

## ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF)

### 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

#### RESOLUTION APPF22/RES.16

### Poverty Eradication, Strengthening of the Social Cohesion And Women's Empowering

*(Sponsored by Thailand)*

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum;

**Noting** that poverty consists of multidimensional nature and causes. It is not just a lack of adequate income but also a cruel mix of human deprivation in knowledge, health, dignity and rights, obstacles to participation and lack of voice;

**Realizing** that structural inequality in social, economic and political dimensions have isolated poor people from resources and such has limited their opportunities to develop themselves for better quality of life but further put them into the absolute poverty and the greater risk;

**Considering** that although the number of extreme poor has decreased in the last three decades, there are more than a billion people remain. Moreover, women are majority of people living in poverty because they tend to fall into poverty more easily and frequently than men;

**Considering** that promoting gender equality is critical for poverty eradication. When men and women have equal opportunities and freedoms, economic growth accelerates and poverty decreases more significantly;

**Recalling** that economic growth will not produce jobs and cut poverty unless it is inclusive and equitable, and the needs of the poor and marginalized are at the center of development priorities. Besides, the needs of the poor should be paid attention for country's development policies;

**Reaffirming** the importance of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to be as a framework for poverty reduction and women's empowerment;

**Realizing** that greater economic development alone is not enough to empower women; instead, in some countries cultural changes are needed in order to recognize the contributions that women can make for the advancement of the country;

**Noting** that women play an important role in business sector, however, they remain underrepresented in political area, especially at senior levels.

**RESOLVES TO:**

1. **Encourage** all stakeholders including indigenous people and the vulnerable groups to actively participate in planning, decision-making, implementing and monitoring the empowerment projects and plans;
2. **Call upon** the parliaments and governments of the APPF member countries to support the promotion of self-confidence and self-esteem of vulnerable people without gender, social class, race and age discrimination through domestic outreach projects;
3. **Stress** the importance of both improvement and development projects aiming on empowerment and support the governments of the APPF member countries through legislative manner and budget approval;
4. **Emphasize** that the value of gender equality should be promoted and included continuously in public policies, enacted in laws, and strictly implemented in legislative procedures;
5. **Encourage** APPF member countries to establish women empowerment funds, including micro-financing arrangements to help women access capital funds for creating their own business, jobs and thereby enhancing welfare for women and family, and to improve women's ability to participate;
6. **Call upon** the APPF member countries to work together collaboratively with their respective governments, international organizations, such as UNDP and World Bank, and private sector to reduce poverty and empower the vulnerable people through training programs, entrepreneurship initiatives and gender mainstreaming;
7. **Further emphasize** that people of low social economic status would not be excluded from the improvement and development plans and projects;
8. **Recommend** the public and private sectors of the APPF member countries to set up learning center for people and support E-learning to promote capacity building for women;
9. **Promote** laws or regulations that increase the number of women's participating in politics.
10. **Recommend** the public and private sectors of the APPF members to set up learning center for people and support E-learning to promote capacity building for women;
11. **Promote** laws or regulations that increase number of women's participation in every part of a country such as setting a quota for women participants in politics.