

APPF26/RES/12

26TH ANNUAL MEETING ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

RESOLUTION ON PROMOTING RESPECT FOR SOCIAL DIVERSITY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

(Sponsored by Canada)

The 26th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum:

Recognizing that social diversity and the freedom that all individuals and peoples have to develop and express their own sense of identity and culture are sources of mutual enrichment for all humankind;

Underlining the importance of promoting understanding, tolerance, mutual respect and friendship among human beings in their diversity of religion, belief, culture and language,

Mindful of the challenges to the full realization of human rights, the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity, and the maintenance of a free and democratic society;

Affirming that all persons are entitled to the protection and promotion of civil, political, economic, social, cultural rights and the right to development

Affirming that all persons are entitled to be free from all forms of discrimination;

Aware that members of minority groups are particularly vulnerable to political, economic and social alienation, marginalization and discrimination;

Recognizing the importance of parliamentarians as leaders in promoting the value of social diversity and ending discrimination;

Underscoring the particular importance of providing sufficient support to ethnic, religious, linguistic and other minority groups through legislation and

government programming in order to ensure their ability to participate fully in society, to enjoy their human rights, and to pursue development;

Reaffirming key United Nations resolutions, treaties and instruments that promote respect for social diversity, including the Charter of the United Nations; the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities; the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression; the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and others;

Recalling resolutions adopted by APPF Member States at previous Annual Meetings that support and promote social diversity, including those from the 25th Annual meeting held in Fiji concerning: Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls: Increasing the Political, Economic and Social Participation of Women; Promoting Intercultural and Interfaith Dialogue; and the Elimination of Violence Against Women;

Commending APPF Member States for participating in the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians and for promoting equality for women;

Understanding that encouraging tolerance and respect for social diversity serves to better ensure peace and security, to advance human welfare and social justice, and to foster better international relations.

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Strengthen** cooperation among APPF Member States to advance the principles of social diversity that are endorsed in this resolution;
2. **Promote** the value of social diversity and ensure it is celebrated, respected, encouraged and protected throughout the Asia-Pacific region;
3. **Prioritize** the development of and support for policies, programs and laws that ensure the diversity, harmony and development of the society;

4. **Respect** the equality and dignity of all persons especially those belonging to minority and vulnerable groups;
5. **Develop** global, national and local links to promote inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue;
6. **Implement** international conventions concerning fundamental civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development;
7. **Promote** robust public investment in programs and social infrastructure to ensure the economic welfare of minority and vulnerable groups and their ability to participate fully in society;
8. **Establish** incentives for employers to take affirmative action and ensure their hiring practices reflect the diversity of their society;
9. **Protect** all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development;
10. **Uphold** the rule of law and principles of fundamental justice that ensure that all citizens receive the equal benefit of the law;
11. **Protect** the rights of cultural minorities through legislation and government programming;
12. **Remove** barriers created by social policies, laws and programs that inhibit social diversity;
13. **Ensure** that all laws and government policies and programs are subjected to analytical reviews to assess how women, men and gender-diverse people are impacted by them, including in ways that multiple identity factors intersect, such as race, ethnic heritage, religion, age, sexual orientation and mental or physical disability, among others;
14. **Encourage** research and analysis regarding the prevalence of all forms of intolerance and their impact on the social well-being and economic status of minority and vulnerable groups;
15. **Prohibit** discrimination through laws containing effective mechanisms for taking complaints and enforcing appropriate remedies;

16. **Take action** to combat the spread of hatred and other forms of discrimination and to condemn all acts of hatred, bigotry, extremism, and radicalization that foster violence and promote social intolerance towards identifiable groups;
17. **Provide** training for all public officials and public servants in anti-discrimination and diversity programs;
18. **Engage** and consult with all relevant stakeholders when developing legislation and policies;
19. **Maintain** free and fair elections that ensure the participation of all citizens; and
20. **Celebrate** UN international calendar events affirming the importance of social diversity, including the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development; the UN International Day for Tolerance; the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples; International Women's Day; the UN World Faith Harmony Week and others.