

Women Parliamentarians Meeting

WPc. Promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in decision-making at all levels

(Draft resolution sponsored by Australia)

The 28th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum:

Recalling the 25th, 26th and 27th 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)*;

Welcoming the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, which agreed an historic roadmap for the empowerment of women and girls, envisioning a world where each woman and girls can exercise her choices and freedoms and realise all her rights;

Also welcoming the 20th Anniversary of UNSCR1325 on women, peace and security, adopted by the United Nations Security Council in 2000, which acknowledged the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict on women and girls and the vital role that women's leadership and participation plays in preventing and resolving conflict;

Reaffirming our commitment to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 5, which targets the most significant challenges of achieving gender equality and empowerment for all women and girls;

Recognising the importance of involving both women and men in the promotion of women's empowerment, in the 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 private sectors, and the obstacles to women's participation in decision-making in the region; and

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.

RESOLVE TO:

1. **Call upon** the Parliaments of APPF Member Countries to adopt policies and laws encouraging women's participation in decision-making in all reasonable levels and sectors;

-
2. **Call upon** APPF Member Countries to apply and implement CEDAW 1979, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and other legal frameworks and 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 in order 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 relevant education, and can facilitate women's involvement in the private sector, central banks and other economic bodies;
 5. **Encourage** APPF Member Countries to increase the number of women in decision-making positions at national and sub-national levels and within public institutions;
 6. **Urge** APPF Member Countries to promote the meaningful inclusion of women in decision-making positions in peace processes in order to enhance security, peace and sustainable development;
 7. **Encourage** Asia-Pacific countries to improve access for women and girls to education, innovation and technology;
 8. **Call on** APPF Member Countries 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, including by redistributing this work between men and women;
 9. **Encourage** APPF Member Countries to address and reduce barriers faced by women in deploying leadership to promote gender equality and women's empowerment at all levels;
 10. **Call on** APPF Member Countries to appoint women to decision-making positions at all levels and further calls on the private sector to promote women to managerial and executive positions; and
 11. **Encourage** APPF Member Countries to adopt measures on gender equality, in order to enhance support mechanisms to achieve gender balances in parliaments, governments, public administrations and judiciaries at all levels.