



APA/Res/2009/05
10 December 2009

Resolution on
Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution, APA/Res/2007/02, and APA/Res/2008/17 on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia;

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity, SG/Rep/2009/11 Dated 22 June, 2009, submitted to the meeting of the Sub-Committee held in Tehran on 28 June 2009;

Recognizing the significant role of parliaments both in strengthening national cultural policies and in harmonizing Asian approach for promoting cultural diversity;

Relying on the common heritage of Asian civilizations in promoting cultural diversity and inter-cultural dialogue;

Expressing determination to facilitate integration in Asia through respecting cultural diversity and promoting common cultural understanding;

Expressing Concern about smuggling of cultural items, particularly those that are in areas under foreign occupation;

Recognizing the fact that Asia has been the cradle of the great religions, ancient civilizations and rich cultures,

Encouraging relevant government agencies to increase facilitation, consular services as appropriate for citizens of Asian countries to allow for greater people-to-people interaction;

1. *Decide* to support cultural diversity by encouraging exchange of relevant information and best practices in Asia particularly through the involvement of Asian Parliaments;
2. *Resolve* to develop and promote adoption of concerted legislation among Member Parliaments to combat smuggling of cultural items in Asia, and in this respect, decided to establish an ad-hoc group with at least three member parliaments to prepare a draft common legislation, and request the Secretary-General to share these findings with all members for final coordination and consideration.
3. *Calls Upon* Member Parliaments to participate actively in organizing an Asian Cultural Foundation as a network of cultural cooperation to strengthen coordination of cultural activities in Asia,
4. *Invite* two ad-hoc working groups comprising of at least three member parliaments to volunteer in two different fields such as movie industry and tourism for initiating and facilitating cultural networking with a view to eventually establishing an Asian cultural foundation at the continent level.
5. *Underline* the importance of strengthening coordination between APA and international and regional organizations such as UNESCO, ISESCO and relevant Asian NGOs active in this field, to both exchange experience and provide technical support for the implementation of APA Plan of Action on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity;
6. *Encourage* academic institutions and universities to work on studying the cultural heritage, endangered languages and civilizations, cultural monuments and treasures of the Asian nations by the exchange of scholars and students, and publishing scientific work prepared by them.
7. *Decide* to continue its sponsorship for an award to be presented annually to an Asian artist; author, poet, film maker, painter, etc, who best conveys the APA message of Asian cooperation and integration;

8. *Recommends* Parliaments and governments of Asian countries to promote dialogue and understanding among cultures and religions that will foster Asian common values and enhance cooperation, harmony and integration, peace and friendship while diminishing the risk of discrimination, violence and war. Recommends Parliaments of Asian countries to study and exchange successful experience of Asian countries in protecting and promoting cultural diversity in the society.
9. *Invite* Member parliaments to adopt legislations to protect the intellectual properties of Asian citizens, considering its direct importance to the Cultural Diversity.
10. *Emphasize* on the citizenship as the basis of the interactions between government and all citizens and not the basis of color, gender, religion, sectarian, ethnics, and promote the respect of religions and beliefs inside a country.
11. While respecting internal affairs of countries, we urge Member Parliaments to resolve differences between themselves through dialogue and avoiding violent approach.
12. *Invite* Member Parliaments to foster the history of all communities of their countries and urge governments to voluntarily integrate all citizens in the life of their countries.
13. Urge Member Parliaments to adopt legislation that promotes transparency and equality in accordance with international human rights treaties, with consideration to religious principles.
14. *Request* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on their efforts to implement this resolution and to submit a report thereon to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.