

**ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF)
25TH ANNUAL MEETING**

RESOLUTION APPF25/RES.10

PROMOTING INTERCULTURAL AND INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

(Sponsored by Indonesia)

The 25th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum:

Recalling the APPF resolution on Political and Security Matters in Asia-Pacific adopted at the 22nd APPF Meeting in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, in 2014, the APPF Resolution on Strengthening Peace and Stability in the Asia-Pacific Region at the 23rd APPF Meeting in Quito, Ecuador, in 2015, and other relevant APPF resolutions;

Upholding the UN Charter to advocate universal respect for human rights and freedom without any discrimination in relation to race, sex, language or religion;

Recalling the adoption of UN General Assembly Resolution 67/178 in March 2013 on combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatisation, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief;

Welcoming the adoption of UN General Assembly Resolution 65/5 in October 2010 on World Interfaith Harmony Week as an annual event during the first week of February between all religions, faiths and beliefs;

Recognising the need for dialogue among different faiths and religions to enhance mutual understanding, respect, harmony and cooperation among people;

Deeply concerned by the increasing incidents of religious intolerance, discrimination and related violence, hate speech as well as negative stereotyping of individuals on the basis of religion or belief;

Considering any religious phobia and any other form of discrimination based on belief, faith, or culture, are contrary to the spirit of interfaith dialogue and must have no place in civilised society; and

Recognising the need to enhance mutual understanding for religious tolerance, cultural diversity and shared common values among religious group and all related stakeholders through continuous dialogue;

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Reaffirm** the commitment of APPF Member States to promote and spread the message of peace and cultural tolerance;
2. **Call upon** APPF Member States to continue efforts in promoting tolerance and respect for different cultures and religions or beliefs;
3. **Reaffirm** that all religions, convictions, and beliefs are calling for peace, tolerance, and mutual understanding;
4. **Declare** that violence is an unacceptable response to acts of intolerance on the basis of religion, belief, or cultural difference;
5. **Encourage** parliaments of the APPF Member States to utilise all forms of media, in particular social media, to promote tolerance among people of different faiths and religions to live in harmony;
6. **Urge** parliaments of the APPF Member States to create an effective mechanism to identify and address potential areas of tension between members of different religious communities, and assisting with conflict prevention and mediation; and
7. **Encourage** parliaments of the APPF Member States, public figures, religious leaders, and religious organisations to spread tolerance and to promote dialogues within their communities on the causes of discrimination, and developing strategies to counter those causes.