



ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
29TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
19 - 24 AUGUST 2008 • SINGAPORE

Res 29GA/2008/Soc/06

**RESOLUTION ON
ESTABLISHMENT OF AIPA EXPERT WORKING GROUP
ON LEGAL COOPERATION TO
COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

The Twenty-Ninth General Assembly:

Referring to Resolution Res. 25GA/2004/Com/WAIPO/02 on the Role of Parliament in Combating Trafficking in Women and Children in the ASEAN Region adopted by the 25th AIPO General Assembly held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from 12th to 17th September, 2004 and Resolution Res. 26GA/2005/Soc/03 on Legal Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Women and Children adopted by the 26th AIPO General Assembly held in Vientiane, Lao PDR from 18th to 23rd September, 2005;

Recalling Resolution No. 27GA/06/Soc/01 on Legal Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Persons adopted by the 27th AIPO General Assembly held in Cebu City, Philippines from 10th to 15th September 2006 which resolved to establish an AIPO Expert Working Group on Legal Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Persons;

Taking into cognizance Resolution Res.28GA/2007/Pol/05 on the Harmonization of Laws to Combat Trafficking in Persons adopted by the 28th AIPA General Assembly held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 18th to 24th August 2007 which inter alia urged that the Expert Working Group on Legal Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Persons as proposed by the previous 27th AIPO General Assembly be immediately set up;



One ASEAN Vision

Noting the change in name of the institution from the ‘ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization’ or AIPO to the new name of ‘ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly’ or AIPA and hence the expert working group shall likewise be renamed as the AIPA Expert Working Group on Legal Cooperation to Combat the Trafficking in Persons;

Reasserting the seriousness and urgency of the problem of trafficking in persons in the ASEAN region and on the importance of legislators and parliaments in contributing to the prevention and prosecution of trafficking in persons and the protection of victims of trafficking;

Reiterating the need for establishing the expert working group and the need for the harmonization of AIPA legislations to combat the scourge;

Reaffirming the decision of the 27th AIPO General Assembly as contained in Resolution No. 27GA/06/Soc/01 that the expert working group shall:

1. Consist of representatives of AIPA members, special observers and other relevant parties. The expert working group is tasked with (i) assessing existing legal frameworks through common tools; (ii) developing a regional strategy on legal cooperation including information exchange and capacity building to prevent and combat trafficking in persons; and (iii) to report the above to the General Assembly. The working group will seek close cooperation with other relevant organizations active in the area such as UN agencies, other IOs and NGOs.
2. Promote the effectiveness of combating trafficking in persons through strengthening cooperation between AIPA and ASEAN.
3. Advise AIPA members, Special Observers and Observer Parliaments to:
 - a. review their legal frameworks related to trafficking in persons and develop specific legislation on trafficking in persons, based on a common understanding of what is involved in trafficking taking into consideration criteria laid down in the UN Protocol and the effective criminalization of all acts related to trafficking;
 - b. advocate, as appropriate, for their governments to accede to the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol against Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children;
 - c. monitor and oversee the implementation of laws and regulations on combating trafficking in persons;
 - d. strengthen cooperation among legislative and executive bodies at national level in promoting the effectiveness of combating trafficking in persons.

4. Call on UN agencies and international organizations to provide technical support and funds to implement AIPA cooperation activities among legislative bodies to combat trafficking in persons.

Resolves to:

Adopt the Report on the Establishment of the AIPA Expert Working Group on Legal Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Persons dated 28th July 2008;

Declare that the AIPA Expert Working Group on Legal Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Persons has been established;

Decide that the expert working group shall meet at least once in a year till such time that it has accomplished its tasks, and that Member Countries take turn on a rotational basis and in alphabetical order to host it, and that Member Countries as well as the relevant parties that would be invited to participate shall meet the traveling and accommodation costs of their representatives while the host country would be responsible for providing only the conference facilities;

Decide further that the host country must not be the host of the General Assembly;

Endorse the Members of Parliaments, representatives and officials which have been nominated by Member Countries and Special Observers as forming the initial core group;

Instruct that the outcome thereof and recommendations of the meetings be presented to the Executive Committee for the consideration and adoption of the General Assembly;

Assign the AIPA Secretariat in consultation with the Member Country hosting the Expert Working Group to invite ASEAN representative(s) and other relevant parties to participate;

Decide that the first meeting of the Expert Working Group will be held at the appropriate time, and the outcome thereof and recommendations be presented to the Executive Committee for the consideration and adoption of the 30th AIPA General Assembly.
