

Welcome message by Sergey M. Mironov, Chairman of the Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation to the Participants of the 15th Annual Meeting of APPF



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

Let me, in my capacity of the President of the 15th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum, cordially welcome you on the eve of our meeting in Moscow in January the year 2007. Since the Forum had been founded in 1993, the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum came a long way. It now occupies a unique, special place in the system of international parliamentary relations. The Forum' s activities are based on noble goals and principles of the Tokyo Declaration. Following these principles, the APPF contributes significantly to promotion of international cooperation in the

name of peace, democracy, freedom, and prosperity of nations and peoples of the region. The Forum has traditionally been addressing all the important issues of regional and worldwide development.

The upcoming 15th Annual Meeting of the APPF in Moscow will continue working along the same lines. Thus shaping the draft of tentative agenda of the upcoming meeting we are trying to reflect a wide range of international security and anti-terrorism issues, economic and commercial cooperation, environmental safety, informational technology and education, and other important issues.

This June we established the Organizing Committee of the 15th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum, appointed the Secretariat, approved the schedule of the preparations, and formed the workgroups of the Organizing Committee. In our preparatory work we are open for close cooperation with all APPF countries and their delegations, and we are account on constructive interaction with all of them.

I would like to use this opportunity to express my confidence that with your support and active participation the 15th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum will be a successful, beneficial and productive event, and setting up optimal program of our future common activities.

I am looking forward to meet you in Moscow in January 2007!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Mironov', written in a cursive style.

S. MIRONOV