

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

**MEETING OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE APPF:
STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE POST-COVID 19 ECONOMIC
RECOVERY**

We, the women legislators participating in the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) Women Parliamentarians Meeting, within the framework of 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":

Reprising our firm commitment to promote and defend the human rights and freedoms of girls and women, as well as the obligation to ensure the elimination of all forms of violence, discrimination, and inequality they undergo in the social, economic, and political spheres, which are obstacles that must be eradicated to achieve inclusive and equitable societies;

Recalling the obligations included in legal instruments such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979, which establishes measures to ensure the full development and advancement of women, and considering that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995, outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women, are roadmaps for ensuring full gender equality, effective legal protection and empowerment of women in key areas such as their participation in the exercise of power and decision-making, the economy, health, the environment, training, the media, development and peace;

Considering the targets set in Goal 5 of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, by mainstreaming the gender approach in all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of this universally applicable initiative;

Evoking the 2018 Hanoi Declaration on a New Vision for the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Association which recognizes the importance of supporting women's participation and leadership in all political, economic, and social spheres, as well as in public and private spheres;

Recalling that the APEC La Serena Roadmap on Women and Inclusive Growth, adopted in 2019, sets out actions to promote gender equality, together with empowerment and full incorporation of women into the regional economy by 2030. Noting that actions are required to improve women's access to capital and markets, increase their participation in the labor force and labor market, and facilitate their presence in leadership positions at all levels of decision-making, providing them with education, training, and skills development, in addition to the usefulness of carrying out the corresponding data collection and analysis;

Noting that the 2040 Putrajaya Vision agreed by APEC in 2020, which calls for an open, dynamic, resilient, peaceful, and prosperous Asia-Pacific community for all peoples and future generations, emphasizes achieving quality growth with tangible benefits, health, and well-being for all, specifically women and others with untapped economic potential;

Concerned by the disproportionate impact of the health, social and economic crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls, which adversely affected their lives, livelihoods, well-being, and opportunities, and which also threaten to reverse the limited progress made in gender equality and for the full enjoyment of the human rights of this sector of the population;

Aware that women were especially affected by the unequal distribution of care work, by their greater participation in informal, unsafe, and low-wage jobs; in addition to recognizing that confinement measures imposed to contain the pandemic caused women and girls to suffer multiple representations of violence and restricted their access to health services, jobs, education, and social security. Not to mention that this group suffers more from the negative impacts of climate change as they are more dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods and are more likely to migrate and suffer from the negative effects of climate change;

Knowing that, despite dynamic economic growth, an estimated 400 million people were living in extreme poverty in 2019 in Asia and the Pacific, two-thirds of whom were women. Detrimentially, in 2021 alone, 85 million more people were pushed into extreme poverty by the pandemic; and the latter led to a 3.8% decline in employment for women compared to 2.9% for men in the region;

Indicating that worldwide, approximately 2.4 billion women do not have the same economic rights as men, and that only three quarters of the rights are recognized in comparison with those enjoyed by men;

Considering that forecasts indicate that women's income will have a long-term recovery process after the pandemic due to their informal, low-skilled, and unpaid care jobs, which widens the gap between women's and men's economic participation. As a comparison during the pandemic, although women were in the front line of the fight against the disease, their income in the health and care sector was 25% less than that of men;

Highlighting the Global Gender Gap Report 2022 showing that women continue to be overrepresented in the fields of education, health and wellness compared to men, and underrepresented in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics sectors. Likewise, the percentage of women graduates in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) is 1.7% compared to 8.2% of male graduates;

Highlighting that women-led businesses comprise around 60% of all micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Asia-Pacific, which can be key drivers of growth and stimulate job creation. Despite this, women have competed against unequal conditions arising from regulatory and financial constraints and their limited access to entrepreneurship training and business networking;

Noting that the Inter-Parliamentary Union's 2021 Women in Parliament index recorded that the global ratio of women parliamentarians has increased by 0.6 percentage points to 26.1%. Notably, the ratio of women increased by 0.8 percentage points in Asia, while, by comparison, the Americas region recorded the highest ratio of female representation, with 39.1% of women legislators elected or nominated;

Supporting the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN Women's Strategic Plan 2022-2025 provides a roadmap for mobilizing urgent and sustainable action to achieve gender equality and the economic empowerment of all women, along with issues pertaining to governance and their participation in public life, peace and security, humanitarian action, disaster risk reduction, and the elimination of violence;

Resolve:

1. **Calling** upon APPF Member States to recognize that public actions and policies aimed at achieving economic recovery in the post-COVID-19 pandemic phase require promoting and improving the participation of women in various spheres to secure a path of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, at the national, regional, and global levels.
2. **Inviting** APPF Member States to consider that the formulation of measures to rebuild economies and societies should consider responses in line with specific, urgent, and immediate needs of women and girls, based on sex-disaggregated and gender-sensitive data related to the areas covered by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to monitor and evaluate their effectiveness in terms of results about women and girls and on gender equality.
3. **Directing** the attention of APPF Member State authorities to the gaps and obstacles that impede the empowerment of women and girls, exacerbating inequality gaps vis-à-vis men and limiting their economic prospects, which were exposed in the COVID-19 pandemic and need to be addressed, such as lack of recognition for the unpaid work they perform, formal labor market restrictions, unequal pay for work of equal value compared to men, persistent forms of violence, discrimination and harassment, access to financial services, and lack of public childcare services.
4. **Encouraging** Parliaments of APPF Member States to support, within the scope of their competencies, measures to broaden women's participation, especially their empowerment and economic inclusion, by improving regulations that remove barriers and allow for a balance between their personal and working lives, with a view to ensure legal protection parity between genders.
5. **Inviting** women parliamentarians from APPF Member States to continue to support gender mainstreaming in the debates and work of their parliaments consolidating the foundations for more gender-sensitive institutions and safer political spaces.

6. **Call on** women parliamentarians to make visible and raise awareness in society about the relevance of gender issues and human rights enjoyed by women and girls by consistently and proactively engaging in monitoring and evaluation, as well as in the appropriate allocation of budgets that fall under the purview of National Parliaments, with the firm objective of reinforcing the measures adopted to ensure an economic recovery process following the COVID-19 pandemic that takes into account the essential contribution of all women and that provides them with concrete benefits in the short, medium and long term, in line with national growth targets and international sustainable development commitments.

7. **Inviting** women parliamentarians of APPF Member States to continue the dialogue and exchange of national experiences that can enrich Parliamentary work and the actions implemented by governments around gender equality and women's economic empowerment, favoring the involvement of other relevant stakeholders, including women themselves and their organizations. The role of women as agents of change in society must be recognized, and their participation is key in the development, implementation, and monitoring of comprehensive economic recovery strategies and in the transformation towards more resilient and gender-sensitive economies and societies.