

APPF28/RES/06

RESOLUTION ON IMPROVING ACCESS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS TO EDUCATION, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

(Sponsored by Australia)

We the parliamentarians of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), gathering in Canberra, Australia, for the 28th Annual Meeting of the APPF under the theme *Parliamentary Partnerships for 2020 and Beyond*:

Recognising that improving access for women and girls to education, innovation and technology is important to achieving sustainable development (SDG4);

Reaffirming commitment to working towards and achieving the *United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, and the *International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action*;

Committing to upholding and promoting the rights of women and girls, noting that no country has fully achieved gender equality and empowerment for women and girls, and that there are still significant inequalities between the opportunities and empowerment open to women and men and girls and boys;

Drawing attention to the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that many women and girls experience;

Reiterate the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a specific goal to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (SDG4);

Reiterate the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a specific goal to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (SDG5) and **underline** the importance of mainstreaming gender equality across all Goals;

Determined to ensure that women have both the right and the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to leadership and decision-making at all levels of political, community and economic life;

Commit to advancing women's full participation in all aspects of their communities and economies; and

Commit to ensuring educational support during times of crisis and emergencies in conflict-affected and fragile states.

RESOLVE TO:

1. **Recognise** that education can promote understanding, equality and friendship among all nations and all racial, ethnic and religious groups, and furthers the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace;
2. **Recognise** the imperative to reduce barriers to accessing quality education, innovation and technology, starting from early learning and continuing to tertiary education, including university, and provide lifelong learning opportunities for women and girls;
3. **Affirm** that all girls and boys, women and men should have equal opportunity to pursue, complete and enjoy the benefits of high quality education and training;
4. **Encourage** APPF Member Countries to take direct action to improve foundation skills such as functional numeracy, literacy, and critical thinking, especially for those experiencing foundation skills gaps, as these are essential for acquiring other skills and achieving economic participation and social mobility;
5. **Call** on APPF Member Countries to address and eliminate the barriers that women, men, girls and boys face in accessing and completing all levels of quality education;
6. **Welcome** the contributions to economic and social development, gender equality and women's empowerment made by civil society;
7. **Encourage** APPF Member Countries to increase the number of women and girls who have access to quality education, innovation and technology;
8. **Encourage** APPF Member Countries to promote education in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM), focusing on women's and girls' participation, through a comprehensive and integrated approach given their cross-cutting nature and relevance in real-world applications;
9. **Encourage** APPF Member Countries to promote work placements, apprenticeships and scholarships for women and girls to succeed in the full range of STEAM jobs; and
10. **Encourage** APPF Member Countries to enable women and men to pursue and complete tertiary studies in areas of advanced technology and in subjects that are driving the digital transformation.