



APPF 27/RES/11

DRAFT RESOLUTION  
ON  
ENHANCING PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION IN PROMOTING  
CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND TOURISM IN ASIA-PACIFIC

(Proposed by Cambodia)

We, parliamentarians of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), gathering in historic city of Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia, for the 27th Annual Meeting of APPF under the theme Strengthening Parliamentary Partnership for Peace, Security and Sustainable Development:

**Reaffirming** the spirit of the United Nations Charter, the Constitution of UNESCO and the UN General Assembly Resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 on Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

**Recalling** the UN Resolution A/RES/70/193 declaring 2017 as the International Year for Sustainable Tourism for Development, a unique opportunity to promote the contributions of tourism and culture as a 21<sup>st</sup> century human activity to shape a better future for people and the planet;

**Bearing in mind** the UNWTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism adopted by the UNWTO General Assembly in 1999 and endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 2001, that reaffirms that tourism is a user of the cultural heritage of humankind and contributor to its enhancement;

**Referring** to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO on 20 October 2005, to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions;

**Recalling** the World Heritage Convention adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO on 16 November 1972 for the protection, conservation and the preservation of cultural and natural heritage with outstanding universal value to all mankind;

**Reaffirming** that second UNWTO/UNESCO World Conference, Muscat Declaration on Tourism and Culture: Fostering Sustainable Development, 11-12 December 2017;

**Recalling** the Siem Reap Declaration on Tourism and Culture – Building a New Partnership Model (2015) that sets out a range of priorities and opportunities for action in the broad

field of cultural tourism, with a particular impact on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals;

**Welcoming** the Resolution of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of APPF (11-15 January 2009) at Vientiane on Sustainable Tourism;

**Reaffirming** the Declaration of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of APPF (7-10 January 1997) at Vancouver, Canada, on New Vision of the Asia-Pacific Region in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century which underlined importance of understanding and respecting the different cultures to foster mutual understanding, mutual trust, and true friendship in the Asia-Pacific;

**Recalling** the Declaration of 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Bali, in Indonesia (17 November 2011) on ASEAN Unity in Cultural Diversity: Towards Strengthening ASEAN Community;

**Realizing** that the Asia-Pacific region is the biggest region in terms of area and size of population host a rich variety of arts, cultures, traditions, languages, beliefs, religions and ethnic groups so the deepening mutual understanding and trust among members is important for maintaining peace, stability and cooperation for cultural tourism and economic development in the region;

**Noting** that the Asia-Pacific region is the second biggest region in terms of UNESCO World Heritage Sites host 258 sites and elements, which are a great potential for best-known and high-value attractions and tourism resources as cultural and natural destinations in countries and the region that highly supports the Sustainable Development Goals;

**Acknowledging** that the cultural diversity in the Asia-Pacific region contains natural and cultural heritages, tangible and intangible, such as museums, historic sites, landscapes, traditions, art, languages, cuisine, music, handicrafts and Literature, of immeasurable value to host communities, shaping community identities and fostering respect and tolerance among people, becoming key tourism assets and attractions, creating distinctive differences between destinations;

**Realizing** that cultural properties face the risk of destruction caused by the armed conflicts and the illicit imports, exports and transfers;

**Convincing** that cultural diversity for tourism and protect cultural and natural heritages for fostering sustainable development advances links between tourism and culture with the aim at more sustainable future for all;

**Noting** that tourism has grown over recent decades to become a leading global economic sector and contributes significantly to the development and empowerment of local communities by creating opportunities for inclusive economic growth and sustainable development in terms of job creation, income generation, people's livelihoods, regeneration of rural and urban areas, poverty alleviation and the appreciation and protection of natural and cultural tourist destinations; and

**Realizing** the imperative to consolidate and intensify dialogue and cooperation among cultures to create, at national, regional and global levels, environments conducive to respect for cultural diversity, rapprochement and mutual understanding between cultures, in line

with the principles inscribed at the heart of Charter of the United Nations and the constitution of UNESCO.

**RESOLVE TO:**

1. **Urge** all APPF members to ratify and strengthen the application of all UNESCO conventions related to the promotion and protection of cultural and natural property, in particular the Convention on the Protection and the Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression (2005), the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and its two Protocols, Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property” (1970), UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (1995); the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001);
2. **Recommend** strongly that all APPF members provide necessary support and cooperation with the Asian Cultural Council (ACC), an affiliated body of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) in the implementation of cultural activities for peace and sustainable development;
3. **Encourage** all APPF members to integrate cultural protection and preservation in national legislation, policies and strategic plans, in particular in tourism development, natural resource conservation, environmental protection, poverty alleviation and economic development;
4. **Urge** all APPF members to encourage their governments to provide necessary financial, human resources, technology and innovation to promote sustainable development in accordance with culture preservation and to support the development of small and medium-sized cultural enterprises and local communities using cultural assets for sustainable tourism and poverty alleviation;
5. **Encourage** the private sector to invest in cultural sites and service development and linkages to supply chains such as agriculture, handicrafts, hospitality, cuisine, tourism services, transport, infrastructure and construction, while supporting and promoting an integrated approach and local sourcing in cultural and natural heritage tourism; and
6. **Strengthen** close cooperation in human-resource capacity building in cultural tourism as well as the protection and development of cultural heritage through documentation, cultural dialogue, workshops, seminars, training, exchanges of experience between experts in the field of culture and tourism, youth camps, cultural

study tours, sharing best practices for cultural preservation and sustainable tourism within APPF members.