

APPF Women Parliamentarians Meeting

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

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

(Proposed by Australia, Co-Sponsored by Indonesia)

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

Bearing in mind that the recognition to equal participation between men and women in all decision-making processes have long been emphasized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 1953 Convention on the Political Rights of Women, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);

Taking into account the 135th IPU Resolution on “The Freedom of Women to Participate in Political Processes Fully, Safely, and without Interference: Building Partnership between Men and Women to Achieve this Objective” which noted that impediments to hinder women to participate in decision making processes are male-dominated political culture, negative culture attitudes and stereo types regarding the role of women, and lack of support from society which also includes lack of finances and resources;

Referring to the findings about gender gap in 2018 World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Index Report, the largest gender disparity currently is on Political Empowerment (77,1%), followed by Economic Participation and Opportunity (41,9%), Health and Survival (4,6%), and Educational Attainment (4,4%);

Recalling the 24th, 25th, 26th, and 27th APPF Annual Meeting Resolutions on gender equality and women empowerment as the efforts to ensure women's participation at all levels of political and public life which further aimed to promote sustainable development and shared prosperity in the Asia Pacific region;

Underscoring our commitment on the attainment of the 2030 Goals, more specifically Goal 5 on Gender Equality which focuses on women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leaderships at all levels of decision making in political, economic, and public life;

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Emphasizing on **Bali Declaration** adopted in the World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development 2017 in Bali, that the respect for all human rights, including gender equality and women empowerment, are among the main prerequisites in ensuring the full and timely achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

Recognizing the importance of capacity building through integrated data and statistics for evidence-based policies and programs to achieve gender equality and women empowerment in the Asia Pacific such as the tool initiated by the UNESCAP through UNESCAP Gender Policy-Data Integration Initiative which focuses on supporting national effort to compile a comprehensive data and statistics related to women and gender equality as the inputs for future policy recommendations

RESOLVE TO:

1. **Urge** the Parliaments of APPF Member Countries to ensure that the national laws and the rules and practices of the government authorities comply with international law and other obligations encouraging women's participation in decision-making in all levels and sectors,
2. **Encourage** Parliaments of APPF Member Countries to consider compiling an updated and comprehensive data and statistics on gender equality and women empowerment at the national levels in order better generate insights for policy recommendations,
3. **Also encourage** Asia-Pacific countries to improve access for women and girls to education, innovation and technology; and incorporating a gender equality perspective into all civic education activities,
4. **Strongly urge** Parliaments of APPF Member Countries to turn promises into action in meeting the target of *no one left behind* in 2030 and to ensure that women enjoy a just, equitable, tolerant, open, and socially inclusive world, as part of the commitment on Sustainable Development Goals,
5. **Call upon Parliaments** of APPF Member Countries to enhance cooperation with civil society organization, especially those concerned with gender equality and women empowerment, as part of the monitoring and evaluation efforts on ensuring women's leaderships in a society,
6. **Encourage** APPF Member Countries to increase the number of women in decision-making positions at national and sub-national levels and within public institutions and ensure there is an equal number of women and men in all policy areas and government bodies,

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7. *Urge* APPF Member Countries to promote women's leadership through capacity building programs which target young women, and engage young women into the networking in politics, social, business, and other sectors, designed to prepare them to be the future leaders.