



THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE 42nd ASEAN INTER-
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA) GENERAL ASSEMBLY
International Convention Centre
Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam
23rd – 25th August 2021



Theme: Forging Parliamentary Cooperation in Digital Inclusion towards ASEAN Community 2025

(Res 42GA/2021/WAIPA/01)

**DRAFT RESOLUTION ON PROMOTING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN THE
FUTURE OF WORK AND POST PANDEMIC RECOVERY THROUGH DIGITAL AND
FINANCIAL INCLUSION**

(Proposed by Brunei Darussalam)

The 42nd AIPA General Assembly:

PP1. *Recalling* the AIPA Resolution 39GA/2018/WAIPA/02 on Empowering Women in ASEAN to Harness the Potential of Industrial Revolution 4.0, adopted at the 39th General Assembly in Singapore; AIPA Resolution 40GA/2019/WAIPA/01 on Promoting Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in ASEAN and AIPA Resolution 40GA/2019/WAIPA/02 on Bridging the Gender Gap in Technology-based Disciplines, adopted at the 40th General Assembly in Bangkok, Thailand;

PP2. *Further Recalling* the ASEAN Labour Ministers' Statement on the Future of Work: Embracing Technology for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth adopted during Special Session of ASEAN Labour Ministers on Future of Work held in Singapore on 29 April 2019; Senior Leaders' Declaration 2017 on Women, Peace and Security; the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW); the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW); the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC); and the outcome of ASEAN Leaders' Special Session at the 36th ASEAN Summit on Women's Empowerment In The Digital Age;

PP3. *Reaffirming* the Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) of the United Nation 2030 for Sustainable Development on achieving gender equality and empower all women and girls by enhancing the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women;

PP4. *Reiterating* the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 to promote quality of life, protection of human rights, and providing equitable access to all opportunities, and other relevant conventions and provisions for realising gender equality and the empowerment of women;

PP5. *Guided* by the theme of Brunei Darussalam 2021 ASEAN Chairmanship "We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper" to ensure the well-being and livelihood of the people, to adapt and to overcome any future challenges in achieving a sustainable ASEAN Community;

PP6. *Reaffirming* that tackling the gender disparity present in women's empowerment is not only a social imperative, but also a largely untapped economic opportunity to further ASEAN's economic growth and realising that the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected the future of work, workplace and workforce dynamic which further amplify gender inequalities;

PP7. Noting that technological transformation offers both opportunities and challenges for all, and gender equality is essential component to ensure women can contribute fully for the betterment of societies and economies however that women's participation in jobs and sectors related to technology remains low due the inherent digital gender divide;

PP8. Reiterating that the persistence of financial gender gaps has been signified as a result of the prominent exclusion of a large proportion of women from financial services, and that the role of digital finance in potentially closing these gender gaps in financial inclusion should be given higher priority;

PP9. Acknowledging that the utilisation of digital technologies could act as a catalyst to the economic growth of communities in comparison to more traditional and conventional methods of promoting financial inclusion;

PP10. Emphasising that action must be taken to close the digital gender divide through set of policy recommendations and digital strategies to essentially prepare women for the future of work and post-pandemic recovery, and to unleash women's potential to harness the opportunities and potential of Fourth Industrial Revolution;

Hereby resolves to:

OP1. Call upon the AIPA Member States to implement and strengthen digital strategies that actively aim to address the gender digital divide including the adoption and usage gaps, as well improving the access and affordability of digital technologies while ensuring digital security risk;

OP2. Encourage AIPA Member States to strengthen and expand policies that are digitally inclusive and responsive to the challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution in order to increase women's participation in the economy as a whole;

OP3. Support the implementation of the ACW Work Plan 2021 - 2025 which underlines seven thematic areas, including women's economic empowerment and future of work;

OP4. Recommend AIPA Member States to develop and enhance a responsive and effective upskilling capacity in tandem with the increasing variability in the labour market skills demand, by proactively upgrading the existing technical and vocational education and training (TVET); and

OP5. Encourage AIPA Member States to enhance greater enrolment in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education by increasing awareness of the opportunities for women and to improve accessibility of life-long learning and capacity building approaches, including the upskilling resources.

Adopted on the ____ day of August 2021 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.