**ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF)**

**30th ANNUAL MEETING**

**Draft Resolution Sponsored by: Canada**

**Parliamentary Diplomacy for Regional Security**

**The 30th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum:**

**Reaffirming** the 1997 Vancouver Declaration, which articulates the commitment of all APPF members to transform the Asia-Pacific region into a cohesive, peaceful, secure, stable and prosperous community, as well as 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,

**Confirming** 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*,

**Recognizing** the valued contribution of parliamentarians to the conduct of international relations and diplomacy, particularly in light of the complexity of global issues and the importance of a comprehensive approach to addressing them that involves the full range of stakeholders and actors,

**Reiterating** the important role played by parliamentarians in advancing global initiatives, as highlighted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations, which seeks to bring physical and material security to people, as well as achieve sustainable peace, justice and equality, and as evidenced by the June 2022 United Nations General Assembly Resolution on the Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

**Underscoring** the benefits to international and regional security derived from parliamentarians building trust and confidence through exchanging diverse views and best practices on issues of common concern,

**Being convinced** that collective inter-parliamentary dialogue that leads to consensus and cooperation contributes to more effective diplomacy and peace than is the case with intimidating and destructive actions taken unilaterally, including military force, cyber attacks and other ambiguous and deniable tactics, for resolving differences and disputes as well as for building mutual trust and understanding in the Asia-Pacific region,

**Acknowledging** peace and security as key foundations on which to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, whose progress has been severely undermined in recent years and whose achievement is at great risk because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and because the world is witnessing both the highest number of violent conflicts since 1945 and the devastating consequences arising therefrom,

**Emphasizing** the various sources and conditions that lead to misunderstanding, extremism, instability and violent conflict, such as food insecurity, access to illicit weapons and their illegal proliferation, gender inequality, weak democratic institutions, violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the effects of climate change, marginalization and poverty,

**Reinforcing** that parliaments, through their legislative, budgetary and oversight functions, have unique roles to play in addressing many of the political, social and economic challenges that undermine peace and security,

**Noting** that the ability of parliaments to carry out their functions and make meaningful contributions to inter-parliamentary dialogue and lasting peace is itself a function of the strength of their institutional capacity as identified in Sustainable Development Goal 16, “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels,”

**RESOLVES TO:**

**Affirm** that parliamentarians can play an effective role in promoting peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region;

**Promote** the APPF as an effective platform for parliamentary dialogue on political and security matters in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as for strengthening trust and understanding between the peoples of the members;

**Continue**,through open communication and dialogue that permitanexchange of views and best practices, to find consensus on issues with particular regional importance as well as strengthen cooperation and ties between and among APPF members;

**Emphasize** that non-traditional and traditional security challenges, such as climate change, the spread of diseases, the proliferation of nuclear weapons, missiles and related technologies, transnational crime, terrorism, trafficking in persons, piracy, irresponsible use of cyber space, misinformation, coercive trade and the targeting of critical infrastructure, have a destabilizing effect on regional and national security that needs to be addressed during meetings of the APPF;

**Refrain** from taking parliamentary actions that support or foment aggression and war against independent states and their citizens, and that violate the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, specifically respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of UN member states within their internationally recognized borders;

**Commit** to working with all partners to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 16 regarding peace, justice and strong institutions in order to promote peace and prosperity for the Asia-Pacific region and the planet;

**Ensure** that our national parliaments are accountable, representative and inclusive, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity and religion, in order that – through our legislative, budgetary and oversight functions – we are able to address inequalities and manage competing interests through dialogue and debate in open, tolerant and democratic societies, and thereby prevent conflict and contribute to lasting peace in the Asia-Pacific region;

**Reiterate** the Charter of the United Nations, including our mutual respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and its foundational principles that all states must both settle their international disputes by peaceful means and refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state;

**Encourage** APPF members to implement resolutions adopted at past annual meetings, particularly those concerning the promotion of peace and security, and respect for the principles of territorial integrity and sovereignty of independent states.