

**30<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF)  
DRAFT RESOLUTION SPONSORED BY MEXICO**

**ECONOMIC AND TRADE AFFAIRS:**

**STRENGTHENING CONNECTIVITY AND ENHANCING THE DIGITAL ECONOMY IN  
THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**

We, the parliamentarians of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), participating in the 30th Annual Meeting of the APPF held in the city of Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand, with the topic "Parliaments and Sustainable Development after COVID-19":

**Considering** the extensive progress made in recent decades around Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) so as to facilitate everyday processes in people's lives and accelerate the economic growth of countries, in which there are significant advantages for the performance of trade, labor, educational, health, and governmental activities, among others, as well as the challenges that threaten optimal implementation such as cyber-attacks, online extortion, identity theft, the spread of fake news, and so on;

**Taking note** of some reports on the subject, such as that of the International Telecommunication Union, which states that a third of the world's population still has no access to the Internet and that those who do, have limited effective connection. Furthermore, in terms of gender, 62% of men use the Internet and 57% women; additionally, 71% of young people between 15 and 24 years are the biggest users, compared to 57% of the rest of the population;

**Considering** that the digital economy represents 15.5% of the world gross domestic product, which has registered a two and a half times higher growth than the world GDP in the last fifteen years, because of the growing influence of digital technologies in the innovation of processes, business models, products, and value chains of economic activity. In this regard, and in the context of the pandemic, several countries in the Asia-Pacific region led the digital economy and increased their e-commerce activities by up to 90%;

**Noting** with interest the rise of digital assets known as cryptocurrencies to carry out instant transactions, investments, or purchases of physical goods and services, which offer certain benefits for this type of financial activities, although it is necessary to advance in their regulation to combat harmful elements such as fraud, tax evasion and cyber-attacks;

**Reprising** the UN's Roadmap for digital cooperation to implement actions aimed at establishing a more secure and equitable digital environment in the world, such as achieving universal connectivity by 2030, ensuring digital inclusion of all, especially the most vulnerable, guaranteeing the protection of human rights in the digital era, among others;

**Reconfirming** the agreements, resolutions and roadmaps established within the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC) and the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) aimed at developing digital connectivity to strengthen the economy, the competitiveness of services and the quality of infrastructure, as well as the increasingly dynamic e-commerce;

**Recognizing** that the improvement in connectivity levels represents a fundamental piece in the recovery processes with sustainable perspective in the post-COVID-19 pandemic stage, in which objectives such as the reduction of the digital divide, progress in the quality of connectivity and fostering the deepening of digital competencies, among others, should not be left aside, taking the development of artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things and fifth generation networks (5G), as a reference;

**Emphasizing** the need as parliamentarians to continue strengthening the mechanisms of digital government, especially the powers that fall to us regarding the digital Parliament, to expand engagement channels with citizens, raise levels of transparency, offer more innovative public policies, and define regulations that consolidate this type of practices, leading to the progress of democratic indicators;

### **Resolve:**

1. **Promoting** within the Asia-Pacific region broader and more effective cooperation regarding digital connectivity between and within countries with special attention on vulnerable groups, such as women and girls, the elderly, people with disabilities, people with less financial advantages, and First Nation groups living in remote communities, with the aim of reducing inequalities in the development of populations.
2. **Encouraging** the use and development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for an effective economic recovery in which conditions of equity and equal opportunities are promoted among the various actors involved in development activities, always safeguarding employment and welfare of workers who are part of them.
3. **Seeking** within each of the APPF Member Parliaments innovative mechanisms in line with the progress of digital technologies for a fair regulation of e-commerce, creating conditions that not only benefit large companies, but also monitor and support actions aimed at the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
4. **Promoting** connectivity with fifth generation networks (5G) without neglecting the creation of laws and policies aimed at establishing appropriate strategies for digital transformation and supporting those who benefit from this type of connections, especially to achieve greater protection of personal data to protect the privacy of users.
5. **Encouraging** synergies within the political agendas of APPF Member Parliaments to take advantage of the opportunity to reformulate and incorporate new priorities with a view to opening legislative work to citizens and strengthening digital parliaments by providing greater certainty and transparency on legislative activities, and on those of us who make up these institutions.
6. **Promoting** the use of connectivity benefits to strengthen national education systems, especially to compensate for the negative effects generated by the COVID-19 pandemic on school education.