



APPF 27/RES/09

DRAFT RESOLUTION  
ON  
ENHANCING CONNECTIVITY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC THROUGH E-COMMERCE

(Proposed by Cambodia)

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

**Considering** the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum's commitment from previous meetings to fight cybercrime, money laundering and other commercial criminal activities;

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

**Recalling** Resolution E/RES/2017/22 adopted by the UN Economic and Social Council on 6 July 2017, to encourage and support science, technology and innovation efforts leading to the development of infrastructure and policies that support the global expansion of information and communication technology infrastructure, products and services, including broadband Internet access to all people, particularly women, girls and youth, catalyzing multi-stakeholder efforts to bring 1.5 billion new Internet users online by 2020 and endeavoring to improve the affordability of such products and services;

**Affirming** Resolution APPF25/RES.08 adopted in January 2017 during the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of APPF in Fiji on promoting sustainable growth in the Asia-Pacific region through the digital economy;

**Reaffirming** Resolution APPF 25/RES.09 adopted in January 2016 during the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of APPF in Vancouver, Canada on fostering and strengthening connectivity towards closer economic collaboration and shared prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region;

**Considering** that e-commerce offers a huge opportunity for economic growth and competitiveness of nation driving new consumption trends and creating new jobs and that being important innovative, inclusive and collaborative can leverage e-commerce opportunities;

**Taking into account** that growth of e-commerce in online transactions and the increased role of consumers in individual transactions are bringing several challenges to governments and business in terms of trade facilitation, safety and security, social protection and tax;

**Acknowledging** different levels of digitalization and gaps and challenges in terms of ICT capacities for preparedness in digital economy among members;

**Aiming** to adapt, leverage and embrace e-commerce opportunities and find solutions to work collaboratively with state and non-state stakeholders to address challenges by using modern technologies to facilitate legitimate trade;

**Recognizing** that WTO members recognized in 1998 the global electronic commerce was growing and creating new opportunities for trade; and

**Continuing** to upgrade the dialogue partnership on the principles of equality, mutual benefit and common responsibility for maintaining peace and security to achieve prosperity, and economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region to move towards a strategic partnership;

**RESOLVES TO:**

1. **Recommend** Member States to formulate and integrate digital policies and laws into their country's national development agenda to harness e-commerce for inclusive growth and equitable development;
2. **Increase** our efforts to promote the digital economy and enhance regional connectivity through e-commerce activities in goods and services. Cooperation has to be strengthened and legal frameworks need to be harmonized to take full economic advantage in the age of digitalization.
3. **Suggest** Member States, especially developing country members continue to create opportunities, address threats and weaknesses in the current status of their digital economies, and use reliable data and statistics to establish evidence-based policies;
4. **Call upon** Member States to continue to promote investments in building physical and technology infrastructure to facilitate efficient flows of e-commerce activities;
5. **Urge** Member States to further develop, adopt and strengthen the implementation of policies and laws related to labor, education and skills development, innovation, fair competition, consumer protection, taxation, trade, environmental protection and energy efficiency;
6. **Encourage** Member States to develop and harmonize e-commerce-related rules, regulations, and legislation to enhance regional connectivity by promoting free flows of goods and services in the region;
7. **Encourage** Member States to adopt streamlined and simplified customs and other border formalities to strengthen security and safety, and to establish fair and efficient revenue-collection mechanisms;
8. **Urge** Member States with more experience in e-commerce to share good practices in the sector and provide capacity building and assistance in ICT development to other members to further develop their digital economies to promote inclusive growth and sustainable development; and
9. **Promote** partnerships and collaboration among key stakeholders including development partners, civil society organizations (CSOs) and private sector to address regulatory issues to unlock the development potential of e-commerce and improve effectiveness and efficiency.

