

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

RESOLUTION APPF25/RES.12

**STRENGTHENING SYSTEMS OF BORDER CONTROL AND
MONITORING TO COMBAT HUMAN AND DRUG TRAFFICKING**

(Sponsored by Malaysia and Mexico)

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

Recalling Resolutions APPF21/RES.01 and APPF22/RES.01 on “Political and Security Matters in Asia Pacific” which was held in Vladivostok, Russia in January 27-31, 2013 and in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico in January 12-16, 2014 respectively;

Recalling and reiterating the 2016 UNSC Resolution 2320 that cooperation with regional and sub-regional organisations in matters relating to the maintenance of peace and security, and consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the UN, can improve collective security;

Considering the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime and the Protocols to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Human Trafficking, especially for Women and Children;

Recognising the importance of upholding the rule of law and principles of international law in the maintenance of peace, security and political stability for a peaceful society and protection against the menace of human and drug trafficking;

Emphasising that good systems of border control and monitoring are safeguards to APPF Member States’ political, social and economic stability and security from harm brought about by human and drug trafficking;

Expressing grave concern at the increase of illicit drug related activities and human trafficking around the world and that the systems of border control and monitoring might be jeopardised and threatened by drug cartels and syndicated human trafficking; and

Stressing the equal importance of strengthening systems of border control and monitoring by sea, land and air or a combination of one or all of the said controls;

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Call upon** parliaments of the APPF Member States to fully engage with their community in dispersing knowledge and information on the importance of good practices of border control and monitoring against the related menace of human and drug trafficking;
2. **Urge** APPF Member States to adopt cutting-edge technology to strengthen their systems of border control and monitoring to counter all activities of human and drug trafficking;

3. **Increase** cooperation through the exchange of best practices to fight terrorism, particularly those practices that support the fight against terrorism and enable benefits from safe trade;
4. **Improve** databases, strengthen laws and use ICTs to fight traffickers, defend their victims and penalise the fabrication of identity documents;
5. **Foster** cooperation amongst APPF Member States on expertise and techniques of border control and monitoring of criminal elements of transnational crimes, especially human and drug trafficking, by connecting conventional and modern technology and taking into account that conventional manual “pat-downs” for air security systems are by far the best of those procedures implemented by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO);
6. **Strongly** urge APPF Member States to deploy qualified and efficient personnel to strengthen and secure border control systems and monitor to ensure their effectiveness;
7. **Continue** preserving alertness by APPF Member States against any forms of potential corruption and fraudulent practices by the public, organisations and enforcement agencies to continue maintaining a high level of transparency and integrity of the borders security systems;
8. **Synergise** a “Whole-of-Government Approach” among APPF Member States through the engagement, communication, coordination, cooperation, sharing and integration of actions for stronger legal frameworks and competent relevant enforcement agencies to strengthen systems of border control and monitoring to combat human and drug trafficking;
9. **Recognise** the need for APPF Member States to adopt a universal and harmonised answer against human trafficking, with the implementation of integral strategies for fighting this phenomenon as well as relying on legislation that penalises money laundering derived from human trafficking and always based on respect for human rights;
10. **Support** techniques on capacity and cross-border cooperation among border security agencies to neutralise transnational crime within the Asia-Pacific region, especially drug and human trafficking;
11. **Call upon** APPF Member States to continue developing action plans and standard operating procedures that result in sharing, integration and rapidly responding to information, knowledge and know-how to counter elements and activities related to drug and human trafficking, and thereby enhance border control systems and monitoring; and
12. **Urge** APPF Member States to allocate resources to strengthen border control and monitoring systems to combat drug and human trafficking.