

Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF)

27th Annual Meeting

Draft Resolution Sponsored by Australia

Combating Terrorism and Transnational Crime in the Region

The 27th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum:

Recalling and reaffirming previous resolutions adopted by Annual Meetings of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) dealing with terrorism and transnational crime;

Recognising the grave and ongoing threat posed by terrorism to regional and international peace and security, undermining stability and economic development and causing immense human suffering;

Recalling the commitments made by APPF Member States to condemn and combat terrorism in all its forms, including, *inter alia*, commitments to work together more closely to enhance regional cooperation to combat terrorism;

Reiterating that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, ethnic group or civilisation, and acts of terrorism are unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever, wherever and by whomsoever committed;

Reaffirming APPF Member States' support for the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and commitment to bring about its universal implementation in the Asia Pacific region;

Recognising the importance of the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air as key international instruments aimed at combating transnational crime;

Reaffirming the role of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) as integral to global efforts to prevent and combat transnational crime;

Recalling the importance of the international drug control treaties, including the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1954 (as amended in 1972), the Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971) and the UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988);

Noting with concern the continued growth in transnational crimes, including human and illegal drug trafficking, the illegal wildlife trade, corruption, cybercrime, maritime crime and piracy, and the significant costs these criminal activities impose on our region;

Acknowledging the growing evidence of links between international terrorism and transnational crime;

Emphasising the importance of regional and international cooperation in effectively combating international terrorism and transnational crime;

RESOLVES TO:

Strengthen regional and international cooperation on counter-terrorism including through existing groupings and organisations, and look for opportunities to maximise efficiencies and minimise duplication of effort in the global fight against terrorism;

Emphasise the need to fully implement UN Security Council resolutions relating to terrorism and to support efforts to assist UN Member States implement their obligations;

Promote and empower public participation, including youth, women, families, religious, cultural and education leaders, and community groups, in strengthening prevention efforts against terrorism and violent extremism;

Encourage APPF Member States and international and regional organisations to enhance knowledge of and support initiatives to address the linkages between terrorism and transnational organised crime;

Promote greater information sharing between APPF Member States on counter-terrorism and transnational crime, including between operational agencies and through greater inter-parliamentary cooperation;

Support greater linkages on law enforcement and legal cooperation between countries to enable more effective policing operations and judicial processes in the pursuit of transnational criminal actors;

Emphasise the importance of well-targeted capacity building and technical assistance programs in the fight against international terrorism and transnational crime, and the value of countries proactively exchanging best practice information;

Encourage APPF Member States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and Protocols thereto, the UN Convention against Corruption, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the international drug control conventions, and encourage States Parties to implement domestically their provisions.
