42ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
Brunei Darussalam, 23-25 August 2021

Forging Parliamentary Cooperation in Digital Inclusion
Towards ASEAN Community 2025

(Res 42GA/2021/Pol/04)

RESOLUTION ON

PROMOTING PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY TO MOVE THE ASEAN COMMUNITY FORWARD

Sponsored by Thailand

The Forty-Second AIPA General Assembly:

Recalling the Resolution on the "Contribution of Parliaments to Enhancing the Role of the United Nations and the Strengthening of Parliaments' Involvement in Foreign Policy through the Development of Parliamentary Diplomacy and Closer Collaboration between the Executive and the Legislative," adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) during the 88th Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Stockholm, Sweden on 12 September 1992, which states clearly that parliamentary diplomacy plays an important role in strengthening the United Nations to achieve its goals;

Acknowledging the Resolution on "Promoting Parliamentary Diplomacy for Peace, Security and Prosperity in the Region and The World" adopted by the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) during its 26th Annual Meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam in 2018, which provides the crucial role of parliament at the international stage and a platform for solving issues in many aspects, including political, economic and social issues;

Recognizing the Pattaya Declaration adopted during the General Assembly of the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP) which encourages parliamentarians to implement the concept of parliamentary diplomacy by increasing their participation in international affairs as well as working more closely with their respective governments on such area;

Emphasizing the importance to promote a rule-based, people-oriented and people-centered ASEAN Community bound by fundamental principles, shared values and norms, including the implementation of ASEAN declarations and agreements at the national level, to facilitate regional integration in moving forward the ASEAN Political-Security Community envisaged in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025;

Reaffirming the aims and purposes in the AIPA Statutes to move ASEAN towards the achievement of ASEAN goals and also by establishing and maintaining exchange and dissemination of information as well as coordination, interaction and consultations with ASEAN by offering parliamentary contributions to ASEAN integration;

Realizing that since parliamentarians are representatives of the people, the development of inter-parliamentary relationship through parliamentary diplomacy can serve as a strong link for the people-centered ASEAN Community;

Recognizing challenges posed by rapidly-changing geo-strategic landscapes, emerging complex traditional and non-traditional security challenges, unprecedented and multifaceted impacts of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic;

Underlining that parliamentary diplomacy can play more roles in addressing multidimensional impacts due to the pandemic through inter-alia exchange of views on the formulation of necessary strides, which is consistent particularly with democracy and fundamental human rights;

Being convinced of the need to enhance parliamentary diplomacy to support efforts by the Governments of ASEAN Member States to move forward regional integration and Community-building amidst uncertainties and challenges, maintain ASEAN unity and centrality while enhancing ASEAN's capacity to effectively respond to emerging challenges as well as fostering a sustainable and resilient development path for the ASEAN Community.

Hereby resolves to:

Strengthen parliamentary diplomacy through all levels of AIPA activities to move the ASEAN Community forward in achieving regional peace, stability and security, dynamic and inclusive economic growth, green economy, equitable and sustainable development, human security and caring societies;

Enhance parliamentary diplomacy between AIPA and other international organizations, such as IPU, APPF and other key parliamentary counterparts;

Encourage AIPA Member Parliaments to support the promotion and the protection of democracy, rule of law and fundamental rights;

Encourage the Governments of ASEAN Member States to join actively AIPA activities in ensuring that the Interface between Leaders of AIPA Member Parliaments and ASEAN Member States on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit will focus on concrete actions in addressing issues of concern to all people, stability and development of ASEAN Member States;

Reinforce cooperation between AIPA Member Parliaments and Governments of ASEAN Member States through the AIPA framework which encompasses the AIPA General Assembly, AIPA Caucus as well as AIPA observer countries to push for the harmonization of laws, regulations or practices among member countries;

Encourage AIPA Member Parliaments to increase their efforts in addressing any issues related to laws or international agreements and promote ASEAN fundamental principles, shared values and norms as well as principles of international law governing the peaceful conduct of relations;

Instruct the AIPA Secretariat to work closely with the ASEAN Secretariat in identifying legislative impediments to the realization of the ASEAN Community especially in areas of political-security, economic and socio-cultural cooperation, to prepare agenda for the annual Interface between Leaders of AIPA Member Parliaments and ASEAN Member States.

Adopted on the Twenty Fifth Day of August Two Thousand Twenty One in Brunei Darussalam at the 42nd General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly held virtually.