

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

DRAFT RESOLUTION SPONSORED BY MEXICO

**IMPROVING WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESS TO EDUCATION,
INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

Considering that Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) on inclusive, equitable and quality education, includes among its goals, ensuring that girls and boys have access to care and development services in early infancy and preschool education, and ensure equal access for all men and women to quality technical, professional and higher education, including university education;

Acknowledging that one in every 4 girls does not attend school in developed countries, and that 103 million young people in the world lack basic literacy skills, and more than 60% of them are women;

Considering Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) on Gender Equality and the empowerment of women and girls, which among one of its goals seeks to improve the use of information and communication technologies to promote the empowerment of women;

Concerned about the gap between women and men in the access and use of the Internet, since there is only gender equality in the use of the Internet in approximately a quarter of the countries;

Emphasizing the benefits access to the Internet and the use of information and communication technologies brings to women and girls, such as the creation of new companies, selling products, finding better paid jobs, accessing education and health services, and having access to financial services;

Recognizing the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in encouraging a new generation of women in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, where they are still underrepresented;

Recalling that February 11 of each year marks the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2015, and which aims to achieve access and equitable participation of women and girls in science;

Recalling also the theme of International Women's Day (March 2019), entitled "Let's think about equality, let's build intelligently, innovate for change", which reflected on how innovation can eliminate barriers and move towards gender

equality, encourage investment in gender-sensitive social systems and build services and infrastructure that meet the needs of women and girls;

Considering the *Principles for the Empowerment of Women* (2010) by UN Women that provide companies with guidance on how to empower women in the workplace, the market and the community;

Taking into account the *Principles and Actions to encourage women participation in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics* (2019) of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC);

Underlining Resolution APPF27/RES/02 on Ensuring Inclusive Access to Education, Technical Training and Information Technology for Peace and Sustainable Development, adopted at the 27th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum, resolving to reduce the barriers to education, technical and professional training, the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics for women and men, from the basic level to higher education;

Bearing in mind the data of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which indicates that 29% of those engaged in research and development of science are women, with 19% in South and West Asia, and 48% in Central Asia.

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Encourage** APPF Member States to follow up on Sustainable Development Goal 4 and 5, in order to guarantee access to education for women and girls and achieve gender equality;
2. **Encourage** APPF Member States to establish measures that guarantee the access of women and girls to the Internet so that they have tools that allow them to develop their careers and employment;
3. **Request** APPF Member States to consolidate efforts together with companies to encourage the participation of women in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics;
4. **Encourage** the Parliaments of APPF Member States to increase budgets for the education and training of women in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics;
5. **Encourage** the Parliaments of APPF Member States to commemorate the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, every February 11.