



RESOLUTION
ON
ENHANCING PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION IN PROMOTING
CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND TOURISM IN ASIA-PACIFIC

(Sponsored by Cambodia and Russian Federation)

We, parliamentarians of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), gathering in historic city of Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia, for the 27th Annual Meeting of APPF under the theme “Strengthening Parliamentary Partnership for Peace, Security and Sustainable Development”:

Reaffirming the spirit of the United Nations Charter, the Constitution of UNESCO and the UN General Assembly Resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 on Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

Recalling the UN Resolution A/RES/70/193 declaring 2017 as the International Year for Sustainable Tourism for Development, a unique opportunity to promote the contributions of tourism and culture as a 21st century human activities to shape a better future for people and the planet;

Bearing in mind the UNWTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism adopted by the UNWTO General Assembly in 1999 and endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 2001, that reaffirms that tourism is a user of the cultural heritage of humankind and contributor to its enhancement;

Referring to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO on 20 October 2005, to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions;

Recalling the World Heritage Convention adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO on 16 November 1972 for the protection, conservation and the preservation of cultural and natural heritage with outstanding universal value to all mankind;

Reaffirming that second UNWTO/UNESCO World Conference, Muscat Declaration on Tourism and Culture: Fostering Sustainable Development, 11-12 December 2017;

Recalling the Siem Reap Declaration on Tourism and Culture – Building a New Partnership Model (2015) that sets out a range of priorities and opportunities for action in the broad field of cultural tourism, with a particular impact on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals;

Welcoming the Resolution of the 17th Annual Meeting of APPF (11-15 January 2009) at Vientiane on Sustainable Tourism;

Reaffirming the Declaration of the 5th Annual Meeting of APPF (7-10 January 1997) at Vancouver, Canada, on New Vision of the Asia-Pacific Region in the 21st Century which underlined importance

of understanding and respecting the different cultures to foster mutual understanding, mutual trust, and true friendship in the Asia-Pacific;

Recalling the Declaration of 19th ASEAN Summit in Bali, in Indonesia (17 November 2011) on ASEAN Unity in Cultural Diversity: Towards Strengthening ASEAN Community;

Welcoming the establishment of official relations between UNESCO and the International Conference of Asian Political Party (ICAPP) and the International Conference of Asian Political Parties and the signature of the cooperation agreement between UNESCO and the International Conference of Asian Political Parties;

Realizing that the Asia-Pacific region is the biggest region in terms of area and size of population that hosts a rich variety of arts, cultures, traditions, languages, beliefs, religions and ethnic groups so the deepening mutual understanding and trust among members is important for maintaining peace, stability and cooperation for cultural tourism and economic development in the region;

Noting that the Asia-Pacific region is the second biggest region in terms of UNESCO World Heritage Sites host of 258 sites and elements, which are a great potential for best-known and high-value attractions and tourism resources as cultural and natural destinations in countries and the region that highly supports the Sustainable Development Goals;

Acknowledging that the cultural diversity in the Asia-Pacific region contains natural and cultural heritages, tangible and intangible, such as museums, historic sites, landscapes, traditions, art, languages, cuisine, music, handicrafts and Literature, of immeasurable value to host communities, shaping community identities and fostering respect and tolerance among people, becoming key tourism assets and attractions, creating distinctive differences between destinations;

Realizing that cultural properties face the risk of destruction caused by armed conflicts and illicit trade in cultural goods;;

Noting that tourism has grown in the recent decades to become a leading global economic sector that contributes significantly to the development and empowerment of local communities by creating opportunities for inclusive economic growth and sustainable development in terms of job creation, income generation, people's livelihoods, regeneration of rural and urban areas, poverty alleviation and the appreciation and protection of natural and cultural tourist destinations;

Realizing the imperative to consolidate and intensify dialogue and cooperation among cultures to create environments conducive to respect for cultural diversity, religious beliefs, harmony, rapprochement and mutual understanding between cultures, at national, regional and global levels;

Recognizing the need to protect vulnerable groups from exploitation, and to respect the rights and traditions of indigenous people and ethnic minorities;

RESOLVE TO:

- 1. Encourage** APPF Member States to ratify and implement UNESCO conventions related to the promotion and protection of cultural and natural property, where possible, the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and its two Protocols, Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property" (1970), UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (1995);

2. **Invite** APPF Member States to provide necessary support and cooperation with the Asian Cultural Council (ACC), an affiliated body of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) in the implementation of cultural activities for peace and sustainable development;
3. **Encourage** APPF Member States to integrate cultural protection and preservation in national legislation, policies and strategic plans, in particular in tourism development, natural resource conservation, environmental protection, poverty alleviation and economic development;
4. **Urge** APPF Member States to encourage their governments to provide necessary financial, human resources, technology and innovation to promote sustainable development in accordance with culture preservation and to support the development of small and medium-sized cultural enterprises and local communities using cultural assets for sustainable tourism and poverty alleviation;
5. **Encourage** the private sector to invest in cultural sites and service development and linkages to supply chains such as agriculture, handicrafts, hospitality, cuisine, tourism services, transport, infrastructure and construction, while supporting and promoting an integrated approach and local sourcing in cultural and natural heritage tourism;
6. **Strengthen** close cooperation in human-resource capacity building in cultural tourism as well as the protection and development of tangible and intangible heritage through documentation, cultural dialogue, workshops, seminars, training, exchanges of experience among experts in the field of culture and tourism, youth camps, cultural study tours, sharing best practices for cultural preservation and sustainable tourism within APPF Member States;
7. **Encourage** APPF Member States to establish the World Heritage Road linking the world heritage sites of countries in the Asia-Pacific Region to further develop tourism;
8. **Call on** APPF Member States to integrate the spirit of responsible tourism into their policies to responsibly engage tourists with nature, environment and people at places they visit, so that historic sites, artifacts, natural assets, and all forms of cultural heritage - both tangible and intangible - are protected and preserved, including the customs of vulnerable groups, indigenous peoples, and ethnic minorities.