

Session 2: Economic and Trade Matters

28TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF)
Canberra–Australia, 13–16 January 2020

**DRAFT RESOLUTION ON
IMPROVING PARTICIPATION IN THE DIGITAL ECONOMY
AND ENHANCING CONNECTIVITY THROUGHOUT THE REGION**

(Proposed by Australia, Co-Sponsored by Indonesia)

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

Recalling that the Hanoi Declaration issued at the 26th Annual Meeting of the APPF in 2018 highlighted that the region can leverage the opportunities presented by the digital age;

Reaffirming our commitment to resolutions adopted by the APPF which have sought to enhance the Asia-Pacific’s connectivity and participation in the digital economy, including the APPF27/RES/10 adopted in 2019 in Siem-Reap, Cambodia on Enhancing Connectivity in the Asia-Pacific through e-commerce, APPF25/RES/08 adopted in 2017 Natadola, Fiji on Promoting sustainable economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region through the digital economy and APPF24/RES/10 adopted in 2016 in Vancouver, Canada on Fostering innovation and connectivity;

Recognizing that an enabling environment and pro-investment policies is necessary for the development of digital infrastructure and to bridge digital divide in the region;

Acknowledging that digital economy requires digital inclusivity and literacy, accountability, fairness, data protection, integrated and coordinated legal frameworks on competition as well as consumer protection;

Noting that increased market concentration in digital markets has the potential to threaten the level of data protection and susceptibility of consumer to the risks arising from sharing economy

RESOLVE TO:

Encourage APPF Member States to prioritize and invest in digital infrastructure in order to unlocking growth in regional digital economy, bridging the digital divide as well as working together toward cross border infrastructure development;

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Call upon APPF Member States to provide training to eliminate the skills gap and digital illiteracy as well as maintain effort to improve teacher and student performance in STEM education and education that support innovation;

Call upon APPF Member Parliaments to urge their governments in improving digital infrastructure requires to support the improvement of digital connectivity such as Internet access, network affordability and interoperability, promote affordable and universal broadband access, and develop an enabling and competitive environment with pro-investment policies for the development of digital infrastructure;

Encourage APPF Member Parliaments to open dialogue on whether the international tax rules were sufficient to meet the demands arising from new business models;

Encourage APPF Member Parliaments to strengthen policies that aims toward enhancing consumers' access to advocacy of protection and securing consumers' rights to appropriate dispute resolution.