

ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF)

27TH ANNUAL MEETING

Draft Resolution Sponsored by: Canada

CONNECTIVITY AND E-COMMERCE GROWTH

Reiterating Resolution APPF23/RES-07 on Cybersecurity and Right to Privacy adopted at the 23rd Annual Meeting of the APPF, as well as other APPF resolutions on promoting improved telecommunications access and e-commerce security;

Restating Resolution APPF24/RES-10 on Fostering Innovation and Connectivity adopted at the 24th Annual Meeting of the APPF, as well as other APPF resolutions that promote improved connectivity and encourage innovation;

Recalling the Busan Declaration on the Future Role of Telecommunications / ICTs adopted at the 2014 Busan ICT Ministerial Meeting in Busan, Korea;

Considering that improved connectivity helps ensure access for more citizens to medical care, education, social applications and the digital economy;

Recognizing that an integrated, transparent, and rules-based telecommunications regulatory system can be a powerful contributor to improved telecommunications access and stability;

Acknowledging that e-commerce can encourage the participation of all groups of society in national, regional and global economic systems and be a vehicle for strong and sustainable economic growth, as well as for poverty reduction;

Considering that regional economic integration is at the core of the work undertaken by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC);

Emphasizing 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 particularly facilitate the integration of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in these value chains through e-commerce;

Welcoming the emphasis given to strengthening the participation and competitiveness of MSMEs in regional and global markets as one of the priorities of recent APEC meetings;

Convinced of the important role that parliaments play in promoting an environment that facilitates international trade and the integration of value chains, both of which contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth;

Mindful of the vital role that parliaments play in promoting regulatory environments that facilitate integrated, secure, and transparent telecommunications regimes;

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Request** that APPF Member States and APPF parliaments continue implementing actions that encourage e-commerce and universal connectivity;
2. **Call** on APPF Member States that have not already done so to ratify the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation and undertake the measures necessary to implement the Agreement;
3. **Encourage** APPF Member States to invest in telecommunications infrastructure that will help ensure universal connectivity and help bridge the urban-rural “digital divide;”
4. **Urge** APPF Member States and APPF parliaments to ensure their regulatory regimes encourage integrated, secure, and transparent telecommunications regimes;
5. **Encourage** APPF Member States and APPF parliaments to support policies that promote e-commerce adoption and help marginalized groups (i.e., women, minorities, Indigenous and differently-abled persons) to participate therein;
6. **Advocate** for the development of comprehensive and transparent data on connectivity and e-commerce by each APPF Member State;
7. **Promote** responsible e-commerce by using all tools at the disposal of APPF parliamentarians to ensure that domestic laws comply with internationally recognized standards and are enforced;
8. **Ensure** that national laws and regulations related to cybersecurity and fair commercial practices are fully and consistently respected, that they reflect international guidelines on corporate social responsibility, and are not weakened in an effort to increase trade and attract investment.