



RESOLUTION 7

GENDER EQUALITY

Submitted by Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico and United States

THE TENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM:

Noting that the Platform for Action, which was adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, provides a basis for further action for the attainment of gender equality, development and peace;

Noting that the Political Declaration, which was adopted at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly "Women 2000" in June 2000, reaffirms the determination of each government for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

Noting that "the Beijing Declaration and further action and initiative for the implementation of the Platform for Action " recommends necessary measures to be dealt with by each government, the UN organizations and the civil society, and provides a code of conduct for the nations;

Acknowledging that, through globalization and the development of information technology, people's lives, the nature of work and the social systems are facing great change;

Reaffirming that the increased interchange of people and information has brought forth novel ideas and values, which are not bounded by the old ones;

Reaffirming the significance of forming a Gender-equal Society in which both men and women can demonstrate their individuality and capacity, so that we may respond to any social change, and live in true peace and prosperity in the 21st Century; and

Emphasizing the necessity of moving toward gender equality not only in legal terms, but also in practice;

RESOLVES TO:

1. Call upon APPF members to expand women's participation in decision-making processes, including in the political arena; further to ensure implementation of key declarations on gender equality adopted by international bodies including UNCTAD and APEC (WLN and AGGI); and to ratify and implement international treaties promoting gender equality, particularly the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women and relevant ILO Conventions including Convention 182 on Eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labour Exploitation;
2. Urge APPF members to make further efforts in the investigation of violence and sexual harassment against women in order to prevent it, in the protection of victimized women, and in the appropriate implementation of related laws and other necessary legislative measures. Also, invite APPF members to implement faithfully and steadily, and with full understanding of its significance, the declaration adopted

as a result of the debate in the second World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, which was held in Yokohama in December 2001, in light of the increasing attention being paid by the international society to sexual exploitation, especially to such serious matters as the trafficking in very young girls, as well as other forms of sexual exploitation;

3. Call upon APPF members to ensure more equal opportunity and treatment for both men and women in the field of employment, and to implement improved vocational training programs and measures to support women entrepreneurs as part of providing assistance in women's involvement in business activities on an equal footing with men;
4. Call upon APPF members to carry out life-long education based on the concept of gender equality to raise people's awareness, so that women may be empowered through education, and any stereotyped ideas on gender roles which still exist in their society may be overcome;
5. Urge APPF members to collect comparative data according to gender and to set a value on unpaid housework, and develop governmental survey methods on gender impact, as means of bringing gender perspective into the mainstream;
6. Call upon all members of the APPF to promote an end to all forms of discrimination against women in national legislation and at the local level; and
7. Call upon APPF members to make every effort to include women in their delegations to the APPF, and urge the APPF Executive Committee to seek to ensure equitable representation of women in programming and leadership of the APPF.

January 8, 2002, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA