
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Report of the Parliamentary
Delegation to the Twenty-
seventh Annual Meeting of the
Asia Pacific Parliamentary
Forum, Siem Reap, Cambodia

13 – 18 January 2019

March 2019

Canberra

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ISBN 978-1-74366-937-2 (Printed version)

ISBN 978-1-74366-938-9 (PDF version)

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Foreword

In January 2019 an Australian parliamentary delegation participated in the twenty-seventh annual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) in Siem Reap in the Kingdom of Cambodia. The Forum draws together parliamentarians from countries in Asia and those in and bordering the Pacific Ocean on both western and eastern sides. These countries include Australia's major trading and strategic partners and those with which we have strong social and cultural ties. It remains in Australia's interests to build and sustain relationships with parliamentarians from these countries and to maintain institutional links between our parliaments.

The delegation thanks this year's hosts, the Parliament of Cambodia, for putting on such a well organised forum. It was very obvious that the country put a huge effort into ensuring that the event went smoothly. Particular thanks should go to the President of the National Assembly of Cambodia, Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin for presiding over proceedings and acting as such a gracious host.

The Australian Parliament will be hosting the 28th forum next year in 2020. This cements Australia's long involvement with the APPF, the Parliament having hosted the forum in 2000 and indeed hosting in 1991 one of the two preparatory meetings prior to the APPF's establishment. Australian participation in APPF has enjoyed ongoing bipartisan support and the active involvement of both Senators and Members across the decades. I look forward to Senators and Members of all parties coming together again to represent the Australian Parliament at the 28th APPF in Canberra in January 2020.

Finally, the delegation to this year's forum greatly appreciated the support from officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for facilitating our visit, including the Australian Ambassador to Cambodia, Ms Angela Corcoran and her

staff. The Australian Parliament's International and Parliamentary Relations Office also assisted us with administrative arrangements for the delegation's visit. We were also very ably looked after in Siem Reap by our two ever enthusiastic, helpful and unfailingly polite liaison officers appointed by the Cambodian Parliament, Miss THENG Tithmaria and Mr SARIN Raingsey. Thank you to all.

Senator the Hon Scott Ryan

Delegation Leader



Membership of the delegation

Leader Senator the Hon Scott Ryan President of the Senate

Members

Mr Patrick Gorman MP

Hon Luke Hartsuyker MP

Ms Joanne Ryan MP

Staff James Catchpole Delegation Secretary

The Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum: Work of the Twenty-seventh Annual Meeting

Overview

- 1.1 In January 2019 a delegation from the Australian Parliament comprising the President of the Senate and delegation leader, Senator the Hon Scott Ryan, Mr Patrick Gorman MP, the Hon Luke Hartsuyker MP and Ms Joanne Ryan MP participated in the twenty-seventh annual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF27) in Siem Reap, Cambodia.
- 1.2 This chapter begins with a description of APPF27 and then addresses the work of the meeting which took place according to the program set out in Appendix A. The second chapter is a background chapter and explains the role and function of the APPF in general terms and places APPF27 in a historical context.
- 1.3 Delegates from the APPF member parliaments converged on Siem Reap on Sunday 13 January 2019. Appendix B lists the countries participating at APPF27.
- 1.4 The APPF Executive Committee met early on Monday 14 January to formally adopt the draft agenda and accept the draft resolutions that would form the basis of the ensuing discussions.
- 1.5 The first formal activity of the APPF was the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, also on Monday 14 January. Ms Ryan represented the Australian delegation at this meeting and was an active participant in proceedings.
- 1.6 The Forum proper commenced with an opening ceremony on the morning of Tuesday 15 January 2019 and then ran for that and all of the next day. The opening ceremony was followed immediately by the core work of the forum – national presentations to meetings of the plenary and discussions

in working parties to hammer out combined draft compromise resolutions from those presented by the different APPF nations on specific agenda topics.¹ The Drafting Committee also met to finalise the draft resolutions prepared by the working groups and to write a draft joint communique for consideration, adoption and release at the final plenary session. The forum held its final plenary meeting and closing ceremony in the evening of 16 January.

- 1.7 Senator Ryan, Mr Gorman, Mr Hartsuyker and Ms Ryan all spoke in the plenary sessions, participated in the working parties and in the Drafting Committee. Senator Ryan also co-chaired the Drafting Committee.
- 1.8 Of particular note, the APPF executive committee and then the final plenary session endorsed the Australian Parliament as host of the next APPF meeting (APPF28) to be held in January 2020 in Canberra.

Executive Committee Meeting

- 1.9 The APPF Executive Committee meets before formal proceedings commence. The Committee comprises 11 national representatives – two each from the four APPF sub-regions, a representative of the host country for the current and next meeting and one representing Japan as the country of the honorary president. Australia and Fiji are on the Executive Committee as current representatives of the APPF Oceania sub-region, although Fiji did not send representatives to the forum this year due to the death of their Speaker in late 2018. Australia commenced its four year term as a representative of the Oceania Block from this year.
- 1.10 As well as endorsing the agenda for the forum and formally accepting lodgement of all the draft resolutions, the Executive Committee, endorsed Australia as the host of APPF28 and indicated that South Korea had agreed to host the APPF in 2021.

Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

- 1.11 Since the 2016 APPF in Canada, informal meetings of Women Parliamentarians participating in APPF have been held prior to the commencement of formal proceedings. At its meeting in 2018, APPF26 agreed to amend the APPF Rules of Procedures to formalise the meetings

1 In fact, some of the working parties began meeting informally in the afternoon of Monday 14 January.

as a regular forum feature. The amended Rules of Procedures also require the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians to submit a report to the plenary session, which occurred this year. APPF27 was thus the first formal meeting of Women Parliamentarians and was well attended by parliamentarians of both sexes.

- 1.12 The 2019 meeting of Women Parliamentarians was chaired by the Hon. Khuon Sudary, Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and co-chaired by the Hon. Olga Epifannova, Vice-Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation.
- 1.13 Discussion focussed around the three themes for the meeting, namely:
 - Strengthening Asia-Pacific Regional Partnerships for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls for Peace and Sustainable Development;
 - Ensuring Equality for all Women and Men's access to Education, Technical Training and Information Technology for Sustainable Peace and Achieving Sustainable Development Goals, and
 - Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Decision-Making at all Levels.
- 1.14 There were 11 draft resolutions submitted by member countries to the meeting of Women Parliamentarians covering these themes, including one by Australia, sponsored by Ms Ryan which addressed the theme of education, technical training and information technology. Ms Ryan spoke to the resolution, a copy of which is included in Appendix D. Ms Ryan spoke on the importance of allowing women and girls equal access to education and vocational training, including for STEM subjects. Following discussion at the meeting, the five draft resolutions on this particular topic were condensed and combined into one. The 6 draft resolutions before the meeting on the other topics were discussed by the delegates during the afternoon of Monday 14 January and merged into two resolutions which were forwarded to the Drafting Committee for final adoption. The three resolutions were adopted by the Drafting Committee on the final day with minor amendments.
- 1.15 A report of the meeting of Women Parliamentarians was prepared and presented to the Drafting Committee. The report summarises the keynote addresses given at the meeting and highlighted the issues raised in debate and in the merged resolutions. It was pleasing to note that the importance of vocational education and skills development, as advocated for by Ms Ryan, was emphasised in the report.

Opening session and addresses

- 1.16 The ceremonial opening of APPF27 was held in the morning of 15 January 2019 and commenced with a recorded message from the King of Cambodia, His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneat NORODOM SIHAMONI. The Hon Mr Takuji Yanagimoto, a Member of the House of Councillors of Japan spoke, representing the Honorary President of the APPF, the Hon Yasuhiro Nakasone. The Prime Minister of Cambodia, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen also spoke, as did the presidents of the Senate and National Assembly respectively. The ceremony concluded with a display of traditional Cambodian dance and a group photo of delegation leaders.

Plenaries and Working Parties

- 1.17 In the afternoon the work of the forum began with the first of four plenary sessions. These sessions, based on the agenda's substantive subject areas allow each country, if it wishes, to make a statement on the topics covered under the subject areas. Senator Ryan, Mr Gorman and Mr Hartsuyker all spoke in the plenary sessions on their nominated topics on either Tuesday 15 January or Wednesday 16 January.
- 1.18 At the same time as the plenary sessions were running, working parties to discuss the draft resolutions were also held in order to consolidate the multiple resolutions. The Australian delegates attended the working parties, focusing on the discussions and negotiations being held in them, while going to the plenary sessions when scheduled, to give their addresses. The need to have national representatives in both the plenaries and the working parties at the same time was easier for those countries which brought large delegations. It was a challenge, however, for the smaller Australian delegation to field a representative in all the places needed at the same time – which led to some rapid moving between venues!

Subject matter of the annual meeting

- 1.19 The agenda subject areas approved by the Executive Committee were the focus of the first three plenary sessions and the working parties. The agenda was structured around the four customary themes considered by APPF meetings, namely: political and security matters, economic and

trade matters, regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region and also future work of the APPF.

1.20 The substantive subject areas by theme were:

Political and security matters

- Building trust for peace, security and sustainable development in the Region
- Combating terrorism and transnational crimes in the region
- Strengthening parliamentary cooperation in promoting the responsible use of cyberspace for social progress.

Economic and trade matters

- Enhancing cooperation among Member states to build strong institution for promoting trade and inclusive growth
- Promoting financial access and vocational training for small-medium enterprises for employment and peace
- Enhancing connectivity in the Asia-Pacific through E-commerce.

Regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region

- Enhancing parliamentary roles in response to Climate change
- Promoting cooperation on disaster risk reduction
- Enhancing Parliamentary cooperation in promoting cultural diversity and tourism in Asia Pacific.

1.21 The final plenary session considered the report of the meeting of women parliamentarians, adopted the resolutions as finalised by the drafting committee, adopted the Joint Communique (which delegation leaders then signed) and watched a ceremonial handover of the APPF flag to the next host – Australia.

Draft resolutions proposed

1.22 Forty three draft resolutions were proposed by member countries at APPF27, of which four were from Australia. The resolutions were registered with the Cambodian organisers in advance and placed on the APPF27 website, allowing delegates to consider the proposals before the forum.

1.23 All draft resolutions received were accepted for consideration by the Executive Committee and comprised:

■ **Australia**

- ⇒ Enhancing cooperation among Members States to build strong institutions for promoting trade and investment growth

- ⇒ Reinforcing joint Parliamentary action in response to climate change
- ⇒ Recognising that equality for all women and men in accessing education, technical training and information technology is central to sustainable development
- ⇒ Combating Terrorism and Transnational Crime in the Region

■ **Cambodia**

- ⇒ Strengthening the Asia-Pacific regional partnership for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls for peace and sustainable development
- ⇒ Ensuring equality for all women and men and access to education, technical training and information technology for peace and achieving the sustainable development of goals
- ⇒ Promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in decision making at all levels
- ⇒ Building trust for peace, security and sustainable development in the region
- ⇒ Combating terrorism and transnational crime in the region
- ⇒ Strengthening parliamentary cooperation in promoting the responsible use of cyberspace for social progress
- ⇒ Building strong institutions to promote trade and inclusive growth
- ⇒ Promoting financial access and vocational training for small and medium enterprises for employment and peace
- ⇒ Enhancing connectivity in the Asia-Pacific through E-Commerce
- ⇒ Enhancing parliamentary roles in response to climate change
- ⇒ Enhancing parliamentary cooperation in promoting cultural diversity and tourism in Asia-Pacific

■ **Canada**

- ⇒ Promoting cooperation and responsible management of the Arctic Region
- ⇒ Addressing the humanitarian plight of the Rohingya People
- ⇒ Connectivity and E-Commerce Growth

■ **Chile**

- ⇒ Increasing connectivity in Asia-Pacific via E-Commerce
- ⇒ Reinforcing Joint Parliamentary action in response to climate change

- ⇒ Strengthening Parliamentary cooperation in the promotion of the responsible use of cyberspace for social progress
- ⇒ The promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women in decision-making positions at all levels
- ⇒ Promotion of financial access and vocational training for SMES in pursuit of employment and peace
- **Indonesia**
 - ⇒ APPF Women Parliamentarians
- **Japan**
 - ⇒ Realization of denuclearization in the Korean Peninsula
 - ⇒ Disaster risk reduction
 - ⇒ Economy and Trade
- **Malaysia**
 - ⇒ Enhancing parliamentary roles in response to climate change
 - ⇒ Ensuring gender equality in science, technology, engineering and mathematics in achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs)
- **Mexico**
 - ⇒ Combat terrorism and transnational crimes in the region
 - ⇒ Guarantee equality for all women and men, access to education, technical training and information technologies for sustainable peace and achieve the sustainable development goals
 - ⇒ Promote cooperation for the reduction of disaster risks
 - ⇒ Promote financial access and professional training for small and medium enterprises for employment and peace
 - ⇒ Strengthening the Asia-Pacific region for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls for peace and sustainable development
- **Republic of Korea**
 - ⇒ Resolution on peace on the Korean Peninsula
 - ⇒ Resolution on enhancing inter-parliamentary cooperation in response to climate change
- **Russia**
 - ⇒ Counteracting terrorism and transnational crime in Asia-Pacific
 - ⇒ Economic and trade cooperation in Asia-Pacific
 - ⇒ Parliamentary cooperation for cultural diversity in Asia-Pacific
 - ⇒ Sustainable peace and security in Asia-Pacific

⇒ Women's role in prosperity and development of the Asia-Pacific.

Working through the agenda

- 1.24 As with past APPF meetings, delegates worked through the agenda themes and associated draft resolutions. A delegate from the relevant country spoke to the theme and their associated draft resolution(s), if there was one, in the appropriate plenary session. In theory, the relevant working party then discussed all the draft resolutions on that theme in order to consolidate resolutions on the same topic. In practice, however, the working parties were operating in parallel with the plenary sessions covering the same themes. As discussed above, this made it difficult for the Australian members to advocate for their draft resolutions in a working party and also attend the associated plenary session.
- 1.25 As is apparent from the list of draft resolutions, some of the resolutions were specific to the agenda topics, while some were of a more general nature. Members of the Australian delegation were particularly involved in negotiations over resolutions they had sponsored and on others with a direct effect on our region. Members let delegates from other countries lead on resolutions that affected them more closely, such as South Korea and Japan on the Korean Peninsula and Canada and the Russian Federation on the Arctic region. Nonetheless, delegates reviewed all the draft resolutions, even if leaving it to the Drafting Committee to resolve issues that could not be agreed to by the working parties.

Drafting Committee

- 1.26 The Drafting Committee met all day on 16 January. The role of the Drafting Committee is to finalise the wording 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.
- 1.27 The chair of the Drafting Committee is formally appointed by the Executive Committee but is traditionally a senior delegation member from the host country, in this case the Hon HUN Many of the Cambodian National Assembly. Senator Ryan, as leader of the Australian delegation and representative of the next host country was invited to co-chair the Executive meeting. This meant that Senator Ryan played a lead role in the work of the drafting committee and was involved in all its debates and decisions.

- 1.28 The Drafting Committee examined all the resolutions forwarded by the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians and the three working parties and made final changes to them as it saw necessary. In some cases, this involved settling debates about contentious wording that working parties had not been able to resolve. In practice, some resolutions forwarded by the working parties were quickly adopted without amendment, while others were edited clause by clause and discussed at length. The official language of the APPF is English and one of the challenges was for delegates of many different countries to all agree on the sometimes subtle nuances of meaning of different English words. However, there was only one draft resolution on which consensus could not be reached and further consideration of it was deferred (*Addressing the Humanitarian Plight of the Rohingya People* sponsored by Canada).
- 1.29 The resolutions in their final form and the draft communique were presented by the Drafting Committee to the final plenary session and adopted by consensus and with acclamation. For a list of the final resolutions see Appendix C.

Australia's preparations for the annual meeting

- 1.30 The delegation first met together in early December 2018 and received a background briefing on Australia's bilateral relationship with Cambodia from officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Prior to departure, the delegation also received detailed briefing papers from DFAT on the agenda themes along with more detailed background information on Cambodia.
- 1.31 The Australian Head of Mission to Cambodia, Ambassador Ms Angela Corcoran and First Secretary Ms Lauren Tuohy met and further briefed the delegation in Siem Reap.
- 1.32 The Delegation thanks the DFAT officials in Canberra, and then those in country for all their help before and during the delegation's attendance at the APPF. Members were very conscious of all the background work that was done by DFAT to resolve administrative and communication difficulties prior to the delegation's arrival in Cambodia.
- 1.33 The quality of the briefing papers they provided and the enthusiastic support of the DFAT officials contributed significantly to the effectiveness of the delegation in Cambodia and its ability to represent the Australian Parliament.

Australia's contribution to debate and work of the annual meeting

- 1.34 The full text of the draft resolutions proposed by the delegation is included in Appendix D. Senator Ryan spoke to the motion on *Combating*

Terrorism and Transnational Crime in the Region in both the plenary session and in the working party on Political and Security Matters. Senator Ryan worked particularly closely with the Cambodian delegation which also had a draft resolution on the topic and then with the delegations from Mexico and the Russian Federation in the working party in order to compose a single consolidated resolution. Obtaining consensus on a resolution on the plight of the Rohingya People proved difficult as it had at previous APPF meetings.

- 1.35 Mr Hartsuyker spoke on the topic of *Enhancing Cooperation among Member States to Build Strong Institutions for Promoting Trade and Investment Growth*. At the plenary session he emphasised the perils of protectionism and that benefits that reducing tariffs had to encouraging trade. He also noted that the digital revolution makes it much easier for microbusinesses to sell directly to other countries, thus potentially generating wealth in rural and regional areas. The associated working party in which Mr Hartsuyker actively participated, combined eight draft resolutions on this topic into one. They also reviewed a number of other draft resolutions under the topics of economics and trade for forwarding to the Drafting Committee.
- 1.36 Mr Gorman sponsored a resolution on reinforcing joint parliamentary action in response to climate change. Mr Gorman introduced a personal element to his speech in the plenary session, indicating that he was seeking to preserve a sustainable world that would be safe for his son. The working party in which he participated combined the points of six draft resolutions into one. The working party also considered resolutions about cooperation on disaster risk reduction and promoting cultural diversity and tourism in the Asia-Pacific region.
- 1.37 Because she had contributed to the debates and associated draft resolutions in the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians before the formal start of the forum, Ms Ryan was able to back up the other members of the delegation in the other working parties, the plenary sessions and in the drafting committee on the final day. She could thus participate in the debates in the working parties and drafting committee and assist to finalise the wording of resolutions. This allowed the Australian delegation to make a strong contribution in all the fora.

Final plenary session

- 1.38 As mentioned, at the final plenary the Forum considered and formally adopted the resolutions finalised by the Drafting Committee and also the Joint Communiqué. The Joint Communiqué outlines the keynote speeches and summarised the contents of the agreed resolutions and was signed by all delegation leaders. A copy of the communiqué is at Appendix E.

- 1.39 In a short ceremony, the APPF flag was handed from the leader of the Cambodian delegation and President of the National Assembly of Cambodia, the Hon HENG Samrin, to Senator Ryan as leader of the Australian delegation. The Australian Parliament was then formally announced as the host of APPF28 in January 2020. The Australian delegation played a short video with a message from Senator Ryan and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Hon Tony Smith MP, welcoming delegates to Canberra for APPF28.
- 1.40 Proceedings concluded with an official farewell from the Cambodian hosts and a press conference with the national media.

Other meetings and activities

- 1.41 The APPF meetings allow delegates of the different countries to meet and exchange ideas, formally and informally. One of the features of APPF is the numerous 'sideline' bilateral meetings between delegations which occur during proceedings. The Australian and Japanese delegations met in such a meeting to discuss arrangements for APPF28 and about parliamentary relationships between the two countries generally. The Australian delegation also took every opportunity to mix informally with other delegations over meals and during breaks in meetings. Delegation members used these occasions to build productive relationships with other parliamentarians.

Outcomes

- 1.42 Although comparatively small in size, the Australian delegation participated in all stages of the Forum. Draft resolutions were presented for every agenda theme and the delegation participated actively in all the working parties and on the Drafting Committee. Members also felt they created new bonds with parliamentarians of other countries at the formal and informal level. The delegation was satisfied that it demonstrated Australia's ongoing commitment to APPF and, more broadly, to parliamentary fellowship in the region.

Background Information on the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum

Australia and the APPF

- 2.1 This background chapter describes the role and activities of the APPF in general terms, and Australia's contribution to its work over the years. The detail informs the first chapter, but is also a resource for those interested in the APPF.
- 2.2 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. A former Prime Minister of Japan, HE Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, was central to the establishment of the APPF.
- 2.3 Issues the APPF deals with are mainly strategic, economic, social and cultural in nature. More information about the history and objectives of the APPF is provided below.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 Australia has played a prominent part in the APPF from the time of its inception, with one of the two preparatory meetings leading to its

establishment being held in Canberra in 1991. Since then, the eighth annual meeting in 2000 was held in Canberra, and Australia has been a constant participant at annual meetings. The 28th annual meeting is also scheduled to be held in Canberra in 2020.

History and role of the APPF

Members

- 2.6 The APPF was established formally 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’¹, outlined the objectives and organisational aspects of the APPF. It provided for the APPF to be open to all national parliamentarians² 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 the South Pacific Forum (Pacific Islands Forum since 1999) who:
- have an active interest in promoting dialogue among parliamentarians in the region; and
 - accept the objectives and principles of the APPF.³

Objectives

- 2.7 The objectives of the APPF outlined in the initial 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;

1 The text of the 1993 Tokyo Declaration is available at [http://www.appf.org.pe/Milestone Declarations, Tokyo Declaration](http://www.appf.org.pe/Milestone%20Declarations,%20Tokyo%20Declaration).

2 Under the ‘New APPF Rules of Procedure’, adopted at APPF20, the membership of the APPF is now open to national parliaments of sovereign states in the Asia-Pacific region.

3 Paragraph 7 of the 1993 Tokyo Declaration.

- 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 of regional cohesion, understanding and cooperation.⁴

Guiding principles

2.8 The APPF 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.⁵

APPF procedures

Defining documents

2.9 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 seven 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); and
- New APPF Rules of Procedure (Amended) (2018).

4 Rule 2 of the New APPF Rules of Procedure; paragraph 2 of the 1993 Tokyo Declaration refers.

5 Rule 3 of the New APPF Rules of Procedure; paragraph 3 of the 1993 Tokyo Declaration refers.

The 1993 Tokyo Declaration

2.10 The 1993 Tokyo Declaration is the foundation document of the APPF and describes the APPF's functions:

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, and sustainable development and sound environmental practices; and
- c. non-military cooperation, which gives due consideration to issues relating to regional peace and security.⁶

2.11 The 1993 Tokyo Declaration also provides that:

- all decisions of the APPF be made by consensus at an annual meeting;⁷
- all delegates to the annual meetings be national parliamentarians;⁸ and
- membership of the APPF be reviewed 'when necessary'.⁹ The most recent additions to the membership of the APPF were Costa Rica and Ecuador in 2001.

2.12 In relation to decision making by consensus, the New APPF Rules of Procedure include a provision to allow partial reservations to resolutions to be mentioned in the resolution document, thereby permitting minority opinions at APPF meetings to be reflected in the outcomes of the meeting.

Vancouver, Valparaiso, new Tokyo and Ha Noi declarations

2.13 As referred above, four additional policy documents are relevant to the operations of the APPF:

- the Vancouver Declaration (1997) enunciated the common interests of countries in the region in the context of the end of the Cold War and the approach of the 21st century;

6 Paragraph 4 of the 1993 Tokyo Declaration.

7 Paragraph 5 of the 1993 Tokyo Declaration.

8 Paragraph 7 of the 1993 Tokyo Declaration.

9 Paragraph 8 of the 1993 Tokyo Declaration.

- the Valparaiso Declaration (2001) focused on the geographical significance of the Asia-Pacific region and identified five basic principles for peaceful co-existence in the region;
- the new Tokyo Declaration (2012) noted major transformations in the Asia-Pacific region and in the international community since the establishment of the APPF in 1993, the many challenges faced, and the importance of action, particularly in the areas of advanced information, communications and scientific technologies, to address the challenges. The declaration affirmed the value of the APPF in promoting the peace, stability and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region; and
- the Ha Noi Declaration (2018) emphasised the need for a parliamentary partnership for a shared future for the Asia-Pacific community and gave a commitment for the APPF to promote coordination and synergy between the APPF and other parliamentary fora and regional international institutions.

Rules of procedure

- 2.14 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 (a President is to be appointed each year by the next host country).
- 2.15 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.
- 2.16 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.
- 2.17 A copy of the rules of procedure, incorporating the latest changes, is at Appendix F.

Executive Committee: structure and current issues

- 2.18 The Executive Committee consists of representatives from member countries, rather than individuals, with countries being elected on a rotating basis. The Committee has eleven members, with eight members representing the four APPF sub-regions (two representatives per sub-region), two members representing the host countries for the current and the next annual meeting, and one member (Japan) designated by the Honorary President.¹⁰
- 2.19 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** (eight countries): 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; (Negara Brunei Darussalam is not included as it has observer status);
 - **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.
- 2.20 Under the New APPF Rules of Procedure, the term of office of the Executive Committee is from May of the year of an annual meeting until April four years later. Previously the membership term was two years. Half the members of the committee are re-elected every two years to provide continuity and share representation. The next host country joins the committee in the May before the annual meeting and retires in the April following the annual meeting.¹¹
- 2.21 The arrangements for representation on the Executive Committee from Oceania are set out in the report of the Australian Delegation to APPF19.¹² The most recent arrangements for Oceania membership of the Executive Committee have been as follows:

10 Under the New APPF Rules of Procedure, rule 39 (c), there is provision for the Honorary President to designate a country to be represented on the Executive Committee.

11 New APPF Rules of Procedure, rule 44.

12 *Report of the Parliamentary Delegation to the nineteenth annual meeting of the APPF*, March 2011.

2017	Papua New Guinea	Fiji
2018	Papua New Guinea	Fiji
2019	Australia	Fiji
2020	Australia	Fiji
2021	Australia	tbc
2022	Australia	tbc
2023	tbc	tbc

2.22 The Oceania representatives have also agreed that should a representative not be able to attend an annual meeting, then the Oceania member countries present would agree which of them should attend the Executive Committee meeting in place of the absent representative, and inform the secretariat for that meeting as soon as possible.¹³

Organisation of the annual meeting

Annual meetings and secretariat

2.23 APPF annual meetings take place in January each year and are hosted by a national parliament. The host, date and venue of each annual meeting are determined at the preceding meeting (rule 19 of the APPF Rules of Procedure refers). 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.

Proposed agenda

2.24 Prior to each annual meeting in January, a proposed agenda and program are developed by the host country in consultation with the Executive Committee. Arrangements for annual meetings are arranged by electronic communications between the next host country, the Honorary President's office in Tokyo, and other Executive Committee representatives. The final and official agenda is adopted by motion at the commencement of the annual meeting.

13 New APPF Rules of Procedure, rule 43(b), provides that the method of election of representatives is a matter to be settled by the sub regions as they see fit.

Invitations

- 2.25 The host country sends official invitations to member countries to attend the next annual meeting, typically by the end of October.

Draft resolutions

- 2.26 Under the APPF Rules of Procedure, draft resolutions are required two months in advance of the annual meeting.
- 2.27 Draft resolutions are posted on the APPF website where they may be viewed by all APPF members (and members of the public). In practice, many countries do not prepare draft resolutions and choose to debate the draft resolutions of those countries that do provide them according to the timetable. Australia customarily provides draft resolutions ahead of the annual meetings.
- 2.28 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. Combining multiple drafts often forms much of the work of working groups of delegates that support the Drafting Committee.

Drafting Committee

- 2.29 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.
- 2.30 Participation in the work of the Drafting Committee varies from delegation to delegation. The Drafting Committee may establish a number of working groups to assist in developing consolidated draft resolutions. Smaller delegations may not have the capacity to enable members 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.

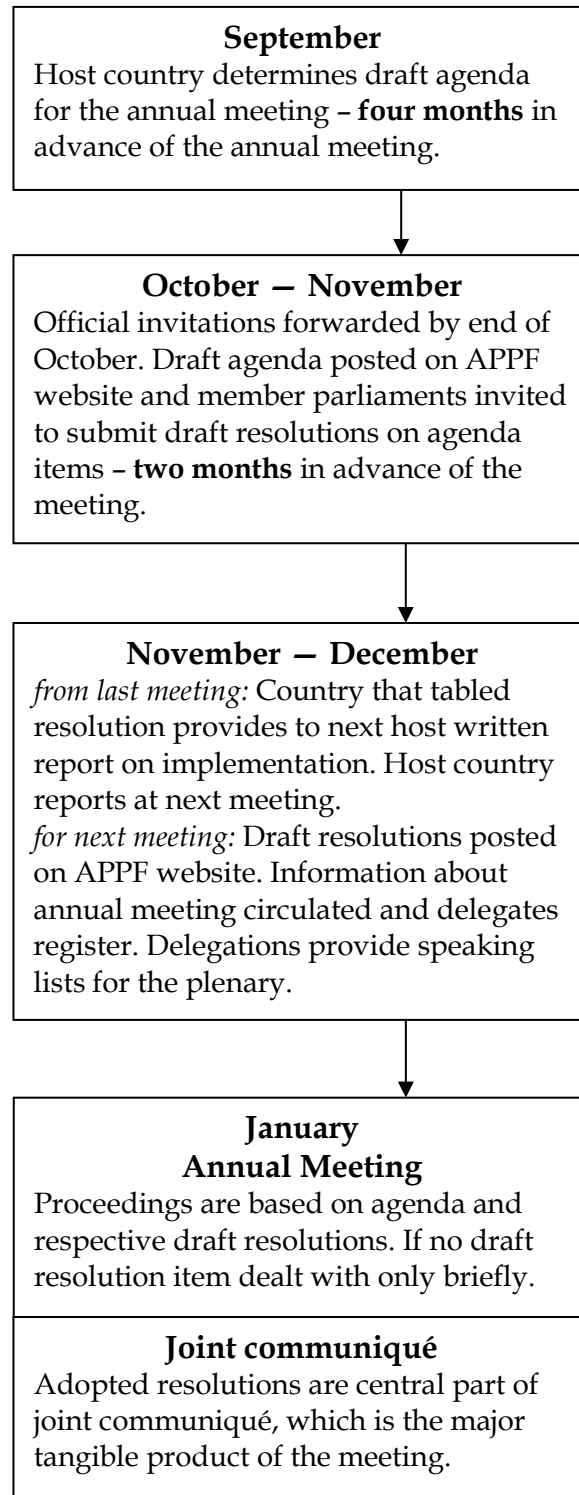
- 2.31 When the final draft resolutions come before the plenary, participants from those countries which provided the original draft resolutions may speak on the topic. Other delegates may also speak. The final draft may be amended during the debate in the plenary and the text is determined by consensus. In practice, because there has often been extensive debate on draft resolutions beforehand in the working groups and in the Drafting Committee, there is little likelihood of the final draft being debated and amended during debate in the plenary.

Joint Communiqué

- 2.32 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.

Senator the Hon Scott Ryan

Figure 1 Outline of annual meeting preparations and proceedings





Appendix A

Program for the Twenty-seventh Annual Meeting of the APPF Siem Reap, Cambodia – 13 to 18 January 2019¹

Sunday 13 January 2019

All day	Arrival and registration of delegates
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Monday 14 January 2019

09:00 - 11:00	Executive Committee Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair: Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and APPF
11:00 - 12:00	Meeting of Secretaries and Advisors to all delegates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair: H.E. LENG Peng Long, Secretary General of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia
14:00 - 15:30	Meeting of Women Parliamentarians <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening remarks by Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and APPF <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Short break</i></p>

¹ The meetings of the working groups and the Drafting Committee are not detailed in this program. The working groups met on Monday afternoon, all day Tuesday and some on Wednesday morning. The Drafting Committee met all day Wednesday 16 January.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair: Honorable Khuon Sudary, Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Chair of the Cambodian Women Parliamentarians Caucus (CWPC) • Keynote Speech by H.E. Dr. Ing Kantha Phavi, Minister of Women’s Affairs • Progress report on Promoting Gender Equality for Sustainable Development and Shared Prosperity in the Asia-Pacific Region adopted in Hanoi by Hon. Ms. Ngueyn Thuy Anh, Viet Nam delegation <p>Topics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening Asia-Pacific region partnership for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls for peace and sustainable development 2. Ensuring equality for all women and men access to education, technical training and information technology for sustainable peace and achieving SDGs 3. Promoting gender quality and women empowerment in decision-making at all levels
16:00 – 17:30	The Meeting of Women Parliamentarians (continued)
18:30 – 20:30	<p>Official Dinner hosted by Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and President of the 27th APPF, followed by Cultural Performance</p> <p><i>Dress Code: National Dress/ Lounge Suite</i></p>

Tuesday 15 January 2019

08:30 – 09:00	<p>Courtesy call on Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and APPF by the Heads of Delegation</p>
09:00 – 10:30	<p>Inaugural Ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Anthem of the Kingdom of Cambodia • Royal Message from His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneat NORODOM SIHAMONI, King of Cambodia • Cultural Performance • Congratulatory Message from Honourable Takuji Yanagimoto on behalf of Honourable Yasuhiro Nakasone, Honorary President of APPF • Keynote Address by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia • Address by Samech Vibol Sena Pheakdei SAY Chhum, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia • Opening Address by Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and APPF • Photo session
11:00 – 13:00	<p>First Plenary Session: Political and Security Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair, Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and APPF <p>Topics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building Trust for Peace, Security and Sustainable Developments in the Region 2. Combating Terrorism and Transnational Crime in the Region 3. Strengthening Parliamentary Cooperation in Promoting the Responsible use of Cyberspace for Social Progress

14:00 – 15:00	First Plenary Session (continued)
15:30 – 16:00	<p>Second Plenary Session: Economic and Trade Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair, Honorable. Dr. Nguon Nhel, First Vice-President of the National Assembly and Chairman of the Organizing Committee <p>Topics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing Cooperation among Member States to build strong institution for Promoting Trade and Inclusive Growth Promoting Financial Access and Vocational Training for Small-Medium Enterprises for Employment and Peace Enhancing Connective in the Asia-Pacific through E-Commerce
17:00	Departure to Elephant Terrace (Angkor Park)
18:00 – 21:00	Official launching of Asian Cultural Council (ACC), presided over by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Honorary Founding Chairman of ACC, immediately followed by a Gala Dinner and Cultural Performance.

Wednesday 16 January 2019

8:30 – 10:00	Second Plenary Session (continued)
10:30 – 13:00	<p>Third Plenary Session: Regional Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair: Honorable Khuon Sudary, Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Chair of Cambodian Women Parliamentarians Caucus (CWPC) <p>Topics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing Parliamentary Roles in Response to Climate Change Promoting Cooperation on Disaster Risk Reduction Enhancing Parliamentary Cooperation in Promoting Culture Diversity and Tourism in Asia-Pacific

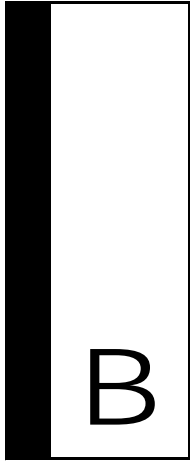
15:00 – 17:00	<p>Final Plenary Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Chair: Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrie HENG Samrin, the President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and APPF • Report of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians by Honorable Khuon Sudary, Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Chair of the Cambodian Women Parliamentarian Caucus • Presentation of Chairman’s Statement by Honorable Hun Many, Chair of the Drafting Committee • Briefing on the Drafting Committee meetings by Honorable Hun Many, Chair of the Drafting Committee • Signing Joint Communique • Future work of APPF: Next host of the APPF annual meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Acceptance Speech by Australia, host Parliament for the 28th APPF Annual meeting – Handover of the APPF flag to host of the 28th APPF • Closing Statement by Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and APPF
17:00 – 18:00	Press Conference

Thursday 17 January 2019

All day	Tour program
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Friday 18 January 2019

All day	Departure of Delegations
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Appendix B

Countries attending the 27th Annual Meeting of the APPF¹

Australia	Kingdom of Cambodia
Canada	Chile
Peoples' Republic of China	Republic of Indonesia
Japan	Republic of Korea
Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic	Malaysia
Mexico	Federated States of Micronesia
Mongolia	New Zealand
Papua New Guinea	Republic of Philippines
The Russian Federation	Republic of Singapore
Kingdom of Thailand	Socialist Republic of Vietnam

1 A full list of participants at APPF annual meetings can usually be obtained at <http://www.appf.org.pe/> at the Annual Meetings page.



Appendix C

Resolutions of the 27th Annual Meeting of the APPF

List of resolutions and sponsors¹

Strengthening regional partnership for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls for peace and sustainable development (Cambodia, Indonesia, Russian Federation and Mexico)

Ensuring inclusive access to education, technical training and information technology for peace and sustainable development (Cambodia, Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia and Mexico)

Promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in decision making at all levels (Cambodia)

Enhancing parliamentary roles in response to climate change (Cambodia, Australia, Chile, Canada, Republic of Korea, Malaysia)

Ensuring parliamentary cooperation in promoting cultural diversity and tourism in Asia-Pacific (Cambodia and Russian Federation)

Promoting cooperation and responsible management of the Arctic Region (Cambodia)

Disaster risk reduction (Japan)

Building strong institutions to promote trade and investment for sustainable and inclusive growth (Cambodia, Australia, Canada, Chile, Indonesia, Japan, Russia and Viet Nam)

Promoting financial access and vocational training for small and medium enterprises for employment and peace (Cambodia, Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Indonesia, Japan and Mexico)

¹ The text of the resolutions can be viewed at: www.appf27.org.kh. In May after each annual meeting it is customary for the annual meeting website to be closed. Key documents are then available at <http://www.appf.org.pe/> at the Annual Meetings page.

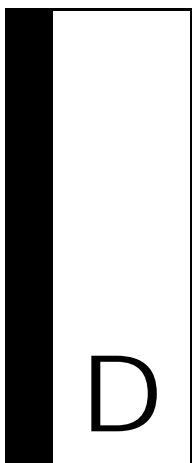
Enhancing connectivity in the Asia-Pacific through E-Commerce (Cambodia, Australia, Canada, Chile, Indonesia and Japan)

Building trust for peace, security and sustainable development in the region (Cambodia, Chile and Russian Federation)

Combating terrorism and transnational crime in the region (Cambodia, Australia, Mexico and Russian Federation)

Strengthening parliamentary cooperation in promoting the responsible use of cyberspace (information space) for social progress (Cambodia and Chile)

Peace on the Korean Peninsula (Japan and Republic of Korea)



Appendix D

Resolutions sponsored by Australia

**Enhancing cooperation among Member States to build strong institutions for promoting trade and investment growth
(the Hon Luke Hartsuyker MP)**

The 27th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum:

Noting the Resolution APPF26/RES/02 on “Promoting Economic Growth and Free Trade”, as well as the Resolution APPF26/RES/04 on “The Role of Parliaments in Promoting Seamless Regional Economic Integration” adopted at the 26th annual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) in Hanoi in 2018;

Recognising that trade and investment are important drivers of sustainable and balanced growth, in providing access to digital and other emerging technologies, as well as linking domestic firms, including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), to global value chains, and enhancing productivity and innovation;

Acknowledging that global trade and investment is underpinned by the multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) at its centre, and that cooperation is needed among Member States to uphold that system and work to reform the rules-based WTO, which plays an important role in facilitating and safeguarding trade;

Cognisant that protectionism has been rising, that the rules governing global trade are under challenge, and this may have a destabilising impact on APPF Member States;

Emphasising that Member States are encouraged to work collaboratively to improve the WTO so that it can address current and future challenges;

Emphasising the importance of promoting the role of multilateral institutions in facilitating free, rules-based trade and investment;

Recalling the Bogor Declaration of 1994, which established a common goal of free trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific among Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economies by 2020;

Recognising that free trade agreements of the APPF Member States contribute to common prosperity and sustainable economic growth in the region;

Also acknowledging the intensification of public debate in many parts of the world regarding trade liberalisation;

Welcoming the outcome of APEC 2018 and the 26th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in November 2018 in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, with a focus on inclusive growth and the benefits of the digital economy;

Welcoming the outcome of the G20 Summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina in December 2018, particularly the recognition that international trade and investment are important engines of growth, productivity, innovation, job creation and development, the contribution that the multilateral trading system has made to that end, and the support for reform of the WTO to improve its functioning;

Underscoring that free trade agreements establish rules and standards by which market access for trade and investment can be more transparent and predictable;

Recognising that today's global trade is multi-faceted and complex, involving investment and capital flows, supply- and value-chains, movement of labour, connectivity and digitisation, e-commerce, knowledge-transfers, as well as considerations related to women's economic empowerment, labour standards, opportunities for youth, skills-development, diversity and inclusivity, environmental protection, and sustainable development;

Confirming the role of parliaments of APPF Member States in creating an enabling environment to strengthen institutions that underpin trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific;

Affirming that the APPF is a key platform for strengthening cooperation and understanding about regional economic and trade matters;

RESOLVES TO:

Promote further work to build strong institutions that promote trade and investment growth, and unlock opportunities for further regional economic integration in order to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth;

Confirm that the main objectives of trade and investment growth in Asia and the Pacific are improving prosperity, living standards and quality of life through economic growth;

Call on Member States to step up efforts toward economic prosperity in the region by embracing open trade and investment and facilitating the free movement of

goods, services and capital, as well as establishing quality standards, rules and guidelines;

Call on Member States to strengthen their capacity to engage in negotiations of high-quality comprehensive FTAs, and to support the rules-based, free, and transparent multilateral trading system underpinned by the WTO;

Support the negotiation and implementation of bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements within the Asia-Pacific region;

Call on Member States to fight against all forms of protectionism;

Welcome the positive developments in economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region involving APPF Member States, including the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), and continuing negotiations of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the Pacific Alliance;

Affirm the determination of APPF Member States to establish a seamless and comprehensively connected and integrated economy in the Asia-Pacific through policy collaboration on trade and investment liberalisation and business facilitation;

Affirm the cooperation between APPF Member States to develop various growth drivers such as infrastructure, energy, digital and telecommunications, and financial services;

Call on Member States to build a favourable regulatory framework that strengthens the competitiveness of MSMEs;

Call on Member States to explore initiatives that increase the usage of digital platforms in order to unleash the potential of the digital economy in the region, and promote the development and utilisation of e-commerce in the Asia-Pacific through supporting the strengthening of a favourable, transparent and stable legal environment and policies for cross-border e-commerce;

Request Parliaments of the APPF Member States to strive for transparent, predictable and non-discriminatory policies for business and investment in conformity with WTO agreements;

Foster public support for the goals of free and open trade and investment;

Encourage opportunities for interaction between Parliaments of the APPF Member States and between Parliaments and business communities through dialogues, conferences, seminars and other exchange channels for better understanding of ways to improve the WTO so that it better reflects contemporary trading practices.

**Reinforcing joint Parliamentary action in response to climate change
(Mr Patrick Gorman MP)**

The 27th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum:

Recalling the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum's (APPF) commitment to a partnership of strategic importance;

Acknowledging that given the nature of the challenge, we are committed to working together to improve a rules-based international order that is capable of effectively responding to a rapidly changing world;

Recognising the need for an effective and progressive response to the urgent threat of climate change on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge;

Recalling resolutions adopted by the APPF regarding compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and emphasising those goals with a direct link to combatting climate change, including SDG 13 on Climate Action;

Acknowledging the conclusions adopted at the 23rd and 24th United Nations Conferences on Climate Change (COP23 and COP24 respectively), the Paris Agreement and its robust implementation guidance which builds trust and confidence all countries are fulfilling the commitments they have made;

Recognising that holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;

Recognising the role of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in providing scientific input to inform Member States in strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty;

Expressing appreciation and gratitude to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the scientific community for responding to the request of the Conference of the Parties and providing the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C, reflecting the best available science;

Welcoming the timely completion of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C in response to the invitation from Parties in UNFCCC decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 21;

Reiterating that timely and collective global action from all countries, and steadfast commitment to joint action supported by robust rules for implementing the Paris Agreement and enhanced transparency, is the best way to tackle climate change;

RESOLVES TO:

Accept that coordinated and effective policies are essential to addressing the far-reaching impacts of climate change, including on food security, access to water resources, and people's quality of life;

Reassert that APPF Member States should, in their actions to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations under international law on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equality;

Recognise the importance of supporting actions and cooperation in developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable, including Pacific island countries who are members of the APPF;

Urge all APPF Member States to uphold their climate action commitments, as set out in their Nationally Determined Contributions;

Enhance transparency, accountability and reporting of climate change actions in our National Assemblies.

Recognising that equality for all women and men in accessing education, technical training and information technology is central to sustainable development

(Ms Joanne Ryan MP)

The 27th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum:

Reaffirm commitments to working towards and achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action.

Commit to upholding and promoting the rights of women and girls, noting that no country has fully achieved equality and empowerment for women and girls, and that there are still significant inequalities between the opportunities and empowerment open to women and men and girls and boys;

Draw attention to the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that many women and girls experience, particularly women and girls with disability, indigenous women, older women, rural women and migrant women;

Reiterate the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a specific goal on education to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (SDG4);

Reiterate the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a specific goal on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls (SDG5) as well as mainstreaming gender equality across all Goals;

Determine to ensure that men and women have both the right and the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to leadership, decision-making at all levels, political, community and economic life;

Commit to advancing women's full participation in all aspects of their communities and regional economies;

Commit to ensuring educational support during times of crisis and emergencies in conflict affected and fragile states.

RESOLVES TO:

Recognise that education can promote understanding, equality and friendship among all nations and all racial, ethnic and religious groups, and furthers the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace;

Recognise the imperative to reduce barriers to skills development and technical and vocational education and training (TVET), starting from primary level and continuing to tertiary education, including university, and provide lifelong learning opportunities for youth and adults;

Affirm that all girls and boys, women and men should have equal opportunity to pursue and complete education of high quality, achieve at equal levels and enjoy equal benefits from education and training;

Encourage APPF Member States to take direct action to improve foundation skills such as functional numeracy, literacy and critical thinking, especially for those experiencing foundation skills gaps, as these are essential for acquiring other skills and achieving social mobility;

Call on APPF Member States to address and reduce the barriers women, men, girls and boys face in accessing and completing all levels of quality education;

Welcome the contributions to economic and social development, gender equality and women's empowerment made by civil society;

Encourage APPF Member States to increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship;

Encourage APPF Member States to promote education in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM), focusing on women and girl's participation, through a comprehensive and integrated approach given their cross-cutting nature and relevance in real-world applications;

Encourage APPF Member States to promote work placements, apprenticeships and scholarships for women and girls to succeed in the full range of STEAM jobs;

Encourage APPF Member States to enable women and men to pursue and complete tertiary studies in areas of advanced technology and in those key subjects that are driving the digital transformation.

Combating Terrorism and Transnational Crime in the Region (Senator the Hon Scott Ryan)

The 27th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum:

Recalling and reaffirming previous resolutions adopted by Annual Meetings of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) dealing with terrorism and transnational crime;

Recognising the grave and ongoing threat posed by terrorism to regional and international peace and security, undermining stability and economic development and causing immense human suffering;

Recalling the commitments made by APPF Member States to condemn and combat terrorism in all its forms, including, *inter alia*, commitments to work together more closely to enhance regional cooperation to combat terrorism;

Reiterating that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, ethnic group or civilisation, and acts of terrorism are unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever, wherever and by whomsoever committed;

Reaffirming APPF Member States' support for the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and commitment to bring about its universal implementation in the Asia Pacific region;

Recognising the importance of the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air as key international instruments aimed at combating transnational crime;

Reaffirming the role of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) as integral to global efforts to prevent and combat transnational crime;

Recalling the importance of the international drug control treaties, including the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1954 (as amended in 1972), the Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971) and the UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988);

Noting with concern the continued growth in transnational crimes, including human and illegal drug trafficking, the illegal wildlife trade, corruption, cybercrime, maritime crime and piracy, and the significant costs these criminal activities impose on our region;

Acknowledging the growing evidence of links between international terrorism and transnational crime;

Emphasising the importance of regional and international cooperation in effectively combating international terrorism and transnational crime;

RESOLVES TO:

Strengthen regional and international cooperation on counter-terrorism including through existing groupings and organisations, and look for opportunities to maximise efficiencies and minimise duplication of effort in the global fight against terrorism;

Emphasise the need to fully implement UN Security Council resolutions relating to terrorism and to support efforts to assist UN Member States implement their obligations;

Promote and empower public participation, including youth, women, families, religious, cultural and education leaders, and community groups, in strengthening prevention efforts against terrorism and violent extremism;

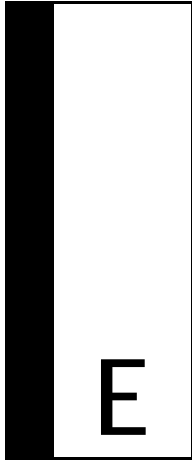
Encourage APPF Member States and international and regional organisations to enhance knowledge of and support initiatives to address the linkages between terrorism and transnational organised crime;

Promote greater information sharing between APPF Member States on counter-terrorism and transnational crime, including between operational agencies and through greater inter-parliamentary cooperation;

Support greater linkages on law enforcement and legal cooperation between countries to enable more effective policing operations and judicial processes in the pursuit of transnational criminal actors;

Emphasise the importance of well-targeted capacity building and technical assistance programs in the fight against international terrorism and transnational crime, and the value of countries proactively exchanging best practice information;

Encourage APPF Member States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and Protocols thereto, the UN Convention against Corruption, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the international drug control conventions, and encourage States Parties to implement domestically their provisions.



Appendix E

Joint Communique of the 27th Annual meeting of the APPF

1. At the invitation of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the 27th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forum (APPF 27) convened in Siem Reap, the historical and cultural city of Cambodia, from 14 to 17 January 2019 with the participation of 331 delegates from 20 member countries and 1 observer country.
2. The Executive Committee Meeting, held on 14 January 2019, under the chairmanship of Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the 27th President of APPF, approved the agenda and program of activities. The Meeting nominated Hon. Dr. Nguon Nhel and Hon. Khuon Sudary as Vice-Chairpersons of the 27th Annual Meeting, Hon. Khuon Sudary as Chair of the Women Parliamentarians Meeting, and Hon. Hun Many as Chair of Drafting Committee. The Executive Committee Meeting approved 43 draft resolutions to be submitted to the Drafting Committee for consideration, and announced Australia as the next President of APPF. The Executive Committee Meeting took note of the Japanese delegation informing the Meeting that the Republic of Korea stands ready to host the 29th APPF Annual Meeting in 2021.
3. The Inaugural Ceremony was held on 15 January 2019. **His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni**, in His Royal Message, extended a warm welcome to all guests of honour and distinguished delegates, who attended APPF-27. His Majesty stressed on the importance of dialogue and international cooperation in order to face challenges of

the evolving multipolar world and global uncertainties. In addition, His Majesty called for the building of stronger international partnership to realise the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the strengthening of multilateralism and rule-based international system amidst the threats posed by unilateralism, protectionism, extremism, nationalism and populism.

4. During the Inaugural Ceremony, all participants stood up in a moment of silence to pay tribute to the late Speaker of the Parliament of Fiji, Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni, who passed away on 22 December 2018, for her active contribution to the development of APPF.
5. The Chairperson and members of Women Parliamentarians Meeting expressed sympathy and support for the victims of Tsunami in Indonesia.
6. The congratulatory message from the APPF Honorary President Yasuhiro Nakasone, which was delivered by Hon. Takuji Yanagimoto, Member of the House of Councillors of Japan and Head of the Japanese Delegation, urged politicians to strive to ensure peace and stability of the international community, while pursuing their national interests. He underscored the important of tradition, culture, history and philosophy in understanding and constructing worldview. He also highlighted the importance of the first formal Meeting of Women Parliamentarians held in Siem Reap.
7. In his opening address, Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrie Heng Samrin stressed the relevant role of APPF in promoting international dialogue and cooperation for peace and sustainable development in the region and beyond. As a diverse region, the Asia-Pacific has extensive economic potential. He shared the view that the world order is in transition from a unipolar world to a multipolar world. Such power transition together with power competition between major powers has caused geopolitical risks for small and medium-sized countries. To deal with tensions and conflicts, he suggested that countries in the region should resolve disputes in a peaceful manner based on international law.
8. Hon. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, President of the National Assembly of Viet Nam, raised concern over potential risks emanating from trade tensions, protectionism, unresolved hotspots, and non-traditional security threats such as terrorism, cyber security, transnational crimes, climate change, epidemics and natural disasters. She called for the

continuing the implementation of Hanoi Declaration in Hanoi 2018 including close cross-sectoral cooperation, enhancement of partnership among regional parliaments and between legislative and executive bodies, and setting up mechanisms to supervise the implementation of the resolutions adopted at APPF.

9. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia, delivered his remarks, which called for joint efforts by all countries together with the United Nations, ASEAN, NGOs, and private sectors to tackle global issues and traditional and non-traditional threats such as trade war, armed war, cross-border terrorism, all kinds of illegal cross-border trafficking, climate change, natural disaster, food security and poverty. IN addition, he emphasised the respect for rights and dignity of people of each country as stated in the charters and covenants of the UN. He stressed that by adhering to international law, especially the principle of non-interference and peaceful settlement of disputes, it will contribute to regional and global peace and security.
10. Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdei Say Chhum, President of Senate of Cambodia, stressed that sustainable development is inseparable from peace and security, noting that each country has its own historical, political, social and cultural context forming a basis for its own type of government. Mutual respect of independence, equal sovereignty, and non-interference are indispensable for peace and development.
11. The Annual Meeting held four plenary sessions.
12. The first formal meeting of Women Parliamentarians, since the amendment of Rules of Procedures in 2018, was presided over by Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin on 14 January 2019, and chaired by Hon Khuon Sudary, Second Vice President of the Cambodian National Assembly and Chair of the Cambodian Women Parliamentarians Caucus and co-chaired by Hon Olga Epifanova, Vice-Chairperson of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. The meeting stressed the importance of promoting gender equality and women empowerment in achieving peace and sustainable development. It urged policy makers to strengthen multi-stakeholder dialogue and cooperation that would allow for construction of better frameworks and institutions, access to greater budgets and funding as well as the sharing of best practices and know-how in policy making. It is an urgent need to enable women and girls to have better access to education, knowledge and technology.

13. The meeting of the first plenary session covered three topics (i) Building Trust for Peace, Security and Sustainable Development in the Region, (ii) Combatting Terrorism and Transnational Crime in the Region, (iii) Strengthening Parliamentary Cooperation in Promoting the Responsible Use of Cyber Space for Social Progress. Key issues raised included the lack of political trust, and non-traditional security threats including terrorism, transnational crimes, cyber security, Rohingya crisis, and peace and security on the Korean Peninsula. Some suggested policies to address these issues include developing mechanisms to strengthen mutual trust for peace and security, promoting collective efforts to resolve the root-causes of terrorism, advancing cooperation on cyber security and digital literacy.
14. Concerning the situation in the Korean Peninsula, the delegations noted the positive developments and expressed a desire for a diplomatic resolution of the remaining issues. Delegates expressed hope that the upcoming summit between the U.S. and DPRK will concrete results.
15. In the second plenary session on economic and trade matters, the meeting discussed three topics namely (i) Building Strong Institutions to Promote Trade and Investment for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth, (ii) Promoting Financial Access and Vocational Training for Small and Medium Enterprises for Employment and Peace, and (iii) Enhancing Connectivity in the Asia-Pacific through E-Commerce. Key issues identified were protectionism, unilateralism and inequality. Some proposed solutions are to enhance open and inclusive multilateralism, strengthen free trade, and take a multifaceted approach to sustainable development in order to reduce inequality, mitigate the impact of climate change and ensure the preservation and protection of cultural heritage.
16. The delegates highlighted the need to build strong institutions to promote trade and investment for sustainable and inclusive growth. We reiterated our commitment to fight against protectionism to achieve our common goal of free trade and investment in the region. We also discussed promoting access to finance, science, technology and innovation for small and medium-sized (SMEs) and called for regional cooperation to encourage investment in education along with vocational training and lifelong learning to meet SME requirement of critical skills in the changing global business environment. In addition, we discussed enhancing regional connectivity through e-commerce and called for

investment in telecommunications infrastructure and harmonized rules, regulations and legislation governing digital trade to promote the free flow of goods and services in the region.

17. In the third plenary session on regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, the meeting discussed three topics, namely (i) Enhancing Parliamentary Roles in response to Climate Change, (ii) Enhancing Parliamentary Cooperation in Promoting Cultural Diversity and Tourism in Asia-Pacific, (iii) Disaster Risk Reduction. Key issues discussed included climate change, cultural exchange and cooperation, and disaster risk reduction. Proposed solutions covered building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation to mitigate and adapt to climate change and global warming, promoting and harnessing cultural diversity for socio-economic development, and furthering investment in disaster risk reduction and prioritizing these issues in policy formulation.
18. The delegates underscored the commitment to the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, especially the principles for mutual understanding and respect between peoples and societies and enhancing civilization connectivity. The delegates also raised the important role of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC) in promoting the synergies of culture and peace and sustainable development.
19. Delegates also urged APPF member countries to foster global and regional cooperation mechanisms such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), Belt and Road (B&R), AsiaPacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), and the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP).
20. In the final plenary session, Hon Khuon Sudary delivered a Report on the meeting of Women Parliamentarians and Hon Hum Many gave a briefing on the outcomes of the Meeting of the Drafting Committee. Fourteen resolutions were adopted.

21. Samdech Akka Moha PonheaChakrei Heng Samrin concluded the Forum by extending his deep appreciation to delegates for their time and commitment in making APPF-27 a great success. The delegates expressed gratitude to Cambodia for its outstanding organization and warm hospitality.

22. The 27th Annual Meeting was concluded with the handover of the APPF flag from the Kingdom of Cambodia to Australia as incoming host in 2020.



Appendix F

New APPF Rules of Procedure (Amended) - 2018

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, labor 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;
- b) non-military cooperation which gives due consideration to issues relating to regional peace and security; and
- c) 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 endeavor 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.

Honorary Presidency, Presidency, and Chairmanship of the Annual Meeting

10. The President will represent the APPF and will serve as Chairman of the Executive Committee.
11. The host country shall appoint a President from the host parliament who shall serve as President from May in the year preceding the Annual Meeting until April following the Annual Meeting.
12. The President shall preside at the commencement of the Annual Meeting until the Chairman of the meeting has been elected.
13. The APPF shall appoint the founding APPF President as Honorary President in order to ensure the APPF benefits from continuity of leadership. There shall be no limit to the term of the Honorary Presidency.
14. The Honorary President shall advise the Executive Committee and Annual Meeting as required.
15. The chairman of the Annual Meeting shall be a member of the host parliament and shall be elected by the Annual Meeting.
16. The Chairman of the Annual Meeting shall direct the work of the meeting and see that the rules are observed. The Chairman shall also open, suspend, and close the sessions, make known the results, and declare the meeting closed.
17. The Chairman 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 Chairman, 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 from 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

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 Chairman 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 endeavor 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 Chairman, 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 Chairman 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 Chairman.

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) Countries designated by the Honorary President
 - 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 reelected.
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, Russian Federation

- b) Southeast Asia (8 countries): 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 (Negara Brunei Darussalam not included as it has observer status)
- c) Oceania (6 countries): Australia, Republic of Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, 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, 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 May of the year of an Annual Meeting until April four years later, subject to the following conditions.

- a) Half of the Executive Committee members representing sub-regions shall be reelected 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 May of the year preceding the Annual Meeting until April following the 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. A Drafting Committee will be established at the Annual Meeting on the advice of the Executive Committee to prepare draft resolutions and a draft joint communiqué 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 President shall decide on all matters not covered by these rules, on the advice of the Executive Committee
