



APPF 27/RES/07

DRAFT RESOLUTION
ON
'BUILDING STRONG INSTITUTIONS TO PROMOTE TRADE
AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH'

(Proposed by Cambodia)

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

Realizing the recent progress made by members of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum to develop and promote effective policies, law enforcement and mechanisms to foster trade and inclusive growth in the Asia Pacific region;

Recalling the Resolution on Economic and Free Trade in the Asia-Pacific Region (APPF26/RES.02) which was adopted at the 26th Annual Meeting of APPF in Hanoi and Resolution on Economic and Trade Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region (APPF25/RES.15) adopted at the 25th Annual Meeting of APPF held in Fiji in January 2017;

Recalling Resolution E/RES/2017/22 adopted by the UN Economic and Social Council on 6 July 2017, aiming to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic development through promoting local innovation and bringing together local scientific, vocational and engineering knowledge, mobilizing resources from multiple channels, improving core information and communications technology and supporting smart infrastructure, including through collaboration with and among national programs;

Deeply concerned about the failure to reach a joint declaration of APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Port Moresby in November last year;

Upholding the intention of the APEC Economic Leaders to consolidate the rules-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, and multilateral trade system for inclusive growth;

Recognizing the crucial role of strong institutions in enhancing international trade, long-run economic performance, and inclusive growth;

Recalling the previous APPF resolutions on trade and economic matters in the Asia-Pacific region, related to enhancing cooperation among member states to build strong institutions to promote trade and inclusive growth;

Noting that any regional economic integration should be open to all countries in the Asia-Pacific region;

Reaffirming the entry into force of the Trade Facilitation Agreement in February 2017, designed to complement the multilateral trading system of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which encourages parliamentarians of the Member States to play more active role in promoting its implementation;

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, especially sustainable development Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries;

Recognizing that benefits of free trade and regional economic integration are not equally distributed and reaffirming the ultimate goal of all member states to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth for all;

Considering the recent escalation of trade conflicts among big economies and the tendency to move away from the multilateral framework will affect regional growth; and

Reaffirming the crucial role of parliamentarians to adopt effective and sufficient laws and policies in response to issues related to international trade and sustainable development;

RESOLVE TO:

- 1. Encourage** APPF Members to comprehensively implement multilateral trade agreements to strengthen the participation of developing countries in trade liberalization through initiatives addressing trade restrictions;
- 2. Urge** APPF Members to exert greater efforts in promoting and further developing dialogue partnerships and cooperation based on the principles of equality, mutual benefit and shared responsibility to promote prosperity, sustainable development and social progress in the Asia-Pacific region;
- 3. Call upon** all APPF Members to continue reforming and harmonizing their policies and laws to provide business-friendly environments and to reduce customs barriers and other trade restrictions;
- 4. Enhance** institutional capability to support equitable economic development and Member States' commitment to address institutional, regulatory and policy bottlenecks to promote trade and investment, especially in less developed countries, to achieve inclusive growth for all APPF Members;
- 5. Encourage** Member States to improve legal and regulatory quality, adopt outward-looking policies, as well as enhance business environments to promote investment and trade to ensure sustained inclusive growth;
- 6. Remain** committed to fighting against any forms of protectionism to achieve our common goals of free and fair rules-based trade and investment in the region and beyond;
- 7. Call upon** countries in disputes to put an immediate end to the protectionist practices and rhetoric that retard global trade, investment, and inclusive economic prosperity;
- 8. Urge** all countries to strictly adhere to WTO agreements and rules to ensure trade liberalization for common benefit and prosperity.

- 9. Urge** Member States to engage more fully in negotiations for comprehensive free trade agreements and to continue their efforts to develop an effective mechanism for sharing relevant information and best practices for the functioning of a Free Trade Area in the Asia-Pacific;
- 10. Encourage** APPF member countries to exert greater effort in developing necessary infrastructure, including transport, telecommunications and digital infrastructure, science and technology. These are the foundation for supporting economic activities, trade, inclusive growth and development; and
- 11. Urge** all Member States to adopt and effectively implement laws, policies and necessary measures to ensure fair distribution of the benefits of economic growth and reduce income gaps and inequality to reduce income disparity and economic inequality. Rising inequality poses challenges to sustainable development, global security and international security.