

23rd Annual Meeting

Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum

Sponsored by: Canada, Chile, Ecuador and Malaysia

HEALTH AND SOCIAL RIGHTS WITH GENDER ISSUES TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUITY AND EQUALITY

Whereas social rights, together with political, economic and cultural rights are part of the international human rights framework adopted by governments around the world; and that the adoption of these rights under national laws and policies are a key to achieving social justice element and inclusive social development;

Whereas with the new international framework for development aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and its post-2015 agenda, parliaments have the opportunity to enact appropriate legislation guaranteeing the exercise of these rights, and to oversee other national policies and programs that develop and promote human rights, dignity, equality and equity especially with emphasis on women;

Noting that although there has been progress in the Asia-Pacific region, we must continue to work to achieve equality, equity and justice for our societies, especially for women who still face major problems accessing full, productive and decent employment, and often suffer a greater degree of precarious employment, and without access to social security;

Whereas women continue to die from preventable complications related to pregnancy, which are linked to deficiencies in access to quality sexual and reproductive health services;

Whereas according to the World Health Organization, 35% of women in the world suffered some kind of domestic or sexual violence by third parties in some point of their lives; and 38% of murders of women were committed by their partner, and that these types of violence can provoke health, mental, sexual and reproductive problems and increase vulnerability to sexually transmitted diseases;

Whereas the linkages between population and economic growth and development play a key role in eradicating poverty and improving the quality of life for all people;

Whereas universal health coverage is critical to improving the quality of life and is essential for economic growth and to bringing people out of poverty, specially women;

Whereas it is desirable to guarantee universal health coverage and provide and promote integral health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, in accordance with the principles of interculturality, precaution and bioethics principles, focusing on gender and age;

Whereas the main international instruments adopted by governments around the world, particularly the Millennium Declaration of the United Nations (September 2000), and the Final Document of the 2005 World Summit, ILO Conventions No. 48, No. 118 and No. 157 and Recommendation No. 167 (ILO 2010). In addition, the Action Program (Cairo, 1994) of the ICPD and the key actions for further implementation, the Beijing Platform for Action (1995), Resolution 65/1 of the United Nations General Assembly on

the Global Strategy for Women and Children's Health and the Stockholm Declaration of Commitment adopted at the ICPD conference IPCI in Sweden (April 2014);

Whereas UNGA resolution / 67 / L.36, adopted in December 2012 by the United Nations entitled "Global Health and Foreign Policy", in which the role of health in achieving international development goals is recognized, calls on countries, civil society and international organizations to include in their respective agendas, plans, projects and policies to achieve universal health coverage;

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Participate** in their respective parliaments, forums and other national and international activities aimed at emphasizing that new development agendas remain the guiding principles on human rights, with special emphasis on the inclusion of women;
2. **Promote** the increased allocation of resources towards gender issues and increased investment in social policies towards the empowerment of women;
3. **Strive** to achieve compliance with the commitments made by countries to enable financial mechanisms to support development and reach at least 0.7 percent of GDP to official development assistance;
4. **Encourage** the participation of all societal groups in the drafting of legislation and national development plans;
5. **Call** upon the APPF Member States to mobilize the political will in order to introduce policies to eliminate inequities and gender based violence against women as well as to continue working and investing in health systems and programs specifically targeted to women needs;
6. **Promote** gender equality and empower women and girls and to encourage full political participation of women;
7. **Promote** the enactment and enforcement of laws to ensure economic and social empowerment of women through equal access and control of the means of production, technology and markets, including rights of inheritance;
8. **Appeal** to APPF Member States to strengthen and promote parliamentary networks at national, regional and global levels, to facilitate the exchange of best practices and strengthen the effectiveness of parliaments;
9. **Appeal** to APPF Member States to declare December 12 of each year, the Day of Universal Coverage of International Health to be a means of promoting actions to advance the achievement of universal health coverage.

Quito, January 14th, 2015