



# Draft Friendship Pact of Asia

*Prepared by the Secretariat  
and  
Provisionally Approved by the Executive Council of the APA  
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## **PREAMBLE**

COGNIZANT of the deep-rooted ties of history, geography, culture, and civilization which bind their peoples together;

CONSCIOUS of the shared challenges and opportunities facing the people of Asia as well as their common interests pointing to the need for further collaboration;

BEING AWARE of the crucial role Asia plays in shaping the world future by reliance on its great human and natural resources, as well as its technological advancements;

EMPHASIZING the importance of regional arrangements for consolidation of ties among Asian countries in all fields;

ENCOURAGING various methods of dialogue and peaceful interactions among Asian cultures and civilizations fostering cultural diversity and tolerance throughout the Asian continent;

RECOGNIZING the constructive role of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in paving the way for and strengthening the amity and friendly relations among the people of Asia with reliance on commonalities of the Asian States in all areas;

CONVINCED that effective structures for cooperation among Asian countries could augment the benefits of globalization and diminish their harmful effects in Asia,

Committed to promote peace and security, at global as well as continental levels, on the bases of justice and the rule of law through expanding cooperation with all peace-loving nations within and outside Asia;

## **CHAPTER I**

### **PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES**

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#### Article 1

The term "Contracting Parties" under this Pact hereby refers to the Governments of the Asian States which are, but not limited to, the Member Parliaments of the APA.

## Article 2

The purposes of this Pact consist of the following:

- a) Promoting permanent peace, enduring friendship and constructive cooperation among States and peoples of Asia;
- b) Strengthening friendly relations among Asian States on the basis of equality and mutual respect;
- c) Facilitating further advancement and sustainable development of all Asian States in economic, social, scientific and technological fields.
- d) Exploring potential capabilities of all Asian States for expanding collaboration in all areas of common interests;

## Article 2

To achieve the aforementioned purposes, the Contracting Parties shall be guided by the following fundamental principles:

- a) Mutual respect to independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty of all states on the basis of non-interference in others internal affairs;
- b) The right of all Nations to self-determination;
- c) Respect for fundamental human rights and human dignity;
- d) Renunciation of the threat or use of force and the utilization of peaceful means in international relations;
- e) Cooperation on the basis of the rule of law.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **FRIENDSHIP & COPERATION**

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## Article 4

In pursuance of the purposes of this Pact, the Contracting Parties shall endeavor to develop and strengthen their traditional, cultural, economic and historical ties of friendship. In this respect, they shall move to

expand their diplomatic and commercial relations and facilitate communication and interaction among their peoples.

#### Article 5

Consistent with the provisions of the Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, the Contracting Parties shall undertake mutual confidence-building measures through appropriate regional arrangements in order to promote peace and stability throughout Asia and in the World.

#### Article 6

The Contracting Parties shall enhance collaboration within the United Nations to promote the role of Asia in the world community.

#### Article 7

The Contracting Parties shall uphold cooperation with APA and Parliaments in Asia, in fulfilling and achieving the purposes and principles of this Pact, and the ultimate goal of establishing an Asian Parliament.

#### Article 8

The Contracting Parties shall collaborate for the acceleration of the economic growth in Asia. To this end, they shall promote greater utilization of their capabilities in research and development, exchange of information, transfer of technology and foreign investment, towards a viable and sustainable growth.

#### Article 9

The Contracting Parties shall intensify their concerted efforts in combating illiteracy, poverty, and environmental degradation. For this purpose, they shall adopt appropriate strategies at continental and regional levels for the mutual benefit of all Asian countries.

#### Article 10

To promote and consolidate peace in Asia, the Contracting Parties shall encourage inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue among Asian civilizations.

#### Article 11

To strengthen their economic and commercial relations, the Contracting Parties shall undertake appropriate measures to create an integrated energy market in Asia.

#### Article 12

The Contracting Parties shall provide for the exchange of information and experiences pertinent to reducing damages and alleviating the trauma inflicted by natural disasters.

#### Article 13

The Contracting Parties shall collaborate in eradicating all roots of terrorism and other organized crimes in order to make a strong and secure community of nations in Asia.

#### Article 14

The Contracting Parties shall intensify their efforts through bilateral and multilateral modalities in combating all sorts of illegal trafficking including the illegal trafficking of human beings, goods, weapons, and drugs.

#### Article 15

Denouncing all sorts of aggression and foreign occupation, the Contracting Parties shall refrain from any activity in their territories that would constitute a threat or use of force against the security, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of other Parties.

#### Article 16

The Contracting Parties shall maintain regular contacts and consultations with one another on international and regional matters in order to harmonize their views, actions and policies.

**CHAPTER III**  
**PROCEDURES**

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Article 17

The signatory States shall ratify this Pact in accordance to their own constitutional procedures.

Article 18

This Pact shall enter into force on the date of the deposit of the twenty first instrument of ratification with a Government of the signatory State which will be designated as the Depository of this Pact and the instruments of ratification or accession.

Article 19

The Pact shall remain open to accession by all Asian States.

Article 20

Any modification or amendments to this Pact shall be agreed upon by the Contracting Parties and formalized in accordance with the rules of procedure of the APA.

Article 21

Any Contracting Party may withdraw from this Pact upon giving a ninety days written notification to the Depository. The Depository shall inform the other Contracting Parties within thirty days from the date of receipt of the notification.

Article 22

This Pact is drawn up in the English language. Any divergent interpretation of the text shall be settled amicably through negotiation.