ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM 27TH ANNUAL MEETING

PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN ASIA-PACIFIC

(draft resolution sponsored by the Russian Federation)

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

Recalling resolution APPF25/RES.10 "Promoting Intercultural and Interfaith Dialogue" adopted at the 25th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum in January 2017 in Fiji;

Encouraging the parliaments of the APPF Member States to join their efforts in order to counteract dissemination of the disuniting rhetoric, which can make some groups of people feel unprotected and cause expansion of extremism and terrorism;

Recognizing the need for preserving and promoting cultural pluralism as an essential element of free existence and development of various ethnic cultures within a single community;

Deeply concerned about an increasing number of incidents of violation of human rights to freedom of faith, as well as persecution of some individuals on the basis of their religious or ethnic community;

Recognizing the importance of promoting trust inside and between the societies as a critical condition for achieving progress, prosperity and better life quality;

Considering the role of parliamentary diplomacy in resolving intercultural, interfaith and interethnic conflicts;

Recognizing the importance of preserving the identity and uniqueness of every people, the need to strengthen peace and interethnic and interfaith accord in Asia-Pacific.

RESOLVES TO:

- 1. **Call upon** the parliaments of the APPF Member States to undertake national legislative measures aiming to protect and promote the identity of national, cultural, linguistic, religious or ethnic groups and their rights to living together within a single society.
- 2. **Intensify** intermediary processes at national and regional levels and **enhance** the importance of interfaith and interethnic dialog for resolving ethnic, cultural and religious conflicts and for strengthening trust among members of the intercultural society.
- 3. Enhance the parliamentary dimension of intercultural, interfaith and interethnic dialog and call upon the parliaments of the APPF Member States to support the initiative of the UN and the IPU to organize a world conference on interfaith and interethnic dialogue with the participation of Heads of State, parliamentarians and representatives of world religions, as this is stipulated in the UN General Assembly Resolution 72/278.
- 4. Assist also in organizing cross Years of Culture in Asia-Pacific countries.
- 5. **Encourage** exchange programs and ties expansion, staff training and holding of workshops for organization of cultural events between Asia-Pacific countries.
- 6. **Assist** participation of people of culture and arts in major events held in the dialog format in Asia-Pacific countries in order to establish direct contacts, improve cultural diversity and create new projects.