



28th ANNUAL ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM MEETING (APPF)

Canberra, Australia, 13-16 January 2020

"Improving participation in the digital economy and increasing connectivity throughout the region"

Resolution Proposal sponsored by the Chilean House of Representatives

XXVIII ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM:

Bearing in mind that we are experiencing unprecedented development in digital technologies which are having a substantial impact on many production and consumption patterns within the most diverse sectors of the economy as part of the deployment of the digital economy, and whose impact on productivity, competitiveness and prosperity is undeniable;

Considering, in this sense, that the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda contains, among its goals, achieving the highest levels of productivity through diversification, technological modernization and innovation, as well as the significant increase of access to information and communications technologies, aspiring to provide universal affordable access to the Internet in less developed countries by 2020, and developing reliable, sustainable, resilient and quality infrastructures, including regional and trans-border infrastructures, to support economic development and human wellbeing, placing special emphasis on affordable and equal access for all;

Aware that we live in an increasingly interconnected world, where technology has become essential, modifying the way we communicate with each other, how we access information and do business, with a stand out impact for the nation's and people's social and economic development;

Valuing that Asia-Pacific is the most economically dynamic region of the world, as well as the most populous, aspects which make it a considerably large market, that has experienced an explosive growth of its digital economy, being at the cutting edge in the development of this phenomenon around the world;

Recalling the constant concern shown by different Asia-Pacific countries, as well as by different organizations like APEC, ASEAN or the Pacific Alliance to improve connectivity between economies and people and, in particular, to develop digital technologies that allow the growing participation of their different sized companies in the digital economy;

Recognizing that, despite advances having been made, the Asia-Pacific region still faces important connectivity challenges, that are physical, institutional as well as 'person-to-person', which, if solved, may result in a boost for the growth and prosperity of the region's countries;

Convinced that new technologies can be decisive motors for innovation and for the generation of prosperity in the region's economies, creating new business opportunities for companies, especially small and medium sized ones, with the goal of leaving nobody behind;

Verifying with concern, however, that the effective participation of micro, small and medium sized companies in the digital economy, in the entire world and, without a doubt, in the Asia-Pacific economies, is far from reaching its full potential due to problems of physical connectivity, especially in shortfalls in digital infrastructures, in institutional connectivity, caused by regulatory



limitations as well as a continued significant digital gap, reducing the possibility of access and full inclusion of all the region's people in economic and social benefits;

Highlighting the boost given by APEC's Leaders, during the meeting held in November 2019 in Chile, for the implementation of the *APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap* together with the *APEC Action Agenda for the Digital Economy*, to foster the exchange of technology and policies, and the joint work to take advantage of the digital economy opportunities and close the digital gap in and between the region's countries;

Likewise **valuing with satisfaction**, the different regional initiatives related to connectivity and the boost for e-commerce, like the *Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025*, the *APEC Connectivity Blueprint 2015-2025*, the *APEC Cross-Border E-Commerce Facilitation Framework*, and the Pacific Alliance's Digital Agenda, which has a main role in digital economy and facilitating e-commerce;

Recalling the reiterated commitment of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum to promote the prosperity of the region's countries, and in particular the Declaration of Valparaiso 2001 that restates the shared purpose of making the Asia-Pacific region in the 21st century, a space filled with opportunities, energy and hope for the future;

Considering, in this regard, previous APPF Resolutions, in particular Resolution 12 (2014), which emphasizes support for technological innovation, digitalization, technology transfer to develop the knowledge economy and innovative growth, Resolution 9 (2016) that aims at strengthening connectivity for economic integration and shared prosperity in the region, Resolution 8 (2017) which emphasizes promoting sustainable economic growth through the digital economy, and Resolution 3 (2018) which proposes supporting micro, small and medium sized companies in the digital era and Resolution 9 (2019) which suggests increasing connectivity in the region through e-commerce;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED TO:

1. Drive the development of the digital economy and the consolidation of connectivity as matters of permanent interest of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum in future meetings, so that it is an opportunity to share experiences and identify best practices in technology infrastructure, training advanced human capital in the digital world, productive and social innovation projects associated to digital tools, and regulatory frameworks for the development of the digital economy;

2. Encourage APPF member countries to invest in quality education to develop skills and competences for the digital era, and to cooperate in the implementation of projects that contribute to APEC's agenda to train human resources for the digital economy, helping reduce the digital gap and preparing people to adapt to the future workplace;

3. Support the efforts of the different regional organizations, like APEC, ASEAN and the Pacific Alliance, to promote regional connectivity and, especially, with the purpose of having an open, safe, efficient, accessible and resilient infrastructure which supports a dynamic digital economy, and contributes to finding synergies between different projects for the joint benefit of the Asia-Pacific region;

4. Urge APPF Member States to develop their information and communications technology infrastructure with a clear commitment to reduce the digital gap, guaranteeing extended, affordable, universal access to quality broadband, which is essential for the development of digital economy, and cooperating in the promotion of interoperability throughout the entire region;

5. Request the competent national authorities, and the Asia-Pacific regional authorities, to encourage cooperation initiatives that look to improve the region's digital infrastructure, especially in less developed countries, with proper financing and promoting, when necessary, the transfer of



relevant technology;

6. Urge APPF member parliaments to encourage their governments to set up regional mechanisms to share information and promote mutual understanding in the region, achieving greater coherence and cooperation in regulatory approaches and technical standards to facilitate the growth and integration of the digital economy in the Asia-Pacific area;

7. Encourage the creation, through multilateral cooperation between the region's countries, and with the association of the private sector, of a best practices bank in incentives and measures to improve the inclusion of social groups and less developed regions in the development of a digital economy, reducing the gaps and providing better opportunities to deploy all their potential through the effective access and use of digital technologies;

8. Propose to the APPF Members States that are especially interested that they develop a public-private collaboration project to exchange the best practices in production transformation based on the investment in digital innovative technologies, and develop the preparation of facilitating normative frameworks and pilot innovation projects for products, services and processes connected to the digital economy.