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RESOLUTION NO. RES. 18GA/97/P
OF THE EIGHTEENTH AIPO GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON
POLITICAL AND SECURITY MATTERS

The Eighteenth General Assembly:

Recognizing that regional security can be attained more effectively through diplomacy and cooperation to deal with challenges from outside the region rather than through power competition and military alliance;

Convinced that any form of diplomacy and cooperation is accepted as the most effective measure to create security and stability;

Further convinced that prosperity and continuous economic progress in Southeast Asia could only be guaranteed through the maintenance of security and stability;

Considers the importance of the following:

1. Regional Peace and Security

A. Situation in Southeast Asia

Believes in efforts to promote political and economic cooperation to guarantee regional peace and security;

Reiterates ASEAN's commitment to further implement the principles and objectives of ASEAN toward regional peace and security enshrined in the ASEAN Declaration of 1971 in the implementation of the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN) and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC);

Encourages ASEAN countries to guarantee security and stability in the region through consultations, dialogues, consensus building and cooperation rather than through conflict and hostility.

B. ASEAN-10

Notes the emergence of the Southeast Asian community and significant role of ASEAN's international relations;

Welcomes the establishment of the ASEAN Foundation in order to promote the awareness of ASEAN and encourages people-to people interaction among ASEAN countries;

Foresees the future when all Southeast Asian countries become members of ASEAN;

Calls for support to enhance cooperation and solidarity amongst ASEAN countries and between ASEAN and non-ASEAN countries.

C. Current Situation in Cambodia

Notes the regretful postponement of Cambodia's membership into ASEAN due to recent development that took place within the country;

Further notes the basic principle of the 1991 peace agreement that has been concluded in Paris in terms of both letter and spirit;

Support efforts taken by ASEAN in trying to contribute toward the restoration of the Cambodia's political stability and looks forward to the forthcoming free and fair general election;

Refuses any kind of foreign intervention, especially that uses leverage and economic embargo.

D. ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

Notes with satisfaction the progress of the ASEAN Regional (ARF) since its historic first meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, July 1994 and the success of the fourth ARF meeting in Subang Jaya, Malaysia, July 1997;

Notes further the active participation of the ASEAN countries as well as non-ASEAN countries in the ARF and their common interest in peace, security and prosperity in the region;

Warmly welcomes and supports the evolutionary steps from confidence building measures to preventive diplomacy;

Believes in the ARF that has already emerged as an effective consultative forum to promote endeavors in developing mutual trust amongst the participant countries;

Calls for ASEAN to actively use this forum to forge mutual trust and openness through consensual approach and dialogue on regional security and to continue its role as the driving force in the ARF.

E. South China Sea

Recognizes that there are prevailing disputes in the South China Sea, which continue to be a great sources of concern to stability and security in the region;

Reaffirm ASEAN's belief upon principles enshrined in the ASEAN Declaration on the South China Sea and its positive contribution to the alleviation of tension in the region;

Notes bilateral consultations between countries in magnifying significant regional peace and stability;

Welcomes the outcome of cooperation that has been accomplished through the ARF consultation forum;

Reaffirms its active support for the series of workshop on Managing Potential Conflict in the South China Sea sponsored by Indonesia;

Further reaffirms the ratification of the code of conduct in the South China Sea lays foundation for long-term stability and serves to promote mutual understanding amongst the claimants;

Advocates the ASEAN – People's Republic of China eminent persons meeting on law of the sea in order to discuss the South China Sea matters as well as activities conducted by relevant working groups on the South China Sea;

Underlines the necessity of holding meetings amongst ASEAN countries on the South China Sea based on the existing ASEAN's common position;

Calls on all states concerned to examine the option of declaring the South China Sea islets as demilitarized zones and to find ways and means of promoting the cooperative development protection and conservation of the resources in the area, coordination of search and rescue operation efforts towards combating piracy and armed robbery as well as collaboration in the campaign against illicit trafficking in drugs;

F. South East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ)

Warmly welcomes the entry into force of the Treaty of the South East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone on 27th March 1997;

Affirms ASEAN's view that the treaty on the South East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone is a significant basis for establishing the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN) and is an important element towards the achievement of regional peace, stability and prosperity;

Notes ASEAN's efforts in negotiations with nuclear weapon countries in the issue of nuclear weapon countries accession to the protocol of the Treaty;

Calls on nuclear countries to support ASEAN's endeavor to abide by the Treaty's protocol.

G. Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC)

Notes the desire of countries outside the region to take part in the TAC;

Notes the emergence of problems due to the absence of modalities or instruments of law for countries outside the region of Southeast Asia to associate with the TAC;

Underlines the needs of modalities or instrument of law regarding the association to the TAC for the countries outside the region.

II. Situation on International Politics

A. Asia-Pacific

Concurs that in order to achieve and maintain economic development, political cooperation is important to sustain peace and stability in the region;

Notes the role played by the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) in forming a reliable forum for the parliamentary members in the Asia-Pacific region;

Calls on all countries in the region to maintain long-standing tradition of consultation and consensus in dealing with security and political matters to achieve common strategic interests, including military, political, economic and social matters;

Calls on efforts to promote controlled and constructive patterns of relationship on the Asia-Pacific region to ensure cooperation and prosperity useful for community's peace security and development in the region as well as in the world.

B. Ban on Anti-Personnel Land Mines.

Affirms world-wide attempts toward the conclusion of a comprehensive treaty banning the use production transfer and stockpiling land mines;

Realizes that there is continuing disagreement amongst countries on the use of anti-personnel land mines and the need to intensify on-going efforts to seek a solution;

Notes the 101 signatories of the Brussels Declaration as the preliminary preparation toward an agreement on anti-personnel land mines prohibition to be ratified in Ottawa, Canada;

Further notes the large number of victims of land mines in various places in the world during and after war periods and the remaining attempts to hamper the conclusion of the process to the prohibition;

C. Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)

Believes that long-term nuclear tests by nuclear states would waste all the success achieved from the extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in May 1995 that expected to pave the way toward complete elimination of nuclear weapons;

Agrees that the CTBT is an important step toward complete nuclear disarmament;

Recognizes the needs of all countries involved to achieve the objectives stated in the Final Document of the Review Conference on the Extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty 1995;

Underlines the importance of the effective and comprehensive implementation of the NPT for the maintenance of the regional and global peace and security;

Affirms that every nuclear test conducted by any country as a violation to the spirit of the NPT and calls on the nuclear powers to exercise self-restraint regarding this matter;

Calls on nuclear weapon countries to vigorously pursue negotiations as enlightened on the Article VI of the NPT;

Regrets the unwillingness of some countries to sign the NPT;

Further regrets the sub-critical nuclear test conducted by the government of the United States of America on July 2, 1997 and the decision to pursue the next tests;

Supports the preliminary conclusion of the negotiations on CTBT in 1996 to ban all kinds of nuclear tests;

Support ASEAN in extending cooperation to nuclear weapon states in pursuant of the nuclear weapons non-proliferation policy and its monitoring mechanism in order to prevent nuclear tests and nuclear weapons proliferation;

Calls on nuclear weapon states to comply with agreements and regulations to end nuclear tests as well as to end their double standard in their nuclear politics.

D. Korean peninsula

Recognizes the 1953 Armistice Agreement to establish peace and stability in the region;

Warmly welcomes all serious efforts to re-open dialogue between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the Republic of Korea (ROK, including the four-party talks;

Affirms ASEAN's commitment to participate proactively in the struggle for world peace and prosperity;

Supports the international consortium's initiatives in the continuation of economic aids to the DPRK and in the trust building mechanism between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the Republic of Korea (ROK) to materialize a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula, which eventually may lead to negotiations between the two countries to establish peace;

Persuades the international community to enhance support and contribute to the Korean Peninsula for Energy Development Organization (KEDO);

Calls on all parties not to consider war as solution for domestic problems and threatening situations.

E. Bosnia-Herzegovina

Recognizes the Dayton peace Agreement and the General Framework of Peace Agreement in Bosnia-Herzegovina;

Notes various impediments against the implementation of the Agreement;

Underlines the importance of endeavors taken to develop and maintain an understanding that has played a significant role in establishing peace in the region up to present;

Calls on all parties to adhere to the Agreement's regulations;

Advocates efforts taken to uphold international justice and economic reconstruction in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

F. Middle East

Affirms the United Nations Resolution 242, 338 and 425 regarding a comprehensive resolution on the Middle east;

Notes the slow progress on the implementation of the peace agreements and resolutions in the Middle East's conflict settlement and of the uncertain future of Palestinians;

Strongly urges the Israel leaders to revoke their decision to make Jerusalem the capital and an integrated part of Israel and firmly believes that it would only deviate those on peaceful conflict resolution;

Further strongly urges the United States Congress to revoke their decisions to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and to remove the United States Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in the end of the year 1999;

Concerns that evolving situation is counter-productive against the Madrid and Oslo peace agreements;

Supports the idea to establish the Middle east as a zone free of nuclear weapon and other weapons of mass destruction as well as to underway an economic reconstruction as a just peaceful comprehensive and everlasting solution on the Middle East problems;

Calls on Israel to withdraw unconditionally from the occupied Arab territories as soon as possible to cease immediately the construction of the settlements to stop the use of force as well as to respect the sovereignty and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people;

Calls on the United Nations and the international community to put pressure on Israel so that the latter complies with all available international agreements that have been concluded and return to the negotiating table.