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## **DECLARATION OF VALPARAISO ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PACIFIC BASIN CHARTER IN THE 21st CENTURY**

CONSIDERING, at the threshold of the 21st Century, the 9th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum represents an opportunity to strengthen and tighten the links of friendship and cooperation which exist between the parliaments and their members which form the Legislative Powers of the bordering States in the Pacific Ocean Basin;

ESTIMATING that it is of common interest to coordinate legislative decisions to fortify the sense of belonging to this Basin and;

APPRECIATING that the geographical space which encompasses this Basin has exhibited the greatest dynamism and growth in the world economy which will take it a decisive player in the world's destiny in the 21st Century

HAVING IN MIND the Vancouver Declaration and the spirit of renewing our determination to cooperate and to fulfill our task in order to make this region in the 21st Century a space full of new opportunities, energy and hope in the future;

CONFIRMING our steady will of helping to foster peace and prosperity in the whole world in the 21st Century through such efforts,

DECLARE:

To establish the Pacific Basin Charter, made up of five basic principles:

I.- To establish permanently a peaceful region structured around the Pacific Ocean, on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence, emphasizing such principles as mutual respect for state sovereignty and in conformity with the United Nations Charter purposes and principles, free from military or any other kind of threats. Therefore, the region can be a united community, which constitutes the largest area of development and growth on this planet and be the best route for economic, cultural and political interchange.

The development and growth must be ensured in an era of global economy, thereby constructing a "Common House" where people will enjoy peaceful and prosperous life together.

II To care and conserve the Pacific Ocean for the continuity and progress of the Basin. Respect for conservation rules and environmental protection will be priority tasks and its design and diffusion, in agreement with local characteristics, will be coordinated by the respective Legislative Powers.

III To respect cultural richness of the Basin. Respect is an incentive to increase the diffusion of the cultures which, together with preserving and highlighting their individual identities, will promote a permanent interchange to bring about mutual knowledge, appreciation and friendship among the different peoples.

IV To establish equal legislation in common tasks. The complexity of international relations, public as well as private, makes it necessary to look for certain common rules that protect both goods and people.

This is particularly important given the appearance of crimes that transcend borders. Thereby we have to construct, one by one, in a specific form, frameworks of Asia-Pacific cooperation in various fields in such a way that they would complement and reinforce global systems.

V To promote free trade, facilitating the drafting of laws and agreements to accelerate the creation of a united Basin through the New Economy in which tariff and non-tariff barriers disappear, contributing to the proposals of the organisms created by the Basin, and to finally achieve the consolidation of a great common economic space in the Pacific Ocean.

