



41ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY
~~ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY~~
Viet Nam, 8-10 September 2020

Parliamentary Diplomacy for a Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN

(Res 41GA/2020/WAIPA/01)

RESOLUTION ON
THE ROLE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN SECURING JOBS
AND INCOME FOR WOMEN WORKERS

Sponsored by Viet Nam

The Forty-First General Assembly:

Recalling the importance of gender equality promotion and empowerment of women as described in international agreements including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1979, the United Nations (UN) Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW) in 1993, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action in 1995, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals; and regional commitments stated in the ASEAN Charter and the ASEAN Declaration on the Gender-Responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals, the ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN, and its Regional Plans of Actions and the Declaration on Human Resources Development in a Changing World of Work 2020;

Reiterating Resolution 35GA/2014/WAIPA/02 on “*Strengthening Women Parliamentarians Roles in ASEAN Community Building*,” Resolution 36GA/2015/WAIPA/01 on “*Recognition of Post-2015 Development Agenda on Gender Equality*,” and Resolution 40GA/2019/WAIPA/01 on “*Promoting Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in ASEAN*”;

Welcoming the positive outcome of the 36th ASEAN Summit held virtually in June 2020, especially the ASEAN Leaders’ Special Session on Women’s Empowerment in the Digital Age;

Recognising that the participation of WAIPA in the annual Joint Statement at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is to reaffirm the role of parliaments and parliamentarians in promoting a gender-sensitive and gender responsive ASEAN region;

Emphasising WAIPA's role in women's empowerment and recognizing the importance of shared responsibility among AIPA Member Parliaments by highlighting the role of men in promoting women's rights and gender equality;

Cognizant that despite significant progress in the participation of women in the labour force over the past two decades, there remains persistent inequality between women and men regarding labour market accessibility, unemployment, working conditions, and income, wherein there is a higher percentage of women working in the informal economy with lower income than men;

Noting that women in some parts of ASEAN are often neglected in efforts to promote their economic rights and are faced with challenges such as poverty, gender discrimination, lack of quality education and vocational training, motherhood and infant care as well as the unprecedented negative socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly unemployment in several economic sectors that employ a large number of women workers;

Further noting the disadvantages of women and girls in accessing information technology in the context of the Industrial Revolution 4.0 which prevents them from harnessing the full potential of technology for their economic empowerment.

Hereby resolves to:

Call on ASEAN Member States to share experiences, practical, concrete solutions to ensure sustainable access to job opportunities and better employment outcome for women workers, particularly women in the vulnerable group including ethnic minorities, the poor and the disabled, victims of human trafficking; and to ensure that gender equality is essential in all efforts for the post-pandemic re-employment;

Encourage ASEAN Member States to develop detailed action plans and programs, monitor their implementation to ensure access to decent work and increased income for women, promote work-life balance, facilitate support mechanisms for domestic responsibilities, reduce the burden of unpaid care work on women to promote gender equality in the labour market;

Ensure ASEAN Member States' implementation of appropriate measures to address the needs of women workers with legal mechanisms during the COVID-19 pandemic, by providing them with health services as well as protection from all forms of violence against women;

Recommend that AIPA Member Parliaments and ASEAN Member States consider further strengthening social protection, including access to better education and vocational training i.e. digital literacy, re-skilling, upskilling in the context of Industrial Revolution 4.0 for women and girls as one of the priorities in ASEAN cooperation;

Urge AIPA Member Parliaments to conduct review of national legislation framework related to jobs and income, i.e. tax incentives to private sector for enabling support services for working women, and to ensure their gender responsiveness, as well as to propose and adopt an ASEAN common perspective towards the Sustainable Development Goal on Gender Equality;

Urge AIPA member parliaments to work closely with the relevant ASEAN sectorial bodies, especially the ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting and the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women, ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development, and other ASEAN relevant mechanisms including the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children, the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and to strengthen cooperation and coordination in the promotion of decent work and increased income for women workers;

Encourage AIPA Member Parliaments to develop practical action plans and measures which facilitate access to decent work for women and strengthen parliamentary capacity building, participation and oversight frameworks with regard to decent work and increased income for women workers;

Request AIPA Member Parliaments and ASEAN Member States to consider formulating a joint Action Plan to ensure the realization of SDGs aimed at decent work and better income for women workers, in both formal and informal sectors in ASEAN;

Encourage AIPA member Parliaments to devote greater attention to allocating more resources on policies and programs to address emerging issues to promote jobs and increased incomes in a changing world of work in such areas as women entrepreneurship, digital leadership development and strengthen support services for women and girls during and after the COVID-19 pandemic;

Call on ASEAN Women Parliamentarians in partnership with male parliamentarians to advocate women's rights in all sectors through legislative roles and to ensure the equal access to decent work and greater income opportunities for women.

Adopted on the 10th day of September 2020 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam.
