



RESOLUTION  
ON  
ENHANCING CONNECTIVITY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC THROUGH E-COMMERCE

(Sponsored by Australia, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Indonesia, and Japan)

We, the parliamentarians of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), gathering in the historic city of Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia, for the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of APPF under the theme “Strengthening Parliamentary Partnership for Peace, Security and Sustainable Development”:

**Highly appreciating** the results of 26 years of the APPF dialogue and partnership on a wide range of issues including the economy, trade and sustainable development, which contribute to improving relations among our countries and to the stability and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region;

**Recalling** the Valparaiso Declaration, issued by the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the APPF, which reasserted the shared purpose of making the Asia-Pacific in the 21<sup>st</sup> century a region full of opportunity, energy and hope for the future;

**Considering** Resolution APPF25/RES.08 adopted in Natadola on promoting sustainable and inclusive growth in the Asia-Pacific region through the digital economy, Resolution APPF24/RES.10 adopted in Vancouver on Fostering Innovation and Connectivity, Resolution APPF23/RES.07 adopted in Quito on Cybersecurity and Right to Privacy, and other APPF resolutions and commitments on e-commerce;

**Recalling** the UN Economic and Social Council Resolution E/RES/2017/22 adopted on 6 July 2017, encouraging and supporting science, technology and innovation efforts leading to the development of infrastructure and policies that support the global expansion of information and communication technology infrastructure, products and services, including broadband internet access to all people, particularly women and youth, catalysing multi-stakeholder efforts to bring 1.5 billion new internet users online by 2020, and endeavouring to improve the affordability of such products and services;

**Valuing with satisfaction** the different regional initiatives related to connectivity, and supporting e-commerce, including the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025, the APEC Connectivity Blueprint 2015-2025, the APEC Cross-Border E-Commerce Facilitation Framework, the Pacific Alliance's Digital Agenda, and the Belt and Road Digital Economy International Cooperation Initiative;

**Recognising** that an integrated, transparent, and rules-based telecommunications regulatory system can be a powerful contributor to improved digital Access, and to economic and social stability;

**Valuing** the relevance of the digital economy in generating new economic opportunities and greater inclusiveness of different types of enterprises and individual persons in access to markets and balanced prosperity;

**Taking** into account that the growth of e-commerce presents significant challenges to governments and businesses, and acknowledging different levels of digitalisation and capacities for preparedness to participate in the digital economy among members;

**Aiming** to continue the dialogue and partnership based on the principles of equality, mutual benefit and common responsibility for maintaining peace and security to achieve prosperity and inclusive growth in the Asia-Pacific region;

**Considering** that improved connectivity helps ensure access for more citizens to medical care, education, and social applications, while also recognising that the digital economy may have an adverse impact on society, especially children; and

**Mindful** of the important role that parliaments play in promoting an environment that facilitates international trade and the integration of value chains, and integrated, secure, and transparent telecommunication regimes; each of which contributes to sustainable and inclusive growth.

#### **RESOLVE TO:**

1. **Recommend** Member States to formulate and integrate digital policies and laws into their country's national development agenda to harness e-commerce for inclusive growth, balanced prosperity and sustainable development;
2. **Support** the efforts of different regional organisations, such as APEC, ASEAN, the Pacific Alliance and Belt and Road Initiative, to promote regional connectivity especially in areas that facilitate e-commerce and to contribute towards finding synergies between the different initiatives to benefit the Asia-Pacific region as a whole;
3. **Strengthen** cooperation and harmonise legal frameworks, in particular e-commerce-related legislation, rules and regulations in order to take full advantage of the age of digitalisation and facilitate a free flow of goods and services in the region;
4. **Ensure** that national laws and regulations related to cybersecurity, fair commercial practices and the protection of personal data are fully and consistently upheld and respected, and that they reflect international guidelines;
5. **Encourage** Member States to invest in telecommunications infrastructure to help bridge the "digital divide" both within and among countries to facilitate e-commerce;
6. **Encourage** Member States to strengthen their respective digital capacities;
7. **Urge** Member States with more experiences in e-commerce to share good practices in the sector and provide assistance to other members to further develop their digital economies; and
8. **Promote** partnership and collaboration among key stakeholders including governments, development partners, civil society and the private sector to unlock the full potential of e-commerce both within and among Member States.