



DRAFT RESOLUTION
ON
PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT IN DECISION MAKING AT ALL LEVELS

(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 Annual Meeting resolutions on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, increasing the political, economic and social participation of women and 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 (CEDAW 1979);

Also recalling the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, which established mechanisms to nominate women candidates to be appointed to senior positions and asked to collect and disseminate quantitative and qualitative data on the participation of women and men in decision-making processes;

Underlining the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals with the objective of “leaving no one behind” and in particular SDG5, which addresses the most significant challenges of achieving gender equality and empowerment for all women and girls;

Recognizing the importance of both including women in decision-making and involving men in promoting of women's economic empowerment, to eliminate of gender-based violence and advance women's political participation in all decision-making bodies;

Concerned by the low percentage of women sitting in parliaments, public administrations and the judiciary at all levels, and the obstacles to women's participation in decision-making and lack of quotas for women in parliamentary positions in the region; and

Understanding that women's participation in political and public life is necessary to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the Asia-Pacific region;

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Call** upon the parliaments of APPF Member Countries to adopt policies and laws encouraging women's participation in decision-making in all sectors as an indispensable element of peace, social welfare, prosperity and sustainable development;
2. **Call** on the APPF Member Countries to apply and implement the CEDAW Convention, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and other legal frameworks to develop mechanisms to nominate and appoint women candidates in senior posts and continue collecting and disseminating quantitative and qualitative data on women and men in decision-making at all levels;
3. **Encourage** Asia-Pacific countries to ratify, implement and monitor treaties, conventions and regulatory frameworks related to gender equality and women's empowerment to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in decision-making at all levels;
4. **Update** national laws and other legal frameworks that can promote women's access to financial and capital markets, the digital economy and education to facilitate women's involvement in the private sector, central banks and other economic bodies;
5. **Encourage** APPF Member Countries to increase the number of women in decision-making positions at national and sub-national levels and within public institutions;
6. **Call** on APPF Member Countries to implement programs that promote a work-life balance and reduce the burden of unpaid care work on women, including childcare, caring for the elderly, and domestic work;
7. **Call** on political parties in the Asia-Pacific region to revise and reform recruitment processes by removing barriers which limit women's participation and leadership;
8. **Encourage** APPF Member Countries to address and reduce barriers faced by women in deploying leadership to promote gender equality and women's empowerment at all levels;
9. **Call** on APPF Member Countries to encourage political parties to choose women for decision-making positions at all levels and the private sector to promote women to managerial and executive positions;
10. **Encourage** APPF Member Countries to adopt measures on gender equality, such as quotas for women in the socio-economic and political spheres and to enhance support mechanisms to achieve gender balances in parliaments, governments, public administrations and judiciaries at all levels;
11. **Urge** APPF Member Countries to promote women in decision-making positions in peace processes to enhance women's security, peace and sustainable development;
12. **Draw attention** to APPF member countries to include gender balance in their delegations and to facilitate the participation of both women and men.