recalling 4th APPF Annual Meeting Resolution on Drug Abuse, Trafficking and Money Laundering (APPF 4) and the 6th APPF Annual Meeting Resolution on Corruption (APPF 6/RES 8);

Further recalling the 7th APPF Annual Meeting Resolution on the Exchange of Information and Expertise Between and among Members of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum in Dealing with Corruption, with the End in View of Strengthening their Individual and Joint Capabilities in Dealing with the Same (APPF 7/RES 11);

Aware that terrorism, drug-trafficking and organized crime thrive better in an environment of corruption;

Aware that corruption is prevalent in all nations – rich or poor, developed or developing – albeit in varying degrees, scale and magnitude;

Greatly alarmed by the recent significant growth of corruption and the extent of its impact on the lives of the people in countries in the Asia Pacific Region and other parts of the world;

Concerned of the massive cost of corruption and the extent of damage it has wrought in the economic and political life of nations, particularly among developing countries;

Welcoming the recent efforts of the United Nations in curbing corruption through the UN General Assembly's adoption of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) which entered into force on December 14th, 2004;

Noting the considerable attention attributed by global institutions such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank to combat corruption;

Realizing that because of the the mass media efforts much is now known about corruption than in the past, however, there is a continuing need to constantly bring to public attention and scrutiny how governments run affairs of the State;

Cognizant that parliaments play the major role in restraining this global threat;

RESOLVES TO:

1. *Call on* parliaments to enact effective anti-corruption legislation and oversee its enforcement;

2. *Encourage* conduct of intense dialogues and discussions on anti-corruption initiatives within the international community as well as exchange the best international practices and technical expertise among APPF-member countries to enhance effective resistance to corruption and other forms of organized crimes associated with corruption such as terrorism, drug trafficking and money laundering;

3. *Encourage* agents of mass media to take a more pro-active stance in exposing corrupt practices, and new information about corruption that will help governments and citizens to become more aware in playing their vigilant role against corruption;

4. *Promote*, in accordance with fundamental principles of relevant domestic laws, active participation of civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations in the prevention of and the fight against corruption;

5. *Emphasize* importance of a dynamic partnership between government and business associations in order to create an environment marked by greater transparency where private entrepreneurship can thrive;

6. *Recommends* to all governments, particularly of APPF member-countries to participate in and adopt international anti-corruption instruments, particularly the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.