



**18TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM
17 – 22 January 2010, Singapore**

18APPF/RES/2

**RESOLUTION
ON
TRADE FACILITATION
(Sponsored by Mexico)**

THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM:

Considering that trade facilitation is essential to increase trade and expand the benefits derived from trade liberalization;

Recalling the Singapore Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), whose recommendations led to the mandate of the General Council of August 2004 to launch negotiations for trade facilitation;

Stressing the importance of technical assistance and capacity building in trade facilitation, and effective cooperation between customs and other appropriate authorities on the subject;

Noting the desirability of dialogue and cooperation between the public and private sectors, and support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs), to the success of trade facilitation processes;

Recognizing the importance of dissemination of information and experiences on best practices for trade facilitation and the coordinated management of borders;

Taking into account the desirability of identifying and eliminating domestic regulations that may constitute barriers to trade;

Convinced that trade facilitation is essential to achieving greater trade integration and improve the competitiveness of our economies;

Resolves to:

1. **Promote** trade facilitation to mitigate the effects of the economic and financial crisis, reduce trade transaction costs and offset the effects of the fall in demand for goods and services;
2. **Increase** the efficiency and capacity of trade gateways, such as ports and airports and business corridors, including multi-modal freight transport;
3. **Modernize** and improve border management institutions, processes and technologies for border management;

4. **Rationalize** and eliminate regulations and procedures that increase trade transaction costs, such as import/export licensing;
5. **Improve** the efficiency of markets for trade facilitation services, such as logistics, transport security and certification of imports and exports, through private sector capacity building, competition policies, and appropriate reforms of prices and contract regulations;
6. **Promote** the exchange of information about successful strategies for trade facilitation, and tools to increase efficiency of supply chains in the Asia-Pacific;
7. **Recommend** our governments draw up an analysis of the Aid for Trade (WTO programme), so that developing countries develop the knowledge and infrastructure to benefit from WTO agreements;
8. **Urge** the governments of the region to prevent the establishment of trade barriers, new restrictions on exports or measures incompatible with the principles and WTO rules;
9. **Urge** our governments to conclude regional trade integration processes to facilitate trade and investment across borders.