27th Annual Meeting Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum

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APPF27/RES/03

RESOLUTION ON PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN DECISION MAKING AT ALL LEVELS

(Sponsored by Cambodia)

We, the parliamentarians of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), gathering in the historic city of Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia, for the 27th Annual Meeting of APPF under the theme *"Strengthening Parliamentary Partnership for Peace, Security and Sustainable Development"*:

Recalling the 24th, 25th and 26th APPF Annual Meeting resolutions on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls to increase the political, economic and social participation of women and to promote gender equality for sustainable development and shared prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region;

Recalling international treaties enhancing the protection and promotion of women's rights, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW 1979);

Also recalling the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, which established mechanisms to nominate women candidates to be appointed to senior positions and to collect and disseminate quantitative and qualitative data on the participation of women and men in decision-making processes;

Underlining the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals with the objective of "leaving no one behind" and in particular Goal 5, which addresses the most significant challenges of achieving gender equality and empowerment for all women and girls;

Recognizing the importance of both involving women and men in the promotion of women's economic empowerment, in elimination of gender-based violence and the advancement of women's political participation in all decision-making bodies;

Concerned by the low percentage of women in parliaments, public administrations and the judiciary, and the obstacles to women's participation in decision-making in the region;

Understanding that women's participation in political and public life is necessary to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the Asia-Pacific region; and

RESOLVE TO:

- 1. **Call upon** the Parliaments of APPF Member States to adopt policies and laws encouraging women's participation in decision-making in all sectors;
- 2. **Call on** the APPF Member States to apply and implement the CEDAW Convention, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and other legal frameworks to develop mechanisms to nominate and appoint women candidates in senior posts and continue collecting and disseminating quantitative and qualitative data on women and men in decision-making at all levels;
- 3. **Encourage** Asia-Pacific countries to ratify, implement and monitor treaties, conventions and regulatory frameworks related to gender equality and women's empowerment to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in decision-making at all levels;
- 4. **Update** national laws and other legal frameworks that can promote women's access to financial and capital markets, the digital economy and education to facilitate women's involvement in the private sector, central banks and other economic bodies;
- 5. **Encourage** APPF Member States to increase the number of women in decision-making positions at national and sub-national levels and within public institutions;
- 6. **Call on** APPF Member States to implement programs that promote a work-life balance and reduce the burden of unpaid work on women, including childcare, caring for the elderly, and domestic work;
- 7. **Encourage** APPF Member States to address and reduce barriers faced by women in deploying leadership to promote gender equality and women's empowerment at all levels;
- 8. **Call on** APPF Member States to choose women for decision-making positions at all levels and the private sector to promote women to managerial and executive positions;
- 9. **Encourage** APPF Member States to adopt measures on gender equality, to enhance support mechanisms to achieve gender balances in parliaments, governments, public administrations and judiciaries at all levels;
- 10. **Urge** APPF Member States to promote women in decision-making positions in peace processes to enhance women's security, peace and sustainable development;
- 11. **Draw attention** to APPF Member States of the gender balance in their delegations and to facilitate the participation of both women and men.