



The Provisional Text of the

Friendship Pact of Asia

Drafted by the Expert Group Designated by
The Secretariat of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)
Pursuant to Article 42 of Tehran Declaration

Tehran
March 2007

Based on the strong recommendation by the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, the High Contracting Parties representing their respective Asian States have solemnly agreed to enter into this *Friendship Pact of Asia* as follows:

PREAMBLE

RECOGNIZING the constructive role of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in paving the path for amity and friendly relations among the people of Asia by relying on commonalities of the Asian Nations and States and avoiding tensions;

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

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;

CONVINCED that effective structures for cooperation among Asian countries could augment the benefits of rapid and widespread trends of globalization and diminish their harm in Asia,

WILLING 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 without Asia;

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;

CHAPTER I

PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES

Article 1

The purposes of this Pact are as follows:

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

Article 2

To achieve the aforementioned purposes, the High 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 utilizing peaceful means in international relations;
- e) Cooperation on the basis of the rule of law.

CHAPTER II

FRIENDSHIP & COOPERATION

Article 3

In pursuance of the purposes of this Pact, the High Contracting Parties shall strengthen their traditional, cultural, economic and historical friendship ties. In this respect, They shall expand their diplomatic and commercial relations and facilitate communication and interaction among their peoples.

Article 4

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

Article 5

The Contracting Parties shall collaborate in shaping a partnership in the United Nations to promote the role of Asia in the world community.

Article 6

The High Contracting Parties shall uphold cooperation among parliaments in Asia in regard of the ultimate goal of establishing an Asian Parliament.

Article 7

The High 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 know-how, and foreign investment, towards a viable and sustainable growth.

Article 8

The High 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 assistance of all Asian countries.

Article 9

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

Article 10

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

Article 11

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

Article 12

The High 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 13

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

Article 14

Denouncing all sorts of aggression and foreign occupation, the High Contracting Parties shall prevent 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 15

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

CHAPTER III

PROCEDURES

Article 16

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

Article 17

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

Article 18

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

Article 19

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