



31st Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF31)
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RESOLUTION ON GENDER AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Sponsored by Chile, Mexico, Japan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Canada, and Thailand

Co-sponsored by Cambodia

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":

Reaffirming our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the resolutions on the Gender and Sustainable Development Goals adopted in previous APPF meetings;

Considering the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 5 on Gender Equality which propose to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, ensure their participation at all levels in decision-making positions, grant equal rights to economic resources, and promote gender equality and empowerment;

Pursuing the priority actions recommended by UN Women to accelerate fulfillment of the targets of SDG 5, such as addressing gender-based violence, securing women's leadership positions, ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health, and promoting a more equitable division of unpaid care and household work;

Recognizing that gender equality is not only a goal under the 2030 Agenda but is indispensable to the success of all SDGs, pursuant to the UN's pronouncement that global goals cannot be achieved without full and equal rights for half of the world's population;

Reiterating that gender equality is a fundamental right and a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable society;

Deeply concerned that according to post-pandemic reports, the world is not on track to achieve the 17 SDGs by 2030 and is regressing on gender equality;

Admitting that climate change can threaten achievements in gender equality as it impacts men and women unevenly;

Recognizing that women are disproportionately affected by climate change, as well as lack of access to clean water and sanitation, and can therefore lend unique perspectives on water resource management and food production, and participate in initiatives meant to reduce emissions, promote renewable energy, and build resilience to the impact of climate change; and

Reaffirming the importance of providing support to enable women to participate in decision-making and exert leadership in all areas, including political, economic, and social spheres, in order to improve low ratio of women in leadership positions;

RESOLVE TO:

1. **Urge** APPF Member Countries to create platforms to showcase successful practices that promote gender equality and gender mainstreaming around the world;
2. **Commit** to build a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable future for women and their children and ensure that policies are guided by insights for the future;
3. **Encourage** APPF Member Countries to increase women's interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields as well as to develop a framework that promote women's active participation in STEM fields;
4. **Address** data gaps on gender equality to ensure that States are on track with the SDGs, particularly SDG 5;
5. **Pursue** systematic mainstreaming of women and gender perspectives in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs;
6. **Integrate** gender perspective in laws and policies aimed at reducing poverty and eradicating hunger;
7. **Undertake** gender-responsive programs to promote food security, taking into consideration the contribution of women in food production, sustainability, and sufficiency, specifically in the context of climate change;
8. **Promote** "Gender-Responsive Climate Action" which recognizes the impact of climate change on women and girls and ensure their active participation and leadership in climate change mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction efforts, while simultaneously addressing gender-specific vulnerabilities and challenges, and prioritizing the leveraging of women's knowledge and expertise in these areas;
9. **Ensure** that water resource management, environmental protection, and peacebuilding meet the rights, needs and interests of women and girls, take their experiences into consideration, and ensure their participation and leadership;

10. **Invite** APPF Member Countries to assess and monitor the efforts towards equality and strengthening women's participation, as well as to share experiences and good practices regarding gender equality and the strengthening of women's participation among different countries;
11. **Encourage** more women leaders to play an active role in protecting women's rights in different areas of society and promoting their full participation in all initiatives towards sustainable development;
12. **Encourage** APPF Member Countries to provide support for women's acquisition of digital skills and employment, as well as to develop a labor environment ensuring flexible workstyles and stable income, considering the progress of digitalization and the increase of employment in the digital sector;
13. **Call on** all the States to sign and ratify relevant international agreements to promote and safeguard the status of women;
14. **Call upon** all APPF Member Countries to acknowledge the need to safeguard the most vulnerable individuals in high risk situations in accordance with the principles of international law; and
15. **Recognize** the imperative to afford paramount protection to women, children, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities, especially in high risk situations.