



**31st Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF31)
23-26 November 2023, Manila**

RESOLUTION ON WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP

*Sponsored by Canada, Mexico, Australia, Russian Federation, and Philippines
Co-sponsored by Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, China, and Indonesia*

We, the parliamentarians of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), gathering in Manila, Republic of the Philippines for the 31st Annual Meeting of the APPF under the theme "Resilient Partnerships for Peace, Prosperity, and Sustainability":

Recalling the adopted APPF Resolutions on gender equality, women empowerment and participation; the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 5; the 2019-2030 La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth; the Final Document of the Third Eurasian Women's Forum in 2021; and the Final Communique of the W20 Summit in 2022;

Acknowledging that women's full and equal involvement in political, economic, and public life is a human right, yet women's participation, representation, and leadership at the global, regional and national levels remain low and are not representative of the women's population;

Emphasizing that women's inclusion in all levels of decision-making and their representation in decision-making bodies is crucial to strengthening democracies, promoting sustainable and lasting peace, and promoting shared prosperity, economic development, and social cohesion in the Asia-Pacific region and the world;

Welcoming UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) adopted by the United Nations Security Council in 2000, and subsequent resolutions which acknowledge the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict on women and girls and the vital role that women's leadership and full, equal and meaningful participation play in preventing conflict;

Highlighting women's special role and competent leadership in resolving pressing global problems, and the need to create conditions for women's effective and comprehensive participation in scientific, social, political, cultural and economic life as well as in peace dialogues, to fully utilize their creative, wholistic, and empathic perspective in providing solutions to concerns on health, peace, and other global issues;

Acknowledging the need to improve national legislation to eliminate violence and discrimination against women, support women's empowerment and entrepreneurship and promote women's leadership;

Considering the priority areas of the Asia Pacific Regional Consultation on the priority themes of the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which include fostering inclusive education in the digital age, promoting women and girls' participation and leadership in STEM education and careers, and addressing all forms of gender based violence and discrimination, and the Agreed Conclusions of the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women which is focused on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the context of innovation, technological change, and education in the digital age;

Noting the need to close the digital gender gap in order to eliminate inequality between men and women in the job market, to increase the degree of their financial integration, and facilitate women's access to decision-making on relevant social, political, and economic issues;

Recognizing that women traditionally take on the primary responsibility of care and domestic work, which affects their access to education, and opportunities for work, and public life;

Drawing attention to the initiatives of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation to advance women's representation in leadership and decision-making roles, particularly in the economy;

Emphasizing the need to promote solidarity between parliamentarians in the Asia-Pacific to deal with all issues that affect women, enhancing their influence as a serious political force in Asia-Pacific and the world;

Welcoming the IPU Kigali Declaration on "Gender Equality and Gender-Responsive Parliaments as Drivers of Change for a More Resilient and Peaceful World", which included, *inter alia*, prioritizing underrepresented groups, addressing gender balance in all parliamentary leadership positions, and establishing zero-tolerance policies for violence against women, sexual harassment, and intimidation in parliaments;

Bearing in mind the role and responsibility that legislatures and legislators can play in either facilitating or impeding women's participation and leadership in political, economic and public life; and

Noting that an increase in women's representation in parliaments, leadership positions, and elected bodies, contributes significantly in the promotion of inclusivity and effectiveness of women participation in the decision-making processes that will redound to their benefit and welfare;

RESOLVE TO:

1. **Call on** parliaments to support gender equality and create conditions for women's leadership and comprehensive participation at all levels and areas of decision-making in political, economic, social, cultural life, and recognize the contributions of women as essential to democracy, peace, prosperity, and humanitarian efforts;
2. **Condemn and effectively ameliorate** violence and harassment directed against women in domestic settings, in the workplace, in society and public life, whether occurring in person or online, and **implement** policies and measures to reduce such actions and provide services to affected individuals;
3. **Consider** implementing measures including awareness campaigns, affordable childcare, networking and mentorship programs to encourage and support participation and leadership in political, economic, and public life and address institutional and practical barriers to women's full participation;
4. **Promote** gender equality at a regional and global level, through dialogue and cooperation;
5. **Support** the representation of women in national and global agenda-setting, strategic planning, and decision-making processes, enabling them to identify priorities and develop measures for socio-economic development, to ensure preparedness for global challenges including those related to healthcare, and promote gender equality on issues that affect women, their families and their communities;
6. **Urge** APPF Member Parliaments to promote women's representation in political, economic, social, and humanitarian spheres, while ensuring APPF Member Countries to strengthen policies that close gender gaps and eliminate legal, administrative and administrative barriers to women's participation;
7. **Call on** APPF Member Parliaments to facilitate women's digital inclusion by ensuring their access to digital information, resources, and skills training programs that empower women to take active part in all aspects of society through ICT and digital platforms, and scale up their opportunities for work and participation in decision-making;
8. **Promote** women's education in science and technology through internships, professional training, and admission to educational programs in order to increase women's participation in leadership and decision-making in the STEM sector;
9. **Recommend** to the APPF Member States the establishment of a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of gender equality policies, in collaboration with government agencies, women's organizations, and civil society organizations, including strengthening data collection on women's

participation in parliamentary and leadership positions, as well as labor force participation statistics, to measure the effectiveness of our actions;

10. **Implement** policies to ensure women's reintegration in the labor force, equal access to education, innovation, technology, entrepreneurship, training and professional development, promoting their income security and economic autonomy;
11. **Examine and review** existing policies with the goal of adopting measures that provide women with adequate familial and institutional support as they fulfill multiple responsibilities, and encourage men to take an active role as crucial allies and partners in achieving gender equality, including supporting women and redistributing unpaid care and domestic work;
12. **Create** enabling environments and policies that would facilitate equal partnership between men and women in domestic and working roles while recognizing the multiple burdens of women;
13. **Promote** gender mainstreaming throughout all legislative work and structures, supported by the provision of effective training for legislators and their staff about gender-based analysis, periodic collection of gender-disaggregated data at the national level and in the Asia-Pacific Region, and expanded research on the impact of gender-related issues on women and girls, particularly involving poverty, economic participation, health, education, gender-based violence and leadership;
14. **Build** gender-sensitive parliaments that adopt measures to allow elected representatives to balance family and public responsibilities – and in particular, encourage parliaments to ensure that their timetables and working methods enable elected representatives to reconcile work and family life;
15. **Urge** APPF Member Parliaments to pursue the objectives of SDG 5, consider UN Women's recommendations, take concrete steps to fulfill commitments under the Kigali Declaration, implement the conclusions of the Sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women to ensure women's participation free from violence and structural inequalities;
16. **Promote** the meaningful inclusion of women in peace processes and conflict resolution, including conflict prevention, post-conflict reconstruction, and humanitarian response, in order to enhance security, peace and sustainable development; and
17. **Encourage** nations to ratify, implement and monitor treaties, conventions and regulatory frameworks on gender equality and women empowerment.