

APPF28/RES/12

RESOLUTION ON PROTECTING THE INTEGRITY OF GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTIONS

(Sponsored by Australia and Indonesia)

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 governments and parliamentary institutions play a fundamental role in the lives of citizens;

Acknowledging that integrity, justice, fairness and the rule of law are essential for governments and parliamentary institutions to be recognised as fair, open and transparent;

Recognising that preventing corruption and promoting high standards of behaviour among public officials helps to reinforce the credibility and legitimacy of governments and parliamentary institutions;

Recognising that trust in government and parliamentary institutions is crucial for the success of government policies, programs and regulations that depend on the cooperation of citizens;

Noting United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5 that seeks to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;

Considering Report E/2019/68 by the United Nations Secretary-General that found that, at 1 January 2019, women's representation in national Parliaments ranged from 0 to 61.3 per cent, with the average standing at 24.2 per cent, an increase from 19 per cent in 2010; and

Recognising that broadening participation in government and parliamentary institutions through gender diversity plays an important role in strengthening the integrity and accountability of government and its institutions, and despite recent progress, more needs to be done to achieve gender equality.

RESOLVE TO:

1. **Call on** APPF Member Countries to continue to pursue policies that promote inclusiveness and social and economic prosperity in the Asia Pacific region;
2. **Call on** APPF Member Countries to continue to foster citizens' trust and confidence in governments and parliamentary institutions by ensuring the integrity of government and parliamentary processes and by strengthening service delivery and access to justice;

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3. **Call on** APPF Member Countries to exert greater efforts to address the underrepresentation of women at all levels of the political leadership in the Asia Pacific region; and
 4. **Encourage** opportunities for interaction among parliaments of the APPF Member Countries and between parliaments, governments, civil society and business communities through dialogues, conferences and seminars in order to exchange information and share experiences on protecting the integrity and effectiveness of government and parliamentary institutions.