# Template for Article 32 written reports

*In accordance with Article 32 of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum Rules of Procedure, where a resolution is adopted by the Annual meeting, the country tabling that resolution shall provide the next host country with a written report on how that resolution has been put into effect no later than two months prior to the opening date of the next Annual Meeting.*

Please submit to the host country secretariat no later than two months prior to the opening date of the Annual Meeting.

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| **Country name:** | Canada |
| **Resolution:** | [APPF29/RES/13](http://appf29.org/lib/download.php?file_name=RES13_ACHIEVING+GENDER+EQUALITY+BY+INCREASING+WOMEN%E2%80%99S+PARTICIPATION+AND+REPRESENTATION.pdf&save_file=a_202112231012570.pdf&meta=free) Resolution on achieving gender equality by increasing women’s participation and representation |
| **Sponsoring country/countries:** | Republic of Korea, Canada, Indonesia, Mexico, the Russian Federation and Vietnam |
| **Summary:** |  |

## Detailed response to resolutions

At the 29th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum, the parliamentarians of the APPF resolved to:

| **Resolution** | **Status update** |
| --- | --- |
| 1. **Strengthen** the parliamentary actions focused on gender-responsive recovery policies and strategies including advocating for, initiating, debating and enacting law reform to support gender equality and women’s representation and counter violence directed at women, especially parliamentarians, so that women can participate equally and meaningfully in all sectors and at all decision-making levels;
 | In Canada’s Senate, [gender parity was reached](https://www.queensu.ca/gazette/stories/canadian-senate-briefly-reached-gender-parity-here-s-why-it-matters) for the first time in 2020. As of 15 August 2022, women held [44](https://sencanada.ca/en/senators/) of the Senate’s 88 occupied seats; on that date, 17 seats were vacant. Women’s representation in the House of Commons increased between the previous and the current Parliaments. Since 20 September 2021, women have held [103](https://www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en/search?parliament=44&caucusId=all&province=all&gender=F) of the 338 seats in the House. |
| 1. **Promote** the implementation of the SDG 5 on gender equality as well as SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions by facilitating women’s participation in national and regional mechanisms to resolve conflicts, build peace and secure women’s and children’s rights;
 | Statistics Canada tracks the progress that Canada is making toward attaining the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Regarding [SDG 5](https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal5), which focuses on achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls, Statistics Canada [reports](https://www144.statcan.gc.ca/sdg-odd/goal-objectif05-eng.htm) that Canada has a number of legal instruments in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex. These instruments include the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and federal, provincial and territorial human rights statutes. |
| 1. **Call on** APPF Member Countries to create an enabling environment for more women to hold senior, managerial, and decision-making positions in public and private sectors;
 | On Women’s Day 2022, Statistics Canada released a [report](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/89-28-0001/2022001/article/00002-eng.htm) about women’s participation in management in both the public and private sectors. Compared to two decades ago, there are more women in management occupations, a category that – [according to Statistics Canada](https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3VD.pl?Function=getVD&TVD=314243&CVD=314244&CPV=0&CST=01012016&CLV=1&MLV=4) – comprises middle managers, senior managers and legislators. In 2021, women in Canada accounted for 35.6% of people aged 15 years and older employed in management occupations, an increase from 33.6% in 2001. At the senior management level, the proportions were 24.1% in 2001 and 30.9% in 2021.Increasingly, women occupy leadership and decision-making positions in Canada’s public sector, including in Parliament. As of 1 August 2022, women held 30.5% of the seats in the House of Commons, which is the highest-ever proportion and an increase of more than nine percentage points over the last two decades. Concerning women’s representation in federal ministerial positions, as of 15 August 2022, 48.7% – or 19 out of 39 – of the individuals appointed to [Cabinet](https://pm.gc.ca/en/cabinet) were women; two decades ago, this proportion was 24.3%. |
| 1. Call on the APPF Executive Committee to consider APPF’s own rules and recommend changes to the Plenary Session to ensure female representation on the Executive Committee;
 | In April 2019, the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women released a [report](https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/421/FEWO/Reports/RP10366034/feworp14/feworp14-e.pdf) recommending that the Government of Canada should “urge all jurisdictions to discuss ways to make legislatures more gender diverse.” As well, the report’s recommendations encouraged organizations “to set goals and publicly report on their efforts … to achieve gender parity on their boards of directors, including in positions of leadership.”In July 2020, Women and Gender Equality Canada issued a [statement](https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2020/07/canadas-country-statement-for-the-64th-session-of-the-united-nations-commission-on-the-status-of-women.html) indicating its determination to “reinforce [its] commitment … to advance gender equality for all women and girls both in Canada and internationally,” as well as to strive “to engage on and contribute to advancing … gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls through our international assistance and multilateralism.” The statement referenced Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy, which “supports the economic, political and social empowerment of women and girls in all their diversity, and makes gender equality a priority.” |
| 1. **Encourage** APPF Member Countries to introduce and strengthen diverse institutional mechanisms to promote political participation, including in parliament, of women from diverse backgrounds, and consider providing financial support in this regard;
 | According to the [*Women and Gender Equality Canada 2022–2023 Departmental Plan*](https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/transparency/departmental-plans/2022-2023/dp-pm-en.pdf), the Government of Canada will provide funding to Indigenous organizations both to support Indigenous women and to increase their leadership and democratic participation in elected bodies, such as the Parliament of Canada. The Plan identifies more than $292 million in funding for 2022­–2023 to advance gender equality, including through the development of best practices for increasing representation and participation of Black and Indigenous women in political leadership positions. |
| 1. **Recommend** APPF Member Countries to guarantee equal rights and opportunities to work by building support and consensus among both men and women on the importance of work-life balance and creating a conducive environment for women’s participation in the workforce, including through the use of flexible work arrangements and a stronger social support system for care responsibilities;
 | On 1 September 2019, the *Canada Labour Code* was [amended](https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/laws-regulations/labour/current-future-legislative.html) in order to provide better work-life balance and strengthen workplace standards regarding leave in federally regulated workplaces. These changes have: made it easier to take time off to care for a dependent; increased the availability of maternity and parental leave; and provided paid leave to workers experiencing family violence. [According to the Government of Canada](https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2019/08/government-of-canada-to-provide-better-work-life-balance-for-middle-class-families.html), these amendments will enable higher female participation in the workforce, lead to improved gender equality, and enhance working conditions for vulnerable workers. Concerning female employment in Canada, in February 2022, the share of women aged 25-54 years with a job was 81%, the highest proportion ever recorded, and the absolute number of women [employed](https://lmic-cimt.ca/women-in-recovery-covid-19-and-womens-labour-market-participation/) was 2% higher than in February 2020. The number of men employed rose by 1.9% from February 2020 to February 2022, and both the female and male employment growth rates exceeded the rate of population growth over the period.  |
| 1. **Reiterate** the call on APPF Member Countries to guarantee women’s access to equal and quality education from primary to tertiary levels and opportunities to enjoy its benefits, and also to enhance education and training and provide information and financial support for women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) where women are particularly underrepresented;
 | The Government of Canada has funded numerous initiatives designed to encourage women’s participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). For example, the [Let’s Talk Science](https://letstalkscience.ca/educational-resources/backgrounders/women-in-stem-resources) initiative facilitates youth participation in hands-on STEM activities and learning programs, such as science experiments, which help to develop critical thinking skills and create more opportunities for future study and work in these fields. The initiative also helps to ensure that more girls and other groups that are underrepresented in STEM develop and maintain an interest in STEM from an early age. Although women’s participation in STEM education overall is below that of men in Canada, younger women are more likely than their older counterparts to have a post-secondary qualification at the bachelor level or above in a STEM field. In 2021, among those with such a qualification, women [accounted](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/89-28-0001/2022001/article/00002-eng.htm) for 39% of those aged 25 to 34 years with a STEM degree; they represented 26.8% of those aged 55 to 64 years with such a degree. This generational difference suggests that women’s overall participation in STEM careers may increase in the future as the younger cohort joins the workforce.  |
| 1. **Encourage** APPF Member Countries to organize mentoring activities between women politicians and girls, to nurture confidence and offer guidance, fostering future female leaders with capacity and inspiration;
 | In April 2019, the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women released a [report](https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/421/FEWO/Reports/RP10366034/feworp14/feworp14-e.pdf) that contains recommendations aimed at increasing the representation of women in Canadian politics. It suggested that the Government of Canada should allocate more funding for organizations and projects that provide mentorship, networking opportunities and guidance to women in order to increase their confidence and willingness both to take risks and to seek elected office. For example, [Women in Politics](https://www.womeninpolitics.ca/about) receives federal funding to provide mentorship opportunities for women with the goal of having them equally represented at all levels of government in Canada, as well as on the boards of directors of Canadian firms and non-governmental organizations. |
| 1. **Encourage** APPF Member Countries to increase women’s access to digital information and resources through digital literacy training and expand opportunities for women to participate in the workforce and decision-making processes;
 | On 28 July 2022, the Government of Canada [announced](https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2022/07/government-of-canada-announces-additional-funding-for-digital-literacy-skills-training-to-help-more-canadians-get-online.html) funding of $17.6 million to support initiatives aimed at teaching digital literacy skills to under-represented Canadians, including women and girls. These funds will support not-for-profit organizations that teach digital literacy skills to Canadians who face barriers to participating in digital activities. This spending is part of the [Digital Literacy Exchange Program](https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/digital-literacy-exchange-program/en), which aims to ensure that Canadians have the skilled needed to use computers, mobile devices and the Internet safely, securely and effectively. |
| 1. **Encourage** APPF Member Countries to promote the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security, and adopt, implement, and monitor National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security, to increase the empowerment and engagement of women in line with international commitments, with due consideration of different national contexts and specific needs;
 | On 1 November 2017, the Government of Canada launched its [Action Plan for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security - 2017-2022](https://www.international.gc.ca/transparency-transparence/women-peace-security-femmes-paix-securite/2017-2022-action-plan.aspx?lang=eng); it is the second such plan. The Action Plan provides a framework for a cohesive, whole-of-government approach to implementing the United Nation’s Women, Peace and Security Agenda, and ensures that Canada’s activities in fragile and conflict-affected states align with the country’s broader commitments, such as gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, respect for women’s and girls’ human rights, and inclusion and respect for diversity. As part of the Action Plan, Canada will work to advance the Agenda through its diplomatic and programming efforts, and will ensure that gender perspectives are integrated into peace and security activities. |
| 1. **Call on** APPF Member Countries to improve the legal documents, policies and agendas to create and expand opportunities for women to contribute to peace and security in the world by ensuring women’s representation and active participation in conflict prevention, crisis management and non-traditional security challenges resolution, creating a solid foundation for transforming economies and for the comprehensive development of women;
 | As part of the [Action Plan for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security - 2017-2022](https://www.international.gc.ca/transparency-transparence/women-peace-security-femmes-paix-securite/2017-2022-action-plan.aspx?lang=eng), Canada will take a leadership role in implementing global objectives that support the integration of the United Nations’ Women, Peace and Security Agenda in initiatives relating to fragile and conflict--affected states. As part of the Action Plan, gender perspectives will continue to be integrated into Canada’s contributions to peace operations, peacebuilding, development and humanitarian assistance, and the prevention and resolution of conflicts. In addition, Canada will use Gender-Based Analysis Plus tools to strengthen the country’s capacity to integrate more targeted gender-equality objectives into its activities around the world. The Action Plan also states that Canada will: support gender and diversity objectives when considering how to counter and prevent radicalization and violent extremism; manage international migration issues by supporting and protecting women and children who are migrating to Canada; and integrate gender perspectives when providing advice about justice reform in fragile and conflict-affected states and during the investigation and prosecution of war crimes and crimes against humanity. |
| 1. **Call on** APPFMember Countries to exert all diplomatic efforts to contribute to ensuring that the Afghan government protects the human rights of women and guarantees women’s participation in the nation’s development and efforts to build peace and security;
 | Canada has taken steps to exert diplomatic pressure on the current Afghan authorities with the goal of protecting the human rights of women. This pressure includes a 13 May 2022 [joint statement](https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/05/joint-statement-of-foreign-ministers-on-increased-restrictions-on-the-human-rights-of-afghan-women-and-girls.html) by Canada, Australia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. The joint statement indicates that “the Taliban’s directive that women and girls must cover themselves in public and leave home only in cases of necessity, and with a man, restricts their universal and inalienable human rights. We call on the Taliban to reconsider decisions which constrain the right of women and girls to make their own choices, gain an education, work and participate equally in society. We will continue to judge the Taliban on their actions, not their words.” |
| 1. **Recommend** APPF Member Countries to create and strengthen sessions dedicated for women MPs in major inter-parliamentary meetings and international conferences to promote dialogue and share knowledge and experience among women leaders, including the Eurasian Women’s Forum, which will be held for the fourth time in 2024 in the Russian Federation which all representatives of APPF Member countries are invited; and
 | As an active member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Canada has been [involved](https://bdp.parl.ca/content/lop/IPU/ipu_05_3-e.html) in various IPU reforms, including in relation to the integration of gender perspectives into the IPU’s work and the promotion of gender equality. These efforts contributed to the formalization of the Meeting (later Forum) of Women Parliamentarians at the IPU Assembly held in Ottawa in 1985, with Canadian delegates serving terms as the Forum’s president and as members of its steering committee. The active participation of Canadian delegates also influenced the creation of the IPU executive committee’s Gender Partnership Group in 1997. The Forum and the Gender Partnership Group have promoted a series of amendments to the IPU’s statutes that: require women’s representation on the executive committee; encourage delegations to include both women and men; and mandate the use of more gender-neutral language in the IPU’s official documents and rules. As well, the IPU has worked to promote gender equality through partnerships with UN bodies. For example, the IPU and UN Women co-organize an annual parliamentary meeting at sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women. At these meetings, Canadian and other parliamentarians, as well as UN officials, discuss various topics relating to gender equality, including the empowerment of rural women and girls. |
| 1. **Urge** the Parliaments of APPF Member Countries to strengthen cooperation, collaboration, and partnership among each other and with other relevant institutions, as well as sharing the lessons learned in achieving gender equality by increasing women’s participation and representations.
 | On 15 March 2022, Canadian parliamentarians [participated](https://www.parl.ca/diplomacy/en/associations/uipu/activities-and-reports?pageNumber=1#4-0) in an event marking the 10th anniversary of the [Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments](http://archive.ipu.org/pdf/publications/action-gender-e.pdf), which the IPU adopted at its 127th Assembly held in Quebec City; the event was co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations. Canadian delegates highlighted factors contributing to the under-representation of women in parliaments and participated in a panel discussion on the topic of the role of men in advancing gender equality. They emphasized recent developments in Canada, including the enactment of the *Gender Equality Week Act* in 2018.On 14 March 2022, the Commission on the Status of Women convened its [annual parliamentary meeting](https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2022/03/canadian-delegation-wraps-up-66th-session-of-the-united-nations-commission-on-the-status-of-women.html). Co-organized by the IPU and UN Women, the meeting brought together legislators from around the globe to discuss the theme of “[The role of women’s leadership and gender-responsive parliaments in climate action](https://www.ipu.org/event/role-womens-leadership-and-gender-responsive-parliaments-in-climate-action).” Members of the Canadian Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union spoke about women’s leadership and political participation in relation to climate action, “green” parliaments, and legal and policy reforms in the context of gender-responsive climate actions. As well, they emphasized the role that informal networks among women parliamentarians can play in advancing discussions on the meeting’s theme. Finally, concerning Russia’s most recent invasion of Ukraine, they expressed their solidarity with Ukraine’s women parliamentarians. |