

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

RESOLUTION APPF25/RES.15

**ECONOMIC AND TRADE COOPERATION IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC
REGION**

(Sponsored by Russia, Japan, Korea and Mexico)

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

Taking into account the resolution APPF24/RES.17: “Economy, Trade and Regional Value Chains” adopted at the 24th APPF Annual Meeting in Vancouver in January 2016;

Welcoming the results achieved by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in 2016 in guiding developments in each of the four areas of strengthening economic relations in the Asia-Pacific region and supporting the recommendations contained in the Declaration “Quality Growth and Human Development” adopted by the APEC Leaders in Lima on November 21, 2016;

Welcoming the results of the G20 Summit in Hangzhou in September 2016, first of all, the determination of the participants to promote economic and employment growth and the Action Plan adopted for these purposes;

Highly appreciating the results of 25 years of the dialogue partnership in the APPF area on a wide range of issues including economy, trade and sustainable development which contributed to improving relations between our countries and to stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region;

Emphasising that vigorous international trade, investment activity and economic integration are key to robust, sustainable and balanced growth;

Confirming protectionist measures in trade and investment may negatively influence the world economy, at a time of heightened tensions and significant downside risks for the global economy;

Noting that the remaining risks and uncertainties in the global economy including insufficient demand growth rate, financial volatility and structural problems, fall in primary goods prices, deepening inequalities, aggravating employment challenges, and slowing down of the international trade expansion rate aggravate the state of the global economy and the prospects for its development;

Recognising that women’s economic empowerment is a way not only to reduce poverty but also enhance gender equity as it contributes to a stronger economic growth which

contributes to poverty reduction and enforcement in an effective way and that in this sense trade is a way to achieve such empowerment;

Noting that unhindered access to integrated participation in economic activities for all social groups, i.e. young people, people with limited abilities, indigenous people, low income people, as well as to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) is an important and comprehensive growth factor;

Reiterating the primacy and the leading role of the multilateral trade system under the auspices of the World Trade Organisation (WTO); and

Continuing to upgrade the dialogue partnership on the basis of the principles of equality, mutual benefit and common responsibility for maintaining peace and security to achieve prosperity, and economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region for the sake of moving to strategic partnership;

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Reaffirm** that the main objectives of regional economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region are balanced, comprehensive, sustainable, innovative and safe growth, enhancement of a regional food market, modernisation of MSMEs, and development of human capital;
2. **Affirm** the importance and the primacy of the universal, rules-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, open and fair multilateral trade system based on the WTO principles;
3. **Promote** the regular exchange of views and best practices amongst interested parties on the issues of the legal base of trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region including the matters of mutual trade agreements;
4. **Support** opportunities for interaction between parliament of APPF Member States and business communities, inter alia, through business, trade and investment forums, conferences, seminars and round tables bearing in mind increasing the awareness of the business community of the opportunities and benefits of doing business in the region;
5. **Promote** actively investments in human capital and contribute to the establishment of conditions for unhindered access of the population of the Asia-Pacific region to economic activities;
6. **Commit** to strengthen efforts to support a gender equality perspective and the empowerment of women in parliaments of the APPF Member States, and call on the APPF's members to promote measures that encourage women's professional development in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as to strengthen the access of women and girls to education;
7. **Render** legislative support to the development of balanced economies in the Asia-Pacific region to become capable of withstanding emergencies and shocks;

8. **Affirm** the importance of attracting private investment for regional infrastructure development, as well as for public and private partnerships intensification for these purposes;
9. **Contribute** to the establishment of a favourable innovative climate and to promoting employment and economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region through enhanced intellectual property protection legislation and enforcement, thus stimulating creativity and innovation as well as intellectual property management and non-discriminatory business environments;
10. **Affirm** the determination to comprehensively and consistently promote the process towards implementation of the concept of the Free Trade Area of Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) as the key instrument for a more profound economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region and as a comprehensive agreement on free trade based on all existing integration initiatives;
11. **Reaffirm** the importance of realising Free Trade Agreements (FTA) in the Asia-Pacific region;
12. **Agree** to reverse protectionist measures that disrupt trade, stop progress and limit the international economic recovery;
13. **Call upon** parliaments and governments of APPF Member States to continue working to establish guarantees that bilateral, multilateral and regional trade agreements are transparent, inclusive, conforming to the WTO regulations and favourable to the goals of multilateral trade systems; and
14. **Continue** monitoring the implementation of measures set out in the present resolution for the benefit of creating a seamless regional economy.