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The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Report of the Parliamentary  
Delegation to the Twenty-fifth  
Annual Meeting of the Asia  
Pacific Parliamentary Forum,  
Natadola, Fiji

**Natadola, Fiji – 15 – 19 January 2017**

March 2017

Canberra

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## Foreword

In January 2017 an Australian delegation participated in the twenty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) in Natadola, Fiji. The APPF includes members from countries in the Asia-Pacific region with which Australia has highly significant links. Australia's continued participation in, and active contribution to, the APPF's annual meetings are significant for institutional and professional relationships with regional parliamentarians.

The delegation wishes to thank the host parliament of Fiji, and in particular the Speaker of the Fijian Parliament and President of the APPF Executive Committee, the Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni for her leadership of the arrangements and the meeting. The hosts were exceptionally generous in their welcome and hospitality and the program arrangements and secretariat and liaison officer support led by the Secretary-General to Parliament, Ms Viniana Namosimalua, were of a high standard.

On behalf of the delegation I would like to thank the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for assistance with briefing papers for the forum meetings, and for the support provided in Fiji by the Australian High Commissioner, Ms Margaret Twomey and her colleagues.

The Parliamentary Library also provided briefing material that the delegation found very useful. The International and Parliamentary Relations Office assisted us with administrative arrangements for the delegation's visit.

Hon Warren Entsch MP

Delegation Leader



# Membership of the delegation

Leader	Hon Warren Entsch MP	
Members	Senator Claire Moore Ms Meryl Swanson MP Senator John Williams	Deputy Leader
Staff	James Catchpole	Delegation Secretary



# The Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF): work of the Twenty-fifth Annual Meeting

## Overview

- 1.1 In January 2017 a delegation from the Parliament of Australia comprising the Hon Warren Entsch MP (leader of the delegation), Senator Claire Moore (deputy leader), Ms Meryl Swanson MP and Senator John Williams participated in the twenty-fifth annual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF25) in Natadola, Fiji.
- 1.2 This chapter begins with a description of APPF25 and then addresses the work of the meeting which took place according to the program set out in Appendix A.
- 1.3 The meeting began on 14 January 2017, with the arrival and registration of delegates. Appendix B lists the delegations participating at APPF25.
- 1.4 The first formal activity was the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians on 15 January. This was only the second occasion on which such a meeting has taken place, with participation open to all member countries. The initiative for convening such a meeting originated with the members of the Indonesian delegation to APPF23, who proposed that the program for the next APPF Annual Meeting include a distinct Meeting of Women Parliamentarians to foster women's participation in political and public life. The Hon. Dr Nurhayati Ali Assegaf, delegation leader from Indonesia, and the Speaker of the Fijian Parliament, the Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni, co-chaired the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians at APPF25. Appendix A includes the program and agenda and concept notes for this meeting.
- 1.5 The Executive Committee also met on 15 January to adopt the draft agenda and program of activities for the forum. The Executive Committee

also supported the Socialist Republic of Vietnam as the host of the twenty-sixth APPF meeting to be held in January 2018, while noting that formal acceptance was yet to be received. The Kingdom of Cambodia has agreed to host APPF27 in 2019. A copy of the Executive Committee Report is at Appendix C.

## **Meeting of Women Parliamentarians**

- 1.6 The Fijian Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, the Hon Mereseini Vuniwaqa, gave the key note address at the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians. Both Australia and Indonesia sponsored draft resolutions at the meeting. Following discussion, in which the two Australian women delegates, Senator Moore and Ms Swanson took an active role, a consolidated draft resolution based on the proposals by Australia and Indonesia and co-sponsored by Fiji was adopted by the Meeting. The resolution called for, among other things, future APPF meetings to include a meeting of women parliamentarians as a standing agenda item.
- 1.7 On 18 January a plenary session was asked to consider a proposal from the Indonesian delegation that the APPF rules of procedure be amended to give effect to this resolution. The proposal was supported by the leader of the Australian delegation Mr Entsch. Following subsequent consideration by the Drafting Committee, the plenary agreed that a working group be established to report to the Executive Committee and then to the plenary at APPF26 in 2018 on the matter.

## **Opening session and addresses**

- 1.8 The opening session of APPF25 was held in the morning of 16 January 2016 following a traditional Fijian welcome ceremony. The session began with welcome remarks by the Hon Dr Jiko Luveni, Speaker of the Fijian Parliament and Chair of the APPF25 Executive Committee and by the Hon Mr Takuji Yanagimoto, a Member of the House of Councillors of Japan. The Opening Address was given by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, the Hon Josia Bainimarama.

- 1.9 After the traditional and formal welcomes the work of the forum proper began with the first of the three plenary sessions and the establishment of the Drafting Committee to discuss in more detail the draft resolutions presented at the forum. The Drafting Committee considered the resolutions and established working groups to meet separately to consolidate draft resolutions on the same topics. The Drafting Committee, on which the delegation leader Mr Entsch represented Australia, sat continuously throughout the forum. The other delegation members participated actively in the working groups established to operate in parallel and feed consolidated draft resolutions up to the Drafting Committee. The delegation members also attended and spoke at the plenary sessions when not attending working groups.

## **Subject matter of the annual meeting**

- 1.10 The theme of APPF25 was ‘Parliamentary partnerships for peace and security: SDG16’. SDG16 refers to the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 16<sup>th</sup> Sustainable Development Goal is dedicated to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, the provision of access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels.
- 1.11 The meeting followed the agenda proposed by the Executive Committee. The agenda comprised four substantive subject areas on the customary range of issues considered by APPF meetings, namely: politics and security, economics and trade, regional cooperation, and also future work of the APPF. The items were debated in four plenary sessions based on the four subject areas and the forum theme.
- 1.12 The agenda’s substantive subject areas comprised:
- Political and security matters**
- Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls
  - Strengthening systems of border control and monitoring to combat Human and drug Trafficking
  - Ensuring effective succession planning for Leaders of a New Generation
  - Peace and Security in the Asia Pacific Region and the International Community

### **Economic and trade matters**

- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation: (APEC Report 2016)
- Promoting Sustainable Economic Growth in Asia-Pacific Region
- Poverty alleviation-championing the SDG's to achieve the 2030 agenda
- Promoting food security in the Asia Pacific Region
- Role of Social Media in civic participation

### **Regional cooperation**

- Take urgent action to combat Climate Change and its impact
- To promote the Conservation and Sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, Oceans, seas and Marine resources
- Cooperation and practical approaches that Parliaments and Knowledge institutions in the Region can take for sustainable development
- Developing regional and sub-regional strategies on combating Non-Communicable Diseases
- Disaster Risk Reduction

### **The APPF**

- Outcome of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians
- Increase Participation of Women in Politics
- Reports on Previous APPF Work
- Future work and hosts of the APPF meeting with date and venue of next meeting
- Adoption of Resolutions and Joint Declaration

## **Draft resolutions proposed**

- 1.13 For APPF25, 36 draft resolutions were proposed by 11 countries including four by Australia. Most proposed resolutions were received in sufficient time to be published on the APPF25 website, allowing other delegations an opportunity to consider them before the meeting.
- 1.14 All draft resolutions received were adopted for consideration at the annual meeting. These comprised:
- **Australia**
    - ⇒ Promoting Food Security in the Asia-Pacific Region
    - ⇒ Resolution on regional and sub-regional strategies on combatting non-communicable diseases

- ⇒ Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls
- ⇒ Increasing participation of women in politics

■ **Canada**

- ⇒ Achieving Peace and Denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula
- ⇒ Ensuring Sustainable Development

■ **Chile**

- ⇒ Commercial and Economic Matters – Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC2016)
- ⇒ Promotion of Conservation and Sustainable Use of Ecosystems, Oceans and Marine Resources
- ⇒ Role of the Social Networks in Civil Engagement
- ⇒ Promoting Sustainable Economic Growth in the Asia Pacific Region
- ⇒ Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction in the Asia Pacific Region

■ **Fiji**

- ⇒ Elimination of Violence Against Women

■ **Indonesia**

- ⇒ Cooperation and Practical approaches that Parliaments and Knowledge Institutions in the Region can take for Sustainable Development: On Good Governance and Anti-Corruption Practices
- ⇒ Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls: Decision Making
- ⇒ Promoting Intercultural and Interfaith Dialogue

■ **Japan**

- ⇒ Disaster Risk Reduction
- ⇒ The Middle East Peace Process
- ⇒ Counter-Terrorism and Violent Extremism
- ⇒ Achieving Denuclearization and Peace on the Korean Peninsula
- ⇒ Economy and Trade

**■ Republic of Korea**

- ⇒ Peace on the Korean Peninsula
- ⇒ Promoting Economic Growth and Free Trade
- ⇒ Strengthening Cooperation on Climate Change

**■ Malaysia**

- ⇒ Promoting Sustainable Economic Growth in the Asia-Pacific region through digital economy
- ⇒ Strengthening Systems of Border Control and Monitoring to Combat Human and Drug Trafficking

**■ Mexico**

- ⇒ Regional Cooperation – Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and Its Impact
- ⇒ Political and Security Matters – Gender Equality and Women and Girls Empowerment
- ⇒ Economic and Trade Matters – Poverty Alleviation: In Defence of the SDGs to Accomplish the 2030 Agenda
- ⇒ Economic and Trade Matters – Promotion of the Sustainable Economic Growth in the Asia-Pacific Region
- ⇒ Strengthening Systems of Border Control and Monitoring to Combat Human and Drug Trafficking

**■ Russian Federation**

- ⇒ Peace and Security in the Asia-Pacific Region
- ⇒ Fight Against Terrorism
- ⇒ Economic and Trade Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region
- ⇒ Role of APPF Parliaments in the Implementations of the Sustainable Development Goals
- ⇒ Parliament Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region

**■ Thailand**

- ⇒ The Promotion of Conservation and Sustainable Use of Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources

## Working through the agenda

- 1.15 As is the practice, the meeting made progress through the agenda with delegates speaking on agenda items. A delegate from those countries that proposed a draft resolution on a particular agenda item spoke to it at the relevant plenary session as did other delegates. Notionally, completion of debate in the plenary on an agenda item, was followed first, by negotiation and debate on related draft resolution(s) in meetings of the relevant working group established by the Drafting Committee, and then by the finalisation of the terms of all resolutions in the Drafting Committee itself.
- 1.16 As is apparent from the list of draft resolutions set out above, for many of the agenda items at APPF25 more than one draft resolution had been proposed, and a number of draft resolutions were broadly rather than specifically relevant to agenda items. Six working groups were convened to negotiate and develop the draft resolutions, which were then brought before the Drafting Committee for further consideration and to settle final drafts to be presented to the plenary for adoption.
- 1.17 The working groups comprised representatives from delegations that had proposed the resolutions under consideration and representatives of other delegations interested in participating in negotiations and drafting. At APPF 25 there was a busy schedule of working group meetings, the first of which commenced in the afternoon of 16 January.
- 1.18 The Drafting Committee itself began its work with a formal meeting in the morning of 16 January. After noting the schedule of working group meetings, the Drafting Committee commenced debate on those agenda items where there was a single draft resolution. The Drafting Committee continued to meet throughout the annual meeting, concluding on 18 January.
- 1.19 The 21 final resolutions that were settled by the Drafting Committee were put to the plenary at the last session of the meeting on the afternoon of 18 January, and adopted by consensus, in accordance with APPF practice. For a list of the final resolutions see Appendix D and for a copy of the Joint Communique see Appendix E.

## Australia's preparations for the annual meeting

- 1.20 With assistance from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the Parliamentary Library and the delegation's secretary, detailed briefing material on all agenda items was provided to the delegation before the annual meeting. The briefing material was accompanied by background material on Fiji. To facilitate access, the briefing material was provided to delegates electronically on their mobile devices.

- 1.21 Before attending the annual meeting, the delegation met in Canberra on 1 December 2016. It considered a background briefing document on the APPF together with the agenda for the forthcoming annual meeting, and identified the topics for which the delegates wished to speak. The delegation agreed to submit a draft resolution for each agenda item to be spoken to in the plenary. At the meeting, the delegation also received a briefing from DFAT on Australia's bilateral relationship with Fiji.
- 1.22 The delegation meeting was important in the delegation's preparations for the annual meeting, particularly given the need to submit draft resolutions and register speakers in advance of the actual meeting.
- 1.23 A representative of the Australian High Commission in Fiji met the delegation on arrival in Nadi and gave the delegation an in-country briefing on developments in Fiji at the forum venue. The Australian High Commissioner, Ms Margaret Twomey, also met the delegation and attended several forum activities. Ms Twomey's advice was valued greatly and she facilitated informal discussions between delegates and several Fijian ministers also attending the forum.
- 1.24 More generally, the Australian delegation wishes to express its gratitude for the level of support it received from DFAT, both in Canberra and Fiji. The Parliamentary Library also provided valuable assistance.
- 1.25 The quality of work that goes into preparatory briefings and materials and the support during the annual meeting itself, contributes significantly to the delegation's capacity to represent the Parliament effectively and to participate fully at annual meetings of the APPF.
- 1.26 The delegation notes that there are lead times for participation in the APPF annual meetings. Under the APPF rules, draft resolutions need to be provided two months in advance of the annual meeting, and delegates wishing to make statements in the plenary need to be registered in advance. Accordingly, the delegation continues to support the suggestion of earlier reports that Australian delegation members be identified by the end of October each year.

### **Australia's contribution to debate and work of the annual meeting**

- 1.27 The delegation had a very busy schedule, contributing in each plenary session as appropriate in support of the draft resolutions the delegates proposed to the APPF. The full text of the draft resolutions proposed by the delegation is included in Appendix F. Mr Entsch spoke to his motion: *Resolution on Regional and Sub-regional strategies on Combatting non-communicational diseases*. During discussion in the drafting committee, Mr Entsch expanded the resolution to include acknowledgement that tuberculosis, a communicable disease, remains a major public health



concern for many countries in the Pacific region. Mr Entsch noted that the 2016 World Health Organisation report on Tuberculosis suggests that tuberculosis is once again the world's leading infectious-disease killer, with 10.7 million people falling ill with tuberculosis, resulting in approximately 1.8 million deaths per year. The risk is compounded because air travel, a major form of transport between the many small-island states in the Asia-Pacific region, makes the easy transmission of tuberculosis a significant risk to the collective health of the region. The resolution was amended to reflect these concerns without dissent, resolving that parliaments of the APPF Member States confirm their commitment to fight tuberculosis and to support any new initiatives for the development of diagnosis, treatment and vaccines.

- 1.28 Senator Moore and Ms Swanson both spoke to two Australian resolutions: one on *Gender equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls* and the other on *Increasing Participation of Women in Politics*. These resolutions were discussed in the meeting of Women Parliamentarians, as described above, in the relevant plenary session, by a working group and then by the Drafting Committee. Through these several discussions, at which Senator Moore and Ms Swanson were active participants, the Australian resolutions were merged with similar ones into a single resolution entitled *Gender equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls: Increasing the Political, Economic and Social Participation of Women*. This joint resolution was sponsored by Australia, Indonesia, Mexico, Fiji, Canada and New Zealand. The Australian delegates also supported a separate Fijian draft resolution on the elimination of violence against women.
- 1.29 Senator Williams sponsored a draft resolution promoting food security in the Asia-Pacific region. One of the key themes Senator Williams stressed was the need for countries to preserve the quality of their soils and increase carbon capture in the topsoil in order to sustain crop yields. Senator Williams spoke on the resolution at both a plenary session and participated in a working party with delegates from Indonesia and Fiji who also had draft resolutions on food security. The concerns of Senator Williams were addressed in the final resolution.
- 1.30 As indicated, delegates gave speeches during the plenary sessions and participated in working groups related to the four agenda items on which Australia and other countries had submitted draft resolutions. Members also contributed to other working groups on which they had a particular subject interest.
- 1.31 Many of the working groups involved extended discussion, including where there were multiple draft resolutions to be combined from countries whose APPF participants did not share a common language.

- 1.32 Delegation leader, Mr Entsch, represented Australia at the meetings of the Drafting Committee, playing an influential role. The only time he did not participate was when speaking at a plenary session on the draft resolution on communicable and non-communicable diseases. During that time Ms Swanson represented Australia on the Drafting Committee.
- 1.33 In the Drafting Committee meetings, the text of the draft resolutions presented from the working groups were considered clause by clause and line by line and many amendments were made. Consensus was able to be achieved, often after extended discussion. In the event, 21 resolutions were agreed for presentation to the plenary.
- 1.34 At its final session, the Drafting Committee also developed the draft Joint Communiqué for consideration by the plenary.

### **Final plenary session**

- 1.35 As mentioned, at the final plenary session on 18 January 2016, the Forum considered and adopted the resolutions and Joint Communiqué prepared by the Drafting Committee. The Joint Communiqué contains an overview of the activities of the meeting. It outlines the attendance at the meeting, the broad scope of the debates, the resolutions adopted, acknowledgment of the work of the hosts and plans for the next annual meeting to be held in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in January 2018. A copy of the joint statement from the Communiqué is contained in Appendix E of this report.

### **Other meetings and activities**

- 1.36 One of the benefits of APPF meetings is that they afford the opportunity for members of different parliaments to meet on the sidelines of the main meetings. The Australian delegation was pleased to be able to hold such a bilateral meeting with the Mexican delegation, in a meeting facilitated by the APPF organisers. The meeting allowed the delegates to discuss issues of mutual interest including multilateral and bilateral trade agreements.
- 1.37 The Australian delegation members also took full opportunity to participate in informal discussions during breaks in meetings of the plenary, Drafting Committee and working groups and at the social activities organised for that purpose. Delegation members established fruitful links with members of other participating delegations.

## Outcomes

- 1.38 APPF25 comprised a full program of meetings and formal social activities. Although only four in number (far smaller than some delegations), the Australian delegation played an active and influential role at the meeting, contributing to debate in the plenary sessions, negotiations on draft resolutions in working groups, and to the work of the Drafting Committee. All delegation members worked together closely to support the resolutions to raise the profile of women parliamentarians and to make meetings of women parliamentarians a standing agenda item at future APPF meetings. The Australian delegates forged strong relations with Indonesian delegates in particular while promoting these discussions.
- 1.39 The delegation is satisfied that its representation of the Parliament at the meeting's sessions, both formal and informal, demonstrated the Australian Parliament's continuing commitment to the APPF. In addition, the delegation was able to consider significant subject matter together with parliamentary colleagues in the region, and to build sound parliament-to-parliament links.



## The Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF): general role and operations

### Australia and the APPF

- 2.1 This chapter of the delegation's report describes the role and activities of the APPF in general terms, and Australia's contribution to its work over the years. This background information informs the first chapter, which covers the delegation's contribution to APPF25 and its perception of the outcomes of the meeting.
- 2.2 The APPF is an assembly of members of national parliaments in the Asia-Pacific region which has met each year since 1993 to discuss a range of issues of mutual concern. A former Prime Minister of Japan, HE Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, was central to the establishment of the APPF.
- 2.3 Issues the APPF deals with are mainly strategic, economic, social and cultural in nature. More information about the history and objectives of the APPF is provided below.
- 2.4 The APPF is of importance to the Australian Parliament as a parliamentary association of members which share Australia's regional strategic and economic interests. Key regional countries with which Australia has strong links send delegations to APPF annual meetings. The APPF, thereby, provides a unique framework for Australian parliamentarians to engage in dialogue, share perspectives and develop ideas with their regional counterparts. Australian delegates are able to offer Australian perspectives and to develop their knowledge and understanding of the perspectives of parliamentarians in neighbouring countries on a range of issues.

- 2.5 Australia has played a prominent part in the APPF from the time of its inception, with one of the two preparatory meetings leading to its establishment being held in Canberra in 1991. Since then, the eighth annual meeting in 2000 was held in Canberra, and Australia has been a constant participant at annual meetings. Australia's delegation has been active in submitting, debating, and negotiating draft resolutions on a variety of agenda items. The delegation's draft resolutions have focused on regional social, political, economic and security cooperation.

## History and role of the APPF

### Members

- 2.6 The APPF was established formally at its First Annual Meeting in Tokyo in January 1993, following preparatory meetings held in 1991 (Singapore and Australia). The Tokyo Declaration adopted at the First Annual Meeting, referred to below as the '1993 Tokyo Declaration'<sup>1</sup>, outlined the objectives and organisational aspects of the APPF. It provided for the APPF to be open to all national parliamentarians<sup>2</sup> in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly from the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum members, and members of the South Pacific Forum (Pacific Islands Forum since 1999) who:
- have an active interest in promoting dialogue among parliamentarians in the region; and
  - accept the objectives and principles of the APPF.<sup>3</sup>

### Objectives

- 2.7 The objectives of the APPF, as initially outlined in the 1993 Tokyo Declaration and, following incorporation with minor amendment, as reflected in the New APPF Rules of Procedure adopted in 2012 at APPF20 in Tokyo, are to seek to provide opportunities for national parliamentarians of sovereign states of the Asia-Pacific region to:

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1 The text of the 1993 Tokyo Declaration is available at [http://www.appf.org.pe/Milestone Declarations, Tokyo Declaration](http://www.appf.org.pe/Milestone%20Declarations,%20Tokyo%20Declaration).

2 Under the 'New APPF Rules of Procedure', adopted at APPF20, the membership of the APPF is now open to national parliaments of sovereign states in the Asia-Pacific region.

3 Paragraph 7 of the 1993 Tokyo Declaration.

- identify and discuss matters of common concern and interest and to highlight them in a global context;
- deepen their understanding of the policy concerns, interests and experiences of the countries of the region;
- examine the critical political, social and cultural developments resulting from economic growth and integration;
- encourage and promote regional cooperation at all levels on matters of common concern to the region; and
- play the roles of national parliamentarians in furthering in their respective countries a sense of regional cohesion, understanding and cooperation.<sup>4</sup>

## Guiding principles

2.8 The APPF operates under these guiding principles:

- commitment to frank and constructive dialogue;
- equal respect for the views of all participants; and
- full recognition of the roles performed by governments, business communities, labour organisations, research institutes and others.<sup>5</sup>

## APPF procedures

### Defining documents

2.9 The policies and administrative procedures of the APPF have gradually developed by means of resolutions agreed at annual meetings. Australia has had a significant role in the development of the APPF as expressed in these documents. There are now five strategic documents:

- 1993 Tokyo Declaration;
- Vancouver Declaration (1997);
- Valparaiso Declaration (2001);
- new Tokyo Declaration (2012); and
- New APPF Rules of Procedure (2012).<sup>6</sup>

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4 Rule 2 of the New APPF Rules of Procedure; paragraph 2 of the 1993 Tokyo Declaration refers.

5 Rule 3 of the New APPF Rules of Procedure; paragraph 3 of the 1993 Tokyo Declaration refers.

## The 1993 Tokyo Declaration

2.10 The 1993 Tokyo Declaration is the foundation document of the APPF and describes the APPF's functions:

4. The APPF will act to promote greater regional identification and cooperation with particular focus on:

- a. cooperation for the further advancement of peace, freedom, democracy, and prosperity;
- b. open and non-exclusive cooperation for the expansion of free trade and investment, and sustainable development and sound environmental practices; and
- c. non-military cooperation, which gives due consideration to issues relating to regional peace and security.<sup>7</sup>

2.11 The 1993 Tokyo Declaration also provides that:

- all decisions of the APPF be made by consensus at an annual meeting;<sup>8</sup>
- all delegates to the annual meetings be national parliamentarians;<sup>9</sup> and
- membership of the APPF be reviewed 'when necessary'.<sup>10</sup> The most recent additions to the membership of the APPF were Costa Rica and Ecuador in 2001.

2.12 In relation to decision making by consensus, the New APPF Rules of Procedure include a provision to allow partial reservations to resolutions to be mentioned in the resolution document, thereby permitting minority opinions at APPF meetings to be reflected in the outcomes of the meeting. At APPF25, all decisions continued to be made on a consensus basis.

## Vancouver, Valparaiso and new Tokyo (2012) declarations

2.13 As referred above, three additional policy documents are relevant to the operations of the APPF:

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6 Rules of procedure were first adopted in the 1994 annual meeting in the Philippines and have subsequently been amended, most recently at APPF20.

7 Paragraph 4 of the 1993 Tokyo Declaration.

8 Paragraph 5 of the 1993 Tokyo Declaration.

9 Paragraph 7 of the 1993 Tokyo Declaration.

10 Paragraph 8 of the 1993 Tokyo Declaration.



- the Vancouver Declaration (1997) enunciated the common interests of countries in the region in the context of the end of the Cold War and the approach of the 21<sup>st</sup> century;
- the Valparaiso Declaration (2001) focused on the geographical significance of the Asia-Pacific region and identified five basic principles for peaceful co-existence in the region; and
- the new Tokyo Declaration (2012) noted major transformations in the Asia-Pacific region and in the international community since the establishment of the APPF in 1993, the many challenges faced, and the importance of action, particularly in the areas of advanced information, communications and scientific technologies, to address the challenges. The declaration affirmed the value of the APPF in promoting the peace, stability and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region.

## Rules of procedure

- 2.14 The procedural arrangements in the APPF were first set out in the 1994 Annual Meeting in the Philippines and have been updated from time to time. Minor amendments to the rules were agreed in Lima in 1999 (Executive Committee changes) and Hawaii in 2002 (additional member countries). The meeting in Beijing in 2004 established the role of an Honorary President and provided for a rotating Presidency (a President is to be appointed each year by the next host country).
- 2.15 Significant amendments to the rules were agreed at APPF20 in Tokyo in 2012 including in relation to the structure and role of the organisation, arrangements for annual meetings, and the role of the position of Honorary President.

## Executive Committee: structure and current issues

- 2.16 The Executive Committee consists of representatives from member countries, rather than individuals, with countries being elected on a rotating basis. The Committee has eleven members, with eight members representing the four APPF sub-regions (two representatives per sub-region), two members representing the host countries for the current and the next annual meeting, and one member (Japan) designated by the Honorary President.<sup>11</sup>

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11 Under the New APPF Rules of Procedure, rule 39 (c), there is provision for the Honorary President to designate a country to be represented on the Executive Committee.

2.17 The four sub-regions of the APPF comprise:

- **Northeast Asia** (five countries): People’s Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Russian Federation;
- **Southeast Asia** (eight countries): Kingdom of Cambodia, Republic of Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Singapore, Kingdom of Thailand, Socialist Republic of Vietnam; (Negara Brunei Darussalam is not included as it has observer status);
- **Oceania** (six countries): Australia, Republic of Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea; and
- **The Americas** (eight countries): Canada, Republic of Chile, Republic of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Republic of Peru, United States of America.

2.18 Under the New APPF Rules of Procedure, the term of office of the Executive Committee is from May of the year of an annual meeting until April four years later. Previously the membership term was two years. Half the members of the committee are re-elected every two years to provide continuity and share representation. The member from the next host country joins the committee in the May before the annual meeting and retires in the April following the annual meeting.<sup>12</sup>

2.19 The arrangements for representation on the Executive Committee from Oceania are set out in the report of the Australian Delegation to APPF19.<sup>13</sup> The forward arrangements for Oceania membership of the Executive Committee are as follows:

2017	Papua New Guinea	Fiji
2018	Papua New Guinea	Fiji
2019	Australia	Fiji <sup>14</sup>

2.20 The Oceania representatives have also agreed that should a representative not be able to attend an annual meeting, then the Oceania member countries present would agree which of them should attend the Executive

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12 New APPF Rules of Procedure, rule 44.

13 *Report of the Parliamentary Delegation to the nineteenth annual meeting of the APPF*, March 2011.

14 Fiji began its term at APPF25 in January 2017 and Australia is scheduled to begin its term at APPF27 in January 2019.

Committee meeting in place of the absent representative, and inform the secretariat for that meeting as soon as possible.<sup>15</sup>

- 2.21 The arrangements set out in the previous two paragraphs were formally reported at APPF21. At APPF25, Australia, following agreement by the other representative delegations from Oceania, attended the Executive Committee meeting in place of Papua New Guinea, which did not send a delegation.

## Organisation of the annual meeting

### Annual meetings and secretariat

- 2.22 APPF annual meetings take place in January each year and are hosted by a national parliament. The host, date and venue of each annual meeting are determined at the preceding meeting (rule 19 of the New APPF Rules of Procedure refers). The host for the annual meeting makes the necessary arrangements for the meeting, in consultation with the Executive Committee. Further arrangements relating to the annual meeting, including the timing of preparations for annual meetings, are set out in the rules. The timetable for preparations is referred to in Figure 1 and in the following paragraphs.

### Proposed agenda

- 2.23 Prior to each annual meeting in January, a proposed agenda and program are developed by the host country in consultation with the Executive Committee. Until 1999 there were advance meetings of the committee which were generally held in the country which was to host the next annual meeting. Since then, arrangements for annual meetings have been arranged by electronic communications between the next host country, the Honorary President's office in Tokyo, and other Executive Committee representatives. The final and official agenda is adopted by motion at the commencement of the annual meeting. For APPF25, a draft agenda was distributed in November 2016.

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15 New APPF Rules of Procedure, rule 43(b), provides that the method of election of representatives is a matter to be settled by the sub regions as they see fit.

## Invitations

- 2.24 The host country sends official invitations to member countries to attend the next annual meeting, typically by the end of October.

## Draft resolutions

- 2.25 Under the New APPF Rules of Procedure, draft resolutions are required two months in advance of the annual meeting. Draft resolutions were requested for APPF25 by the beginning of December 2016, shortly after the draft agenda was received.
- 2.26 Draft resolutions are posted on the APPF website where they may be viewed by all APPF members (and members of the public). In practice, many countries do not prepare draft resolutions and choose to debate the draft resolutions of those countries that do provide them according to the timetable. Australia customarily provides draft resolutions ahead of the annual meetings. For APPF25, Australia provided four draft resolutions, as described above.
- 2.27 Under the New APPF Rules of Procedure, draft resolutions are required to be relevant to an agenda item. Where more than one country has submitted a draft resolution on a particular agenda item, participants from the countries involved (and any other interested delegations) meet in working groups to produce a single draft resolution on the item. Combining multiple drafts often forms much of the work of working groups of delegates that support the Drafting Committee.

## Drafting Committee

- 2.28 A Drafting Committee is established at the Annual Meeting on the advice of the Executive Committee to prepare final draft resolutions and a draft joint communiqué for consideration, adoption, and release at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.
- 2.29 Participation in the work of the Drafting Committee varies from delegation to delegation. The Drafting Committee may establish a number of working groups to assist in developing consolidated draft resolutions. Smaller delegations may not have the capacity to enable members to participate in both the plenary and the Drafting Committee when the meetings are held simultaneously. Similarly, if delegations have a number of draft resolutions being negotiated in working groups that are meeting at the same time, it may not be possible to be represented at all meetings. Some of the larger delegations have members who specialise in the subject

matter of particular items and some have professional advisers such as academics and diplomats.

- 2.30 At APPF25, delegations varied in size from one to 30 people and there were varied levels of representation at the different kinds of meetings. It was often the case at APPF25 that meetings of the plenary, of multiple working groups and of the Drafting Committee were held simultaneously. As a consequence, it was not possible for members of the Australian delegation to attend all working group meetings, although it was able to actively participate in four of the six working groups, the Drafting Committee and the plenary.
- 2.31 When the final draft resolutions come before the plenary, participants from those countries which provided the original draft resolutions may speak on the item. Other delegates may also speak. The final draft may be amended during the debate in the plenary and the text is determined by consensus. In practice, because there has often been extensive debate on draft resolutions beforehand in the working groups and in the Drafting Committee, there is little likelihood of the final draft being debated and amended during debate in the plenary.
- 2.32 At APPF25, the Drafting Committee's meetings finalised draft resolutions that had been discussed, amended and combined by the six working groups of delegates. The plenary adopted the proposals of the Drafting Committee without further debate. Twenty one resolutions were adopted at the final session.

## Joint Communiqué

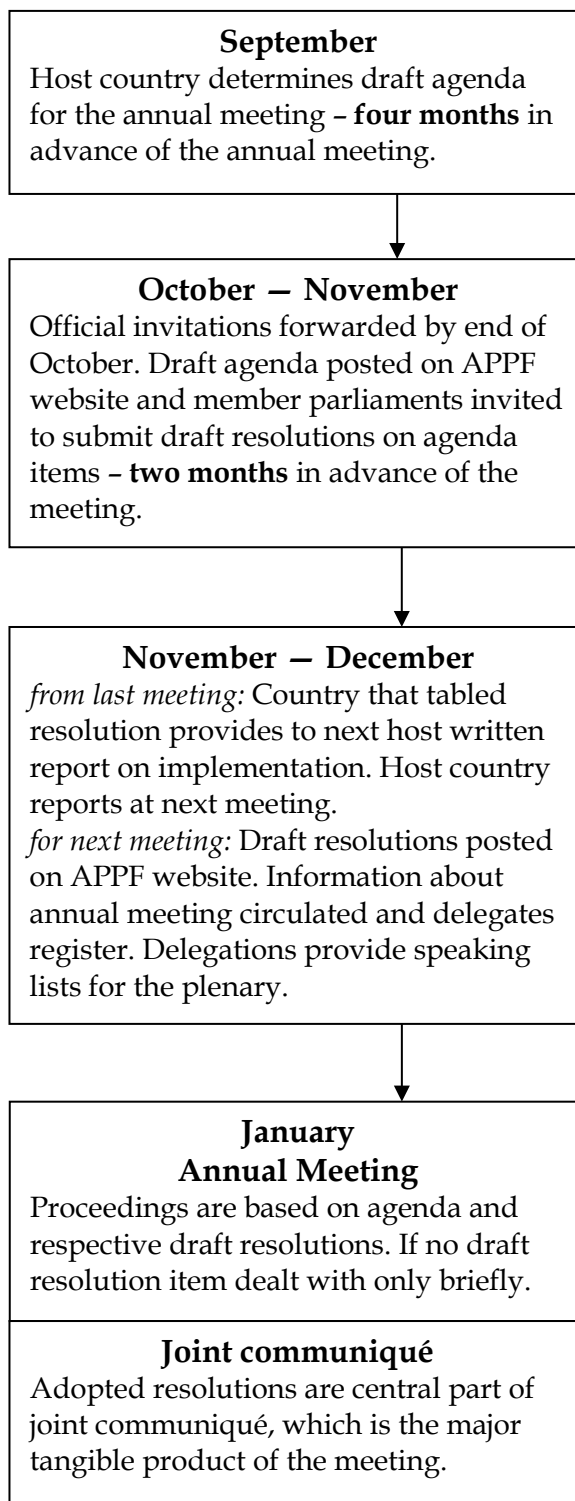
- 2.33 At the conclusion of each annual meeting the leaders of all participating nations sign a Joint Communiqué, prepared by the Drafting Committee, which includes, amongst other things, a list of all resolutions passed by the meeting. The text of all the resolutions that were adopted is available from the website.<sup>16</sup>

**THE HON WARREN ENTSCH MP**

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<sup>16</sup> <http://www.appf25.org.fj/documents/final-resolutions/>

Figure 1 Outline of annual meeting preparations and proceedings



## Photographs of the Australia delegation at APPF25

Figure 2: Delegation Leader – Hon Mr Warren Entsch MP networking in plenary session



Figure 3: Senator Williams in a working group



Figure 4: Ms Swanson MP in a plenary session



Figure 5: Senator Moore in a plenary session

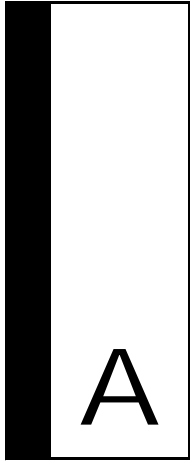




Figure 6: Australian Delegation signing final Communique







## Appendix A

### **Program for the Twenty-fifth Annual Meeting of the APPF Natadola, Fiji: 14 – 19 January 2017<sup>1</sup>**

#### **Saturday 14 January 2017**

All day	Arrival of participants - Nadi International Airport  Greeting and transportation to the Official Hotel <i>Venue: The Intercontinental Fiji, Natadola</i>
12.00 - 20.00	Registration of delegates and participants
Private Program	

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<sup>1</sup> The meetings of the working groups are not included in this program.

## Sunday 15 January 2017

All day	<p><b>** All meetings take place at The Intercontinental Fiji, Natadola</b></p> <p>Arrival of participants – Nadi International Airport</p> <p>Greeting and transportation to the Official Hotel <i>Venue:</i> The Intercontinental Fiji, Natadola</p> <p>Registration of delegates and participants</p> <p>APPF registration and information desk, Front foyer</p>
9.00 – 14.00	<p>Meeting of Women Parliamentarians Ballrooms 1 and 2)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Opening Sessions by Introduction by the Chair/Co-Chairs of the meeting</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Welcoming Remarks by The Hon Dr Jiko Luveni Speaker of the Fijian Parliament,</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Opening Address by The Hon Mereseini Vuniwaqa Fijian Minister for Women, Children &amp; Poverty Alleviation</p> <p><b>Plenary Session</b></p> <p>Delegates discuss progress of the 24th Annual Meeting resolutions (Resolution APPF24/Res.22) that focused on “Ensuring women’s participation at all levels of political and public life.” Delegates are invited to deliver voluntary updates on how their parliaments or inter-parliamentary groups have progressed on the resolutions and recommendations made at the 2016 APPF annual meeting. Delegates are encouraged to share their experiences and any initiatives being undertaken to progress on those resolutions and recommendations. They are also encouraged to highlight any challenges or barriers towards the goal of ensuring women’s participation at all levels of political and public life.</p> <p>Discussion on ‘strengthening the role of women in decision-making for sustainable development’. Delegates to discuss ways in which the proportion of women in decision-making positions in the region can be</p>

	<p>increased. This includes the number of women employed in decision-making and management roles in government enterprises, and institutions.</p> <p>Discussion and comments on the draft resolution sponsored by Indonesia – “Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls: Decision Making</p> <p>Discussion and comments are invited on the draft resolution sponsored by Australia – “Increasing Participation of Women in Politics”.</p> <p>Tea Break (10 minutes)</p> <p>Plenary discussion on the future of the APPF Meeting of Women Parliamentarians (55 minutes).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Implementation of the 2016 recommendation that the annual APPF Meeting of Women Parliamentarians be reflected in the APPF <i>Rules of Procedure</i>. (APPF24/RES.22)</li> </ul> <p>Closing remarks by the Co-Chairs of the meeting (5 minutes)</p>
12.00 - 13.30	<p><b>Luncheon for Women Parliamentarians</b> hosted by</p> <p>The Hon Mereseini Vuniwaqa, Fijian Minister for Women, Children &amp; Poverty Alleviation <i>[by invitation only]</i></p>
12.00 - 13.30	<p><b>Luncheon for Members of the Executive Committee</b> hosted by</p> <p>The Honourable Dr Jiko Fatafehi Luveni Speaker of the Fijian Parliament <i>[by invitation only]</i></p>
12.30 - 13.30	<p><b>Meeting of Advisors and Secretaries to Delegations</b> (Secretariat briefing to all accompanying Delegation Secretaries)</p>
14.00 - 17.00	<p><b>Meeting of the Executive Committee</b> Ballroom 1 &amp; 2</p>

18.30 – 19.30	<p><b>Welcome Reception</b></p> <p>hosted by</p> <p>The Honourable Dr Jiko Fatafehi Luveni. Speaker of the Fijian Parliament;</p> <p><i>Business Attire</i> <i>[for all participants]</i></p>
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### **Monday 16 January 2017**

8.30 – 9.30	Official Fijian Traditional Ceremonies of Welcome (Kama Lawn)
09.30 – 09.40	Photo session – All APPF Delegation Members
9.40 – 9.45	Proceed to Plenary Venue
9.40 – 10.30	<p><b>Official Opening Session</b></p> <p>Welcoming remarks by</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The Honourable Dr Jiko Luveni, Speaker of the Fijian Parliament and President of the APPF (Chair of the Executive Committee)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The Honourable Takuji Yanagimoto, Member of the House of Councillors of Japan</p> <p>Opening Address by</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The Honourable Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji</p> <p>Vote of Thanks</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> His Excellency the Honourable Mr Fadi Zon Vice Speaker, the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia</p>
10.30 – 10.45	Health break
10.30 – 10.35	Photo Session at the Grand Ballroom (Heads of Delegations)
10.45 – 12.00	<p><b>First Plenary Session</b></p> <p><i>Political and Security Matters</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls</p>

11.00 – 12.00	Meeting of the Drafting Committee Watercourt Room 3
12.00 – 14.00	Luncheon for Speakers and Heads of Delegations hosted by  The Honourable Dr Jiko Luveni. Speaker of the Fijian Parliament  <i>[by invitation only]</i>
12.00 – 14.00	Buffet luncheon for all Delegates
14.00 – 17.00	First Plenary Session (continued) Grand Ballroom  <i>Political and Security Matters</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Strengthening systems of border control and monitoring to combat Human and drug trafficking <input type="checkbox"/> Ensuring effective succession planning including education for Leaders of a New Generation <input type="checkbox"/> Peace and Security in the Asia Pacific Region and the International Community
14.00 – 17.00	Meeting of the Drafting Committee Watercourt Room 3
14.00 – 17.00	Working Groups (3) Watercourt Rooms 4,5 & 6
18.30 – 21.30	Buffet Diner  <i>Smart Casual Dress (Bula ware)</i>  <i>[for all participants]</i>

**Tuesday 17 January 2017**

9.00 – 12.00	Meeting of the Drafting Committee Watercourt Room 3
9:00 – 12:00	Working Groups (3) Watercourt Rooms 4, 5 & 6
9.00 – 10.30	Second Plenary Session Grand Ballroom  <i>Economic and Trade Matters</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC Report 2016) <input type="checkbox"/> Promoting Sustainable Economic Growth in Asia-Pacific Region
10.30 – 10.45	Health Break
10.45 – 12.00	Second Plenary Session (continued) Grand Ballroom  <i>Economic and Trade Matters</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Poverty alleviation – championing the SDG’s to achieve the 2030 agenda
12.00 – 14.00	Buffet Luncheon for all Delegates Sanasana Restaurant
13.00 – 17.30	Meeting of the Drafting Committee Watercourt Room 3
13.30 – 17.30	Working Groups (3) Watercourt Rooms 4, 5 & 6
14:00 – 15.45	Second Plenary Session (continued) Grand Ballroom  <i>Economic and Trade Matters</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Promoting food security in the Asia Pacific Region <input type="checkbox"/> Role of Social Media in civic participation



15.45 – 16.30	<p>Third Plenary Session</p> <p>Grand Ballroom</p> <p><i>Regional Cooperation</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Take urgent action to combat Climate Change and its impact</p>
16.30 – 17.30	<p>Third Plenary Session (continued)</p> <p>Grand Ballroom</p> <p><i>Regional Cooperation</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> To promote the Conservation and Sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, Oceans, seas and Marine resources</p>
	<p>Private Program</p>

### Wednesday 18 January 2017

9.00 – 12.00	<p>Third Plenary Session (continued)</p> <p>Grand Ballroom</p> <p><i>Regional Cooperation</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cooperation and practical approaches that Parliaments and knowledge institutions in the Region can take for sustainable development</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Developing regional and sub-regional strategies on combating non-communicable diseases</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Disaster Risk Reduction</p>
9.00 – 12.00	<p>Meeting of the Drafting Committee</p> <p>Watercourt Room 3</p>
12.00 – 14.00	<p>Buffet Luncheon for all Delegates</p>
13.00 – 14.00	<p>Meeting of the Drafting Committee</p> <p>Watercourt Room 3</p>
14.00 – 16.00	<p>Final Plenary Session</p> <p>Grand Ballroom</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Outcome of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Reports on Previous APPF Work</p>

	<input type="checkbox"/> Future Work and Hosts of APPF Annual Meetings <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption of the Resolutions and Joint Declaration <input type="checkbox"/> Signature of the Joint Declaration <input type="checkbox"/> Closing Statements
16.30 – 17.00	<b>Final Press Conference</b> Watercourt Room 3
18.00 – 22.00	<b>Farewell dinner for all Delegates</b> <b>Grand Ballroom</b> hosted by His Excellency Jioji Konousi Konrote President of the Republic of Fiji

#### **Thursday 19 January 2017**

All Day	Departure of Delegates
8.30 – 16.30	<b>Excursion (Optional)</b> Day Cruise to Tivua Island

#### **Friday 20 and Saturday 21 January 2017**

All Day	Departure of Delegates
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## Appendix B

### **Delegates to the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the APPF<sup>1</sup>**

#### **Australia**

Mr Warren Entsch MP	Leader of Delegation
Senator Claire Moore	Deputy Leader of Delegation
Ms Meryl Swanson MP	
Senator John Williams	
(+ 1 staff member)	

#### **Cambodia**

Mr Vun Chheang	Leader of Delegation
Mrs SreyMom Ban	
Mr Ham Pol	
Mr Kimyeat Chhit	
(+ 3 staff members)	

#### **Canada**

Mr Joseph A Day	Leader of Delegation
Mr Blaine Calkins	
Mr Geng Tan	
Ms Alice Wong	

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<sup>1</sup> A full list of participants at APPF annual meetings can usually be obtained at <http://www.appf.org.pe/> at the Annual Meetings page

(+2 staff members)

## **Chile**

Mr Marco Nuñez Lozano

Leader of Delegation

Mr Iván Flores

Ms Karla Rubilar

Mr Iván Norambuena

Mr Christian Urizar

Mr Alejandro Santana

Mr Ivan Moreira

(+ 1 staff member)

## **China**

Mr Ailigeng Yimingbahai

Leader of Delegation

Ms Chunying Xin

Mr Weizhou Cao

Mr Li Wang

(+ 17 staff members)

## **Colombia**

Mr Miguel Pinto Hernández

Speaker, Leader of Delegation

## **Federation States of Micronesia**

Various

## **Fiji**

Various

## **Indonesia**

Various

**Japan**

Mr Hirofumi Nakasone  
Mr Takuji Yanagimoto  
Ms Karen Makishima  
Mr Masato Imai  
Mr Takayuki Shimizu  
(+17 staff members)

Leader of Delegation

**Korea (Republic of)**

Mr Sye-kyun Chung  
Mr Jin-bok Lee  
Mr Gwang-lim Kim  
Ms Jung-sook Chang  
Mr Cheol-min Kim  
Mr Dong-kun Shin  
Ms Joo-hyun Park  
Mr Chung-woo Kim  
Ms Kyung-mee Park  
Mr Seung-jo Yang  
Mr Se-jung Oh  
(+ 30 staff members)

Speaker of the National Assembly,  
Leader of Delegation

**Lao P.D.R.**

Mr Linkham Douangsavanh`  
(+ 1 staff member)

Leader of Delegation

**Malaysia**

Mr Seri Panglima Pandikar Amin Mulia  
Mr Chandra S Thambiraja

Speaker of the House of  
Representatives, Leader of  
Delegation

Mrs Norlizq Abdul Rahim  
Mr Haji Abdullah  
Mr Khairudin ES Abd Samad  
(+ 7 staff members)

## **Mexico**

Mr Manuel Cavazos Lerma Leader of Delegation  
Mr Jose Santana Garcia  
Mrs Rosa Diaz Lizama  
Mr José Oriheual Bárcenas  
Mr Daniel Avial Ruiz  
Mrs Maria Barrera Tapia  
Mrs Sonia Díaz  
Mrs Lilia Merodio Reza  
Ms Itzel Ríos De La Mora  
Ms Lia Limón García  
Mr José Barraza López  
(+ 3 staff members)

## **New Zealand**

Mr Parmjett Parmar Leader of Delegation  
Ms Carmel Sepuloni  
Mrs Marama Fox  
(+ 1 staff member)

## **Philippines**

Mr Antonio de Guzmán III Leader of Delegation  
Mr Benjamin Daleon III  
Mr Himerio Garcia



## Diplomatic Corps

Margaret Twomey	High Commissioner Australian High Commission, Fiji
Mr Ping Zhang	Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Fiji
Mr Anning Wang	Director of Political Section of Chinese Embassy
Ms Qing Yang	Third Secretary of Chinese Embassy
Mr Jun Jiang	Third Secretary of Chinese Embassy
Mr H E Takuji Hanatani	Ambassador of Japan to Fiji
Ms Megumi Enya	First Secretary Japanese Embassy, Suva
Ms Misaki Shigeyoshi	Administrative Staff Japanese Embassy, Suva
Mr Seong-in Kim	Ambassador of Korea to Fiji
Mr Jeong-yeol Kwak	Counselor, Korean Embassy in Fiji
Mr Sang-tae Park	1 <sup>st</sup> Secretary, Korean Embassy in Fiji
Mr Sang-dong Lee	Administrative Officer, Korean Embassy in Fiji
Ms Hee-jin Hong	Administrative Officer, Korean Embassy in Fiji
Mr Jae-ho Kim	Assistant, Korean Embassy in Fiji
Ms Chae-young Park	Assistant, Korean Embassy in Fiji
Ms Kim Ji Yoon	Information Officer, Korean Embassy in Fiji
Mr Hamizan Hashim	Official Delegation of Malaysia Office of the High Commission of Malaysia
Ms Noorashikin Mohd Bardam	Official Delegation of Malaysia Office of the High Commission of Malaysia
Mr H E Armando Gonzalo Alvarez Reina	Ambassador of Mexico to Australia and Fiji



Mr Grigoriy Logvinov

Ambassador of Russia

Mr Igor Chibisov

Diplomat, Embassy of Russia

Ms Anna Kovach

Diplomat, Embassy of Russia

Mr Eduard Shakirov

Diplomat, Embassy of Russia





## Appendix C

### **Executive Committee Report**

#### **Introduction**

The Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF)'s Executive Committee meeting took place in Natadola, Fiji on 15 January 2017. Participants included representatives of the following Executive Committee member countries: Japan, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Chile, Australia, and Cambodia. As the current and upcoming hosts of the APPF Annual Meetings, Fiji and Philippines were also present.

The meeting was chaired by the Honourable Speaker of the Fijian Parliament and President of the APPF, Dr Jiko Luveni. Hon. Luveni welcomed the delegations to Natadola and for that matter to Fiji. She hoped that apart from productive discussions during the sessions that delegates would also enjoy the culture and brand of hospitality that Fiji was renowned for.

She also noted that apologies were received from Costa Rica and Papua New Guinea. The meeting was informed that Costa Rica was substituted by Canada and in light of the apologies received from Papua New Guinea and the arrangement within the group for the Oceania sub-region, the Hon. Speaker welcomed the representatives from Australia.

#### **Membership of the Four Sub-regions on the Executive Committee**

Following the adoption of the agenda and introductions by members of the Executive Committee, the first item of business was representation of the APPF's four sub-regions on the Executive Committee.

With regards to the membership terms for Costa Rica, Cambodia, and the Republic of Korea which would come to an end in April 2017, it was decided that Canada replace Costa Rica and serve with Chile in representing their

sub-region. It was also agreed for the Northeast Asia sub-region that Russia replace the Republic of Korea for the next 4 years. In addition to that, following the ASEAN meeting also held Natadola, it was mooted and agreed that Laos P.D.R. replace Cambodia for the sub-region of Southeast Asia.

Although the expiration of membership for New Zealand was brought up, there was no discussion on a replacement or continuation of membership, the Oceania sub-region would need to advise the Secretariat of their decision.

### **Approval of Rules for the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

The Executive Committee was informed by Hon. Speaker that a submission was received from the Indonesian Parliament for an amendment to the rules concerning the Mechanism of the Women Parliamentarians Meeting on whether to make it a permanent feature of the APPF meeting.

Discussions ensued on the matter and it was adopted that the meeting of Women MPs continue to be a permanent feature under the APPF annual meetings.

Indonesia's position was supported by Australia who emphasised that although there was a long way to go, the forum needed to be seen to be supporting women in their various roles of decision making.

A consensus draft resolution co-sponsored by Australia and Indonesia was raised, which included amendments by New Zealand and Canada. Among other elements, the draft resolution encouraged future host Parliaments to include the meeting of Women Parliamentarians as an agenda item.

In light of the support on the matter, it was agreed that the recommendation for the APPF Rules and Procedures be put to the Plenary for further consideration.

### **Review and approval of the draft Agenda for the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

The next item for discussion concerned the approval of the draft agenda for the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.

The Hon. Speaker informed the committee that the draft agenda before them was previously circulated to all Members and with no objections, the agenda for the 25<sup>th</sup> APPF Annual Meeting was approved and presented to the Plenary for endorsement.

## Review and approval of the draft Agenda for the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

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The Hon. Speaker informed the committee that the draft agenda before them was previously circulated to all Members and with no objections, the agenda for the 25<sup>th</sup> APPF Annual Meeting was approved and presented to the Plenary for endorsement.

## Chair of the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Fiji nominated the Hon. Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, Minister for Defence to chair the Plenary, and Hon. Alexander O'Connor and Hon. Mikaele Leawere also of the Fijian Parliament to serve as Co-Chairs of the APPF's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.

These nominations were approved by the Executive Committee.

## Chairperson of Drafting Committee

The Executive Committee next turned to the business of the Drafting Committee. The nomination of the Hon. Senator Joseph A. Day of Canada to serve as Chair of the Drafting Committee was approved.

Hon. Speaker acknowledged the willingness of Hon. Senator Joseph Day to assist in the role as Chair.

## Draft resolutions submitted

Hon. Speaker invited the Chair of the Drafting Committee to brief the Executive Committee.

Senator Day reported that 38 draft resolutions had been submitted so far. Although an initial deadline of 9 November 2016 was set by the Secretariat it was extended to accommodate numerous requests from various delegations.

Senator Day informed the Committee that in addition to the Drafting Committee, the following Working Groups would be formed to consider the resolutions submitted by APPF member countries.

These draft resolutions covered a variety of themes, including Gender Equality, Succession Planning including Education for New Leaders, Peace and Security, Border Control, Human and Drug Trafficking, Economy and Trade, Poverty Alleviation, Food Security, Social Media in Civic Participation, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, Conservation and Sustainable Development.

The Drafting Committee would begin its work on Monday, 16 January, with consideration of all of the stand-alone (i.e. non-overlapping) draft resolutions. He also mentioned that there were a few co-sponsored resolutions and that such a consensus should be the aim of the working groups for effective consideration by the Drafting Committee.

Senator Day reminded the Committee that each participating APPF member country was entitled to representation on the Drafting Committee and the Working Groups especially within the working groups that their resolutions were submitted to.

The Drafting Committee and Working Group schedule was approved. The Executive Committee also approved the 38 draft resolutions for inclusion on the Drafting Committee's agenda.

### Future Annual Meetings

Hon. Speaker called on the representative from Japan to update the Executive Committee on the correspondences between the Office of the Honorary President and potential hosts for the 26<sup>th</sup> APPF meeting.

It was reported that the Philippines was approached to host the next APPF meeting but that the Office of the Honorary President was awaiting an official response.

Citing a lengthy approval process, the Philippines asked to be considered for hosting responsibility at a future time.

Following discussions and despite some hesitation from the Philippines it was conceded that the matter be submitted to the plenary for a decision.

Japan also reported that Vietnam had informally notified its desire to host the 26<sup>th</sup> APPF Annual Meeting in 2018. A delegate of Japan, on behalf of Mr Nakasone, Honorary President of APPF, stated that he would ask Vietnam to host it and that responding to the needs of the National Assembly of Vietnam's internal procedure, Hon. President would write a letter to the National Assembly of Vietnam concerning this as soon as possible.

While on the issue, Japan reported that they had received confirmation that Cambodia would be hosting the 27<sup>th</sup> APPF in 2019. This was agreed to by Cambodia and noted by the Executive Committee.

## Other matters related to the work and management of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum

### A. Outcome of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

The Hon. Dr Nurhayati Ali Assegaf from Indonesia, Co-Chair of the women's meeting presented the report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> APPF Meeting of Women Parliamentarians that was held on 15 January from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

She reported that fourteen countries were represented from the following member countries: Canada, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Australia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, New Zealand, Chile, Vietnam, Japan, Indonesia and Russia, the Philippines were present as an observer. As host, Fiji was also present at the meeting and the key note address delivered by their Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Hon. Mereseini Vuniwaqa.

Hon. Dr. Assegaf reported that discussions were fruitful with contributions from almost all delegates present on a range of issues regarding gender equality, 30% increase of participation of women in all sectors and strengthening of public policies at the community and national level to reflect their level of support.

Following her presentation on the draft consolidated resolution from Indonesia, Australia and Fiji, Hon. Speaker thanked Hon. Dr. Assegaf for her report which was adopted and presented at the plenary.

### B. Reports on Previous Work

The Executive Committee addressed the subject of reporting on previous APPF work.

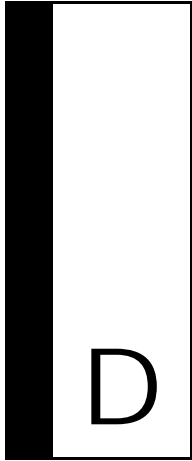
Hon. Speaker reminded members that the *Rules of Procedure* stipulated that countries that have sponsored resolutions are to provide the next host with a written report on how those resolutions have been put into effect, contributing to a status report prepared by the upcoming APPF President on all of the resolutions.

The reports from Chile, Indonesia and Russia were received and made available for the Committee's perusal.

With no further discussions, Hon. Speaker closed the meeting at 3.15 p.m.







## Appendix D

### **Resolutions of the 25th Annual Meeting of the APPF**

#### List of resolutions and sponsors<sup>1</sup>

Peace and Security in the Asia-Pacific Region (Russia)

Role of Social Networks in Civil Engagement (Chile)

Strengthening Systems of Border Control and Monitoring to Combat Human and Drug Trafficking (Malaysia)

Strengthening Cooperation on Climate Change (Korea)

Commercial and Economic Matters Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC 2016) (Chile)

Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction in the Asia-Pacific Region (Chile)

Counter Terrorism and Violent Extremism (Japan)

Economic and Trade Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region (Russia)

Ensuring Sustainable Development (Canada)

Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls: Increasing the Political, Economic and Social Participation of Women (Australia, Indonesia, Fiji, Mexico, Canada, New Zealand)

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<sup>1</sup> The text of the resolutions can be viewed at: <http://www.appf25.org.fj/documents/final-resolutions/>

Resolution on Peace on the Korean Peninsula (Korea)

Poverty Alleviation: In Defence of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to Accomplish the 2030 Agenda (Mexico)

Promoting Food Security in the Asia-Pacific Region (Australia, Indonesia and Fiji)

Promoting Good Governance and Strengthening Anti-Corruption Measures in the Asia-Pacific Region (Indonesia)

Promoting Intercultural and Interfaith Dialogue (Indonesia)

Promoting Sustainable Economic Growth in the Asia-Pacific Region through the Digital Economy (Chile)

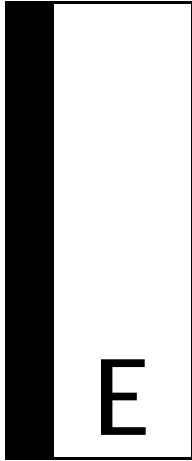
Regional and Sub-Regional Strategies on Combatting Non-Communicable and Communicable Diseases (Australia)

Elimination of Violence Against Women (Fiji)

The Middle East Peace Process (Japan)

Parliamentary Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region (Russia)

Promotion of Conservation and Sustainable Use of Ecosystems, Oceans and Marine Resources (Chile)



## Appendix E

### **Joint Statement of the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the APPF**

At the invitation of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji, the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) was held at the Intercontinental Fiji Golf Resort, Natadola, Fiji from 15-18 January 2017 with a total of 266 participants-including 134 Parliamentarians-from 19 member countries, and an observer delegation.

Following the initial Meeting of Women Parliamentarians that was held in Vancouver, Canada on 17 January, 2016, the second meeting was then held on 15 January 2017. More than 30 Delegates from 16 different countries participated in the meeting which was Co-chaired by Fiji and Indonesia.

The meeting of Women Parliamentarians deliberated on significant themes that focused on various roles that women play in society both in professional as well as home life. Members from different countries came to a strong agreement that even though the resolutions from the first meeting that was held in Vancouver had contributed significantly towards the key theme, the goal was far from being achieved. Other related issues were also considered including the statistical evidence from individual countries that showed that equality had yet to be achieved and a gender gap remains.

The Executive Committee convened on 15 January 2017 where it approved the provisional Agenda and Programme for the Annual Meeting. The Hon. Senator Joseph Day from Canada was confirmed as the Chair of the Drafting Committee. Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni, the

Speaker of the Fijian Parliament and the President of the APPF provided welcome remarks as well as Hon. Takuji Yanagimoto - Member of the House of Councillors of Japan.

The Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama-Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji delivered the opening address in which he offered his full support to the APPF, highlighted the impact of Climate change on the Asia-Pacific region and expressed his firm belief in the APPF's commitment to realising the hope of a brighter future.

At the conclusion of the official opening of the plenary session, the provisional Agenda for the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting was adopted. The Hon. Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, Fijian Minister for Defense, National Security and Immigration assumed the role as the Annual Meeting's Chair assisted by Fijian Assistant Minister for Health, Hon. Alexander O'Connor and Opposition Member Hon. Mikaele Leawere.

The first session of the Plenary commenced with discussions on Political and Security issues in which the Delegates discussed a number of topics that were relevant to the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region. The Plenary considered the ways in which parliamentarians can build tools of democracy including thorough initiatives that can enhance citizen engagement and parliamentary outreach to the public. The delegates reflected on the importance of implementing policies and developing strategies to combat the rise in criminal activities as well as the need to strengthen anti-corruption and anti-terrorism measures. Emphasis was also placed on the need for security on the Korean Peninsula and inter-parliamentary dialogue amongst related countries. The delegates stated that APPF can play a vital role in strengthening the systems of border control that in the end can contribute to strengthening the rule of law, security and development in combating human and drug trafficking.

The second plenary session concentrated on economic and trade issues. Discussions focused on regional efforts targeting the expansion of trade, investment and sustainable development. The delegates considered the need for further efforts to ensure that the benefits of global trade and economic development are inclusive and are able to benefit as many countries, communities and people as possible. Poverty and food security was classified as one of the many complex issues that the delegates come across in their respective countries and are making all attempts to ensure that citizens are able to earn a living for themselves through various reforms and policies. The role of social media was also acknowledged by the Members as a key player in delivering information in an effective way.

The third plenary session was dedicated to Regional cooperation. The delegates deliberated on the consequences of Climate Change, an issue that has significantly impacted on the Asia-Pacific region. Delegates called for more awareness and education on Climate Change due to its adverse impact on the lives of many people, the economies of many countries and the threat to the very existence of some states in the Asia-Pacific Region. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was used as citation when delegates put forward their recommendations to reduce the detrimental impacts of Climate Change.

On 16, 17 and 18 January, the Drafting Committee, chaired by Senator Day, thoroughly considered numerous draft resolutions that were submitted by APPF delegations, which culminated in the Committee's referral of draft resolutions it had adopted to the plenary for consideration and adoption. The Drafting Committee's work was greatly supported by the constructive engagement of delegates in five Working Groups oriented around the following themes: Border control; Human Trafficking and Peace and Security, Economy and Trade Sustainable Development, Food Security, Disaster Risk Management, Health and non-communicable and communicable diseases, and Gender Equality. As is customary, the Working Groups consolidated draft resolutions on related agenda topics into single resolutions on those topics that were considered by the Committee.

On 18 January the Drafting Committee was asked by the plenary to consider a proposal from the Indonesian delegation to formally amend the APPF Rules of Procedure to include a Meeting of Women Parliamentarians on the agenda of each Annual Meeting of the Forum. The Drafting Committee considered the proposal and there was strong support for the issue of providing for an annual Meeting of Women Parliamentarians. This issue had been discussed and supported in the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians and was also endorsed in Resolution 21: Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls: Increasing the Political, Economic and Social Participation of Women.

However, as consideration of the procedural and technical aspects of this proposal was not possible in the short time-frame before the final Plenary Session, the Drafting Committee agreed that the Chair should report to the plenary that it recommended that a Working Group be formed (as enabled by Rule of Procedure 51) to consider an amendment to the Rules of Procedure to provide for the inclusion and operations of a Meeting of Women Parliamentarians as part of each Annual Meeting. The Working Group would report to the meeting of the Executive Committee at APPF 26, for finalisation by the Annual Meeting. The

proposal for the formation of a Working Group was presented to the final plenary session.

In the final plenary session, the participants discussed the work and activities of the APPF as an institution, including with respect to the APPF Meeting of Women Parliamentarians which had been held in Natadola, Fiji following the first meeting in Vancouver, Canada in 2016. Throughout the week's proceedings, delegates expressed their delight at the success of the meeting.

Ultimately, the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the APPF adopted 21 resolutions (available on the official website of the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting).<sup>1</sup>

In her concluding remarks, the President of the 25<sup>th</sup> APPF, Hon. Jiko Luveni, congratulated the delegates and commended them for their valuable contributions to the plenary sessions, Working Groups and Drafting Committee, thus ensuring a productive, cooperative and inclusive Annual Meeting. All delegates wish to thank the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji for hosting the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and express appreciation for the kind hospitality extended to all of us in the Republic of Fiji.

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<sup>1</sup> See Appendix D for a listing.



## Appendix F

### **Resolutions sponsored by Australia**

#### **RESOLUTION APPF25/RES.10**

#### **REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL STRATEGIES ON COMBATTING NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

The 25th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum;

**Recognising** the declaration by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in 2011 that the region is in a '*non-communicable disease crisis*' with some of the highest rates of NCDs in the world, accounting for approximately 70 per cent of all deaths in the Pacific;

**Recalling** that Pacific Island Forum Economic Ministers and Pacific Health Ministers unanimously endorsed the Pacific NCD Roadmap in 2014;

**Noting** the Pacific NCD Partnership launched at the 2014 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) conference in Samoa;

**Welcoming** the country pledges at the 2016 Pacific NCD Summit in Tonga to translate global and regional commitments into local action;

**Underscoring** the importance of strengthening efforts to prevent and control NCDs which have devastating consequences for the health and economies of Pacific Island Countries

**RESOLVES TO:**

**Advocate** for urgent and stronger action at the highest political levels to address NCDs;

**Encourage** strengthened cooperation on multi-sectoral responses which prioritise prevention and cost-effective primary care for NCDs;

**Support** opportunities for South-South collaboration in implementing good practice to address NCDs;

**Call on** Pacific member states to provide strong national leadership and robust monitoring and evaluation systems to measure progress towards NCD objectives, in line with global and regional commitments;

**Promote** accelerated progress on key strategies of the Pacific NCD Roadmap.



**RESOLUTION APPF25/RES.17 a****PROMOTING FOOD SECURITY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**

The 25th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum;

**Acknowledging** that food security in the Asia-Pacific region is in a major transition, due to pressures associated with population growth, natural resource decline, urbanisation and changes in climate. Sustainable agricultural and fisheries are, therefore, of key importance to food security in the region;

**Conscious** of the fact that the region is a major food producer, that food trade is significant and has the potential to expand and that agriculture and fisheries provides a source of income for a significant proportion of the region's poor;

**Stressing** that whilst considerable progress has been made in reducing the number of people suffering from hunger in the region, there are still 490 million people – around one in ten – who still are still hungry. The Asia-Pacific is home to almost 62 percent of the world's undernourished;

**Acknowledging** that food insecurity and nutrition are complex issues with many countries in the Asia-Pacific region facing the challenge of a triple burden of malnutrition where an inadequate intake of calories, micronutrient deficiencies and obesity prevail simultaneously;

**Acknowledging** that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a roadmap for global development to address food insecurity including targets to end hunger and malnutrition, improve agricultural productivity and sustainability and maintaining and sharing the genetic diversity of seeds and cultivated plants;

**Bearing in mind** the UN Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris recognizes that food production systems are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change.

**RESOLVES TO:**

**Urge** APPF Member States to continue to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

**Encourage** a comprehensive approach to food security that fosters open and efficient markets, ensures sustainable production and food safety, and supports efficient connectivity and investment along food chains;

**Recognise** the private sector as a vital partner in expanding farming and fisheries opportunities and revitalizing rural communities for the sustainable development of food security (FSMM);

**Encourage** an enabling environment to leverage multiple stakeholders including governments, the private sector, civil society, research institutes and producers to advance research and innovation and to share knowledge, wherever possible, to advance food security (FSMM);

**Exhort** good water management as a priority for our communities and economies because of its importance for food security, human health and poverty reduction;

**Recognise** that whilst the climate challenges that Member States face are different, a common thread is that the business of food security now carries more risk, and decisions around production are now less predictable. Supporting farmers, fishers, businesses, communities and governments to prepare for and adapt to a more variable climate is vital to addressing this risk.

**RESOLUTION APPF25/RES.21 a****INCREASING PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN POLITICS**

The 25th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum;

**Reaffirming** the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that everyone has the right to take part in the Government of his or her country directly, or through freely chosen representatives, and the right of equal access to public service;

**Recalling** the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action which affirm human rights and fundamental freedoms and equality for women around the world;

**Recognising** the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a specific goal on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls;

**Reiterating** resolutions by previous Annual Meetings of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) on women's economic empowerment and political participation;

**Concerned** that women remain underrepresented in all levels of political life in all countries and that structural, social and attitudinal barriers continue to discourage women from fully participating in political life;

**Condemning** violence and threats of violence against women who participate in politics and public life.

**RESOLVES TO:**

**Affirm** the need for appropriate special measures to encourage women to engage in political life at all levels;

**Urge** APPF Member States and all political parties to devote particular attention to abolishing practices, procedures and legislation that restrict or discourage women's political participation, or perpetuate and condone violence against those that do;

**Encourage** APPF Member States to support and promote women and girls' active participation in all levels of leadership, decision-making and community life;

**Call** on APPF Member States to implement programs that reduce the burden of unpaid care work on women, including childcare, caring for the elderly,

housework, social transfers and pensions, to enable them to participate fully and equally in political activities and processes.

**RESOLUTION APPF25/RES.22 b****GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS**

The 25th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum;

**Recognising** that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is not only a matter of human rights but is central to sustainable development;

**Reaffirming** the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, uphold the rights of women and girls;

**Concerned** that no country has fully achieved equality and empowerment for women and girls, and that there are still significant inequalities between the opportunities and empowerment open to women and men and girls and boys;

**Drawing attention to** the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that many women and girls experience, particularly women and girls with disability;

**Reiterating** the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a specific goal on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls;

**Determined** to ensure that women have both the right and the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to leadership, decision-making at all levels, community and economic life;

**Condemning** all forms of violence against women and girls while noting that domestic violence remains the most prevalent form affecting women of all backgrounds both in our region and around the world;

**Aware** of the importance of economic empowerment in addressing the structural and underlying causes of violence against women;

**Committed** to advancing women's full participation in all aspects of their communities and regional economies;

**RESOLVES TO:**

**Recognise** that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are essential for the security, social cohesion and economic prosperity of our communities;

**Affirm** that women and men equally have the right to enjoy all their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

**Urge** APPF Member States to devote particular attention to abolishing practices and legislation that discriminate against women and girls, or perpetuate and condone violence against them;

**Welcome** the contributions made by civil society, particularly women's organisations;

**Encourage** APPF Member States to support and promote women and girls' active participation in all levels of leadership, decision-making and community life;

**Commit** to engaging with men and boys to champion and support the changes and measures needed for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

**Call** on APPF Member States to implement programs that reduce the burden of unpaid care work on women, including childcare, caring for the elderly, housework, social transfers and pensions.

