



APPF27/RES/13

RESOLUTION
ON
STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION IN PROMOTING THE
RESPONSIBLE USE OF CYBERSPACE (INFORMATION SPACE) FOR SOCIAL
PROGRESS

(Sponsored by Cambodia and Chile)

We, the parliamentarians of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), gathering in the 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 2016 United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/71/199 on the right to privacy in the digital age, and the Human Rights Council Resolution 38/7 of July 5, 2018 on the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet;

Recalling the 2010 United Nations General Assembly Resolution 65/230 on the importance of a comprehensive study on cybercrime, and the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2011/33 on the prevention, protection and international cooperation against the use of new information technologies to abuse and/or exploit children;

Recalling also the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum Resolution on cyber-security and rights to privacy;

Bearing in mind that children’s increased use of information technology can lead to an increasing exposure to exploitation, violence and child pornography, and remembering in this regard, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol of the Convention on the Rights of the Child related to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;

Noting that security of and in the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), constituting an important element of national security, requires urgent and indispensable attention;

Noting with concern the increased use of social media platforms for incorrect and manipulated news and misinformation which requires on-time and clear responses;

Cognizant of how the increased complexity of cyberspace (sometimes known as information space) has decreased the ability of any one state or corporation to effectively detect, monitor or counter cyber-threats;

Acknowledging that the anonymity of communications in cyberspace has been inappropriately used for illegal and terrorist activities, posing a threat to individuals, communities, corporations and governments, causing serious damage to property and human lives;

Recognizing the need for APPF Member States to collaborate and exchange best practices in combatting misinformation and disinformation online, to mitigate their harmful effects;

Concerned with the increased and indiscriminate unlawful surveillance of online communications, violating the people's right to private life, or the sovereignty and security of the states;

Reasserting that the same rights people have outside the internet must be protected when they are connected just as established in resolution A/HRC/20/L.131 from June 29, 2012 and A/HRC/RES/26/132 from June 2014 from the United Nations Commission on Human Rights; and

Aware that the transnational nature of cyberspace requires states to collaborate in addressing the challenges it poses;

RESOLVE TO:

1. **Call on** APPF Member States to share best practices and means, including exchange of information, technical assistance, and enactment of laws and regulations on responsible use of cyberspace, in formulating and implementing cyber-security strategies;
2. **Encourage** participation and cooperation among APPF Member States, relevant agencies, media, educational institutions, private sector, civil society and other stakeholders to formulate the legal framework and means to appropriately counter cybercrime;
3. **Endorse** APPF Member States' cooperation between public and private sectors in cybernetic security, defined by governments and international organizations, with strategies materialized in technological and management measures;
4. **Recommend** APPF Member States exchange information and invest in communication technologies and human resources, where practicable, to strengthen capacity in this non-traditional security realm of cyberspace, and to have a coordinated mechanism to enhance cyber-security and combat cybercrime across the region;
5. **Urge** regional consensus among APPF Member States to define and classify the behavior of digital information and crime and legislate as needed to safeguard society from crime, while strengthening human rights in cyberspace, especially those related to privacy and freedom of expression;
6. **Call on** APPF Member States to collaborate in initiating and adopting a set of common and agreed norms of responsible states' behavior in cyberspace so as to enhance trust and confidence in the use of cyberspace to its full potential, bringing about greater economic prosperity for the entire region; and
7. **Recommend** APPF Member States put more effort in raising awareness of and promoting responsible use of cyberspace through various forms of education and digital literacy, either formal or informal.