



**43RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
20-25 NOVEMBER 2022
Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

Advancing Together for Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient ASEAN

(Res 43GA/2022/WAIPA/02)

**RESOLUTION ON
GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT FOR A
SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT COVID-19 RECOVERY**

Co-Sponsored by Cambodia and Vietnam

The Forty-third General Assembly:

Recalling the AIPA Resolution No.39GA/2019/WAIPA/02 on “Empowering Women in ASEAN to Harness the Potentials of Industrial Revolution 4.0”; the AIPA Resolution No.40GA/2019/WAIPA/01 on “Promoting Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in ASEAN”; the AIPA Resolution No.40GA/2019/WAIPA/02 on “Bridging the Gender Gap in Technology-based Disciplines”, adopted at the 40th General Assembly; the AIPA Resolution No.41GA/2020/WAIPA/01 on “Promoting the Role of Women Parliamentarians in Securing Jobs and Income for Women Workers”; and the AIPA Resolution No.42GA/2021/WAIPA/01 on “Promoting Women’s Economic Empowerment in the Future of Work and Post Pandemic Recovery Through Digital and Financial Inclusion”;

Recalling the First Virtual Meeting of Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians of AIPA (WAIPA) which was held via videoconference on 30 August 2022 hosted by the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia;

Recalling the ASEAN Member States’ commitment to promoting and implementing the equitable and effective participation of women in all fields and at various levels of political participation as enshrined in the Declaration on the Advancement of Gender Equality in ASEAN;

Recalling the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); ASEAN Human Rights Declaration; the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 5; and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 to promote equitable access to opportunities for all;

Acknowledging the Regional Framework and Action Plan on Implementing the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection, adopted in 2015, as well as the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, and the ASEAN Gender mainstreaming strategic framework 2021-2025;

Noting with concern that women and girls are disproportionately and long-termed affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery;

Recognising that women are more employed in lower-skilled and lower-paying jobs than men and that a majority of them are in vulnerable and informal sectors with limited access to benefits and social protection, placing them among the groups who have the least capacity to respond to natural and health hazards;

Noting that women spend more than four times of unpaid care and domestic work than men in the Asia-Pacific region, and that this unpaid care work is a barrier to gender equality and women's economic empowerment;

Noting that women continue to be underrepresented in high level decision-making roles in both the public and private sectors at the global, regional, and national levels;

Noting that women are underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and that the gender digital divide threatens to keep ASEAN women out of reach of many opportunities and paths to prosperity that digital technologies offer;

Recognising that women's empowerment and gender equality are prerequisites for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient COVID-19 recovery;

Acknowledging that an increase in the number of women in Parliaments improves policy and legal outcomes and promotes inclusivity, representation and effectiveness in decision-making processes;

Hereby resolves to:

Encourage AIPA Member Parliaments to increase visibility of and mainstream gender lens in the law or policy formulation process regarding COVID-19 economic recovery, including the implementation stage;

Encourage the development of a gender-responsive recovery plan to remove barriers preventing women from fully participating in political, economic and social life; which also include developing an ecosystem that responds to the needs of MSMEs and women entrepreneurs, as well as the improvement of the legal framework and social mindset that hinders women's potentials in the economy;

Encourage the AIPA Member Parliaments and AMS to adopt, develop, and strengthen laws that promote gender equality and women empowerment and other measures, including collaboration with all relevant stakeholders such as the private sector to support digital capacity for women and girls through upskilling and re-skilling programs, ensure equitable access to technology, and promote participation of women and girls in digital literacy and STEM and leadership skill program for women and girls;

Urge the AIPA Members Parliaments to play a greater role in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of gender equality policy by exercising oversight over the executive branch and push gender mainstream in law and policy development; and in coordination with national women's organizations and other relevant agencies, as appropriate;

Encourage the AIPA Member Parliaments to advocate for increasing women's participation and leadership in disaster risk management, climate change adaptation planning, and decision-making at all levels in order to build the resilience of people vulnerable to natural disasters, climate change, and pandemics;

Urge ASEAN Member States to take decisive COVID-19 recovery policy and/or other measures that encompass investment in women and girls' health and education, and prevention of all forms of gender-based violence, which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic;

Call upon the AIPA Member Parliaments to reassess and improve the existing social protection policies and mechanisms including supporting communities, participation and data preparation for analysis to address existing gender inequalities and gaps, as well as, to expand the coverage of the social protection system, family welfare protection policies and responses to family care and domestic works of women, as well as public investment in healthcare and social welfare;

Encourage all AIPA Member Parliaments to work towards ensuring a full and equal access for women and girls by promoting financial services, unpaid care and domestic work as well as digital literacy and facilitating accesses to financial planning, credits, market and information in starting and developing businesses, adopting or reviewing their financial inclusion strategies in consultation with relevant stakeholders, and consider including financial inclusion in the recovery plan; and

OP8. Encourage the increase in the number of women parliamentarians in the AIPA Member Parliaments in accordance with national law or policy, so that the voices of women and girls can be integrated into policy design for more effective implementation, and so that more women can also participate in regional forums such as AIPA.

Adopted on the Twenty Third day of November 2022 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
