



Resolution on Exchange among Cultures and Civilizations

(The Philippines, Mexico)

The 12th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum,

Reaffirming the spirit of the United Nations Charter, the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination, and the Convention on the Elimination of all the forms of Discrimination against Women;

Recalling the Universal Declarations of Human Rights that establishes in its Article 1 that “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood”;

Recalling the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, approved through resolution 47/135 of the United Nations General Assembly in its meeting held on December 18, 1992;

Convinced that dialogue among different cultures and civilizations can contribute to accept the universal values of social and cultural coexistence and to the universalization of human rights;

Aware that each culture is unique and irreplaceable and that the existence and contribution of each of them makes up the common humankind legacy;

Recognizing that the positive and mutually beneficial interaction among civilizations has contributed throughout history to peace development and cultural enhancement of the peoples of the Earth;

Noting that tolerance and respect for diversity facilitates the universal fulfillment and enjoyment of human rights;

Aware that the expansion and knowledge of information technologies and knowledge, particularly of Internet, is approaching different cultures and civilizations, thus expanding the possibilities of global interaction and coexistence;

Recognizing to this regard that the opportunities of the global society of the XXI century can only be fully effective if in the globalization construction the proper importance is given to the diversity among the cultures and civilizations of the planet;

Recognizing the significant role that the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum can develop to increase the interaction among our societies through the promotion of dialogue among our parliaments;

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Consider** the creation of the “APPF Committee on Exchange Among Cultures and Civilizations” (ACEACC) that will have the following functions:
 - a. To, generally, encourage APPF members to promulgate the theme of cultural, civilization and religious exchange;
 - b. To enlist APPF members support to such initiative being carried out in the United Nations and other international and regional forums;
 - c. To support efforts of and to assist APPF member – legislatures in drafting relevant laws in pursuit of cultural, civilization and religious exchange.
2. Urge the parliaments of the nations that belong to the APPF to promote the necessary actions to respect and tolerate the cultural diversity and avoid any form of discrimination, protecting the rights of minorities and encouraging freedom of speech and creation, pluralism, the participation of all men and women in the political, economic, and cultural life of our nations;
3. Urge the parliamentarians of the region to know and to follow-up the first results of the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva, Switzerland, between last December 10 and 12, included in the Declaration and Plan of Action that outline the policies for the global management of the information and communication technologies (ICT) and propose actions to ‘close the digital gap’, in order to contribute to equality among the countries, promoting the full social inclusion in technology use;
4. Urge the parliamentarians of the Asia Pacific region to be actively involved in the United Nations programs, particularly those developed by the UNESCO to promote the dialogue among civilizations and cultures and invite their governments to contribute more actively in these programs;
5. Call the parliamentarians of the region to actively participate in the next meeting of the European – Pacific Congress, whose first meeting was organized in September 2003 by the government of the city of Vladivostok, Russian Federation, and which can significantly contribute to approach and achieve dialogue among the European and Asian cultures and civilizations;
6. Urge the parliamentarians of the region to recognize that the universal principles of political, social and cultural coexistence – freedom, equality, fraternity – defined by the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights must be the foundations on which the political dialogue, the economic cooperation, and the cultural interaction among the societies that are creating the new civilization of the XXI century must be built.