



**20TH ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM
8–12 January 2012, Tokyo, Japan**

APPF20/RES/5

RESOLUTION
ON

STRENGTHENING PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE REGION

(Co-Sponsored by Australia and Russia)

THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM:

Recalling the Resolution APPF/RES/15 on Political and Security Issues in the South East Asian Region adopted at the 19th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum on 23-27 January 2011 in Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia:

Noting that the dynamic dispersal of the world development potential and the acceleration of deep transformation of the global leadership system on a polycentric basis are turning the Asia-Pacific region into the global center of economic growth and political and spiritual influence;

Considering the shift in economic and strategic weight to the Asia Pacific region and significant increase in Asia's collective military expenditure over the last 20 years;

Cognisant of the need to preserve the peace and security of the region, including through the adherence to the principles of international law and democracy, for the long term prosperity of the region as a whole;

Aware that the effective management of regional security issues must be supported by strong and transparent regional institutions;

Stating the need to build up in Asia-Pacific region an integrated, harmonious architecture of security and cooperation which would respect the region's diversity of cultures, religions and traditions, variety of political systems and different levels of economic developments, nature of conflicts and threats, and which would leave enough place for the various political systems embodying the diversity of the local palette, its non-uniformity and mixed economic structure, including the cultural and civilization features of the certain countries, and which also would provide for peaceful co-existence, promote greater compatibility, consent and mutual benefits for various nations, religions and traditions for the attainment of peace and harmony in the Region;

Being confident that international security is to be equal and indivisible, and also that the security of any given states cannot be achieved at the expense of the security of any other states;

Perceiving that the threats of nuclear proliferation, international terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, human trafficking, transnational organized crime, and sea piracy are having a destabilizing effect on regional and national security;

Having no doubt that it is impossible to counter effectively these threats on one nation's own;

Convinced that regional security is enhanced by improved development outcomes, environmental management, and crisis response;

Resolves to:

1. Encourage APPF Member States to work together to strengthen the momentum towards strong, sustainable and balanced global economic growth, to contribute to the ongoing prosperity and security of the region.
2. Reaffirm our commitment to, and strengthening of, the regional multilateral architecture.
3. Reiterate the support of the idea of establishing an open, transparent, equal inclusive and indivisible security system in the region formed on collective non-block basis, the norms and the principles of international law, and bound to take into account the legitimate interests of all countries of the region with no exception.
4. Support the work of regional forums and organizations such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the ASEAN Regional Forum for Security (ARF), the East Asian Summits (EAS), the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), the Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and welcome fostering and promoting interaction among them and also among the parliamentary structures within and outside the region.
5. Welcome the lifting of martial law by Fiji on January 7, 2012.
6. Support the norms and principles of international law and a rules-based order in calling on all nations to encourage Fiji's interim Government to hold free and fair elections as soon as possible, and to return Fiji to democracy, the rule of law and its rightful place in the international community.
7. Welcome recent positive developments in Myanmar including the release of around 200 political prisoners in October 2011, ongoing dialogue between the Myanmar government and Aung San Suu Kyi and indications that Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy will run in up-coming by-elections.
8. Call on the Government of Myanmar to continue to implement reforms, including on human rights, and to ensure up-coming by-elections are free and fair.
9. Commit to the goals of a nuclear-weapon free world, strengthened counter-terrorism cooperation, and regional diplomacy towards common transnational issues.
10. Call on all regional aid donor nations to work towards the goals of the International Dialogue on Peace Building and State Building and the New Deal for Engagement with Fragile States.

11. Urge the Parliaments and the Governments of member countries to give priority to strengthening the legal framework of security in the Asia-Pacific region, as the basis of practical steps to strengthen peace and regional security.