

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

RESOLUTION APPF25/.21

**GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND
GIRLS: INCREASING THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN**

(Sponsored by Australia, Indonesia, Mexico, Fiji, Canada and New Zealand)

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

Recalling the 24th APPF Annual Meeting Resolution APPF24/RES.22 on Ensuring Women's Participation at All Levels of Political and Public Life;

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that everyone has the right to take part in the government of his or her country directly or through freely chosen representatives, and also has the right to equal access to public service;

Recalling also Article 7 and Article 8 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) that affirm the commitment of State parties to ensure equality between women and men in political and public life and equal opportunities between men and women to represent their governments at the international level and to participate in the work of international organisations;

Reaffirming our commitment to achieve the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly SDG 5 – Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls;

Acknowledging that, according to the United Nations, women represent an average of 50.2% of the total population of the APPF member countries, that approximately 47% of women over the age of 15 have been victims of violence from their partners, and that around 600 million women in the APPF region take part in the labour force and more than 60% work in the private sector;

Highlighting the importance of women's inclusion in all decision-making bodies and that their involvement strengthens the democratic process; and

Recognising the vital contribution of women to economic and social development, the importance of removing barriers, and integrating women in their economies to promote gender equality and empowerment;

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Urge** APPF Member States to use SDG 5 of the UN Sustainable Development Agenda as a guideline in adjusting, aligning and monitoring their legal and regulatory frameworks;

2. **Call on** APPF Member States to increase their commitment to provide women with equal access to quality education, economic resources and the judicial system;
3. **Encourage** APPF Member States to consider implementation of measures, as appropriate, including quota systems, family-friendly parliaments and enhancing support mechanisms that promote the advancement of women to achieve gender balance in parliament, public administration and the judiciary;
4. **Recommend** APPF Member States and all political parties devote particular attention to abolishing practices, procedures and legislation, including regulations, that restrict or discourage women's political participation, or perpetuate and condone violence against women in public life;
5. **Commit** to engaging with men and boys to champion and support the changes and measures needed for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;
6. **Call on** APPF Member States to implement programmes including social transfers and pensions to enable women who undertake unpaid work such as childcare, caring for the elderly and people with disabilities, and housework, to enable them to participate fully and equally in political activities and processes as well as the economy;
7. **Urge** the parliaments of APPF Member States to adopt evidence-based public policies relating to women's advancement;
8. **Encourage** future host parliaments of the Annual Meeting of the APPF to include the Meeting of the Women Parliamentarians as an agenda item; and
9. **Encourage** APPF Member States to include women in their delegations and to ensure that gender perspectives are reflected in the work of and resolutions adopted by the APPF Annual Meeting.