



APPF27/RES/01

RESOLUTION
ON
STRENGTHENING REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT
OF WOMEN AND GIRLS FOR PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(Sponsored by Cambodia, Indonesia, Russian Federation, and Mexico)

We, the Members of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), gather in the cultural and historical 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 resolutions on gender equality and women’s empowerment to achieve shared prosperity and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region;

Recalling the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the UN Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995;

Recalling Resolution 1325 (2000) and Resolution 2242 (2015) adopted by the UN Security Council reaffirming the important role played by women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, and in the consolidation of peace;

Reaffirming the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), particularly its General Recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict-prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations;

Underscoring that the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum considers economic empowerment and the inclusion of women in the regional economy as a priority on its agenda;

Expressing concern on the failure of the international community to protect women and girls from gender-based violence during armed conflict;

Also expressing concern over the gender-gap in employment from adverse social norms, discriminatory practices and lack of legal protections, and the high-burden of unpaid care and domestic work shared by women, which also adversely impacts the socio-economic development in the region;

Expressing regret over the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination faced by women and girls, especially refugees, displaced and migrant women and girls, and the increasing number of incidents of violence, terrorist attacks and intolerance against women and girls;

Underlining the 2030 SDG Agenda with the objective of “Leaving No One behind” and particularly Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls);

Reaffirming that gender equality is a fundamental human right and an important contributor to sustainable development and peace;

Highlighting that enabling women and girls’ access to political and economic decision-making processes contributes to security, peace, and sustainable development, and to the enhancement of social cohesion;

Acknowledging the unique contribution of women to the development of inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue and promotion of the culture of peace as an essential preventive diplomacy measure;

Welcoming the efforts aimed at implementing initiatives for women’s equal engagement in economic and social activities, as well as women’s active participation in multi-lateral forums and institutions, and **also welcoming** the successful work of the 2nd Eurasian Women’s Forum held in Saint Petersburg in September 2018;

Emphasizing the important role of parliamentarians in strengthening the Asia-Pacific partnership for gender equality and identifying common efforts to apply and update relevant legislations, policies, national and regional frameworks;

Acknowledging the fact that only one in five parliamentarians in the APPF region is a woman, we are striving to achieve gender parity as per SDGs 5 by 2030;

Welcoming also the permanent status of APPF Women Parliamentarians Meeting in the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians Forum.

RESOLVE TO:

1. **Urge** APPF Member Countries to commit to taking concrete measures to implement and realize SDGs in particularly Goal 5;
2. **Call upon** APPF Member Countries to follow the principle of gender equality, internally, and through external interactions including *inter alia* ratification and implementation of treaties, conventions and regulatory frameworks relating to gender equality and women’s empowerment with the view of enhancing security, peace, and sustainable development;
3. **Call upon** APPF Member Countries to continue focusing on expansion of women’s legal, economic and social opportunities; and enhancement of social-protections of family, maternity and childhood;
4. **Adopt and update** national legislation, policies and frameworks to enhance female employment, reduce the gender pay-gap and other gender discrimination in the workplace;
5. **Urge** APPF Member Countries to develop specialised programmes to increase women’s economic activity, enhance their digital and financial literacy, and prioritise these issues in international cooperation;

6. **Call upon** APPF Member Countries to implement policies and programs that promote work-life balance, such as parental care, maternity and paternity leave, and reduce the burden of unpaid work on women;
7. **Urge** APPF Member Countries to collaborate with civil society organizations in the protection and in the provision of reparation to victims of armed conflict;
8. **Remind** APPF Member Countries of the urgency of eradicating violence against women and girls, and to strengthen and implement laws and policies against this human rights' violation;
9. **Promote** the engagement of men and boys as agents of change to achieve gender equality and as strategic partners to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls;
10. **Call on** all parties involved in armed conflicts to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape, sexual abuse, and harassment;
11. **Further** enhance women's role in inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogues,
12. **Urge** APPF Member States to develop mechanisms for protection and respect of the rights of refugees, displaced people, and migrants given that women and children are particularly vulnerable;
13. **Encourage** APPF Member States to facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogues and support civil society to mobilize funds for promoting women's rights and creating livelihood opportunities for women and girls in the region;
14. **Encourage** APPF Member States to consider implementation of measures to increase women's involvement in peace and sustainable development;
15. **Urge** APPF Member States to join and strengthen partnerships to empower women and effectively implement gender-equality measures in their respective countries and the region.