

**ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF)
25TH ANNUAL MEETING**

RESOLUTION APPF25/RES.03

**COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC MATTERS ASIA-PACIFIC
ECONOMIC COOPERATION FORUM (APEC 2016)**

(Sponsored by Chile)

The 25th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum;

Noting that the 25th Leaders' Declaration of the 2016 Asia-Pacific Economic Forum (APEC) stipulates new guidelines to build sustainable and constructive economies;

Reiterating our commitment to implement the Beijing Road Map for APEC's contribution to the realisation of the free trade area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP);

Noting that the Belt and Road Initiative by China is conducive to promoting trans-regional and regional connectivity;

Acknowledging that all efforts and initiatives implemented in the Asia-Pacific region must remain focused on improving the living standards of its people;

Recognising that regional economic integration and cooperation are strategies that will facilitate the development of commercial structures that will enable more balanced, inclusive and sustainable development;

Considering the importance of modernising the Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) to obtain better integration and participation in global markets through both investment in human capital and commercial integration in the region;

Underlining the economic weight of the Asia-Pacific region which comprises one third of the world's population, the 59% of the globe's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and half of all world trade;

Conscious of the fact that commercial barriers have been reduced in the region on an average of 17% in 1989 to 5.2% in 2012 causing a seven-fold increase in inter-regional trade; and

Committed to building a more open and transparent system based on inclusive and sustainable progress where free trade can guarantee growth and human quality development;

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Promote** investment and free trade to boost economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region through support for the multilateral trade system and the fight against protectionism which inhibits recovery and progress of the international economy;
2. **Call** for effective economic, financial and social inclusion of women, the elderly and youth as well as the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups such as Indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities;
3. **Foster** closer partnership among APPF Member States featuring mutual respect and trust, inclusiveness and cooperation in implementing our commitments to achieving regional goals;
4. **Motivate** APPF Member States to improve regulations related to food safety and preserving natural resources by taking steps to further promote sustainable agriculture, food, and value chains;
5. **Strengthen** dialogue and cooperation mechanisms among governments and parliaments that facilitate the reduction of trade barriers in the Asia-Pacific region;
6. **Enhance** Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) as a support tool for cooperation and convergence areas related to electronic commerce, agriculture, environment, and modernisation of MSMEs, amongst others;
7. **Facilitate** a greater connectivity in the Asia-Pacific region as a source of economic growth fostering inclusive and interconnected development amongst its people and their governments; and
8. **Encourage** APPF Member States to continue exploring infrastructure financing, especially through mobilising private sector resources and public-private partnerships.