



**RESOLUTION
ON
TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

The Twenty-second General Assembly of AIPO:

Aware that trafficking in persons is an oppressive trade that is dehumanizing and a serious violation of human rights as it exploits women and children, involving recruitment through illegal channels, and the deployment of women and children with the purpose of using them for prostitution and/or sexual exploitation, and/or for work of services characterized by forced labor and slavery-like practices and needs to be eliminated;

Acknowledging that trafficking

- is a serious cross border issue with regional and global dimensions;
- involves a web of transnational organized crime syndicates as extensive as drug and arms trafficking with expanding trade networks and movements of people among countries of origin, transit and destination;

Acknowledging that trafficking

- is characterized by the use of violence and force or threat of, deprivation of freedom of movement, deceit and debt bondage, confiscation of identity papers and travel documents;

Noting that trafficking is targeted at women and children because of their unequal status in society, powerlessness, poverty and limited access to economic resources;

Concerned that young women from poor families are bought and sold like commodities and are not only subjected to systematic physical and sexual abuse and economic exploitation by the traffickers, but also suffer from great vulnerability to infection from sexually transmitted diseases including life threatening HIV/AIDS;

Realizing that present attempts to combat problem and control trafficking have not been very successful, and if left unchecked, trafficking will continue to gain momentum in the current economic and social environment of the region which places negative consequences for those trafficked and for the society as a whole;

Considering that a legal framework to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and penalize traffickers is inadequate at national and sub-regional levels and that combating trafficking requires multi-pronged strategies;

Deciding that political will, commitment of government and public participation are foremost and critical in effective suppression of trafficking;

Resolves to:

Urge all ASEAN countries to review, improve legislation and monitor the enforcement at the national levels to provide better protection of the rights of women and children;

Call upon all ASEAN countries to step up cooperation in legal assistance and extradition and other concerted measures by all relevant law enforcement authorities and institutions in particular INTERPOL, international judicial bodies with a view to dismantling national, regional and international networks in trafficking while at the same time protecting the rights of trafficked women and children;

Call upon all ASEAN countries to regulate the use of information technologies like the internet in screening out sexually explicit materials in the exploitation of women and children;

Encourage all ASEAN countries to consider instituting and strengthening coordination mechanism at sub-regional, inter-country, national and local level to prevent trafficking and provide safe and protective re-integration programs;

Encourage all ASEAN countries to take appropriate measures to address the root factors that encourage trafficking in women and children for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex including internet to eliminate trafficking in women including the design of adequate rehabilitation programs and allocation of resources to rehabilitate women rescued from trafficking where appropriate;

Encourage all ASEAN member countries to conduct public awareness campaigns about trafficking at local, national and sub-regional level to mobilize diverse groups and make strategic use of the media to provide national and international coverage of the issue, generate public opinion and pressure to stop trafficking.