

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

DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY MEXICO

**PROMOTE FINANCIAL ACCESS AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING FOR
SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES FOR EMPLOYMENT AND PEACE**

Acknowledging that small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are highly relevant due to their social and economic contributions, particularly those related to the fight against poverty, the creation of employment, the preservation of peace and the promotion of development;

Considering that one of the ways to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) is through the promotion of the development of the financial sector, with which they can mobilize more resources, manage risk and encourage the growth of the private sector;

Taking into account that one of the main obstacles that disproportionately affect small and medium enterprises is access to financing and that it is necessary to adopt measures to encourage the formalization, participation and expansion of SMEs in the field of international economy, regional and national markets, specifically through access for all to capacity-building and financial services, such as affordable credit and micro-finance;

Underscoring that small and medium enterprises (SMEs) contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for their contributions in terms of innovation, creativity and creation of decent employment for all;

Recalling that on June 27, 2017, the Day of Micro and Small and Medium Enterprises was celebrated for the first time, as established by Resolution 71/279 of the General Assembly of the United Nations (AGONU);

Endorsing the results of the 2017 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum and the 25th Meeting of APEC Economic Leaders organized in November 2017 in Da Nang, Vietnam, under the approach to regional economic integration by promoting open and free trade and investment, and focused on the multilateral trading system, with the purpose of improving regional and sub-regional development, as well as a comprehensive and inclusive regional connectivity, which increases the competitiveness and creativity of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs);

Reiterating that in the Asia-Pacific region, there are about 110 million micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that represent 98% of all companies, in addition to 70% of total exports and provide jobs to more than half of the total labor force and contribute between 20% and 50% to the GDP of each of the economies of that region;

Supporting the resolution adopted at the 26th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) regarding support for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the Digital Era;

IT IS RESOLVED TO:

1. **Urge** APPF Member States to simplify and synchronize the regulations and administrative procedures related to small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
2. **Encourage** APPF member countries to boost the competitiveness and innovation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in strategic sectors in order to contribute to local, national, regional and sectoral economic growth.
3. **Encourage** governments to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to integrate into global supply chains and increase the national content of exports in this area.
4. **Foster** the development and implementation of policies that strengthen the capabilities of SMEs in order to compete in international markets, as well as encourage the reception of foreign investment for these types of companies.