

Resolution of APA Women Parliamentarians

**APA/Plenary/SC- Social/Res/2019/05**

**16 December 2019**

*We, members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly*,

***Recalling*** the APA Plenary Resolution (APA/Res/2010/06, 30 November, 2010) on the establishment of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians and the APA Resolution on Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians (APA/Res/2014/16) superseding the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians, as well as other relevant resolutions;

***Mindful***ofthe fact that despite all efforts made for the promotion of women’s rights, gender inequality and injustice still persists between women and men both in the extent of power at decision-making and in mechanisms to promote the advancement of women;

***Aware*** ofthe importance of promoting the participation of women in scientific, social, political, cultural and economic affairs, and peace dialogue;

***Reaffirming*** that inclusion of women in positions of power and elected bodies, and also their involvement in the decision making process, strengthens the development of democratic principles in public life and increases the economic development;

***Noting*** that the main obstacles women face in entering Parliaments in Asia including political, socio-economic, cultural prejudices;

***Mindful*** of the necessity to place on the agenda of APA meetings matters of importance to women such as combating violence against women, empowerment of women in society, participation of women in political and economic life, and prevention of all kinds of harassments, sexual violence against women and girls, trafficking, and other types of exploitation including in situation of armed conflict areas;

**Considering** women’s issues, including women’s empowerment, combating violence and discrimination against them and engaging women in political, economic and social aspects of life;

***Stressing*** our resolve to participate and contribute actively in the deliberation of issues relating to women’s rights, women’s empowerment and women’s representatives participation in APA meetings;

***Noting*** that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) established a broad legal framework for the protection of women and girls;

***Underlining*** the need to facilitate networking between women parliamentarians of Asia;

We therefore,

1. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to ensure the inclusion and effective participation of women in social, cultural, economic, political, and sustainable development affairs in Asia, at national, regional, and international levelsas appropriate;
2. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to adopt legislations to facilitate women’s representations in Asian Parliaments;
3. **Encourage** APA Women Parliamentarians to lead by example and place the interest of women at the heart of policy and decision making as an endeavor to engage more women into politics;
4. **Recommend** the importance of information and awareness campaigns to promote the integration of women into political participation and decision – making with a view to reaching national and international parliamentary institutions;
5. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to recognize the concerns of women, and to effectively implement the relevant provisions of United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which promote gender equality and empowerment of women with respect for national and cultural particularities of the Member States;
6. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to recognize that gender equality and empowerment of women as a stand-alone goal with clear targets and indications that must be achieved through implementation of goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with respect to national and cultural particularities of the Member States; with goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); with respect for national and cultural particularities of the Member States;
7. **Determine** to enhance the activities of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarian through more effective exchange of views and close interaction;
8. **Request** the Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians to expand the scope of its activities under the auspices of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs and to take appropriate measures to facilitate networking among women parliamentarians in Asia;
9. **Request** the APA Secretariat to assign one part of the website of the Assembly to facilitate networking among women parliamentarians of Asia covering updated information on the activities of the APA Women Parliamentarians;
10. **Express** grave concern at the dire situation of millions of women in all war-torn and conflict-ridden areas such as Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Myanmar, and Afghanistan who are inevitably in danger of and impacted by mortality and morbidity of themselves and their family members particularly their children, violence, discrimination, insecurity, poverty, hunger and so forth;
11. **Express** support of APA Member Parliaments in advancing women, peace and security agenda, particularly by enhancing women’s role in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peace operations.