

## Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF)

### 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

#### Draft Resolution Sponsored by Australia

**Recognising that equality for all women and men in accessing education, technical training and information technology is central to sustainable development;**

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum:

**Reaffirm** commitment to working towards and achieving the *UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, and the *International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action*.

**Commit** to upholding and promoting the rights of women and girls, noting that no country has fully achieved equality and empowerment for women and girls, and that there are still significant inequalities between the opportunities and empowerment open to women and men and girls and boys;

**Draw attention** to the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that many women and girls experience, particularly women and girls with disability, indigenous women, older women, rural women and migrant women;

**Reiterate** the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a specific goal on education to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (SDG4);

**Reiterate** the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a specific goal on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls (SDG5) as well as mainstreaming gender equality across all Goals;

**Determined** to ensure that men and women have both the right and the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to leadership, decision-making at all levels, political, community and economic life;

**Commit** to advancing women's full participation in all aspects of their communities and regional economies;

**Commit** to ensuring educational support during times of crisis and emergencies in conflict affected and fragile states.

#### **RESOLVES TO:**

**Recognise** that education can promote understanding, equality and friendship among all nations and all racial, ethnic and religious groups, and furthers the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace;

**Recognise** the imperative to reduce barriers to skills development and technical and vocational education and training (TVET), starting from primary level and continuing to tertiary education, including university, and provide lifelong learning opportunities for youth and adults;

**Affirm** that all girls and boys, women and men should have equal opportunity to pursue and complete education of high quality, achieve at equal levels and enjoy equal benefits from education and training;

**Encourage** APPF Member States to take direct action to improve foundation skills such as functional numeracy, literacy and critical thinking, especially for those experiencing foundation skills gaps, as these are essential for acquiring other skills and achieving social mobility;

**Call** on APPF Member States to address and reduce the barriers women, men, girls and boys face in accessing and completing all levels of quality education;

**Welcome** the contributions to economic and social development, gender equality and women's empowerment made by civil society;

**Encourage** APPF Member States to increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship;

**Encourage** APPF Member States to promote education in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM), focusing on women and girl's participation, through a comprehensive and integrated approach given their cross-cutting nature and relevance in real-world applications;

**Encourage** APPF Member States to promote work placements, apprenticeships and scholarships for women and girls to succeed in the full range of STEAM jobs;

**Encourage** APPF Member States to enable women and men to pursue and complete tertiary studies in areas of advanced technology and in those key subjects that are driving the digital transformation.

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