



THE 14TH ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF)
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APPF-14/Res/12

**RESOLUTION ON
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS
AND INTERNET GOVERNANCE**

(Sponsored by Mexico)

The 14th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum:

Conscious of the fact that the modern world is experiencing a basic transformation in that the industrial society defining the 20th century quickly gives way to the Information Society of the 21st century,

Recognizing that Information Societies are evolving in an accelerated manner and the convergence between telecommunications, radio broadcasting, multi-media and information and communication technology generate new products and services, as well as new ways of developing business and commercial operations,

Considering that this process represents a basic change in all aspects of our lives, including the diffusion of knowledge, social behavior, economic and entrepreneurial practices, political commitment, communication media, education, health and entertainment,

Recognizing that Information Societies have more capacity to reach economic development and compete in a New Economy based on knowledge,

Knowing, however, that while digital revolution has broadened the frontiers of the global setting, most of the world's inhabitants are still unable to accede to that process, which makes the so-called digital breach increasingly wider, separating developing countries from less developed countries,

Conscious in that sense of the importance of the World Summit on the Information Society promoted by the United Nations, which was developed in two phases. The first was celebrated in Geneva, Switzerland in December of 2003 and the second in Tunis in November of 2005,

Recognizing that the topic of Internet Governance is fundamental to assuring balanced development of information technology in respect to the sovereignty and independence of all nations, and that it should adopt a government outline for the world network based on multi-lateralism under the supervision of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) before September of 2006, when network administration reserved until now by the ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) concludes,

Knowing that other key topics for making the ICT an instrument of equity and development for our societies are cyber-security, financing strategies for less developed countries and the protection of those who surf the net,

Recognizing that the role of Governments is basic to diffusing technology to all citizens through the development of concrete, viable, national policies destined to face the challenges of the Information Society,

Resolves to:

1. *Exhort* Governments and Parliaments of member countries to give their complete support to the promotion of technological progress and the expansion of knowledge of information technology, making this a national priority, committing the resources needed to achieve this objective.
2. *Exhort* APPF parliaments to promote the incorporation of commitments in the Geneva Declaration of Principles and the Geneva Plan of Action, the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, defined by the United Nation in both phases of the World Summit on the Information Society.
3. *Recognize* the parliamentary commitment to ease inclusion of the private sector, civil society, and the scientific and academic community in the process of creating an information society based on shared knowledge.
4. *Recognize* that our Governments must create consciousness, ease public access to information and set the bases needed so all citizens benefit from Information Technology and Communications, in terms of improved quality of life, social services and economic growth.
5. *Recognize* particular needs for the development of specific programs and the financing required by neglected rural zones of our nations to access connectivity and the global network.
6. *Recognize* that with the conclusion of ICANN Internet control in September of 2006, the definition of a new global outline for governing the global network should adjust to the institutional framework of the United Nations and International Telecommunication Union.
7. *Recognize* in the same way that APPF parliaments should promote more discussion on Internet Governance that approaches issues such as

Cibersecurity.- to analyze privacy issues, protect personal data and prevent information crimes.

Financing strategies for developing countries.- with the aim of preventing the digital breach from becoming any greater.

Protection of human rights.- to promote the defense of children against sexual exploitation and pornography, the promotion of gender equality in network content, as well as the availability of political, economic and cultural information to fully participate in the new information society.