



**THE 44TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
5-11 AUGUST 2023
Jakarta, Indonesia**

Responsive Parliaments for a Stable and Prosperous ASEAN

(Res 44GA/2023/WAIPA/03)

**RESOLUTION ON
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION LED BY WOMEN AND FOR WOMEN**

***Sponsored by Viet Nam
Co-sponsored by Philippines***

The Forty-fourth AIPA General Assembly:

Recalling the importance of promoting gender equality and women empowerment as stated in international documents including the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the 1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the commitments in the Roadmap for Sustainable Development Goals and the ASEAN Charter, and other relevant documents including ASEAN Declaration on the Gender-Responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals and the ASEAN Declarations on the Elimination of Violence against Women and the Elimination of Violence against Children in ASEAN region;

Recalling the AIPA Resolution No. 35GA/2014/WAIPA/02 on “*Strengthening the Role of Women Parliamentarians in ASEAN Community Building*”; the AIPA Resolution No. 36GA/2015/WAIPA/01 on “*Recognition of Post-2015 Development Agenda on Gender Equality*”; the AIPA Resolution No. 40GA/2019/WAIPA/01 on “*Promoting Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in ASEAN*”; the AIPA Resolution No. 42GA/2021/WAIPA/01 on “*Promoting Women’s Economic Empowerment in the Future of Work and Post Pandemic Recovery Through Digital and Financial Inclusion*”; and the AIPA Resolution No. 43GA/2022/WAIPA/02 on “*Gender Equality and Women Empowerment for a Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient COVID-19 Recovery*”;

Recognizing the positive outcomes of the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women held at the United Nations Headquarters on March 6-17, 2023 with priority theme “*Innovation and Technological Change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls*” that recognized and commended the contributions of women and girls in innovation, technology and digital education; the virtual the 36th ASEAN Summit which was hosted by Viet Nam on June 26 2020, especially in the ASEAN Leaders’ Special Session on “*Women’s Empowerment in the Digital Age*”; of the virtual 1st ASEAN Women Leaders’ Summit hosted by Vietnam on November 12, 2020 on “*Women’s Role in Building A*

Cohesive, Dynamic, Sustainable and Inclusive ASEAN Community in a Post COVID-19 World"; and the virtual 2nd ASEAN Women Leaders' Summit held in Cambodia on October 12 2022 on *"Building a More Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Future: Unlocking Women's Entrepreneurship in ASEAN"*;

Reaffirming the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 for or an inclusive community that promotes balanced and high quality of life, equitable access to opportunities for all as well as promoting and protecting human rights of women and other relevant international conventions to realize gender equality and women empowerment and as per the spirit of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG5);

Acknowledging that COVID-19 has further promoted digital transformation and in the context of the 4th Industrial Revolution where digital transformation is becoming an inevitable global trend.

Acknowledging the importance of digital literacy and skills and their impact on women's ability to participate in governance and politics and in their communities with the ultimate objective of attaining gender equality and women empowerment;

Recognizing that the achievements of digital transformation and technological innovation contribute to improving the quality of life in general and women in particular, create equality and expand opportunities for access to information, improve professional and personal capacity, and career development prospects. Thus, promotion of women's engagement in digital transformation will help improve women's competitiveness and better enhance women's potential, which will play an important part in the socio-economic development of all nations;

Noting further that there are existing gender gaps in the course of digital transformation, and even broader gaps in disadvantaged areas, that hinder the women's ability to contribute to national socio-economic development. The extensive development of science and technology, especially the digital transformation, creates opportunities but also poses risks and challenges for women and girls such as online criminal activities including violence, abuse, harassment, fraud, human trafficking, privacy violation, personal data hijacking, among others;

Noting that women are underrepresented in digital and technical fields of works thus resulting in the increasing of gender bias in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and computing culture;

Emphasizing that digital transformation for women and with women's engagement shall contribute in building a proactive, innovative, flexible, inclusive and resilient ASEAN Community.

Hereby resolves to:

Call upon ASEAN member states to ensure that digital technologies are developed within a regulatory framework that prioritizes, protects and promotes women's human rights;

Call upon ASEAN Member States to provide substantive and specific solutions to improve women's capacity and professional qualifications, create opportunities for career development, increase the share of women workers and leaders working in digital technology; encourage programs that develop women talents, address gender

stereotypes through guiding and supporting women leaders, articulating women's role in digital technology, encouraging all genders to be allies and advocates of women, and develop strategies to promote the engagement of women leaders in the technology industry;

Call upon ASEAN Member States to use digital government services and develop Strategies/Action Plans to improve digital knowledge and skills for women's effective, safe and smart engagement in the digital economy and digital society which includes the use of public digital services;

Call upon ASEAN Member States to invest and improve women and girls-friendly digital infrastructure in order to narrow gender-based and geographical gaps in digital transformation, ensure gender sensitivity in digital governments, integrate women's interests into public digital services and develop programs and initiatives to facilitate internet access for women and girls in rural and remote areas.

Support the development and improvement of digital health and education system to ensure a better women health, education and wellbeing outcome with special emphasis on those who live in rural and remote areas where access to women health, education and welfare service is difficult

Urge AIPA Member Parliaments to review national legislation and create enabling legal environment to promote women and girls' participation in digital transformation and protect women and girls, both physically and mentally, from risks and challenges in the process of digital transformation by setting ethical standards for the digital environment, regulating the rights and responsibilities of citizens and the state in the digital environment and society;

Encourage ASEAN women parliamentarians to actively assist in the development of relevant legal frameworks to accelerate the digital transformation process in ASEAN member States, especially women-led and for-women digital transformation; strengthen regional cooperation and exchange of experiences to improve the quality of female human resources through digital transformation, with a view towards digitizing parliamentary activities, allowing parliaments to be closer to constituents.

Encourage ASEAN Member States to give due attention to raising awareness of educational opportunities in training/education curricula and career orientation, particularly in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); promote women's participation in digital transformation and the IT sector in general; equip women with effective skills and support in transitioning to digital employment models; encourage women-led start-up and entrepreneurship in digital technology; and ensure that no woman is left behind.

Recommend ASEAN Member States to develop ethical frameworks for digital transformation technology and ensure that it is in accordance with women's rights;

Recommend ASEAN Member States to further private sector participation in digital skills development wherein employer provides, where necessary, women employees' access to educational and training opportunities to develop digital literacy skills;

Encourage ASEAN Member States to promote public-private partnership initiatives, and further strengthen experience sharing and cooperation at national, regional and international levels to enhance women's participation in the digital transformation process in each country;

Encourage ASEAN Member States to strengthen international linkages and partnerships to share best practices in accelerating digital innovation and transformation led by women and for women towards a stable and prosperous ASEAN.

Adopted on the ninth day of August 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia.



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EXPLANATORY NOTE

**RESOLUTION ON DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION LED BY WOMEN
AND FOR WOMEN**

In the context of the 4th Industrial Revolution, digital transformation has been obviously becoming a global trend. COVID-19 outbreak, in particular, has fostered digital transformation. 69% of the world's population (equivalent to 4.9 billion people) had been using internet by 2022. According to statistics by World Population Review, the rate of internet users increases 4% annually, which means 196 million more people have access to the internet each year¹.

Achievements of digital transformation and technological innovation have improved general human living quality and women in particular. Accordingly, women have more opportunities to access information and knowledge, develop capacity, qualifications and chances for career development, improving their livelihood, income as well as living standards.

In addition, women's deeper involvement with digital transformation will foster competitiveness and great potential of female human resources, contributing to socio-economic development of countries.

According to UN Women's Gender Overview Report 2022, women's limited involvement in digital world over the past decade has led to a loss of one trillion US dollars GDP of low- and middle-income countries. It is forecasted that this number would be 1.5 trillion US dollars by 2025 if no responsive action is taken.

According to international research, if we had 600 million more women connected to the internet within 3 years, global GDP would be able to increase by 18 billion USD². Nevertheless, there is still gender gap in digital transformation, which limits its contributions to socio-economic development of countries.

¹<https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/internet-users-by-country>

² Plan International, Closing gender gap in digital (<https://plan-international.org/quality-education/bridging-the-digital-divide/>)

In Asia-Pacific region, the gender gap in internet use is 6%. In 2020, only 1 among 5 women in the least developed countries have access to internet. Women account for a third of employees working in 20 largest technology companies in the world but hold only 25% of leading positions³. In the fields of Artificial Intelligence (AI), 78% of AI experts are male⁴. In addition, the strong development of science and technology, especially digitalization, have created both opportunities and challenges for women and girls including violence, abuse, online human trafficking, invasion of privacy, theft of personal data, etc. According to several researches, 38% of online women in 51 countries have experienced online violence⁵.

On the occasion of International Women's Day, 8 March, 2023, the United Nations launched the theme of "Digital for everyone: Innovation and technology for gender equality." Narrowing the gender gap and investing in women in digital transformation is essential to promote gender equality and sustainable development which contributes to the implementation of international commitments ratified by ASEAN member states including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Beijing Platform for Action and Sustainable Development Goals promoted by United Nations. Considering gender impacts during technological innovation and development would bring reasonable recommendations to ensure inclusiveness and equality in national digital transformation processes.

Under such condition, ASEAN member states should focus on raising community's awareness, promoting women's involvement and leadership in digital transformation. During the improvement of policies and legal frameworks in digital transformation, ASEAN parliamentarians should raise awareness of gender issues, narrow gender gap and create more opportunities of involvement and contribution for women and girls and prioritize developing solutions that suitable for each country.

Upon this rationale, Vietnam proposes "Digital transformation led by women and for women" as a Resolution for WAIPA at the 44th AIPA General Assembly due to its consistency with current trends, interests and conditions of each ASEAN member state.

³Asian Development Bank, Inclusive Digital Promotion for Women and Girls in Asia-Pacific, 2023 (<https://www.adb.org/news/infographics/accelerating-digital-inclusion-women-girls-asia-pacific>)

⁴World Economic Forum, Assessing Gender Gap in Artificial Intelligence, 2018 (<https://www.weforum.org/reports/reader-global-gender-gap-report-2018/digest/#:~:text=Based%20on%20collaboration%20with%20LinkedIn,indicate%20a%20positive%20future%20trend.>)

⁵ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/announcement/2022/12/international-womens-day-2023-digital-innovation-and-technology-for-gender-equality>