

# ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF)

## 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

### RESOLUTION APPF12/RES.15

#### Trafficking of Persons

*(Sponsored by United States and Thailand)*

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum;

**Recalling** the Resolution on Human Rights and the Exploitation of Children and Women, approved by acclamation at the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum in Vancouver, Canada and the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;

**Noting** that nearly 700,000 individuals, most of them women and children, are traded by criminal organizations every year for slavery, sexual and pedophilic exploitation;

**Recognizing** that victims of human trafficking are abducted as a result of force, deception or abuse of vulnerability, robbed of identity papers, and deluded as to the destination of their journey;

**Acknowledging** that the victims of the trade in human persons are often the powerless, poorest and socially marginalized members of any society;

**Reaffirming** that the trade in human persons is a grave violation of human rights as its victims are stripped of human dignity and autonomy and treated as instruments in the gain of illicit revenues;

**Observing** that trade in human persons is fueled by many factors including corruption and the demand for work abroad-often a result of poverty, underdevelopment and high unemployment;

**Realizing** that the trade of human persons is a 21st Century form of slavery and its negative implications for the global community include: national and international organized crime which threatens sustainable development and the rule of law; a rise in corruption through continuous illicit profits; increased funding for terrorist organizations; and the spread of diseases such as HIV/AIDS;

## RESOLVES TO:

1. **Underline** the importance of appropriate legislation being enacted to combat the trafficking of persons;
2. **Urge** APPF member countries to work to prevent human trafficking by implementing legal procedural safeguards and assistance, consistent with their respective legal frameworks, in order to strengthen and protect its most vulnerable citizens-women and children;
3. **Call** on APPF member countries to support educational and training programs to raise public awareness of the social, cultural and financial implications of the trade of human persons;
4. **Advocate** that APPF member countries work to ensure protection and rehabilitation for known victims of trafficking by guaranteeing privacy, information on proceedings, assistance in physical and psychological recovery, providing special management in the case of children, avoidance of immediate deportation as well as safe repatriation;
5. **Recommend** APPF member countries support educational and training programs to raise the awareness of potential victims on how they can avoid becoming ensnared in forced prostitution;
6. **Encourage** the cooperation between destination, source and transit countries to prevent, investigate, prosecute and convict the perpetrators of human trafficking through increased intelligence gathering, analysis, exchange and dissemination;
7. **Call** on developed APPF member countries to provide technical and financial aid to developing countries in capacity-building of combating human trafficking;
8. **Reiterate** support for the recommendations and suggestions contained in the APPF Resolution on Human Rights and the Exploitation of Children and Women, approved by acclamation at the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum in Vancouver, Canada.