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Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum
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កិច្ចប្រជុំប្រចាំឆ្នាំលើកទី ២៧
នៃវេទិកាសហការអាស៊ី-ប្រាស៊ីហ្វិក
ទីក្រុងសៀមរាប ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា
១៤-១៧ ខែ មករា ឆ្នាំ ២០១៩

APPF 27/RES/01

DRAFT RESOLUTION
ON
STRENGTHENING THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR GENDER EQUALITY
AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS FOR PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

(Proposed by Cambodia)

We, the parliamentarians of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), gathering in the historic city of Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia, for the 27th Annual Meeting of APPF under the theme **“Strengthening Parliamentary Partnership for Peace, Security and Sustainable Development”**:

Recalling the 24th, 25th and 26th APPF resolutions on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls, promoting gender equality for sustainable development and shared prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region;

Recalling international treaties enhancing the protection and promotion of women’s rights, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1979, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995; and the United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in 2000;

Aware that violence against women and girls is an obstacle to promote peace and socio-economic development at all levels;

Underlining the 2030 Agenda with the objective of “Leaving No One behind” and particularly Sustainable Development Goal 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls;

Reaffirming that gender equality is a fundamental human right and an important contribution to sustainable development and empowerment of women and girls for peace and security;

Highlighting that enabling women and girls to access political and economic decision-making processes contributes to security, peace, and sustainable development for all, and to the enhancement of social cohesion for the benefit of societies and humanity at large;

Recognizing that higher levels of education increase employment and that employment of women is a guarantee for sustainable development and inclusive growth;

Recognizing that war and conflicts disproportionately affect women and girls and continuously exclude them from participation in peace processes despite their integral role in conflict prevention, resolution, and recovery;

Expressing deep concern on the failure of the international community to protect women and girls from gender-based violence during armed conflict;

Expressing concern on the gender gap in employment resulting from adverse social norms, discriminatory practices and lack of legal protection, and the failure to solve the issues of unpaid household work and care, which also impacts on national socio-economic development in the region;

Deeply concerned by the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that many women and girls continue experiencing, especially refugee, displaced and migrant women and girls;

Emphasizing the important role of parliamentarians in strengthening the Asia-Pacific partnership for gender equality and identifying common efforts to apply and update legislation that will lead to women's empowerment, security, peace and sustainable development for women and girls;

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Urge** APPF Member Countries to commit to taking concrete measures to implement and realize the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 5;
2. **Call on** Asia-Pacific Countries to ratify, and implement treaties, conventions and regulatory frameworks relating to gender equality and women's empowerment in view of enhancing security, peace, and sustainable development;
3. **Call upon** APPF Member Countries to encourage political parties to follow the principle of gender equality, thus providing opportunities for women to participate in decision-making positions at all levels and across all sectoral bodies;
4. **Adopt** and **update** national legislation and other domestic laws to enhance female employment and reduce the gender pay-gap and other gender discrimination in the workplace;
5. **Call on** APPF Member Countries to implement programs that promote work-life balance, such as parental care and services, and reduce the burden of unpaid care on women;
6. **Remind** governments and policy makers not to overlook the urgency of stopping violence against women and girls, and to make efforts to strengthen and implement laws and policies against domestic violence;
7. **Promote** the engagement of men and boys as agents of change to achieve gender equality and as strategic partners to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls;
8. **Call on** parties involved in armed conflicts to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly preventing rape, other forms of sexual abuse, and harassment;

9. **Urge** APPF Member Countries to develop mechanisms to ensure special protection and respect the rights of refugees, displaced people, migrants and other marginalized groups;
10. **Encourage** APPF Member Countries to facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogues and support the civil society to mobilize funds with the aim of promoting women's rights and creating livelihood opportunities for women and girls in the region;
11. **Particularly entrust** women in parliament to promote of women's rights by adopting national policies and laws which ensure gender-sensitive budgets and funding for gender-based initiatives, as well as monitoring of the implementation of relevant SDGs and national action plans on women, peace and security;
12. **Urge** APPF Member Countries to join and strengthen partnerships to empower women and effectively implement gender-equality measures in their respective countries and the region.