

# ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF)

## 28<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

Draft Resolution Sponsored by: Japan

### **BUILDING TRUST FOR PEACE, SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION**

The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum;

**Recalling** the previous APPF resolutions on political and security matters in the Asia-Pacific region, dealing with peace, security, stability and sustainable development; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations; and IPU Resolution on “Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development” (138th Assembly, Geneva, 2018);

**Reaffirming** the 1997 Vancouver Declaration, which articulates the commitment of all APPF Member States to transform the Asia-Pacific region into a cohesive, peaceful, secure, stable, and prosperous community; and the 2012 New Tokyo Declaration, which promotes the APPF vision of open and non-exclusive cooperation based on frank and constructive dialogue for peace, stability and prosperity;

**Reaffirming** the fundamental principles of mutual respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, peaceful settlement of disputes, and restraint from threat and use of force, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia;

**Acknowledging** the significance of an open and transparent security architecture for the Asia-Pacific region, as espoused in ASEAN through the Confidence-Building Measures of the ASEAN Political- Security Community Blueprint, including publication of defense white papers, disclosure of political and security developments, sharing of information on submissions to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, exchanges of observers of military exercises, and promotion of military exchanges and cooperation;

**Convinced** that collective dialogue and cooperation within regional multilateral platforms offer more effective, diplomatic, and peaceful means than unilateral actions for resolving differences and disputes and for building mutual trust amongst APPF Member States;

**Recognizing** that conflicts in the Asia-Pacific region, including those in seas, may threaten peace, stability, development and prosperity in the region;

**Reaffirming** the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability, safety and freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea and recognizing the benefits of having the South China Sea as a sea of peace, stability and prosperity;

**Expressing** concerns on the land reclamations, activities and serious incidents in the South China Sea, which have eroded trust and confidence, increased tensions and may undermine peace, security and stability in the region;

**Recognizing** the impact of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations, which seeks to bring physical and material security to people, and achieve sustainable peace, justice and equality; and

**Acknowledging** the significance of parliaments in adopting and monitoring the implementation of laws that foster peace and dialogue, and are inclusive of all peoples, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity and religion, allowing them to participate in open, tolerant and democratic society;

#### **RESOLVE TO:**

1. **Encourage** APPF Member States to share commitment and responsibility in enhancing regional peace, security and prosperity, by avoiding acts of aggression and threat and use of force, with respect to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other Member States;
2. **Reaffirm** the conviction that the security and cooperation framework in the Asia-Pacific region should be based on the principles of the supremacy of international law, the indivisibility of security and commit to maintaining and promoting peace, security and stability in the region, as well as to the peaceful resolution of disputes and respect of international law, including full respect for legal and diplomatic processes, without resorting to the threat or use of force, in accordance with the universally recognized principles of international law , including the 1982 United Nations Conventions on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);
3. **Promote** greater transparency and understanding of national defense and security policies among APPF Member States in line with the Confidence-Building Measures of the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint;
4. **Strengthen** dialogue, partnership and cooperation based on the principles of mutual interests; mutual understanding; and respect for independence, sovereignty, equality, and territorial integrity, with a view to building durable peace, stability, security, confidence and prosperity in the region;
5. **Call on** APPF Member States to address differences and settle all disputes through peaceful means, exercising self-restraint and adopting consultation and dialogue;
6. **Invite** parliaments from the Asia-Pacific Region to become conduits for mitigating and resolving conflict through inclusive and democratic dialogue with all segments of society, building peace, security, stability, and confidence for the people across the region;
7. **Enhance** joint efforts to narrow development gaps and alleviate poverty among APPF Member States with a view to realizing regional and sub-regional integration, and promote economic cooperation as a precondition for shared growth, sustainable development and prosperity for all; and

8. **Enhance** cooperation in tackling non-traditional security matters, such as terrorism, violent extremism, transnational crimes, trafficking in persons, cyber-security threats, climate change, environmental degradation, disaster management and food security.