

THE 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

**TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN ASIA PACIFIC**

*Resolution*

*(Sponsored by Chile, Ecuador, Japan, New Zealand, Mexico, the Republic of Korea  
and the Russian Federation)*

THE 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC  
PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF):

**Noting** the “Resolution on Economy and Trade” which was adopted at the 20th Annual Meeting of the APPF in January 2012, the “G20 Los Cabos Leaders Declaration” in June 2012, as well as the “Vladivostok Declaration” of the 20<sup>th</sup> APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting in September 2012;

**Affirming** that global growth remains modest and pressures on the financial system pose further downside risks;

**Confirming** that protectionist measures in trade and investment can further jeopardize the world economy;

**Recognizing** the fact that although the Asia Pacific region has ensured its position as a vanguard of economic growth in the world, significant challenges have still to be addressed and new responsibilities for Asia Pacific nations are emerging;

**Reconfirming** that our priority task is supporting sustainable, balanced, inclusive and environmentally-friendly economic growth both in the region and in the world and ensuring the effectiveness of the international financial regulatory and supervisory system;

**Reaffirming** the commitments made in the Bogor Declaration adopted by APEC leaders in 1994 to achieving that goal of free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region, recognizing significant progress towards that goal, and hoping for its full achievement by 2020;

**Aware** of the support to be provided to different free trade schemes existing in the region through cooperation, reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers, trade facilitation and investment;

**Convinced** that more action by the APPF Member States in negotiations related to economic integration and trade matters in the Asia Pacific region and in the multilateral system would definitely contribute to more social transparency, fairness and legitimacy;

**Welcoming** the successful completion of the WTO accession process by the Russian Federation and the Lao People's Democratic Republic;

**Resolves to:**

1. **Call upon** the APPF Member States to continue to implement effective and sound fiscal and financial policies in order to respond to downside risks and ensure the stability of economies and employment, as well as to consider at different international forums coordinated efforts to establish various safety mechanisms and early warning systems both on regional and global levels to respond to possible financial risks;

2. **Support** the important role the WTO plays through the promotion and strengthening of the multilateral trading system and speedy conclusion of the Doha Development Round;

3. **Support** a pledge by APEC Economies' Leaders to: refrain through the end of 2015 from raising new barriers to investment or to trade in goods and services, imposing new export restrictions, or implementing WTO-inconsistent measures in all areas, including those that stimulate exports; reaffirm commitment to rollback protectionist measures and continue maximum restraint in implementing WTO-consistent measures with a significant protectionist effect.

4. **Call upon** the APPF Member States concerned to continue exploring different ways towards realization of a Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP), as a means not only to further promote regional economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region, but also to complement and strengthen the multilateral trading system centered on the WTO in a transparent and globally beneficial way;

5. **Recognize** the importance of transparency and openness while elaborating bilateral and multilateral free trade area agreements;

6. **Encourage** the APPF Member States to participate actively in the process of forming free trade agreements, elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade, improvement of the investment climate, economic integration, as well as establish cooperation with the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO to facilitate the parliamentary dimension of the multilateral system;

7. **Urge** the APPF Member States to support the promotion of information and communications technologies by advancing regulatory convergence and coherence as well as by cooperation in e-commerce.

8. **Confirm** the importance of attracting private investments and facilitation of public-private partnerships for the development of regional infrastructure, such as the efforts by the Russian Federation to utilize the said mechanisms in the Russian regions of Siberia and Far East in order to ensure their active integration in trade, economic and investment cooperation with Asia Pacific countries;

9. **Encourage** businesses to use the advantages of bilateral and regional trade agreements and member states to explain the benefits and opportunities they provide through domestic outreach programs;

10. **Promote** an innovation-friendly environment and stimulate jobs and economic growth in Asia Pacific countries by strengthening intellectual property rights and law enforcement that provide for and protect the incentives that encourage creativity and innovation and provide the tools for successful management and utilization of intellectual property.