



27TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF)

SIEM RIEP (CAMBODIA), 14-17 JANUARY 2019

“INCREASING CONNECTIVITY IN ASIA-PACIFIC VIA E-COMMERCE”

DRAFT RESOLUTION SPONSORED BY THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES OF CHILE

Recalling the Valparaiso Declaration, issued in the 9th Annual Meeting of the APPF, which reasserts the shared purpose of making the Asia-Pacific region in the 21st century, a region that is full of opportunity, energy and hope for the future;

Aware that we live in an ever more interconnected world where technology has become essential, modifying the way we communicate with each other, access information and do business, with an impact highlighted by the nation's and people's social and economic development;

Remembering the constant concern shown by different Asia-Pacific countries, as well as by different organizations like APEC, ASEAN or the Pacific Alliance to improve connectivity between economies and people and, in particular, in the development of digital technologies that allow exchange via e-commerce;

Recognizing that, despite advances having been made, the Asia-Pacific region still faces important challenges for connectivity, both physical and institutional and 'person-to-person', which if solved may result in a boost for the growth and prosperity of the region's countries;

Bearing in mind that Asia-Pacific is the most economically dynamic region of the world, as well as the most populous, aspects which make it a considerably sized market. A market which has experienced an explosive growth of its digital economy, including e-commerce, representing the highest percentage of this phenomenon at a global level;

Valuing the relevance of the digital economy in generating new economic opportunities and greater inclusiveness of different types of companies, and of individual persons, in access to markets and balanced prosperity, especially empowering micro, small and medium sized companies to sell their goods and services cross-borders;

Confirming with concern, however, that the effective participation of micro, small and medium sized companies in e-commerce, in the entire world and, of course in the Asia-Pacific economies, is still far from deploying all its potential due to physical connectivity issues, especially on lacking digital infrastructure, institutional connectivity, regulatory limitations and logistics and customs practices which unnecessarily complicate access to markets for these firms;

Highlighting the advances made to facilitate trade, including e-commerce, which have arisen from the Trade Facilitation Agreement that came into force in February 2017, within the framework of the multilateral trade system led by the World Trade Organization (WTO);



Valuing with satisfaction, the different regional initiatives related to connectivity and supporting e-commerce, like the *Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025*, the *APEC Connectivity Blueprint 2015-2025*, the *APEC Cross-Border E-Commerce Facilitation Framework*, and the Pacific Alliance's Digital Agenda, which has a main pillar in digital economy and facilitating e-commerce;

Recalling, in this regard, previous APPF Resolutions, in particular Resolution 12th (2014), which emphasizes support for technological innovation, digitalization, technology transfer to develop the economy of innovative growth and knowledge, Resolution 9th (2016) which aims at strengthening connectivity for economic integration and shared prosperity in the region, Resolution 8th (2017) which emphasizes promoting sustainable economic growth through the digital economy, and Resolution 3rd (2018) which proposes supporting micro, small and medium sized companies in the digital era;

HEREBY RULES:

- 1. To support** the efforts of the different regional organizations, like APEC, ASEAN and the Pacific Alliance, to promote regional connectivity and, especially, those areas that facilitate e-commerce, and to contribute towards finding synergies between the different initiatives to benefit the Asia-Pacific region as a whole;
- 2. To encourage** the consolidation of e-commerce and connectivity as a permanent area of interest for the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum in future meetings, so that this becomes an opportunity to share experiences and identify best practices for infrastructures and regulations that favor digital commercial exchange and the growing participation of micro, small and medium sized companies in this;
- 3. To lobby** APPF member states to become Part of the WTO's Commercial Facilitation Agreement, if they have not yet done so, and to adopt their own national application calendar of their commitments;
- 4. To urge** the APPF's national member parliaments to encourage their government to establish mechanisms, at a regional level, to share information and identify regulatory inconsistencies that complicate e-commerce in the Asia-Pacific region, especially for micro, small and medium sized companies;
- 5. To encourage** the creation, through multi-lateral cooperation between the region's countries, and with the support of the private sector, of a bank of best practices in key regulatory matters like digital certificates and authentication, online consumer protection, tax regulations for e-commerce, and management of customs processes for goods sold digitally, among other aspects;
- 6. To request** the competent domestic authorities, and the regional authorities of Asia-Pacific, that they encourage cooperation initiatives that look to improve the region's digital infrastructure, especially in less developed countries, with the due financing and development when pertinent technology transfer is required;
- 7. To propose** to the APPF's member States that are especially interested, that they develop a pilot plan to facilitate customs processes for e-commerce goods, installing a special lane for these products looking to speed up merchandise dispatch and release times.