**ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF)**

**30th ANNUAL MEETING**

**Draft Resolution Sponsored by: Canada**

**Strengthening women’s participation in post–COVID-19 economic recovery**

**The 30th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum:**

**Recognizing** that women have experienced disproportionate job and income losses during the
COVID-19 pandemic as a result of their over-representation in certain sectors, such as manufacturing, hospitality and retail, as well as employment in part-time and informal work arrangements, and in positions that could not easily shift to full-time telework,

**Understanding** that, in addition to negative employment impacts, the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the care burden experienced largely by women, including because of reduced childcare services and time spent in school, and the need to care for ill and elderly relatives,

**Acknowledging** that the COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting restrictions have led to both an increase in violence and harassment directed towards women and reduced access to social protections,

**Emphasizing** that, even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, women were underrepresented in corporate leadership positions and received lower wages in comparison to men,

**Noting** that economic shocks often negatively affect women more severely and for longer than is the case for men,

**Recalling** that gender disparities are often widened when gender intersects with other characteristics, including ethnicity and race, nationality, age, disability and sexual orientation,

**Reaffirming** resolutions adopted by previous annual meetings of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), including on a gender-sensitive COVID-19 response and post-pandemic recovery, as well as on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls,

**Welcoming** the statement on“Women’s Role in Building a Cohesive, Dynamic, Sustainable and Inclusive ASEAN Community in a Post COVID-19 World”at the 2020 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Women Leaders’ Summit and the statement on “Women’s Empowerment in the Digital Age” at the 2020 ASEAN Summit,

**Underscoring** the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and particularly Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5), which addresses gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including through: ensuring women’s full and effective participation and leadership in political, economic and public life; recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work; and ending all forms of discrimination and violence directed against women and girls,

**Recalling** theKigali Declaration on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) that recognizes that NTDs disproportionately affect women and girls, leading to substantive morbidity, earlier mortality and decreased capacity for economic and civil engagement,

**Highlighting** the commitment of a number of jurisdictions in the Asia-Pacific region to realizing the United Nations’ Women, Peace and Security Agenda, as well as the meaningful inclusion of women and girls in peace, security and humanitarian processes, including through the development and implementation of national action plans on women, peace and security, participation in the Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action Compact, and membership in the Women and Peace and Security Focal Points Network,

**RESOLVES TO:**

1. **Promote** mechanisms that support women experiencing pandemic-induced job loss to re-enter the workforce as soon as possible, if desired;
2. **Urge** the consideration of gender equality in the development and implementation of policies, strategies, programs, laws and regulations designed to respond to – and recover from – the COVID-19 pandemic, and to support women’s economic participation more generally;
3. **Recommend** more widespread collection and analysis of gender-disaggregated data in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and more broadly in order to understand better the impacts of crises on women;
4. **Request** that programs and policies designed to empower women and girls, including those in relation to employment, education, and health, be prioritized with the goal of ensuring that progress is not stalled or reversed because of the COVID-19 pandemic;
5. **Emphasize** the adoption ofemployment-related emergency measures that reduce the likelihood that women will experience job losses during future health or other crises;
6. **Condemn** all incidents of violence directed against women and girls, in both workplaces and domestic settings, and implement policies and measures to reduce such violence and provide services for those affected by it;
7. **Pursue** the implementation of SDG 5 by facilitating women’s economic participation;
8. **Include** intersectional considerations in research, policy-making and program design to ensure that women who may experience discrimination because of a variety of characteristics are adequately supported.
9. **Encourage** member countries and member parliaments to endorse the Kigali Declaration on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) and take appropriate measures to eradicate NTDs from APPF member states.