



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

---

**RESOLUTION ON HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND INCLUSIVE  
GROWTH**

*Sponsored by Russian Federation and Mexico  
Co-sponsored by Cambodia and Philippines*

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”:

***Inspired*** by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Putrajaya Vision 2040, adopted in 2020, and ASEAN resolutions which call for an open, dynamic, peaceful, and prosperous Asia-Pacific community for all peoples and future generations; for a region resilient to crises, pandemics, and other emergencies; and with a commitment to intensify inclusive human capital development, as well as economic and technical cooperation to better equip people with the skills and knowledge for sustainable development for the future;

***Reaffirming*** its commitment to establishing stronger, deeper, and mutually beneficial relations between the countries of the Asia-Pacific Region (APR) for achieving comprehensive and sustainable economic growth contributing to the creation of new jobs in the region;

***Reiterating*** the goals to create favorable conditions for improving the quality of life, and ensuring equal opportunities for all people of the Asia-Pacific states;

***Advocating*** further deepening of regional economic integration with the Asia-Pacific states in accordance with the World Trade Organization (WTO) norms and regulations;

***Considering*** the restructuring of the global economy — its transfer to a new technological basis, including through the introduction of artificial intelligence, the latest information and communication, energy, and biological advances, nanotechnology, and digitalization, as well as the challenges and consequences caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, — as it pertains to the process of human capital creation and development;

***Underlining*** that to develop an innovative economy, the states need to coordinate approaches to the development of digital economy and rules of electronic commerce

— national and international technical regulations — and create a common conceptual framework in these areas;

**Recognizing** importance of developing and implementing strategies for the creation of a favorable, inclusive, open, fair, and in accordance with WTO regulations that facilitates the use of new technologies, and enables business and entrepreneurship to flourish;

**Recalling** our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and recognizing the significant role that parliaments play in ensuring proper accountability and effective implementation of these goals and related commitments, which include poverty eradication and ensuring good health, well-being, gender equality, appropriate education and work, and economic growth, especially considering the need to overcome the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic;

**Reiterating** our willingness to contribute to the efforts of our countries and the international community in the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular, SDG 4, which enshrines the common aspiration to "ensure inclusive, equitable and quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all", accompanied by the guidelines of the Incheon Declaration for Education 2030 and its Framework for Action that reinforce this vision;

**Emphasizing** that education is a fundamental right for all, aimed at ensuring the full development of the human personality and dignity, which has been enshrined in national legislations and international instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

**Considering** relevant and effective education, teaching, and learning processes, enabling people to acquire the knowledge and skills to improve opportunities throughout their lives and being engines to underpin all dimensions of sustainable development, inclusive growth, and prosperity in societies;

**Noting** that the APEC Leaders' Declaration 2022 supports the implementation of the Putrajaya Vision 2040, including the Aotearoa Action Plan, together with ASEAN consensus to promote the role of youth in inclusive and sustainable economic growth and to foster human capital development, particularly through professional reskilling, upskilling, lifelong learning, and other type of support to help drive decent employment for all, as well as workforce participation and leadership in digital and green economies;

**Recognizing** that the COVID-19 pandemic had extremely negative consequences on the education and cognitive development of millions of children and young people, which were exacerbated by structural problems related to funding deficits, learning poverty, inequalities in the equity and quality of education, the gender gap, the fall in educational coverage, lags in digital transformation of the sector, and a regional youth

unemployment rate of 14.9% in 2022 for people between 15 and 24 years old, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO);

***Understanding*** that education must be a top priority in development agendas and that the APR has diverse educational systems, disparities between and within countries, and uneven progress that mainly impact vulnerable groups, including women, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples/ethnic groups and children in vulnerable situations; and

***Considering*** the delays in achieving the targets set out in SDG 4 and the data that predicts that, if we do not act now, by 2030, the social cost could mean that 84 million children will be out of school and 300 million children or young people in school will abandon it without knowing how to read or write, which could result in lower incomes when they reach adulthood;

#### **RESOLVE TO:**

1. **Promote** the creation of favorable conditions for sustainable development and effective competition in the APPF member states to encourage investment and create an open and fair market and in accordance with WTO regulations in the APR that takes into account the interests of all economies;
2. **Continue** strengthening the dialogue partnership based on the principles of equality, mutual benefit, and shared responsibility to promote economic growth, sustainable development, and social progress in the APR and move towards equal strategic partnership and a cooperative multilateral world order;
3. **Continue** searching for optimal schemes of multilateral cooperation, taking into account integration projects and initiatives implemented in the APR with the aim to further coordinate inclusive human capital development strategies, and synchronize efforts to implement them;
4. **Promote** the development of an open and inclusive international system in the APR that would be characterized by the efficient allocation of resources, open and safe access to goods, services, finances, and technology, including ICT as well as a fair competitive environment that serves the interests of all participants in economic relations;
5. **Urge** the APPF member states to increase mutual trade, promote free and fair practices, comprehensively deepen investment collaboration, and expand production cooperation based on the principles of equality, respect, and consideration of each other's interests;
6. **Strengthen** policies aimed at creating decent jobs for all and expanding the list of electronic services and internet resources for citizens experiencing difficulties in finding a job, including the development of balanced mechanisms

for organized recruitment and protection of foreign workers in accordance with International Labor Organization (ILO) regulations;

7. **Make** more effective use of the APPF's capabilities as a powerful platform for establishing equal and mutually respectful dialogue on issues of economic interconnectedness and integration processes in the APR, and ensuring sustainable economic growth in various areas of trade and economic cooperation, social progress, and improved living conditions of the region's citizens;
8. **Emphasize** that education complements the enjoyment and effective exercise of other human rights, being one of the means to empower people and to end the pernicious cycle of exclusion, inequality, and poverty;
9. **Invite** APPF member states to accelerate actions towards 2030 to meet SDG 4 and remedy stagnation, avoiding further setbacks in education, addressing universal access to primary and secondary education, and technical training to help this generation meet their life expectations and transform their societies;
10. **Encourage** APPF countries to consider the appropriate allocation of funding to education and the provision of social assistance with a view to meeting SDG 4 targets that can help create additional jobs;
11. **Convene** APPF member countries to rethink and rebuild education systems under a human capital development approach that allows people to accumulate knowledge, skills, and good health that can translate into greater protection and recovery capacities in the face of emerging crises such as pandemics, climate change, natural disasters, and other international or national threats;
12. **Build on** the experiences of the health and economic crisis to underpin a robust recovery and growth through the establishment of resilient, equitable, and inclusive learning and teaching systems that can ultimately foster shared values, socio-economic mobility, and a more peaceful, just, and sustainable future for the region and for all humanity;
13. **Promote** concrete actions to meet the needs of children and people under 25 years of age, in accordance with their holistic development, considering they will make up more than 90% of the workforce when they reach their full productive age in 2050;
14. **Implement** measures that address free and compulsory education, learning of basic skills, increase in the number of teachers, improvement of basic school infrastructures, digital transformation, and improvement of levels of competence in information and communication technologies (ICTs) that require universal and meaningful connectivity;
15. **Formulate** actions for the benefit of young people and persons with disabilities focused on adapted training, labor intermediation, entrepreneurship programs,

and other initiatives aimed at improving the workforce, including flexible and new forms of employment, given the urgent challenge of overcoming obstacles to access decent and productive employment;

16. **Intensify** economic and technical cooperation to strengthen the development of human capital in our countries, as well as exchange best practices on other issues related to innovation, literacy, and acquisition of skills and competencies to accelerate the digital and economic transformation in the region; and
17. **Encourage** APPF National Parliaments to make full use of their powers to ensure the allocation of adequate funding for education, monitoring of progress, as well as transparency and accountability.