



## **27th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum -APPF Women Parliamentarians Meeting- Siem Reap, Cambodia 14-17 January 2019**

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### **Proposed Agenda 1:**

The Role of Women Parliamentarians as an Agent of Peace and Economic Growth

#### **Concept Note:**

The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia would like to propose an agenda in the upcoming APPF Women Parliamentarians Meeting, The Role of Women Parliamentarians as an Agent of Peace and Economic Growth. We acknowledge that women parliamentarians can play a significant role as an agent of peace and economic growth contributing more to the current progress on gender equality and women's empowerment in Asia and the Pacific, despite the region's diversity in both its levels of development and social gaps. Research indicates that a legislator's gender has a distinct impact on policy priorities, making it critical that women are present in politics to represent the concerns of women and other marginalized citizens and help improve the responsiveness of policy-making and governance.<sup>1</sup> Women's political participation may also affect the range of policy issues that are considered as well as the types of solutions that are proposed. As women parliamentarians reach leadership positions within their political parties, the parties would be likely to prioritize issues related to health and education, which are issues that are closely related to economic growth.

When more women are elected to office, the chances of policy making that reflects the significance of economic growth particularly with regards to the welfare of families, women, ethnic and racial minorities would increase. Women parliamentarians can also play an effective role in promoting peace and economic growth agenda. This is given to parliaments overarching function as the people's representatives, and their core functions of law-making, representation, oversight and budget supervision to manage the risk of social crises, prevent violent conflict and foster conditions for sustaining peace and economic growth. Women parliamentarians would also be able to act as agents of peace and economic growth by working together transcend boundaries in peace negotiations, and push forward common agenda to protect women, girls and children as well as ensuring continued political commitment at the highest level to peace and growth in respective countries.

In support of the important role of women parliamentarians as an agent of peace and economic growth, it is also critical for APPF member states to have gender quota in parliament to ensure women's further participation and representations in society and politics through parliament. In most democratic countries, women lawmakers are often

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<sup>1</sup>Chinkin, C. (2003) "Peace Agreements as a Means for Promoting Gender Equality and Ensuring the Participation of Women." United Nations: Division for the Advancement of Women. [<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/peace2003/reports/BPChinkin.PDF>].

perceived as more honest and more responsive than their male counterparts, qualities that encourage confidence in democratic and representative institutions. In a study of 31 democratic countries, the presence of more women in legislative is positively correlated with enhanced perceptions of government legitimacy among both men and women.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Schwindt-Bayer, L.A. and W. Mishler (2005) "An integrated model of women's representation" in *The Journal of Politics*. Vol. 67, No. 2: 407-428.

**Proposed Draft Resolution:**

**ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF)  
27th ANNUAL MEETING**

**RESOLUTION APPF.../...  
THE ROLE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS AS AN AGENT OF PEACE AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH**

**The 27th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum;**

**Recalling** The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the UN's Fourth World Conference on Women;

**Recalling** the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 which underscores the importance of addressing the needs of women and girls victims of violence, ensuring women's participation in decision-making—especially in conflict-prone or conflict-affected areas—empowering women and girls, and advancing gender equality in order to achieve sustainable peace;

**Also recalling** the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), in particular the General recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations which recommends the reinforcement and support to support women's formal and informal conflict prevention efforts, as well as to ensure women's equal participation in national, regional and international organizations, as well as in informal, local or community-based processes charged with preventive diplomacy;

**Reaffirming** resolutions by previous Annual Meetings of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) on women's economic empowerment and participation in political and economic life as well as women's participation at all levels of political and public life;

**Acknowledging** Women parliamentarians significant role as an agent of peace and economic growth through the parliamentary function of law-making, representation, oversight and budget supervision in managing the risk of social crises, preventing violent conflict and fostering conditions for sustaining peace and economic growth;

**Highlighting** the importance of women's inclusion in all decision-making bodies and that their involvement strengthens the democratic process; and that Women are deeply committed to peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction and have a unique and powerful perspective to bring to the negotiating table;

**Recognizing** that women lawmakers tend to see issues more broadly as social issues and see parliament as a tool to help serve underrepresented or minority groups. Women lawmakers, therefore, have often been perceived as more sensitive to

community concerns and more responsive to constituency needs in particular with regards to peace and economy;

**Deeply concerned** to the fact that as reported by the United Nation Refugee Agency (UNHCR) where women comprise 49 per cent of the refugees worldwide, mostly as a result of conflict, and are often put at greater hardship than men in these situations based upon their gender;

**Deeply disturbed** to the fact that Rohingya women suffers the most painful impact of conflict in form of gender based violence and have endured horrifying ordeals, as well as in the condition of statelessness;

## **RESOLVES TO**

1. **Urge** APPF member states to ensure women's participation in decision making, especially in conflict-prone or conflict-affected areas, as well as enabling policy in empowering women and girls, and advancing gender equality in order to achieve sustainable peace;
2. **Call on** APPF member states to continue to support women efforts in conflict prevention and fostering economic growth through participation in national, regional or international organization, as well as in informal community-based entities;
3. **Recommend** the APPF Member States to provide support mechanisms that would allow the promotion of the advancement of women to achieve gender balance in parliament, public administration and the judiciary, to strengthen representation of women's role in peace-making efforts;
4. **Call on** APPF Member States to increase their commitment to provide women with equal access to quality education, economic resources and the judicial system, in order to support their role as agent of peace and economic growth;
5. **Encourage** APPF Member States to consider implementation of measures, as appropriate, including quota systems in parliaments to enhance women further involvement in realizing peace and sustainable development through parliament as democratic institution;
6. **Suggest** APPF Members to comply with internationally adopted instruments related to women, children and statelessness in order to ensure that every woman, girls and children refugees or those without citizenship receive their right of citizenship and adequate humanitarian protection in the time of crisis and conflicts.