



**RESOLUTION ON
STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY, PROMOTION, AND PROTECTION
OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

The Twenty-Ninth General Assembly:

Recalling the ASEAN Charter particularly its purposes and principles and the decision to establish ASEAN Community by 2015 as stated in the Bali Concord II

Convinced that respect for human rights is not only a fundamental value in itself but also essential to developing stable, democratic and prosperous societies that are capable of living together in peace and harmony;

Mindful that the full enjoyment of human rights empowers human beings to shape their lives based on liberty, equality and respect for human dignity, and must be safeguarded by every ASEAN member country;

Underlining the need to establish an ASEAN human rights body as mandated by the ASEAN Charter stipulated in article 14 which was agreed in the 13th ASEAN Summit in Singapore in November 2007;

Welcoming the establishment of the High Level Panel on an ASEAN human rights body;

Stressing the important roles of AIPA Member Parliaments as legitimate representatives of the ASEAN people in strengthening democratization in regional institutions and furthering the promotion and protection of human rights;

Recognizing the importance of building the capacity of citizens through democracy and human rights education, as human and social capital are the driving forces and key elements in the democratization process;



Hereby resolves to:

Support the efforts to promote and protect Human Rights in ASEAN as a part of collective responsibility and obligation toward establishing the ASEAN Community by 2015;

Endorse the decision to establish an ASEAN human rights body as stipulated by the ASEAN Charter as well as the establishment of the ASEAN Commission on the promotion and protection of the rights of women and children and the elaboration of an ASEAN instrument on the promotion and protection of the rights of migrant workers;

Reaffirm that parliamentary democracy can only be truly meaningful if women are provided equal rights and opportunities to be represented in parliament, and strongly urge ASEAN member countries and AIPA Member Parliaments to ensure that such equality is achieved within the Millennium Development Goals Framework;

Call on AIPA Member Parliaments to work for democracy based on the freely expressed will of the people through open, transparent, free and fair elections to choose their own representatives, and in this context, build a knowledge-based society in order to support the practice of democracy;

Strongly urge all AIPA Members to extend their full support to work towards the establishment of the ASEAN human rights body, and encourage the contribution of all relevant stakeholders in this regard;

Recommend to include the topic on the promotion and protection of Human Rights in ASEAN as part of the Agenda of the 30th AIPA General Assembly.