*Draft*

**30th Annual meeting**

**of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum**

**RESOLUTION**

**ON PROMOTING REGIONAL TOURISM**

**AND UNDERSTANDING OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

*Draft Resolution Sponsored by Russian Federation*

We, the parliamentarians of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), gathering in Bangkok, Thailand, for the 30th Annual Meeting of the APPF under the theme *Parliaments and the Post-COVID-19 Sustainable Development*:

***Reaffirming***resolutions on promoting regional cultural diversity and tourism adopted at previous APPF Annual Meetings, including the Resolution on Improving Understanding of Cultural Diversity in the Asia-Pacific (APPF29/RES/11), adopted in Seoul, Republic of Korea, in 2021, the Resolution on Promoting Regional Cultural Diversity and Tourism (APPF28/RES/09) adopted in Canberra, Australia, in 2020 and the Resolution on Enhancing Parliamentary Cooperation in Promoting Cultural Diversity and Tourism in Asia-Pacific (APPF27/RES/05) adopted in Siem Reap, Cambodia, in 2019,

***Emphasizing*** that the Asia-Pacific region is the largest region in terms of area and population, with a rich diversity of cultures, arts, traditions, languages, beliefs, religions and ethnic groups, therefore a better understanding of cultural diversity as well as mutual understanding and trust among the APR countries is essential to maintaining peace, stability and cooperation in the region,

***Acknowledging*** that the COVID-19 pandemic has represented an inflection point in history underlining the need to create new mechanisms in addition to traditional best practices in the sphere of culture,

***Affirming*** that all-inclusive approach and usage of traditional and new digital mechanisms have helped to create an effective system for promoting culture and preserving cultural diversity, opening access to culture for everyone in person and online, raising effectiveness of work and interaction in the sphere of culture,

***Noting***concerns that limited exchange between countries due to border lockdowns because of the COVID-19 pandemic and proliferation of religious extremism may impair values of cultural diversity,

***Calling*** upon all nations and states to undertake measures to ensure free access to culture for all nations and countries without discrimination, precondition or distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

***Recognizing***the severe damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to the global tourism sector and acknowledging the efforts made by the governments of respective countries to rebuild tourism-related industries and to overcome the crisis,

***Stressing*** the crucial role of tourism for socio-economic development, poverty reduction, employment generation and its capability to accelerate the recovery of the regional and global economies,

***Recognizing*** the need for preserving and promoting the identity and uniqueness of every people as an essential element of free existence and development of various cultures within the Asia-Pacific region,

***Acknowledging***the importance of promoting trust and resolving disputes inside and between societies with different cultures, ethnicities, and religions as a crucial condition for achieving progress, prosperity and a better quality of life, and the role of parliamentary diplomacy in resolving related conflicts,

***Recognizing***thatcultural diversity is a shared legacy for all humanity and support of creative activities of citizens from different cultural backgrounds requires not only efforts by individual countries but also the collaboration of the international community as a whole,

***Recognizing*** the importance of preserving and promoting the cultural heritage sites of the Asia-Pacific region, many of which are on the UNESCO World Heritage List,

***Noting*** the essential role of the indigenous small-numbered peoples in preserving the cultural diversity of the Asia-Pacific region,

***Supporting*** stronger communication and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region so that each country can develop the capacity to promote cultural diversity,

 **RESOLVE TO:**

1. **Affirm** the importance of parliamentary actions for protection of the cultural diversity unique to the Asia-Pacific for the effective integration and promotion of culture and traditions of different peoples, nations and states of this region;
2. **Stress** the importance of practical measures to ensure free access to culture for all nations and countries, including ethnic and religious minorities, without discrimination, precondition or distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status;
3. **Recommend** the APPF Member Countries to intensify intermediary processes at national and regional levels on settlement of the disagreements caused by differences in cultures, ethnic and religious traditions, and facilitate dialogue between cultures, ethnicities, and religions;
4. **Recognize** the need to create and implement integral cultural policy that brings together culture, education, science, underline the importance of youth involvement in cultural issues, the need for the youth to play an active role in the sphere of culture and for free access to culture achievements;
5. **Promote** regional tourism, including ecotourism, as a tool to foster sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, biodiversity conservation and financial inclusion;
6. **Encourage** the APPF Member Countries to promote the development of regional tourist routes aimed at popularizing the unique cultural heritage sites of the Asia-Pacific region;
7. **Recommend** theAPPF Member Countries to provide comprehensive assistance and support to indigenous small-numbered peoples to safeguard their languages and cultures;
8. **Explore** the possibilities of joint actions to facilitate the recovery of the tourism related industries, including the safe opening of new and existing tourist destinations, improving infrastructure, advancing digital transformation of tourism industry, and developing innovative tourism and tourism-related products including cultural tourism;
9. **Recommend** theAPPF Member Countries to cooperate with international organizations, including UNESCO, and work towards the support and promotion of cultural diversity in the Asia-Pacific region.