



Parliament of Australia

**Report of the Parliamentary Delegation to the  
Twenty-ninth Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific  
Parliamentary Forum, Seoul, Republic of Korea (virtual)**

**November and December 2021**

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## **Members of the Delegation**

Hon Tony Smith MP  
Leader of the Delegation

Mrs Melissa McIntosh MP

Mr Graham Perrett MP

Ms Joanne Ryan MP

Senator David Van

Mr James Catchpole  
Delegation Secretary

Ms Caitlin Cahill  
Assistant Delegation Secretary



## Section 1: 29<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum

The 29<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF-29), hosted by the Republic of Korea, took place virtually on 13-15 December 2021. Prior to this, the working group meetings for APPF-29 took place virtually on 8-11 November 2021. The virtual format was used for the first time for the APPF, due to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The theme of APPF-29 was *the role of parliaments in strengthening resilience in the post-COVID-19 era*. Under this theme, the agenda was divided into three sessions on the customary issues considered by the APPF, namely: political and security matters; economic and trade matters; and regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. In addition, the agenda also included the APPF Women Parliamentarians' Meeting.

A total of 211 delegates from 22 Member Countries participated in APPF-29. As well as Australia and the Republic of Korea, these were: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Mongolia, New Zealand, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Australia's delegation to the APPF-29 was led by the former Speaker and President of the APPF, the Hon Tony Smith MP. The Australian Parliament was further represented by Mrs Melissa McIntosh MP, Ms Joanne Ryan MP, Mr Graham Perrett MP and Senator David Van.

## Meeting program

The meeting program for APPF-29 included:

- Executive Committee meetings
- Working group and drafting committee meetings
- Meetings of Women Parliamentarians
- The inaugural ceremony
- Session 1 – political and security matters
- Session 2 – economic and trade matters
- Session 3 – regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, and
- The final plenary session.

The full program for APPF-29 is at Appendix A and the list of countries which attended is at Appendix B.

## Executive Committee meetings

The Executive Committee conducted a meeting via correspondence in August 2021 to approve the program and agenda for APPF-29.

The APPF President, Mr Smith, then hosted a closed Executive Committee meeting on 10 November 2021, in order to discuss and agree to amendments to the APPF Rules of Procedure. These proposed amendments related to the position of the APPF president, the composition and term of office of the Executive Committee, and the use of gender inclusive language.

The final meeting of the Executive Committee was conducted by correspondence on 10 December 2021 and approved the amendments to the

Rules of Procedure. New Executive Committee members were also elected from each APPF sub region: Japan (Northeast Asia); Vietnam (Southeast Asia); and New Zealand (Oceania), while Canada's term of office was extended (the Americas). In addition, Brunei Darussalam was given full membership of the APPF-29, and Thailand was confirmed as the host country for the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the APPF.

### Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

The working group for the APPF meeting of women parliamentarians took place on Monday 8 November 2021. Ahead of this meeting, eight draft resolutions were submitted by Member Countries which addressed the following two themes:

- Identifying ways to ensure a gender-sensitive crisis response after the COVID-19 pandemic, and
- Achieving gender equality by increasing women's participation and representation.

Australia submitted a draft resolution, sponsored by Ms Ryan, on the topic of ensuring a gender sensitive crisis response to the COVID-19 pandemic. A copy of Australia's draft resolution is at Appendix C.

In addition to advocating for Australia's position on this issue, Ms Ryan also highlighted the need to ensure female representation on the APPF's Executive Committee.

The official Meeting of Women Parliamentarians took place on 13 December 2021. The meeting was

chaired by the Hon Nam In-soon, National Assembly of the Republic of Korea.

Resolutions proposed by Member Countries were discussed and merged into two resolutions which were forwarded to the Drafting Committee for final adoption.

A report on the results of the meeting of Women Parliamentarians was also prepared and was delivered by the Hon Nam In-soon in the final plenary session.



Ms Ryan participates in the working group for the meeting of Women Parliamentarians

Source: [ww.appf29.org](http://ww.appf29.org)

### Working Group Meetings

The APPF-29 working group meetings were held virtually on 8-11 November 2021. Ahead of these meetings, nine Member Countries submitted a total of 28 draft resolutions on some or all of the topics under the plenary sessions, which were:

#### Session 1: Political and security matters

- parliamentary leadership for peace and security in the Asia-Pacific and beyond

- strengthening regional multilateralism and addressing issues based on rules, and
- promoting people-centered cooperation by guaranteeing human security

### Session 2: Economic and trade matters

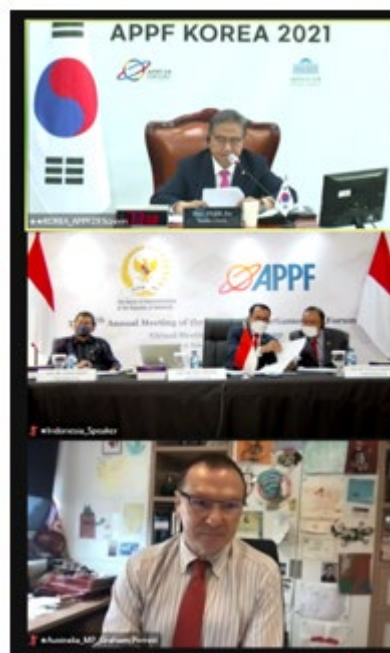
- strengthening international cooperation for greater economic resilience and inclusive economic recovery
- accelerating digital economy and enhancing connectivity, and
- the role of parliaments in enhancing economic integration and promoting trade in the region

### Session 3: Regional cooperation in the Asia Pacific region

- the role of parliaments in balancing disease control, economy, and human rights, and ideas for inter-parliamentary cooperation
- joint parliamentary action in pursuing response to climate change and for sustainable development, and
- improving understanding of cultural diversity in the Asia Pacific.

In addition to these topics, both the Republic of Korea and Japan proposed resolutions focused on the Korean Peninsula, and Russia submitted a resolution on countering terrorism and extremism in the Asia Pacific region. All of the resolutions proposed by member countries can be found on the APPF-29 website.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> APPF-29, 'Resolutions', <http://www.appf29.org/documents/03.php>, accessed 14 January 2022.



Mr Perrett participates in a working group for Session 3

Source: Delegation secretariat

Australia submitted a draft resolution for each session, with the full text of the draft resolutions proposed by Australia at Appendix C.

The working group meetings enabled delegates to negotiate and where possible combine the proposed resolutions into a single draft resolution. These draft resolutions were then passed to the Drafting Committee for its consideration.



Mrs McIntosh and other delegates discuss topics under Session 2

Source: Delegation secretariat

## Opening session and addresses

The APPF-29 was officially opened in the morning of 14 December 2021 via videoconference, with Mr Lee Choon-suak, Secretary General of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea providing a progress report on the hosting of APPF-29. H.E. Moon Jae-In, President of the Republic of Korea and Mr Ban Ki-Moon, President and Chair of the Global Green Growth Institute provided welcoming remarks.

Mr Smith, in his position as APPF President, gave a speech to congratulate Korea on its hosting of APPF-29. Mr Smith also noted that he would be concluding his role as President at the end of APPF-29, and thanked APPF participants for their support and contributions.

Mr Smith also spoke to changes to the role of the APPF president, which were later adopted at the final plenary session. The changes outlined that going forward, the function of the role of APPF President would be performed by the annual Meeting Chair, to ensure effective continuity of the APPF.

A copy of Mr Smith's speech is at Appendix D.

An opening address was also delivered by H.E. Park Byeong-seug, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea and Chair of the APPF-29.



Mr Smith delivering his speech at the APPF inaugural ceremony  
Source: Auspic

## Plenary sessions

The plenary sessions, held on 14 and 15 December 2021, allowed for delegates from each country to speak to each theme and their associated draft resolutions.

Australia was represented by its delegates in all the working group meetings and plenary sessions 1, 2 and 3. Senator Van sponsored a resolution on *strengthening multilateralism and addressing issues based on rules* ahead of the working group meetings for session 1 and spoke to this topic at the first plenary session. In his speech, Senator Van highlighted the role of regional institutions in strengthening multilateralism, particularly in promoting peace and trust among states.



Senator Van delivers a speech in Session 1  
Source: APPF-29 Secretariat, Republic of Korea



Mrs McIntosh participated in the working group for session 2 and sponsored a resolution on *accelerating digital economy and enhancing productivity*. In the working group discussion, Mrs McIntosh emphasised issues relating to cyber security and jobs of the future. Mrs McIntosh also delivered a speech on this topic at the second plenary session.

Mr Perrett participated in the working group for the third session, sponsoring a resolution and later speaking on the topic of the *role of parliaments in balancing disease control, economy, and human rights, and ideas for inter-parliamentary cooperation*. Mr Perrett's speech during the third plenary session highlighted the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and that it emphasised the need for cooperation between parliaments, particularly through safeguarding the health of citizens, upholding human rights and freedoms, and preserving livelihoods and economic activities.

### **Drafting Committee meetings**

The role of the Drafting Committee is to finalise the working of the resolutions and to agree to a joint communique for consideration, adoption and release at the final plenary session.

The Drafting Committee can be attended by a delegate of any country which has proposed a draft resolution to the forum. Mr Smith was Australia's representative on the Drafting Committee.

The Drafting Committee meetings were held on 17 and 19 November and 14 and 15 December 2021,

allowing delegates to further refine, negotiate and debate the draft resolutions. Once finalised, the resolutions and the draft communique were presented at the final plenary session for adoption.

### **Final plenary session**

The final resolutions as decided by the Drafting Committee were put to the final plenary session on 15 December 2021. These resolutions were then formally adopted, along with the Joint Communique. The Joint Communique outlined the work undertaken at APPF-29 and was signed by all delegation leaders. The list of resolutions and sponsoring countries is at Appendix E and a copy of the communique is at Appendix F.

The final plenary session was chaired by H.E Park Byeong-seug, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea. In addition to formally adopting the resolutions and joint communique, the final plenary session included an acceptance speech of full membership by the head of delegation from Brunei Darussalam, consideration of the report of the meeting of women parliamentarians, a briefing on the drafting committee meetings and the formal announcement and acceptance of Thailand as the next APPF host country.

### **Concluding Comments**

The Australian delegation was pleased to attend the 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum in a virtual format for the first time.

The National Assembly of the Republic of Korea facilitated the work of the APPF under the challenging and evolving circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Australian delegation congratulates the organisers for the smooth running of the forum.

Delegation members appreciated the opportunity to contribute to the work of the APPF-29 in each of its sessions, under the overarching theme of *the role of parliaments in strengthening resilience in the post-COVID-19 era*. The APPF offers a valuable opportunity for Asia Pacific countries to build and sustain relationships among parliamentarians, as well as strengthening institutional links. This opportunity is highly valued by the Australian Parliament.

The delegation wishes to thank its delegation leader, the former Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives and President of the APPF, the Hon Tony Smith MP, for his strong leadership as President of the APPF in 2020 and 2021 and as leader of the Australian delegation at APPF-29. Delegation members would also like to extend their thanks the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the International and Parliamentary Relations Office for their assistance in preparations for APPF-29.

## Section 2: Background information on the APPF

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. It was formally established 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>2</sup>, outlined the objectives and organisational aspects of the APPF. The 2012 New APPF Rules and Procedure, adopted at APPF20, outlines that membership is open to all national parliaments of sovereign states 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 Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) who:

- have an active interest in promoting dialogue among parliamentarians in the region, and
- accept the objectives and principles of the APPF as reflected in the 1993 Tokyo Declaration, subsequent declarations and the Rules of Procedure.

The APPF is important to the Australian Parliament as an association of parliamentarians who share Australia's regional, strategic and economic focus. 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.

### Objectives and guiding principles

The objectives of the APPF outlined in the 1993 Tokyo Declaration and adopted with minor amendments in the 2012 New APPF Rules of Procedure in Tokyo at APPF20 are to seek to provide opportunities for national parliamentarians of sovereign states of the Asia-Pacific region to:

- 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

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<sup>2</sup> The text of the 1993 Tokyo Declaration is available at [www.appf.org.pe/](http://www.appf.org.pe/) Milestone Declarations, Tokyo Declaration; and

[appfpresident.org/](http://appfpresident.org/) Documents, Tokyo Declaration.

of regional cohesion, understanding and cooperation.<sup>3</sup>

The APPF also 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>4</sup>

### Defining documents

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 nine strategic documents:

- 1993 Tokyo Declaration;
- Vancouver Declaration (1997);
- Valparaiso Declaration (2001);
- new Tokyo Declaration (2012);
- New APPF Rules of Procedure (2012);
- Ha Noi Declaration (2018);
- New APPF Rules of Procedure (Amended) (2018);
- New APPF Rules of Procedure (Amended) (2020); and
- New APPF Rules of Procedure (Amended) (2021).

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<sup>3</sup> Rule 3 of the APPF Rules of Procedure (2021); paragraph 2 of the 1993 Tokyo Declaration refers.

### Rules of procedure

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.

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.

The meeting in Ha Noi in 2018 amended the rules of procedure to ensure that a meeting of women parliamentarians will be held immediately prior to each annual meeting and that the meetings of women parliamentarians are to submit a report to the APPF plenary sessions.

Amendments to the Rules of Procedure were again made in Canberra in 2020, to provide for the appointment of a president until the conclusion of APPF-29 in 2021. Mr Smith was appointed as the President for this period.

Further amendments were adopted in 2021. Most significantly, the position of President of the APPF was removed,

<sup>4</sup> Rule 3 of the New APPF Rules of Procedure; paragraph 3 of the 1993 Tokyo Declaration refers.

with the functions of the president being transferred to the annual meeting Chair. The composition of the Executive Committee was adjusted to include the chair of the previous APPF annual meeting, and the Chair was empowered to determine matters not covered in the rules. Other minor changes included the use of gender inclusive language and changing reference to the appointment of chairs and executive committee members to be meeting to meeting (rather than May to April).

A copy of the rules of procedure, incorporating the latest changes, is at Appendix G.

### **Executive Committee: structure and current representatives of the Oceania region**

The Executive Committee consists of representatives from the previous, current and next annual meeting host countries; and countries elected from sub-regions (two representatives per sub-region).

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 (nine countries): Brunei Darussalam, 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;
- 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.

The term of office for an Executive Committee member representing a sub-region is four years, with half of these committee members being elected every two years. The term of office for an Executive Committee member representing the host country of an Annual Meeting is from the conclusion of the proceeding meeting until the conclusion of the next.

The most recent arrangements for Oceania membership of the Executive Committee have been as follows:

2018	Papua New Guinea	Fiji
2019	Papua New Guinea	Fiji
2020	Australia	Fiji
2021	Australia	Fiji
2022	Australia	New Zealand
2023	Australia	New Zealand
2024	tbc	New Zealand

If any Executive Committee member representing a subregion is unable to attend an Executive Committee meeting, a parliamentarian from another country in that sub-region can be designated by their representatives present at the annual meeting to serve as an alternative member.

## **Organisation of the annual meeting**

APPF meetings take place annually and are hosted by a national parliament. The host, date and venue of each annual meeting are determined at the preceding meeting.

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 the following paragraphs.

A provisional agenda is developed by the host country no later than four months prior to each annual meeting, and member parliaments are notified. The final and official agenda is adopted by motion at the commencement of the annual meeting, on advice of the Executive Committee.

### **Draft resolutions**

Under the APPF Rules of Procedure, draft resolutions are required two months in advance of the annual meeting.

Draft resolutions are posted on the APPF website established by the host Parliament. In practice, many countries do not prepare draft resolutions for all topics and choose to debate the draft resolutions of those countries that do provide at the working group meetings. Australia customarily provides draft resolutions for each session, including the meeting of women parliamentarians.

Under the 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.

### **Drafting Committee**

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.

Participation in the work of the Drafting Committee varies from delegation to delegation. The Drafting Committee traditionally establishes several working groups to assist in developing consolidated draft resolutions. Smaller delegations may not have the capacity 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.

When the final draft resolutions come before the plenary, participants from those countries which provided the original draft resolutions may speak

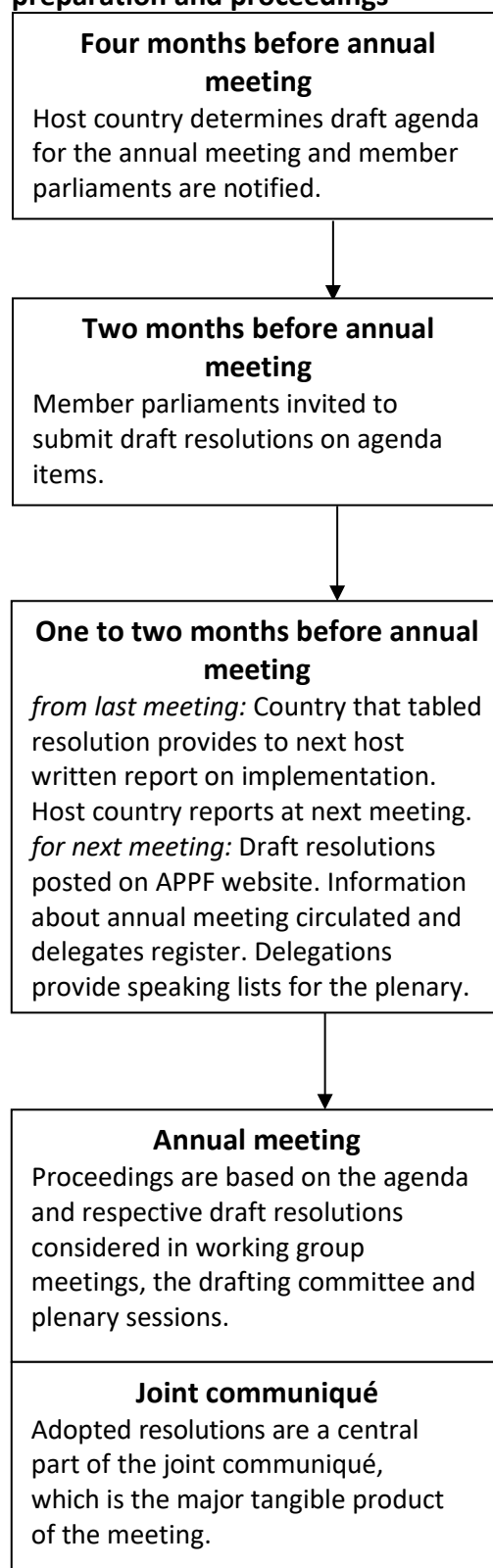
on the topic. Other delegates may also speak. The final draft may be amended during the debate in the plenary and the text is determined by consensus. In practice, because there has often been extensive debate on draft resolutions beforehand in the working groups and in the Drafting Committee, it is very unlikely that the final draft will be debated and amended during debate in the plenary.

**Joint Communiqué**

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 Hon Tony Smith MP  
Leader of the Delegation**

**Figure 1 Outline of annual meeting preparation and proceedings**



## **Appendices**

Appendix A: APPF-29 Program, November and December 2021

Appendix B: Countries attending APPF-29

Appendix C: Draft resolutions sponsored by Australia

Appendix D: Statement by the APPF President, the Hon Tony Smith MP, at the APPF-29 opening ceremony

Appendix E: List of resolutions and sponsors – APPF-29

Appendix F: Joint Communique of the 29th Annual Meeting of the APPF

Appendix G: New APPF Rules of Procedure (Amended) – 2021



## Appendix A

### APPF-29 Program, November and December 2021

#### NOVEMBER 2021

##### Monday, 8 November 2021

15:00-17:00	Working Group 1 – Political and Security Matters
19:00-21:00	Working Group of Women Parliamentarians

##### Tuesday, 9 November 2021

10:00-12:00	Working Group 3 – Regional Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region
15:00-17:00	Working Group 2 – Economic and Trade Matters

##### Thursday, 11 November 2021

12:00-13:30	Working Group 1 – Political and Security Matters
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##### Wednesday, 17 November 2021

15:00-17:00	Drafting Committee Meeting
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##### Friday, 19 November 2021

15:00-17:00	Drafting Committee Meeting
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#### DECEMBER 2021

##### Monday, 13 December 2021

14:00-17:00	Meeting of Women Parliamentarians
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##### Tuesday, 14 December 2021

9:00-10:00	Inaugural Ceremony
10:30-13:00	First Plenary Session – Political and Security Matters

	Meeting of the Drafting Committee
15:30-18:30	Second Plenary Session – Economic and Trade Matters

**Wednesday, 15 December 2021**

9:00-12:00	Third Plenary Session – Regional Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region
	Meeting of the Drafting Committee
15:30-18:30	<p>Final Plenary Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adoption of resolutions and Joint Communique</li> <li>- Presentation by the next host parliament</li> <li>- Closing ceremony</li> </ul>

## **Appendix B**

### **Countries attending APPF-29**

Australia

Brunei Darussalam

Cambodia

Canada

China

Costa Rica

Fiji

Indonesia

Japan

Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic

Malaysia

Marshall Islands

Mexico

Mongolia

New Zealand

Peru

Philippines

Republic of Korea

Russian Federation

Singapore

Thailand

Vietnam

## Appendix C

### Draft resolutions sponsored by Australia

#### Identifying ways to ensure a gender sensitive crisis response after the COVID-19 pandemic

The 29th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum:

**Recalling** the 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th APPF Annual Meeting resolutions on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls to increase the political, economic and social participation of women and to promote gender equality for sustainable development and shared prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region;

**Recalling** international treaties enhancing the protection and promotion of women's rights, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW 1979);

**Noting** with great concern the threat to human health, safety and well-being caused by COVID-19, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, the disproportionate impact on women and girls and those who find themselves in the poorest and most vulnerable situations, and reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

**Welcoming** the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 and the outcomes of its subsequent reviews, and the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, and the outcomes of its subsequent reviews, as an historic roadmap for the empowerment of women and girls, envisioning a world where each woman and girl can exercise her choices and freedoms and realise all her rights;

**Welcoming** the UNSCR1325 on women, peace and security, adopted by the United Nations Security Council in 2000, and subsequent nine resolutions, which acknowledged the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict on women and girls and the vital role that women's leadership and full, equal and meaningful participation plays in preventing and resolving conflict;

**Reaffirming** our commitment to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 5, which targets the most significant challenges of achieving gender equality and empowerment for all women and girls;

**Recognising** the importance of involving both women and men in the promotion of women's empowerment, in the elimination of sexual and gender-based violence and the advancement of women's political participation in all decision-making bodies;

**Concerned** by the low percentage of women in parliaments, public administrations and private sectors, and the obstacles to women's full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making in the region; and

**Understanding** that women's full, equal and meaningful participation in political and public life is necessary to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the Asia-Pacific region.

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Call on** APPF Member Countries to ensure women and girls are safe from violence; economically secure; and fully, equally and meaningfully represented in all levels of decision-making as agents of change in our COVID-19 response to redress the inequalities exacerbated by the pandemic;
2. **Call on** the Parliaments of APPF Member Countries to adopt policies and laws encouraging women's full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making in all reasonable levels and sectors;
3. **Call on** APPF Member Countries to apply and implement CEDAW 1979, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and other legal frameworks and to develop mechanisms to nominate and appoint women candidates in senior posts and continue collecting and disseminating quantitative and qualitative sex and age disaggregated data on women and men in decision-making at all levels;
4. **Encourage** Asia-Pacific countries to ratify, implement and monitor treaties, conventions and regulatory frameworks related to gender equality and women's empowerment in order to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in decision-making at all levels;
5. **Update** national laws and other legal frameworks that can promote women's access to financial and capital markets, the digital economy and relevant education, and can facilitate women's involvement in the private sector, central banks and other economic bodies;
6. **Encourage** APPF Member Countries to increase the number of women in decision-making positions at national and sub-national levels and within public institutions;
7. **Urge** APPF Member Countries to promote the meaningful inclusion of women in decision-making positions in peace processes in order to enhance security, peace and sustainable development;
8. **Encourage** Asia-Pacific countries to improve access for women and girls to education, innovation and technology;

9. **Call on** APPF Member Countries to implement programs that promote a work-life balance and reduce the burden of unpaid work on women, including childcare, caring for the elderly, and domestic work, including by redistributing this work between men and women;
10. **Encourage** APPF Member Countries to address and reduce barriers faced by women in deploying leadership to promote gender equality and women's empowerment at all levels;
11. **Call on** APPF Member Countries to appoint women to decision-making positions at all levels and further calls on the private sector to promote women to managerial and executive positions; and
12. **Encourage** APPF Member Countries to adopt measures on gender equality, in order to enhance support mechanisms to achieve gender balances in parliaments, governments, public administrations and judiciaries at all levels.

## **Strengthening regional multilateralism and addressing issues based on rules**

The 29th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum:

**Recalling** the APPF resolution ‘Building an Asia-Pacific Regional Community’ at the 16th Annual meeting in Auckland, and the United Nations Secretary-General’s report on cooperation between the UN and regional and other organisations;

**Affirming** the crucial role of strong institutions in enhancing adherence to international law and human rights obligations, and ensuring international peace and security in line with agreed rules and norms;

**Noting** that multilateralism that creates improved channels of communication and coordination between regions and international institutions can help address global challenges;

**Recognising** the value of regional institutions in advocating for the specific interests of their member states, and in resolving issues which affect their regions;

**Convinced** that the strengthening of economic ties through regional cooperation will contribute to greater prosperity; and

**Recognising** that regional institutions play a pivotal role in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, the promotion and protection of human rights, strengthening the rule of law, gender equality, combatting climate change and the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Agree** that regional institutions in the Asia-Pacific play a critical role in the multilateral system;
2. **Support** these institutions, within the global system for the promotion of confidence-building and dialogue in the Asia-Pacific;
3. **Recognise** the necessity of mobilising the efforts of regional institutions, to build and promote peace and trust among states; and
4. **Underline** the importance of utilising the existing and potential capabilities of regional organizations to resolve differences peacefully through dialogue and negotiation.

## Accelerating digital economy and enhancing productivity

The 29th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum:

**Noting** the opportunities presented by the digital age to support economic growth;

**Reaffirming** our commitment to resolutions adopted by the APPF relating to the growth of the digital economy in the Asia-Pacific, including APPF28/RES/04 adopted in 2020 in Canberra, *Australia on Improving participation in the digital economy and enhancing connectivity throughout the region*, APPF27/RES/10 adopted in 2019 in Siem-Reap, Cambodia on *Enhancing Connectivity in the Asia-Pacific through e-commerce*, APPF25/RES/08 adopted in 2017 Natadola, Fiji on *Promoting sustainable economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region through the digital economy* and APPF24/RES/10 adopted in 2016 in Vancouver, Canada on *Fostering innovation and connectivity*;

**Noting** that the Covid-19 pandemic has contributed to a rapid acceleration of digitisation by businesses across the globe, including in the Asia-Pacific region;

**Reaffirming** the importance of boosting business resilience post-COVID, and realising the potential of technology to drive sustainable economic growth;

**Acknowledging** the role that emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, blockchain and quantum, will have on the digital economy and connectivity, and considering the importance of deploying these technologies in a trusted, secure and responsible way;

**Acknowledging** the fundamental role of connectivity to supporting greater participation in and growth of the digital economy in the region;

**Conscious** that the digital economy relies on security and trust in institutions and infrastructure;

**Noting** that digital technology has become inextricably linked to the competitiveness of economies, in supporting productivity and innovation, and expanding trade opportunities;

**Acknowledging** that the regulatory environment shapes the level of digital innovation and access to digital services; and

**Confirming** the role of parliaments of APPF Member Countries in fostering collaboration and cooperation between countries in the Asia-Pacific.

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Affirm** a shared vision of a trusted online environment where businesses, innovation and creativity can thrive;
2. **Call on** APPF Member Countries to embrace policies that support an enabling environment for the digital economy in the region;



3. **Strengthen** cooperation between APPF Member Countries in aligning and harmonising regulatory frameworks that relate to digital economy issues and communications infrastructure;
4. **Promote** information sharing between APPF Member Countries on digital economy policies and regulations, to help communicate best practice and inform capacity building efforts;
5. **Encourage** the APPF Member Countries to develop their digital trade infrastructure in line with international standards to ensure connectivity;
6. **Cooperate** to identify and address barriers to participation in the digital economy, particularly for MSMEs and disadvantaged groups;
7. **Encourage** APPF Member Countries to strengthen their digital capabilities, including by investing in the necessary communications infrastructure to support connectivity and by improving the digital literacy of their citizens, recognising ICT skills provide a foundation to greater participation across populations and sectors; and
8. **Recommend** APPF Member Countries establish and maintain whole-of-government digital economy strategies, recognising the integral nature of digital technology and its far-reaching applications and impact across government.

## **The role of parliaments in balancing disease control, economy, and human rights, and ideas for inter-parliamentary cooperation**

The 29th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF):

**Recognising** the COVID-19 pandemic is a global crisis and continues to present an unprecedented dilemma to countries in the Asia-Pacific;

**Acknowledging** the crucial role of parliamentarians in adopting legislation to safeguard the health of citizens, uphold basic human rights and freedoms, and preserve livelihoods and economic activities;

**Recognising** the critical importance of strengthening regional health security—including in diagnostics, treatment and prevention of major infectious diseases—to ensure no country in the Asia-Pacific region is left behind;

**Recognising** that regional institutions play a pivotal role in matters relating to the promotion and protection of human rights and health security, strengthening the rule of law and combatting economic inequalities in the Asia-Pacific;

**Affirming** that collaboration through global, regional and national forums is essential to successfully overcome the COVID-19 pandemic;

**Mindful** that the APPF was established to promote cooperation among Parliaments across the Asia-Pacific;

**Reaffirming** our commitment to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals to build resilient societies and guide efforts to balance health security, human rights and sustainable economic growth.

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Foster** global and regional collaboration and cooperation to share information and experiences of balancing health, human rights and economic concerns at different stages of the pandemic; and share expertise and analysis on policy outcomes and modelling;
2. **Continue** to reform, harmonise and implement laws, policies and regulatory frameworks to strengthen institutional capability to develop comprehensive, holistic policy responses to the pandemic;
3. **Commit** to accelerating efforts to build regional capacity in health security and health technologies, expand access to COVID-19 diagnostics, treatment and prevention, and global cooperation on the equitable distribution of vaccines, particularly for less developed countries;
4. **Call on** APPF Member Countries to promote their commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially: sustainable development goals 3 – Good health and well-being; 8 – Decent work and economic growth; and 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions; and

5. **Encourage** opportunities for interaction among parliaments, governments, civil society and business communities to promote regional health security, investment for sustainable and inclusive growth, transparent and accountable government and the rule of law.

## Appendix D

### **Statement by the APPF President, the Hon Tony Smith MP, at the APPF-29 opening ceremony**

APPF colleagues and friends,

It is an honour to be with you today.

First and foremost, I would like to recognise and congratulate our host, Speaker Park and his secretariat, for their hard work and excellent coordination in bringing us together for the 29th Annual Meeting. They have faced extraordinary challenges in planning for this meeting and I commend them for their excellent facilitation.

I cannot think of a more fitting theme than the one which will guide our discussions over the next several days “The role of parliaments in strengthening resilience in the post COVID-19 era”. As representatives of our national parliaments, we have witnessed, shaped and informed new practices and procedures to ensure that parliamentary business continues. We have incorporated virtual, hybrid and socially-distanced formats and for many technology now has a new role in the performance of our duties.

The institutional resilience of parliaments is at the heart of effective democratic governance. Over the next few days we will debate resolutions addressing representation, political, security, economic and trade matters. But most important in these discussions, is our collective commitment to cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region.

By now you would be aware that in July this year I announced that my current term in the Australian Parliament was to be my last. Further to that, I resigned as Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives on 22 November to see out the remainder of the 46th Australian Parliament as a government backbencher, serving my electorate of Casey in Victoria.

I will be concluding my term as President of the APPF at the end of APPF29. It has been my honour and privilege to serve as President of the APPF and I thank you for your ongoing support and contributions.

As was outlined in correspondence from Speaker Park, the Executive Committee has met to consider the future role of the President and formed the unanimous view that, moving forward, the functions of the President will be best performed by the annual Meeting Chair. This matter has been given significant consideration and rule changes have been identified to ensure the good continuity of the organisation. In the final plenary session you will be asked to consider this proposal and adopt the rule changes.

The APPF continues to provide us with an important platform to guide and shape our region through cohesion, understanding and cooperation and I am proud of the work we have done together.

In closing, I'd like to once again take the opportunity to congratulate Speaker Park and his team for their commitment to ensuring the success of APPF29 and for exemplifying resilience to deliver the first virtual APPF.

As an organisation the APPF is in a very good position moving forward. I wish you all well with your deliberations over the coming days and the very best for the future. I hope we will cross paths again sometime soon.

Thank you.

## Appendix E

### List of resolutions and sponsors – APPF-29<sup>5</sup>

1. Achieving Gender Equality by Increasing Women’s Participation and Representation (Republic of Korea, Canada, Indonesia, Mexico, Russian Federation and Vietnam)
2. Promoting Gender-Sensitive Covid-19 Response and Post-Pandemic Recovery (Republic of Korea, Australia, Russian Federation and Vietnam)
3. Improving Understanding of Cultural Diversity in the Asia-Pacific (Republic of Korea and Russian Federation)
4. Joint Parliamentary Action in Pursuing Response to Climate Change and for Sustainable Development (Republic of Korea and Indonesia)
5. The Role of Parliaments in Balancing Disease Control, Economy, and Human Rights, and Ideas for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation (Republic of Korea, Australia and Mexico)
6. Enhancing Economic Integration and Promoting Trade in the Region (Republic of Korea, Japan, Russian Federation and Vietnam)
7. Accelerating Digital Economy and Enhancing Connectivity (Republic of Korea, Australia, Canada, Indonesia, Mexico, the Philippines, Russian Federation and Vietnam)
8. International Cooperation for Greater Economic Resilience and Inclusive Growth After the COVID-19 Crisis (Republic of Korea, Indonesia and Russian Federation)
9. Countering Terrorism and Extremism in The Asia-Pacific Region (Russian Federation)
10. Peace on the Korean Peninsula (Republic of Korea and Japan)
11. Promoting People-Centred Cooperation by Guaranteeing Human Security (Republic of Korea)
12. Strengthening Regional Multilateralism and Addressing Issues Based on Norms and Rules of International Law (Republic of Korea, Australia and Russian Federation)

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<sup>5</sup> The text of the resolutions can be viewed at: <http://www.appf29.org/outcomes/outcomes.php>  
Prior to the next annual meeting, it is customary for the previous annual meeting website to be closed. Key documents are then available at [www.appf.org.pe](http://www.appf.org.pe) at the Annual Meetings page.

13. Parliamentary Leadership for Peace and Security in the Asia-Pacific and Beyond  
(Republic of Korea, Indonesia and Russian Federation)

## Appendix F

### Joint Communiqué of the 29th Annual Meeting of the APPF

1. At the invitation of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, the 29th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 13 to 15 December 2021. A total of 211 delegates from 22 Member Countries of the APPF attended the meeting, which took place virtually due to COVID-19.

#### Executive Committee

2. Two Executive Committee meetings were conducted by correspondence in August and November of 2021. The Executive Committee meeting in August approved the agenda and programme of the 29th Annual Meeting. The Executive Committee meeting in November approved 36 draft resolutions to be submitted to working groups and the Drafting Committee for consideration and appointed Hon. Hong Ihk-pyo as Chair of the Drafting Committee and Hon. Nam In-soon as Chair of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.
3. The Executive Committee held a closed virtual meeting on 10 November 2021, chaired by the Hon. Tony Smith MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Australia and President of the APPF, to discuss amendments to the APPF Rules of Procedure. Member Parliaments present agreed on the amendments including abolishing the positions of Honorary President and President, changing the composition and the term of office of the Executive Committee and using gender inclusive language. The Executive Committee also confirmed the existing arrangement in which Chair of the Annual Meeting serves as Chair of the Executive Committee and each host country resources the Annual Meeting without a permanent secretariat.
4. The last Executive Committee meeting of the 29th APPF, conducted by correspondence on 10 December 2021, approved the amendments of the Rules of Procedure, the appointment of new Executive Committee members elected from each sub-region: Japan (Northeast Asia); Vietnam (Southeast Asia); and New Zealand (Oceania), the extension of the term of office of Canada (the Americas), confirmation of Thailand as the host country of the 30th Annual Meeting of the APPF, and the full membership of Brunei Darussalam.

#### Opening Ceremony

5. In the opening ceremony on 14 December 2021, Mr. Lee Choon-suak, Secretary General of the Korean National Assembly Secretariat, gave a progress report on the hosting of the meeting.



6. H.E. Moon Jae-in, President of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, President & Chair of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), and the Hon. Tony Smith MP, President of the APPF, delivered welcome and congratulatory remarks.
7. H.E. Park Byeong-seug, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea and Chair of the 29th APPF, gave opening remarks to welcome presiding officers and parliamentary delegations taking part in APPF29 for peace and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Meeting of Women Parliamentarians**

8. The Meeting of Women Parliamentarians was held on 13 December 2021, chaired by Hon. Nam In-soon. The meeting covered two topics: identifying ways to ensure a gender-sensitive crisis response after the COVID-19 crisis; and achieving gender equality by increasing women's participation and representation.
9. The meeting noted that the COVID-19 crisis exacerbated discrimination and exclusion faced by women and urged member parliaments to strengthen international and inter-parliamentary cooperation to build a more just and resilient society in the long-term and respond collectively using a gender-sensitive and gender-responsive approach to any such crisis in the future.
10. The meeting reaffirmed the 1979 UN Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CED AW), 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the resolutions of the 27th and 28th APPF Annual Meetings on achieving gender equality and empowerment of women at all levels of decision-making, and urged Member Parliaments to ensure women's participation and representation to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality.
11. Member Parliaments recalled the 1993 Vienna Declaration, which put violence against women on the international human rights agenda for the first time, and emphasized the enforcement of policies to prevent and combat violence against women, which has worsened during the prolonged pandemic, and protect female victims.
12. Member Parliaments recalled UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace, and security and pledged to improve their legislations, budgets, policies, and national agenda and exert all diplomatic efforts to secure and expand opportunities for women to contribute to prevention, management, and resolution of conflict.

### **Plenary Sessions**

13. The first plenary session considered political and security matters, and focused on three topics: parliamentary leadership for peace and security in the Asia-Pacific and beyond; strengthening regional multilateralism and addressing issues

based on norms and rules of international law; and promoting people-centered cooperation.

14. Member Parliaments agreed on the need to promote peaceful resolution of conflicts based on international law, including the UN Charter, a comprehensive notion of security, development and democracy, supported the efforts to ensure maritime security and safety, freedom of navigation and over-flight in full compliance with international law in particular the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UN CLOS) in the interest of all, and called for continued parliamentary diplomacy efforts to maintain and secure peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region.
15. Member Parliaments emphasized multilateral cooperation to tackle trans-national challenges such as the pandemic, climate change, terrorism and extremism, ensuring reliable and safe supply of water, energy and food; and called on the Asia-Pacific regional community to develop universally agreeable principles in line with norms and rules of international law to this end.
16. Member Parliaments recognized that human security requires a comprehensive approach encompassing many different areas, including the economy, society, poverty reduction, health, climate change, and culture, and recommended cross-border cooperation to protect and restore each individual's life affected by COVID-19.
17. Member Parliaments recognized the efforts of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea to pursue an inter-Korean parliamentary meeting and those of the Republic of Korea for the Korean Peninsula Peace Process, including a declaration on the end of the Korean War and a peace accord, and reaffirmed the need for North Korea and related parties in the region to engage in dialogue and negotiation to achieve complete denuclearization and establishment of permanent peace regime on the Korean Peninsula and regional peace and stability.
18. Member Parliaments affirmed to strengthen cross-border cooperation to respond to terrorism and extremism, and make an active use of parliamentary diplomacy to discuss international anti-terrorist agenda and cooperation.
19. The second plenary session considered economic and trade matters, and focused on three topics: strengthening international cooperation for greater economic resilience and inclusive economic recovery; accelerating digital economy and enhancing connectivity; and the role of parliaments in enhancing economic integration and promoting trade in the region.
20. Member Parliaments emphasized the importance of inclusive digital transformation and digital infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region for a resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and agreed on the need to provide policy support to socially vulnerable groups such as children, young people, the elderly, women, people with disabilities, and migrants, and the need to consider

institutions to enable joint growth and win-win cooperation of large corporations and micro and small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and achieve a sustainable and inclusive economic recovery.

21. Member Parliaments recalled the resolutions of the 27th and 28th APPF Annual Meetings on increasing regional connectivity through digital economy and e-commerce, and underlined the role and support of parliaments in strengthening security of and in the use of ICTs and protecting personal information for the development of digital economy through the promotion of e-commerce and digital trade.
22. Member Parliaments urged to advance the Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP) and seeking of an optimal method for multilateral cooperation by developing institutions that promote regional economic integration and joint prosperity, such as the Regional Comprehensive Partnership Agreement (RCEP), the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (CPTPP), and the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APIA) and by promoting participation in the framework of the Greater Eurasian Partnership and cooperation on its "integration of integrations"; encouraged to promote further a responsive, relevant and revitalized WTO.
23. The third plenary session considered regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region, and focused on three topics: the role of parliaments in balancing disease control, economy, and human rights, and ideas for inter-parliamentary cooperation; joint parliamentary action in pursuing response to climate change and for sustainable development; and improving understanding of cultural diversity in the Asia-Pacific.
24. Member Parliaments called on the international community to bolster solidarity and share their experiences and strategies in responding to emergency situations to balance disease control, economy, and human rights and for equitable access to vaccination and medication as a public good amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.
25. In addition, Member Parliaments recalled the results of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Paris Agreement, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and invited each country to make efforts to maintain the goals of the Paris Agreement and continue regional and international cooperation to respond to climate change.
26. Member Parliaments reaffirmed the resolutions of the 27th and 28th APPF Annual Meetings on cultural diversity and development of tourism in the region, and agreed to devote efforts to protect and promote cultural diversity in the Asia-Pacific and bolster financial and institutional support to promote regional cultural and tourism exchange programs.
27. The final plenary session was chaired by H.E. Park Byeong-seug, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea. The results of the Executive Committee meeting, namely the approval of reports on implementation of prior

resolutions submitted by Member Parliaments, amendment of the APPF Rules of Procedure, appointment of new Executive Committee Member Parliaments from sub-regions, confirmation of the next host as Thailand, and elevation of Brunei's status from Observer to Member, were presented to the plenary and gained final approval with the agreement of participating members.

28. Hon. Nik Hafimi Abdul Haadii, Head of the Delegation of Brunei, expressed her appreciation to all Member Parliaments for their support of Brunei's accession to APPF and pledged commitment to actively work for the joint prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region.
29. Hon. Nam In-soon delivered a report on the results of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians and Hon. Hong Ihk-pyo, a report on the results of agreements reached at the Drafting Committee and on the Joint Communiqué.
30. A total of 13 resolutions and a Joint Communiqué were adopted in this Annual Meeting.
31. The host country for the 30th APPF Annual Meeting was declared as Thailand, which was followed by a promotional video and the acceptance speech by H.E. Chuan Leekpai, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand.
32. In his closing address, H.E. Park Byeong-seug, Speaker of the Korean National Assembly, underlined that although the Annual Meeting was held in a virtual format, it was an opportunity for Member Parliaments to proclaim their commitment to solidarity and cooperation for the promotion of peace in the Asia-Pacific region and economic cooperation, and to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. Delegations of each country conveyed their appreciation to the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea for devoting many efforts to successfully host the meeting amidst the rapidly changing situation surrounding COVID-19.

## Appendix G

### New APPF Rules of Procedure (Amended) – 2021

The procedural arrangements in the APPF were set out in the 1994 Annual Meeting in the Philippines and are updated from time to time. They are as follows:

#### Structure and Role

1. The APPF will be loosely structured and non-exclusive forum of national parliaments of sovereign states of the Asia-Pacific region, in which parliamentarians will participate either as delegates of their parliaments or in their personal capacities.
2. The APPF will seek to provide opportunities for national parliamentarians of sovereign states of the Asia-Pacific region:
  - a) to identify and discuss matters of common concern and interest and to highlight them in a global context;
  - b) to deepen their understanding of the policy concerns, interests and experiences of the countries of the region;
  - c) to examine the critical political, social, and cultural developments resulting from economic growth and integration;
  - d) to encourage and promote regional cooperation at all levels on matters of common concern to the region; and
  - e) to play the roles of national parliamentarians in furthering in their respective countries a sense of regional cohesion, understanding and cooperation.
3. The APPF will operate on the basis of:
  - a) commitment to frank and constructive dialogue;
  - b) equal respect for the views of all participants; and
  - c) full recognition of the roles performed by governments, business communities, labour organisations, research institutes and others.
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, sustainable development and sound environment practices;

- c) non-military cooperation which gives due consideration to issues relating to regional peace and security; and
  - d) preservation and promotion of the diverse cultures of the peoples in the region.
5. The APPF will maintain the closest relations with regional institutions, particularly the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), and the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC), to ensure a free flow of information between the APPF and these institutions. APPF member parliaments will endeavour to have APPF views reflected in these institutions.

### **Membership and Observership**

6. Membership of the APPF will in principle be open to all national parliaments of sovereign states in the Asia-Pacific region (in particular those of the member nations of ASEAN, APEC, and the PIF) which:
- a) have an active interest in promoting dialogue among parliamentarians in the region; and
  - b) accept the objectives and principles of the APPF as reflected in the 1993 Tokyo Declaration and subsequent declarations and the Rules of Procedure.
7. Membership of the APPF will be reviewed from time to time.
8. National parliamentarians of sovereign states of the Asia-Pacific region and others invited as observers or in any other appropriate status may attend the APPF Annual Meeting.
9. Parliamentarians from member parliament delegations (hereinafter referred to as "participating delegates") will attend the Annual Meeting. In cases where a national parliament is represented by an official delegation, the attendance of other parliamentarians from that parliament in a personal capacity is allowed only with the advice and consent of that parliament.

### **Chair of the Annual Meeting**

10. Deleted
11. The host country shall appoint a Chair of the meeting from the host parliament who shall serve as Chair from the conclusion of the previous meeting to the conclusion of the hosted meeting.
12. The Chair of the meeting shall serve as Chair of the Executive Committee.
13. Deleted

14. Deleted
15. Deleted (replaced by amended Rule 11)
16. The Chair of the Annual Meeting shall direct the work of the meeting and see that the rules are observed. The Chair shall also open, suspend, and close the sessions, make known the results, and declare the meeting closed.
17. The Chair of the Annual Meeting may, with the approval of the Executive Committee, appoint deputies from among participating delegates to direct the meeting in place of the Chair, as necessary.

### **Annual Meeting**

18. The APPF will meet annually.
19. The host, date and venue of each Annual Meeting will be determined by the plenary at the preceding meeting.
20. The host country will be proposed on the basis of discussion among those countries wishing to host the Annual Meeting. Priority will be given to those countries which have not previously hosted an Annual Meeting. Where no country wishes to host the meeting, the host will be proposed with reference to the order of hosting previous Annual Meetings.
21. The host of the Annual Meeting will make the necessary arrangements for the meeting including coordination of the provisional agenda of the meeting in consultation with the Executive Committee and for the provision of a secretariat for the Annual Meeting.
22. The host parliament will bear the cost of organizing the meeting and the participants will cover their expenses for attending the meeting. Membership of a delegation will be limited to a maximum of ten parliamentarians. This limitation shall not apply to the host parliament.
23. The host country will determine the provisional agenda in principle no later than four months prior to the opening date of the Annual Meeting and notify member parliaments.
24. The agenda shall be approved by the Annual Meeting on the advice of the Executive Committee.
25. Requests for supplementary items may be considered by the Executive Committee for inclusion on the agenda.
26. Member parliaments must submit draft resolutions to the host country in principle no later than two months prior to the opening date of the Annual Meeting. This time limit, however, will not apply to draft resolutions relating to supplementary items included in accordance with Article 25.

27. Draft resolutions must be relevant to the agenda items.
28. A proposed resolution must be made available for circulation to all participating delegates before it is moved.
29. All decisions of the APPF will be made by consensus at the Annual Meeting. When decisions are required on substantive matters, the principle of unanimity shall be observed.
30. While draft resolutions will be adopted on a consensus basis, the Chair of the Annual Meeting may allow mention to be made of partial reservations in the resolution document, and thereby permit minority opinions to be reflected.
31. Draft resolutions shall be discussed at the plenary session before examination by the Drafting Committee.
32. Where a resolution is adopted by the Annual Meeting, the country tabling that resolution shall provide the next host country with a written report on how that resolution has been put into effect no later than two months prior to the opening date of the next Annual Meeting. The next host country shall endeavour to gather information and report at the next Annual Meeting on the status of action in each country in relation to resolutions.
33. After the Annual Meeting, the host country shall send the adopted resolutions out to the relevant countries and international institutions for reference purposes.
34. Parliamentary delegations will be requested by the host parliament to submit motions for discussion at the next Annual Meeting by a specified date.
35. A participating delegate may, when called by the Chair, speak freely on any matter included in the agenda.
36. As a general rule, only current members of parliaments may voice opinions.
37. In inviting participating delegates to speak, the Chair of the Annual Meeting will be guided by the following two principles:
  - a) commitment to frank and constructive dialogue; and
  - b) equal respect for the views of all participants.
38. Priority to speak will be given to participating delegates. The representatives of the parliaments attending as observers and other official participants may also speak with agreement of the Annual Meeting, when called by the Chair.

#### **Executive Committee**

39. Membership of the Executive Committee shall be open to all member countries of the APPF and shall comprise representatives of the following:



- a) The current Annual Meeting host country
- b) The next Annual Meeting host country
- c) The previous Annual Meeting host country
- d) Countries elected from sub-regions.

#### 40. Qualification for Executive Committee Members

- a) Executive Committee members must be current members of parliaments.
- b) The countries of Executive Committee members may be re-elected.

#### 41. In the election of representative countries from sub-regions as stipulated in Article 39, with due regard to balance in regional representation, the Asia-Pacific shall be divided into the following four sub-regions with two countries being elected from each sub-region.

- a) Northeast Asia (5 countries): People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mongolia and Russian Federation.
- b) Southeast Asia (9 countries): Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia, Republic of Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Singapore, Kingdom of Thailand and Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
- c) Oceania (6 countries): Australia, Republic of Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Republic of the Marshall Islands.
- d) The Americas (8 countries): Canada, Republic of Chile, Republic of Colombia, United Mexican States, Republic of Peru, United States of America, Ecuador and Costa Rica.

#### 42. Duties of the Executive Committee

- a) The Executive Committee may submit recommendations to the Annual Meeting with regard to policy issues which the APPF wishes to address or APPF's management policy.
- b) The Executive Committee shall engage in coordination with the host country of the Annual Meeting concerning the draft agenda and schedule of the Annual Meeting.
- c) The Executive Committee shall advise the host country of the Annual Meeting concerning the matters deemed necessary for the Annual Meeting.

- d) The Executive Committee shall receive applications for membership in the Forum from each parliament, and submit the recommendations to the next Annual Meeting for determination.
43. The term of office for an Executive Committee member representing a sub-region shall be four years, from the conclusion of an Annual Meeting until the conclusion of the Annual Meeting four years later, subject to the following conditions.
- a) Half of the Executive Committee members representing sub-regions shall be re-elected every two years.
- b) The method of election of Executive Committee members representing sub-regions shall be decided by each sub-region in order to respect its voluntary will. Sub-region representatives shall report to the Executive Committee when the Executive Committee member for their respective region has been elected.
- c) If any Executive Committee member representing a sub-region is unable to attend an Executive Committee meeting, a parliamentarian from another country in that sub-region may be designated by those sub-region representatives present at the annual meeting to serve as an alternative member.
44. The term of office for an Executive Committee member representing the host country of an Annual Meeting shall be from the conclusion of the preceding Annual Meeting until the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting.
45. Reports of the Executive Committee on its work may be made orally or in writing at the Annual Meeting.

#### **Meeting of Women Parliamentarians**

46. A Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will be held on the occasion of the APPF Annual Meeting.
47. The Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will seek to create a forum for all parliamentarians to discuss issues on women, children and to achieve gender equality.
48. The Chair of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians shall be a member of the host parliament.
49. The Meeting of Women Parliamentarians may elect Co-Chairs from among participating delegates.
50. The Meeting of the Women Parliamentarians will submit a report to the Plenary Session.

#### **Drafting Committee**

51. Drafting Committee will be established at the Annual Meeting on the advice of the Executive Committee to prepare draft resolutions and a draft joint communique for consideration, adoption, and release at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.
52. The Chair of the Drafting Committee shall be designated based on approval from the Executive Committee. The provisions of Article 17 shall apply mutatis mutandis to the appointment of deputy chairs to the Drafting Committee.
53. A participating delegate from each member parliament submitting a draft resolution shall participate in the Drafting Committee examination of that resolution.
54. The Drafting Committee, when in session, shall determine its own priorities. At the conclusion of its deliberations the Drafting Committee will report to the plenary session of the Annual Meeting.
55. Reports of the Drafting Committee on its work may be made orally or in writing at the Annual Meeting.

#### **Working Groups**

56. Working Groups may be established by the Annual Meeting on the advice of the Executive Committee:
  - a) to examine specific issues referred for consideration and report on these to the Annual Meeting or to the Executive Committee; or
  - b) to create a new joint draft resolution in place of multiple existing proposals with similar content, and submit this to the Drafting Committee.
57. Working Groups examining draft resolutions will include but need not be limited to a participating delegate from each member parliament submitting a draft resolution.

#### **Matters not Covered by Rules**

58. The Chair of the Annual Meeting shall decide on all matters not covered by these rules, on the advice of the Executive Committee.