

**RESOLUTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS**

(Sponsored by Japan)

The 13th Annual Meeting of the Asia - Pacific Parliamentary Forum,

Convinced that achieving a final and peaceful settlement of the issue of Palestine is imperative for the attainment of comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East;

Hoping that Palestinians overcome their sorrow of the passing away of Mr. Yasser Arafat, the Ra'ees of the Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority and the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), and continue with their struggle in solidarity to establish a Palestinian state that lives side-by-side with Israel in peace within secured and internationally recognized borders.

Welcoming the peaceful conclusion of the recent Presidential election in Palestine, hoping that it will contribute to the creation of favorable environment for the peace process in the region;

Reaffirming that a just and lasting solution to the Arab and Israeli conflict must be based on the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 of 22 November 1967 and 338 of 22 October 1973, the Resolution on the Middle East Peace Process adopted at the Tenth Annual Meeting of the APPF on 9 January 2002, the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1397 of 12 March 2002, the Resolution on the Middle East Peace Process adopted at the Eleventh Annual Meeting of the APPF on 15 January 2003, the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1515 of 19 November 2003, and the Resolution on the Middle East Peace Process adopted at the Twelfth Annual Meeting of the APPF on 14 January 2004 and reaffirming support for a two-state solution;

Noting the efforts by UN, EU, the United States of America, and the Russian Federation, and encouraging the Quartet to ensure the implement of the Roadmap for peace;

Deeply concerned by the tragic events that continue to take place, resulting in numerous deaths and injuries; and

Expressing support for the Middle East peace process and the efforts to reach a final and lasting settlement between the Israeli and Palestinian sides as quickly as possible;

Resolves to:

1. Strongly urge the Israeli and the Palestinian sides to enhance their efforts - and in particular to exercise mutual self-restraint-to achieve an immediate cessation of the chain of tragic violence, and to take all necessary steps - including commitment by both sides to the Roadmap for peace and the cessation of new provocative actions by Israel, by any elements of the Palestinian community, and by any other parties in order to promote the prospects for the Middle East peace process;
2. Encourage all the parties to make efforts to reach a peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; affirm again that recognition of a Palestinian state and border security for the State of Israel are an essential elements of a permanent peace; and call upon Israel and the Palestinian Authority to establish a proper environment for building a Palestinian state; and
3. Seek the active cooperation of Gulf nations and strongly call upon all APPF countries to continue to extend as much support and cooperation as possible to the Middle East peace process.