



**THE 45TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**
17-23 October 2024
Vientiane, Lao PDR

*The Role of Parliaments in Enhancing Connectivity and
Inclusive Growth of ASEAN*

(Res.45GA/2024/WAIPA/01)

RESOLUTION ON
**FOSTERING GENDER-RESPONSIVE PARLIAMENTS FOR A
RESILIENT, CONNECTED, AND INCLUSIVE ASEAN COMMUNITY**

*Sponsored by the Lao PDR
Co-Sponsored by Cambodia and Viet Nam*

The Forty-fifth General Assembly:

Noting the importance of promoting gender equality and women empowerment as stipulated in international instruments including the [1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women \(CEDAW\)](#), the [1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women \(DEVAW\)](#), and the [1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#);

Reaffirming the commitment to ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life, as outlined in the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals](#), specifically target 5.5 of Goal 5 (SDG 5), which aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;

Recalling the ASEAN Declaration on the [Gender-Responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals](#), which underscores the importance of a politically cohesive, economically integrated, and socially responsible ASEAN Community;

Further recalling the AIPA Resolutions No. Res.44GA/2023/WAIPA/02 on "Enhancing ASEAN Resilience through Women Leadership and Gender-Responsive Parliaments" adopted at the Forty-Fourth AIPA General Assembly in August 2023, which supports the development of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Women's Political Participation;

Acknowledging the First Activity Report of the First WAIPA Workshop on 10-11 October 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia, organised by the AIPA Secretariat and the WAIPA Events 2024, hosted by the National Assembly of Lao PDR, including the 3rd WAIPA Coordinating Committee Meeting, on 5-6 February 2024, under the theme "Fostering Gender-Responsive Parliaments for a Resilient, Connected and Inclusive ASEAN Community";

Reaffirming the important role of AIPA Member Parliaments and their active participation in the development of the Plan of Action and Implementation Framework of the Women's Political Participation and Leadership (WPPL), ensuring that the process is participatory, consultative, inclusive in nature and implementable;

Noting the significant barriers hindering women's full participation in political and decision-making processes, including violence, discrimination, and challenges faced by women in rural areas, women with disabilities, ethnic women, and marginalised communities;

Recognising the diverse socio-economic, political, legal, and cultural contexts within ASEAN Member States that affect women's political participation and leadership differently, and the crucial need to recognise the care economy through policies that support work-life balance for women, in line with the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening the Care Economy and Fostering Resilience Towards Post-2025 ASEAN Community;

Further recognising that the increased representation of women in parliaments promotes inclusive decision-making processes by integrating gender lens into policy formulation which includes promoting gender responsive budgeting and adequate resource allocation and strengthening the effectiveness of oversight functions through gender-sensitive scrutiny of policies;

Emphasising the critical need to foster women's political participation by creating enabling environments that support their leadership, empower them to actively engage in political processes, and fully exercise their voices, agency and leadership, while also promoting gender-responsive parliaments and decision-making, and further highlighting the importance of regional and international collaboration and knowledge sharing to advance gender-responsive policymaking.

Hereby resolves:

Call upon AIPA Member Parliaments to accelerate the implementation of CEDAW, DEVAW, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action concerning gender equality, women representation, and political leadership and ASEAN Declaration on the Gender Responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals;

Urge AIPA Member Parliaments to expedite efforts and enhance the monitoring of progress in implementing national policies and legislative frameworks under SDG 5 on gender equality, considering that only six years remain to achieve the SDGs;

Recommend AIPA Member Parliaments in advancing the development of gender-responsive parliaments by implementing policies and initiatives that support gender equality, strengthening capacity-building programs aimed at enhancing women's political participation and leadership, gender mainstreaming, and promoting collaborative efforts among ASEAN Member States to foster a Resilient, Connected, and Inclusive ASEAN Community;

Call upon AIPA Member Parliaments to strengthen legislative and policy frameworks to ensure gender balance in electoral and decision-making processes;

Support AIPA Member Parliaments in strengthening networks and mentorship programs to empower women during their political careers, engage male allies in

advancing the gender equality agenda and advocating for gender-sensitive parliaments through bilateral and multilateral cooperation among AIPA Member Parliaments and Observer Parliaments;

Encourage AIPA Secretariat to produce reference materials for AIPA Member Parliaments on Gender-Responsive Budgeting to support comprehensive capacity development programs focused on gender mainstreaming in legislation, oversight, policy making, and budgeting processes, including training for parliamentary staff on gender-related issues to ensure effective implementation;

Recommend AIPA Member Parliaments to advocate for the implementation, where possible, of WAIPA Resolutions and the Plan of Action on Women's Political Participation and Leadership (WPPL) 2024-2030 by utilising existing mechanisms, such as the AIPA Caucus, Parliamentary Select Committee, and the WAIPA Coordinating Committee Meeting;

Recommend AIPA Member Parliaments explore partnerships with legal development partners to support the usage of the WPPL Implementation Framework 2024-2030 as advocacy tools, in coordination with the AIPA Secretariat, including the facilitation of resource mobilisation to ensure effective implementation at both regional and national levels;

Approve the First Activity Report of the 1st WAIPA Workshop and the Mission Report WAIPA Events 2024 consisting of Women Political Leaders Forum, WAIPA Workshop 2.0 and 3rd WAIPA Coordinating Committee Meeting;

Endorse the adoption of the WAIPA [Plan of Action](#) and [Implementation Framework](#) on Promoting Women's Political Participation and Leadership (WPPL) 2024-2030 as advocacy tools;

Recommend AIPA Member Parliaments to promote initiatives to strengthen women leaders' digital knowledge and skills for creating greater opportunities for their leadership careers.

Adopted on the twenty-first day of October 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.



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EXPLANATORY NOTE

**RESOLUTION ON FOSTERING GENDER-RESPONSIVE
PARLIAMENTS FOR A RESILIENT, CONNECTED, AND INCLUSIVE
ASEAN COMMUNITY**

Gender equality and the empowerment of women are fundamental to realising the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and beyond. These principles are also key to creating a more sustainable and inclusive region. By enhancing women's participation in political leadership, ASEAN aims to build a more resilient, connected, and inclusive community that harnesses the full potential of all its citizens. Globally, the representation of women in parliament has increased from 18.7% in 2013 to 22.9% in 2022.¹ In ASEAN, women's representation in parliaments has also made significant progress, rising from 12% of seats held by women in 2000 to 22% in 2022.² However, the overall regional average remains below the global average of 26.9%.³

Despite progress, ASEAN continues to face challenges in achieving gender equality in political representation and leadership. The underrepresentation of women in decision-making roles presents numerous challenges that limit their equal participation in policymaking and decision-making. Women still encounter significant barriers, including systemic biases, gender-based violence, sociocultural norms, economic disparities, and unequal access to resources and opportunities.⁴ While some countries have made strides in increasing women's participation through quotas and other measures, overall progress remains uneven.⁵

There is growing recognition that empowering women in politics involves both expanding their representation and enhancing their ability to engage effectively in policy

¹ Global Gender Gap Report 2023, World Economic Forum, available at

<https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-gender-gap-report-2023/>

² Cambodia Chair of ASEAN and UN Women, Data snapshot on Women's Leadership in ASEAN, launched at the ASEAN Women Leaders Summit, October 2022, available at

<https://data.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/documents/Publications/ASEAN/ASEAN%20-leadership-factsheet.pdf>

³ Women in Parliament 2023, Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2024, available at

<https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2024-03/women-in-parliament-2023>

⁴ Women in Parliament, Inter-Parliamentary Union, September 2024, available at

<https://www.ipu.org/impact/gender-equality/women-in-parliament>

⁵ see note 2 above

and decision-making processes. Empowering women parliamentarians and increasing women's political leadership positions will lead to more comprehensive legislative frameworks, responsive governance structures, and equitable decision-making processes. These advancements will enhance ASEAN's capacity to tackle emerging socio-economic and political challenges.

Recalling AIPA Resolution [Res.44GA/2023/WAIPA/02](#) on Enhancing ASEAN Resilience through Women Leadership and Gender-Responsive Parliaments adopted at the Forty-Fourth AIPA General Assembly in August 2023, which supports the development of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Women's Political Participation. This Plan of Action was developed by the AIPA Member Parliaments through two workshops: one organised by the AIPA Secretariat in October 2023, and another hosted by the National Assembly of Lao PDR in February 2024. A final review of the documents was conducted virtually on 5 April 2024.

This Resolution underscores the urgent need to advance gender-responsive legislation and ensure a more robust integration of gender perspectives into policy-making and budgeting processes. It aims to seek to enhance women's representation and leadership roles within parliamentary bodies and political decision-making processes, and to strengthen the capacity of parliamentarians and parliamentary staff to enact and implement gender-responsive policies and practices. By adopting the Plan of Action and Implementation Framework 2024-2030 will guide the efforts of AIPA Member Parliaments to promote greater women's political participation and leadership in fostering Gender-Responsive Parliaments for a Resilient, Connected and Inclusive ASEAN Community.