



APPF 27/RES/08

DRAFT RESOLUTION
ON
PROMOTING FINANCIAL ACCESS AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM
ENTERPRISES FOR EMPLOYMENT AND PEACE

(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 previous APPF resolutions on trade and economic matters in the Asia-Pacific region, dealing with financial access and vocational training for small and medium enterprises;

Considering the importance of modernizing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to better integrate and participate in global markets through both investment in human capital (vocational training) and commercial integration in the region;

Aware of the shared and differentiated responsibilities of all countries to address global challenges through promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all and reaching The Sustainable Development Goals 8: promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;

Recognizing WTO’s World Trade Report 2016 on leveling the trading field for SMEs which propose cooperative approaches to promoting SME participation in trade;

Recalling the Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group Strategic Plan 2017-2020, Doc. No.: 2016/SOM3/SCE/003, submitted in Peru 7-8 September 2016;

Highly appreciating the results of 26 years of the dialogue partnership in the APPF area on a wide range of issues including economy, trade and sustainable development which contributed to improving relations between our countries and to stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region;

Noting that the implementation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Trade Facilitation would improve the efficiency of value chains in the Asia-Pacific region and could help facilitate the integration of SMEs in regional and global value chains;

Committed to building a more open and transparent system based on inclusive and sustainable progress where free trade can guarantee growth and human quality development; and

Understanding that SMEs face difficulties in accessing finance and capacity training programs and that skills development and financing are needed to support SMEs to be competitive, innovative, adaptable and growing sustainably;

RESOLVE TO:

1. **Suggest** Member States design, fund, implement, monitor and evaluate policies aimed at providing enhanced access to SMEs financing and skill training and embed such policies in national development plans and policies;
2. **Encourage** further strengthening of SMEs through facilitating access to finance, innovation and technology, as well as formulating policies and necessary legal frameworks conducive for SME start-ups. SMEs have been found to create more jobs, in particular for youths, which contribute to poverty alleviation, global peace, security and stability.
3. **Encourage** Member States to enhance policies and actions on financial access for supporting SMEs to create opportunities and benefits to employment and peace in the region;
4. **Further encourage** education cooperation among Member Countries including basic, higher vocational education and training, which increases employability and promote quality human resources for enhancing productivity and sustaining economic growth and development.
5. **Encourage** Member States to invest more in education and technology crucial for SMEs. Lifelong learning should also be encouraged to respond to the real skill needs of SMEs and the changing global business environment;
6. **Promote** the role of SMEs in economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region through their active participation in the multilateral trading system and other international trade mechanisms on the basis of mutual respect and inclusiveness in adherence to WTO agreements; and
7. **Strengthen** the capabilities of SMEs to reap the benefits of global trade in the age of digitalization and platformization to contribute to the promotion of digital economy.