
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Report of the Parliamentary
Delegation to the Twenty-sixth
Annual Meeting of the Asia
Pacific Parliamentary Forum,
Ha Noi, Viet Nam

Ha Noi, Viet Nam – 18 to 21 January 2018

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Contents

Foreword	vii
Membership of the delegation	ix

REPORT

1 The Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF): Work of the Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting.....	1
Overview	1
Meeting of Women Parliamentarians	2
Opening session and addresses	2
Subject matter of the annual meeting	3
Draft resolutions proposed	4
Working through the agenda	7
Australia's preparations for the annual meeting	8
Australia's contribution to debate and work of the annual meeting	8
Final plenary session	10
Other meetings and activities	10
Outcomes	11
2 The Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF): general role and operations	13
Australia and the APPF	13
History and role of the APPF.....	14
Members	14

Objectives	14
Guiding principles.....	15
APPF procedures	15
Defining documents	15
The 1993 Tokyo Declaration	16
Vancouver, Valparaiso, new Tokyo and Ha Noi declarations.....	17
Rules of procedure.....	17
Executive Committee: structure and current issues	18
Organisation of the annual meeting	19
Annual meetings and secretariat.....	19
Proposed agenda.....	19
Invitations.....	20
Draft resolutions.....	20
Drafting Committee	20
Joint Communiqué	21

APPENDICES

Appendix A	25
Program for the Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting of the APPF Ha Noi, Viet Nam: 18 – 21 January 2018	25
Appendix B	29
Delegates to the 26 th Annual Meeting of the APPF	29
Appendix C	35
Resolutions of the 26th Annual Meeting of the APPF.....	35
List of resolutions and sponsors.....	35
Appendix D	37
Resolutions sponsored by Australia.....	37
Promoting Food Security in the Asia-Pacific Region	37
Fostering regional cultural and tourism cooperation.....	39
Combating International Terrorism and Trans-border Crime.....	40

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls 42

Appendix E.....45

 Joint Statement of the 26th Annual meeting of the APPF 45

Appendix F.....51

 New APPF Rules of Procedures (Amended)..... 51



Foreword

In January 2018 an Australian parliamentary delegation participated in the twenty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. The APPF includes parliamentarians from countries in the Asia-Pacific region with which Australia has strong strategic, economic and social links. Australia's continued participation in and active contribution to the APPF's annual meetings is important for strengthening the Australian Parliament's institutional and professional relationships with regional parliaments.

The delegation wishes to thank the host parliament of Viet Nam, and in particular the President of the National Assembly of Viet Nam and President of the APPF Executive Committee, H.E. Mme. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan for her leadership of the meeting. It was very obvious that a tremendous effort had been made by the Vietnamese National Assembly and Government to ensure the success of the Forum. Special mention should also be made of the National Assembly support staff and student volunteers who were unfailingly helpful and enthusiastic and who contributed to making the event such a success.

On behalf of the delegation I would like to thank the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for assistance with briefing papers for the forum meetings and for the support provided in Viet Nam by the Australian Ambassador, Mr Craig Chittick and his colleagues.

The Parliamentary Library also provided briefing material which the delegation found very useful. The International and Parliamentary Relations Office assisted us with administrative arrangements for the delegation's visit. Thank you to all.

Senator John Williams

Delegation Leader

The Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF): Work of the Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting

Overview

- 1.1 In January 2018 a delegation from the Parliament of Australia comprising Senator John Williams (delegation leader), Mr Scott Buchholz MP, Mr Tim Hammond MP and Mr Stephen Jones MP participated in the twenty-sixth annual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF26) in Ha Noi, Viet Nam.
- 1.2 This chapter begins with a description of APPF26 and then addresses the work of the meeting which took place according to the program set out in Appendix A.
- 1.3 The meeting began on 18 January 2018, with the arrival and registration of delegates. Appendix B lists the delegations participating at APPF26.
- 1.4 The first formal activity was the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians on 18 January. This was the third occasion on which such a meeting has taken place, with participation open to all member countries. Unfortunately the Australian delegation did not include any female members. However, Mr Hammond fully participated in the deliberations by invitation. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Madam Tong Thi Phong, Vice President of the National Assembly of Viet Nam.
- 1.5 The Executive Committee also met on 18 January to adopt the draft agenda and program of activities for the forum proper. The Executive Committee also supported the Kingdom of Cambodia as the host of the twenty-seventh APPF meeting to be held in January 2019.

Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

- 1.6 The Chairwoman of Mass Mobilisation of the Communist Party of Vietnam's Central Committee, H.E. Truong Thi Mai gave the key note address at the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians. Australia, Indonesia, Mexico, Mongolia, Russia and New Zealand all proposed draft resolutions concerning the promotion of gender equality for sustainable development and shared prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. As with the other working parties, the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians condensed the different resolutions into a single consolidated resolution which was subsequently adopted by the plenary session at the end of the forum. As mentioned, Mr Hammond was invited to attend the meeting and spoke in favour of the Australian draft resolution before actively participating in the discussion leading to the consolidated version.
- 1.7 This was the third year in which a meeting of Women Parliamentarians has been held prior to the formal openings of proceedings. The meetings had begun as a trial at APPF24 held in 2016 in Canada. At APPF25 held in 2017 in Fiji, Australia, Indonesia and Fiji co-sponsored a resolution calling for the meetings to become a standing agenda item for APPF meetings. This resolution was considered by the plenary session of APPF25 and the Honorary President's office in Tokyo undertook to bring a resolution to this effect to APPF26 in Ha Noi. Accordingly Japan sponsored proposed amendments to the APPF Rules of Procedure at APPF26 to make the meeting of Women Parliamentarians a standing agenda item. The proposal was considered by the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians and by the Drafting Committee and draft amendments were subsequently adopted at the plenary session with unanimous support. The amendments regularise the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians as a formal part of APPF agendas and require the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians to present a report each meeting to the plenary session on the topics which have been discussed.

Opening session and addresses

- 1.8 The opening session of APPF26 was held in the evening of 18 January 2018 at the Vietnamese National Assembly Building following performances of traditional Vietnamese music. The session began with welcoming remarks by H.E. Madame Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, President of the National Assembly and President of APPF26, followed by H.E. Mr Tran Dai Quang, the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. 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 President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Madame Gabriela Cuevas Barron had been invited to attend APPF26 and she also addressed delegates.

- 1.9 After the traditional and formal welcomes the work of the forum proper began on Friday 19 January with the first of the four plenary sessions and the establishment of the Drafting Committee to discuss in more detail the draft resolutions presented at the forum. The Drafting Committee considered the resolutions and established working groups to meet separately to consolidate draft resolutions on the same topics. The Drafting Committee sat continuously throughout the forum. Mr Buchholz and Mr Jones chaired two of the four working groups established to operate in parallel and to feed consolidated draft resolutions up to the Drafting Committee. All four delegation members, led by Senator Williams, also attended and spoke at the plenary sessions when not attending working groups.

Subject matter of the annual meeting

- 1.10 The theme of APPF26 was ‘Parliamentary partnerships: peace, innovation and inclusive growth for a sustainable future’ and this was referred to regularly in the working parties and plenary addresses.
- 1.11 The meeting followed the agenda proposed by the Executive Committee. The agenda comprised four substantive subject areas on the customary issues considered by APPF meetings, namely: politics and security, economics and trade, regional cooperation, and also future work of the APPF. The items were debated in four plenary sessions based on the four subject areas and the forum theme.
- 1.12 The agenda’s substantive subject areas comprised:
- APPF Women Parliamentarians’ meeting**
- Promoting gender equality for sustainable development and shared prosperity
- Political and security matters**
- Promoting parliamentary diplomacy for peace, security and prosperity in the region and the world
 - Combating international terrorism and trans-border crime
- Economic and trade matters**
- 2017 Report of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

- The role of Parliaments to promoting Seamless Regional Economic Integration
- Food security and sustainable development
- Supporting the MSMEs in the digital age

Regional development cooperation

- Enhancing joint action responding to Climate Change
- Resources for sustainable development
- Fostering regional cultural and tourism cooperation

The APPF

- The role of the APPF in promoting partnerships for sustainable development and inclusive growth in the Asia-Pacific
- Amendment to the New APPF Rules of Procedures as to the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians
- Host of the 27th APPF
- Adoption of Resolutions and Joint Declaration.

Draft resolutions proposed

1.13 For APPF26, 45 draft resolutions were proposed by 12 countries including four by Australia. Most proposed resolutions were received in sufficient time to be published on the APPF26 website, allowing other delegations an opportunity to consider them before the meeting.

1.14 All draft resolutions received were adopted for consideration at the annual meeting. These comprised:

- **Australia**

- ⇒ Promoting food security in the Asia-Pacific Region
- ⇒ Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls
- ⇒ Fostering regional cultural and tourism cooperation
- ⇒ Combating International Terrorism and Trans-border Crime

- **Canada**

- ⇒ Fostering cultural and tourism cooperation
- ⇒ Promoting respect for social diversity in the Asia-Pacific Region
- ⇒ Promoting regional economic cooperation and integration through free trade agreements
- ⇒ Ending the grave human rights violations in Myanmar's Rakhine State

■ Chile

- ⇒ The role of parliaments in promoting a constant regional economic integration
- ⇒ Supporting the micro, small and medium – sized enterprises in the digital era
- ⇒ Reinforcing coordinated action to combat climate change
- ⇒ Fostering regional cooperation in culture and tourism

■ Indonesia

- ⇒ Role of women as the agent of change in the millennial era
- ⇒ Implementing interfaith and intercultural dialogue to combat terrorism
- ⇒ Parliamentary diplomacy to end the Rohingya crisis as an international threat to peace and security

■ Japan

- ⇒ Settlement of the Korean peninsula and Realization of Peace and Prosperity in Asia-Pacific region
- ⇒ Role of APPF in promoting Asia-Pacific Cooperation
- ⇒ Economy and Trade
- ⇒ Counter-terrorism and violent extremism
- ⇒ Amendment to the New APPF Rules of Procedure by Japan

■ Malaysia

- ⇒ Combating international terrorism and Trans border Crime
- ⇒ Supporting the micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in the digital age

■ Mexico

- ⇒ The Role Parliamentarians to Promote Continuous Regional Economic Integration
- ⇒ Support for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in the digital age
- ⇒ Promotion of Parliamentary Diplomacy for peace, security and prosperity in the region and the world

- ⇒ Promoting regional, Cultural and Tourist Cooperation
- ⇒ Promote Gender Equality for Sustainable Development and shared prosperity
- ⇒ Combating International Terrorism and Transboundary Crime

■ **New Zealand**

- ⇒ Collective Momentum to Combat Climate Change
- ⇒ Enhancing Regional Cooperation and Economic Integration
- ⇒ Empowerment and Representation of Women and Girls

■ **Philippines**

- ⇒ Calling for regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation

■ **Republic of Korea**

- ⇒ Peace on the Korean Peninsula
- ⇒ Promoting Economic Growth and Free Trade

■ **Russian Federation**

- ⇒ Women's role in prosperity and development of the Asia-Pacific
- ⇒ Promoting parliamentary diplomacy for peace, security and prosperity in the region and the world
- ⇒ Fostering regional cultural and humanitarian cooperation
- ⇒ Economic and Trade Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region
- ⇒ Combating International Terrorism and Trans-border Crime

■ **Vietnam**

- ⇒ Role of APPF in promoting partnership for sustainable development and inclusive growth in the Asia-Pacific
- ⇒ Fostering regional cultural, tourism cooperation
- ⇒ Enhancing joint action responding to Climate Change
- ⇒ Food security and agricultural sustainable development
- ⇒ Role of Parliaments to promoting Seamless Regional Economic Integration

- ⇒ Promoting parliamentary diplomacy for peace, security, prosperity in the region and the world

Working through the agenda

- 1.15 As is the practice, the meeting made progress through the agenda with delegates speaking on agenda items. A delegate from those countries that proposed a draft resolution on a particular agenda item spoke to it at the relevant plenary session as did other delegates. Notionally, completion of debate in the plenary on an agenda item, was followed first, by negotiation and debate on related draft resolution(s) in meetings of the relevant working group established by the Drafting Committee, and then by the finalisation of the terms of all resolutions in the Drafting Committee itself.
- 1.16 As is apparent from the list of draft resolutions set out above, for many of the agenda items at APPF26 more than one draft resolution had been proposed, and a number of draft resolutions were broadly rather than specifically relevant to agenda items. Four working groups were convened to negotiate and develop the draft resolutions, which were then brought before the Drafting Committee for further consideration and to settle final drafts to be presented to the plenary for adoption.
- 1.17 The working groups comprised representatives from delegations that had proposed the resolutions under consideration and representatives of other delegations interested in participating in negotiations and drafting. At APPF26 the four working groups met in parallel with the Drafting Committee and consolidated draft resolutions which, once finalised by a working group, were passed to the Drafting Committee for it to consider.
- 1.18 The working groups all met in the afternoon of 19 January and worked through that and the following day. The Drafting Committee itself also began its work in the afternoon of 19 January. After noting the schedule of working group meetings, the Drafting Committee commenced debate on those agenda items for which there were single draft resolutions. The Drafting Committee continued to meet throughout the annual meeting, concluding late on 20 January just in time for the finalised consolidated resolutions to be ready for the fourth plenary session.
- 1.19 The thirteen final resolutions that were settled by the Drafting Committee were put to the plenary at the last session of the meeting on the afternoon of 20 January, and adopted by consensus, in accordance with APPF practice. For a list of the final resolutions see Appendix C.

Australia's preparations for the annual meeting

- 1.20 Detailed briefing material on all agenda items was provided to the delegation before the annual meeting with advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Parliamentary Library. The briefing material was accompanied by background material on Viet Nam.
- 1.21 Unfortunately, the delegation membership was not finalised before Parliament rose in December 2017. This meant that the delegation had not had the chance to come together in person before meeting in Ha Noi on 18 January. It also meant that the delegation missed the usual pre-travel briefing by DFAT on Australia's bilateral relationship with the host country.
- 1.22 However, the Australian Head of Mission to Viet Nam, Ambassador Mr Craig Chittick briefed delegation members early in the morning of Thursday 18 January in Ha Noi before proceedings commenced. The delegation also met the Australian Charge d'Affairs to Viet Nam, Ms Rebecca Bryant, later in the day at the official opening and held further discussions. Embassy officials also facilitated arrangements prior to the delegation's arrival and acted as a contact point during the visit
- 1.23 The Australian delegation wishes to express its gratitude for the level of support it received from DFAT, both in Canberra providing extensive briefing papers and in Viet Nam. The Parliamentary Library also provided valuable assistance and comprehensive, useful briefing papers.
- 1.24 The quality of work that goes into preparatory briefings and materials and the support during the annual meeting itself, contributes significantly to the delegation's capacity to represent the Parliament effectively and to participate fully at annual meetings of the APPF.
- 1.25 The delegation notes that there are lead times for participation in the APPF annual meetings. Under the APPF rules, draft resolutions need to be provided two months in advance of the annual meeting, and delegates wishing to make statements in the plenary need to be registered in advance. Accordingly, the delegation continues to support the suggestion of earlier reports that Australian delegation members be identified by the end of October each year.

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

- 1.26 The delegation had a very busy schedule, contributing in each plenary session as appropriate in support of the draft resolutions the delegates proposed to the APPF. In fact, the greatest challenge for the delegation was juggling speeches in the plenary session, with contributions to the working parties and drafting committee - all at the same time.

- 1.27 The full text of the draft resolutions proposed by the delegation is included in Appendix D. Senator Williams spoke to the motion: *Promoting Food Security in the Asia-Pacific Region* in the plenary session. Senator Williams noted the importance of food availability and affordability to ensuring social stability. Senator Williams worked closely with officials from the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development as well as the Vietnamese delegation to consolidate the Australian and Vietnamese draft resolutions on this topic. This, in turn, led to wider discussions on sustainable food production, soil quality and the opportunities for Australian and Vietnamese farmers to exchange ideas. Senator Williams was also interviewed by Vietnamese TV on matters concerning agricultural trade between the two nations as well as on the APPF itself.
- 1.28 Mr Buchholz spoke at the plenary session and on the Australian resolution concerning: *Combating International Terrorism and Trans-border crime*. Mr Buchholz also chaired the working party that discussed this and related topics. It became a challenging task to bring closer together some of the divergent views held on security matters by delegates at this working party, most particularly on draft resolutions concerning North Korea.
- 1.29 Mr Jones spoke at the plenary session on the Australian draft resolution *Fostering Regional, Cultural and Tourism Cooperation* Mr Jones noted the growing importance of tourism to Pacific Rim countries and drew attention to the need for countries to develop skilled workforces and to interconnect tourism experiences at the transnational and regional level. Mr Jones also chaired the working group on regional cooperation, climate change, food security, cultural cooperation and sustainable development, steering discussion on a number of resolutions, including on the particular topic on which he spoke.
- 1.30 Mr Hammond had contributed to debates at the meeting of women parliamentarians on gender equality, including on Australia's resolution about *Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls*. This had occurred before the meeting proper, which allowed Mr Hammond to sit in on the different working groups and participate in the Drafting Committee as the Australian representative. This involved his involvement in extensive discussions about the final words of the resolutions.
- 1.31 Many of the working groups involved extended discussion, including where there were multiple draft resolutions to be combined from countries whose APPF participants did not share a common language.

This made chairing working parties particularly challenging for Mr Buchholz and Mr Jones.

- 1.32 The Drafting Committee meetings were chaired by the Hon Vu Hai the texts of the draft resolutions presented from the working groups were considered clause by clause and line by line and often many amendments were made. The Drafting Committee also discussed a proposed declaration, the *Ha Noi Declaration: A New Vision for Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Partnership*, sponsored by Viet Nam. This declaration, among other things committed the APPF to greater coordination with other parliamentary fora and regional and international institutions. The declaration was accepted by the Drafting Committee and adopted later by the plenary with acclamation (see below).
- 1.33 At its final session, the Drafting Committee also developed the draft Joint Statement for consideration by the plenary.

Final plenary session

- 1.34 As mentioned, at the final plenary session on 20 January 2018, the Forum considered and adopted: the thirteen subject specific resolutions; the amendment to the New APPF Rules of Procedure to ensure that the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians becomes a standing APPF agenda item; the Ha Noi Declaration and the Joint Statement prepared by the Drafting Committee. The Joint Statement contains an overview of the activities of the meeting. It outlines the attendance at the meeting, the broad scope of the debates, the resolutions adopted, acknowledgment of the work of the hosts and plans for the next annual meeting to be held in the Kingdom of Cambodia in January 2019. A copy of the Joint Statement is contained in Appendix E of this report.

Other meetings and activities

- 1.35 One of the benefits of APPF meetings is that they afford the opportunity for members of different parliaments to meet on the sidelines of the main meetings. The Australian delegation members also took full opportunity to participate in informal discussions during breaks in meetings of the plenary, Drafting Committee and working groups and at the social activities organised for that purpose. Delegation members established fruitful links with members of other participating delegations.

Outcomes

- 1.36 APPF26 comprised a full program of meetings and formal social activities. Although only four in number (far smaller than some delegations), the Australian delegation played an active and influential role at the meeting, particularly contributing to debate in the plenary sessions and negotiations on draft resolutions in working groups. The Australian delegates forged strong relations with Vietnamese delegates and officials in particular while promoting these discussions.
- 1.37 The delegation is satisfied that its representation of the Parliament at the meeting's sessions, both formal and informal, demonstrated the Australian Parliament's continuing commitment to the APPF. In addition, the delegation was able to consider significant subject matter together with parliamentary colleagues in the region, and to build sound parliament-to-parliament links.

The Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF): general role and operations

Australia and the APPF

- 2.1 This chapter of the delegation's report describes the role and activities of the APPF in general terms, and Australia's contribution to its work over the years. This background information informs the first chapter, which covers the delegation's contribution to APPF26 and its perception of the outcomes of the meeting.
- 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. Australia's delegations have been consistently active in submitting, debating, and negotiating draft resolutions on a variety of agenda items. The delegation's draft resolutions have focused on regional social, political, economic and security cooperation.

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:

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.

- identify and discuss matters of common concern and interest and to highlight them in a global context;
- deepen their understanding of the policy concerns, interests and experiences of the countries of the region;
- examine the critical political, social and cultural developments resulting from economic growth and integration;
- encourage and promote regional cooperation at all levels on matters of common concern to the region; and
- play the roles of national parliamentarians in furthering in their respective countries a sense 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);

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.

- Ha Noi Declaration (2018); and
- New APPF Rules of Procedure (Amended) (2018).

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. At APPF26, all decisions continued to be made on a consensus basis.

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.

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;
 - 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 at each annual meeting and that the meetings of women parliamentarians are to submit a

report to the APPF plenary sessions. This is discussed in greater detail above in chapter one.

- 2.17 A copy of the rules of procedure, incorporating this latest change, 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 member from the next host country joins the committee in the May before the annual meeting and retires in the April following the annual meeting.¹¹

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.

- 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 forward arrangements for Oceania membership of the Executive Committee are as follows:

2017	Papua New Guinea	Fiji
2018	Papua New Guinea	Fiji
2019	Australia	Fiji
2020	Australia	Fiji

- 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
- 2.23 At APPF26, Australia, following agreement by the other representative delegations from Oceania, attended the Executive Committee meeting in place of Papua New Guinea, which did not send a delegation.

Organisation of the annual meeting

Annual meetings and secretariat

- 2.24 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

- 2.25 Prior to each annual meeting in January, a proposed agenda and program are developed by the host country in consultation with the Executive

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

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.

Committee. Until 1999 there were advance meetings of the committee which were generally held in the country which was to host the next annual meeting. Since then, arrangements for annual meetings have been 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. For APPF26, a draft agenda was distributed in November 2017.

Invitations

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

Draft resolutions

- 2.27 Under the APPF Rules of Procedure, draft resolutions are required two months in advance of the annual meeting. Draft resolutions were requested for APPF26 by the beginning of December 2016, shortly after the draft agenda was received.
- 2.28 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. For APPF26, Australia provided four draft resolutions, as described above.
- 2.29 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

- 2.30 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.

- 2.31 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.
- 2.32 At APPF26, delegations varied in size from one to 30 people and there were varied levels of representation at the different kinds of meetings. It was often the case at APPF26 that meetings of the plenary, the several working groups and of the Drafting Committee were held simultaneously. As a consequence, it was not possible for members of the Australian delegation to attend the four working group meetings, the Drafting Committee and the plenary all at the same time.
- 2.33 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.
- 2.34 At APPF26, the Drafting Committee's meetings finalised draft resolutions that had been discussed, amended and combined by the four working groups of delegates. The plenary adopted the proposals of the Drafting Committee without further debate. Thirteen resolutions were adopted at the final session.

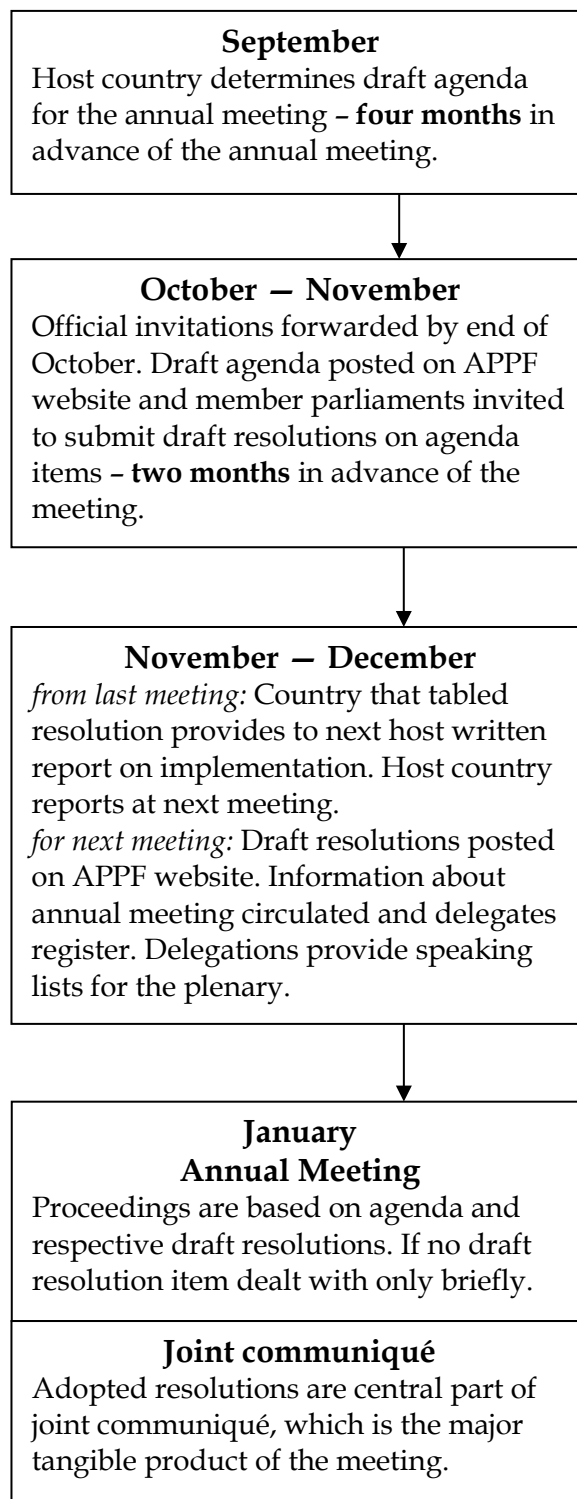
Joint Communiqué

- 2.35 At the conclusion of each annual meeting the leaders of all participating nations sign a Joint Communiqué, prepared by the Drafting Committee, which includes, amongst other things, a list of all resolutions passed by the meeting. The text of all the resolutions that were adopted is available from the website.¹⁴

Senator John Williams

14 <http://appf26.vn/en-US/Document/Pages/Default.aspx>.

Figure 1 Outline of annual meeting preparations and proceedings





Appendix A

Program for the Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting of the APPF Ha Noi, Viet Nam: 18 – 21 January 2018¹

Thursday 18 January 2018

From 08:00	Continued arrival and registration of delegates
08:30 – 09:00	Press Conference
9.00 – 11:30	Meeting of Women Parliamentarians
10.00 – 11.30	Meeting of Secretaries and Advisors of the delegations
14:00 – 17:00	Executive Committee Meeting
18:00 – 18:30	Opening Ceremony <i>Venue: House of the National Assembly</i>
18.30 – 21:00	Dinner hosted by H.E. Mme. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, President of National Assembly of Viet Nam, President of APPF-26 <i>Venue: House of the National Assembly</i>

¹ The meetings of the working groups are not included in this program.

Friday 19 January 2018

09:00 – 10:30	First Plenary Session – Political and Security Matters
10.45 – 12:30	First Plenary Session – Political and Security Matters (continued)
13:30 – 15:30	Second Plenary Session – Economic and Trade Matters
15:45 – 17:30	Second Plenary Session – Economic and Trade Matters (continued)
14:00 – 17:00	Meeting of Drafting Committee / Working Groups
17:30 – 18:30	Courtesy Call on Leaders of State of Viet Nam

Saturday 20 January 2018

09:00 - 10:30	Third Plenary Session - Regional Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region
10:45 - 12:30	Third Plenary Session - Regional Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region (continued)
09:00 - 12:00	Meeting of Drafting Committee / Working Groups
14:00 - 16:30	Fourth Plenary Session - APPF Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of Resolutions and Joint Statement - Signature of Joint Statement
16:30 - 17:00	Closing Ceremony
17:30	Press Conference
18:30 - 21:00	Dinner hosted by H.E. Mme. Tong Thi Phong, Vice President of National Assembly of Viet Nam, President of APPF-26 Organising Committee

Sunday 21 January 2018

All Day	Tour / Departure of Delegates
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Appendix B

Delegates to the 26th Annual Meeting of the APPF¹

Australia

Senator John Williams Leader of Delegation
Mr Scott Buchholz MP
Mr Tim Hammond MP
Mr Stephen Jones MP

Cambodia

Mr Ngorn Tep Leader of Delegation
Mrs Som An Mean
Mr Sem Yang
Mr Kim Yeat Chhit
Mr Cham Roeum Prak
Mr Thavy Nhem
Mr Rany Sao
Mrs Boran Kang
Mr Chhay Loak
Mr Virak Prom

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

Canada

Mr Joseph A Day Leader of Delegation
Mr Terry Sheehan
Mr Geng Tan
Mr Percy E Downer
Mr Jim Munson
Mr Hon.Yue Paul Woo
Mr Ali Ehssassi
Mr Michael Cooper
Mr Angelo Iacono
Mr Majid Jowhari
Mr Peter Julian
Ms Yasmin Ratansi

Chile

Mr Fidel Espinoz Sandoval Leader of Delegation
Mr Giorgio Jackson Drago
Mr Diego Paulsen Kehr
Mr Rodrigo Gonzalez Torres
Mr Roberto León Ramirez
Mr Iván Norambuena

China

Mr Zhu Chen Leader of Delegation
Mr Shuhua Dou
Mr Weizhou Cao
Mr Sheng Yao

Fiji

Mrs Hon Dr Jiko Luveni Leader of Delegation
Mr Hon Ratu Inoke Kubuabola
Mr Hon Laisenia Tuitubou

Mr Hon Alexander O'Connor

Mr Hon Samuela Vunivalu

Mr Hon Semesa Karavaki

Mr Hon Nikolau Tuiqamea

Indonesia

Mr Fahri Hamzah

Leader of Delegation

Mr Oesman Sapta

Mrs Hon Dr Nurhayati Ali Assegaf

Mr Hon Juliari P Batubara

Mrs Dwi Ria Latifa

Mr Dave Akbarshah Fikarno

Mr Azikin Solthan

Mrs Venna Melinda

Mr Jon Erizal

Mrs GKR Ayu Koes Indriyah

Japan

Mr Takuji Yanagimoto

Leader of Delegation

Ms Yoshiko Kira

Mr Hirofumi Nakasone

Mr Masazumi Gotoda

Mr Tsuyoshi Yamaguchi

Mr Banri Kaieda

Mr Shuji Kira

Mr Naokazu Takemoto

Korea (Republic of)

Mr Jinbok Lee

Leader of Delegation

Mr Sejung Oh

Mr Byoung gwan Kim

Mr Eung cheon Cho

Mr Ramón Bañales Arámbula
Mrs Lia Limón Garcia
Mr Arturo Santana Alfaro
Mr Alejandro Juraidini Villaseñor
Mr Jesus Antonia Lopez Rodriguez

Micronesia

Mr Edmond B Moses Leader of Delegation
Mr Joseph J Urusemal
Mr Robson Romolow
Mr Tiwiter Aritos

Mongolia

Mr Miyegombo Enkhbold Leader of Delegation
Mr Ulaan Chultem
Mrs Undarmaa Batbayar
Mr Purevdorj Bukhchuluun
Mr Baatarbileg Yondonperenlei
Mr Sukhbat Agvaansamdan

New Zealand

Mr Jonathan Young Leader of Delegation
Mrs Anahila Kanongatata'a-Suisuiki
Mr Mark Patterson

Philippines

Ms Loren Legarda Leader of Delegation

Russia

Mr Konstantin Isifovich Kosachev Leader of Delegation
Ms Olga Nikolaevan Epifanova

Ms Elena Serova

Singapore

Mr Hian Chuan Henry K Wek

Leader of Delegation

Ms Joan Pereira

Mr Chia Hsing Yee

Thailand

Mr Gen. Surapong Suwana-Adth

Leader of Delegation

Mr Adm Panlop Tamisanon

Mrs Khynying Songsuda Yodmani

Vietnam

HE Mme Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan

Leader of Delegation

HE Mme Tong Thi Phong

Hon Mr Vuong Dinh Hue

Hon Mr Vu Hai Ha

HE Mr Do Ba Ty

HE Mr Phung Quoc Hien

HE Mme Truong Thi Mai

Hon Mr Vuong Dinh Hue

Hon Mr Vu Duc Dam

Hon Mr Nguyen Hanh Phuc

Hon Mr Ha Ngoc Chien

Hon Mr Phan Xuan Dung

Hon Mr Phan Thanh Binh

Hon Tran Van Tuy

Hon Mr Nguyen Duc Hai

Hon Mr Vo Trong Viet

Hon Mme Le Thi Nga

Hon Mme Nguyen Thuy Anh



Appendix C

Resolutions of the 26th Annual Meeting of the APPF

List of resolutions and sponsors¹

Promoting Gender Equality for Sustainable Development and Shared Prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region (Australia, Canada, Indonesia, Mexico, Mongolia, New Zealand, Russia and Vietnam)

Promoting Economic Growth and Free Trade (Republic of Korea, Japan, Russia)

Supporting the Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in the Digital Age (Malaysia, Mexico, Chile)

The Role of Parliaments in Promoting Seamless Regional Economic Integration (Canada, Chile, Mexico, New Zealand, Vietnam)

Promoting Parliamentary Diplomacy for Peace, Security and Prosperity in the Region and the World (Vietnam, Russia)

The Role of the APPF in Promoting the Partnership for sustainable development and inclusive growth in the Asia-Pacific region (Vietnam, Japan)

Strengthening Joint Action to Respond to Climate Change (Canada, Fiji and Vietnam)

Fostering Cultural and Tourism Cooperation (Australia, Canada, Russia, Philippines, Vietnam)

Combating International Terrorism and Trans-Border Crime (Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Russia)

¹ The text of the resolutions can be viewed at: <http://appf26.vn/en-US/Document/Pages/Default.aspx>

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.

Calling for Regional Cooperation on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change adaptation and mitigation (Philippines)

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

Promoting Respect for Social Diversity in the Asia-Pacific Region (Canada)

Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture Development (Australia, Vietnam)



Appendix D

Resolutions sponsored by Australia

Promoting Food Security in the Asia-Pacific Region

The 26th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum:

Acknowledging the important links between food security, poverty alleviation, climate change and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific;

Stressing that the fight against hunger in the Asia-Pacific is slowing. Some 490 million people – around one in ten – are still hungry and countries in the Asia-Pacific are at risk of not meeting the Agenda 2030 target of ending food insecurity;

Conscious that climate variability and change is already affecting agriculture and food security and it disproportionately affects the poor, many of whom rely on the agricultural sectors for their livelihoods. Impacts on rural incomes and nutrition can be particularly serious for women and children;

Aware of the fact that the region is a major food producer, that food trade is significant and has the potential to expand and that agriculture and fisheries provides a source of income for a significant proportion of the region's poor;

Acknowledging that food insecurity and nutrition are complex issues with many countries in the Asia-Pacific region facing the challenge of a triple burden of malnutrition where an inadequate intake of calories, micronutrient deficiencies and obesity prevail simultaneously;

Acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a roadmap for global development to address food insecurity including targets to end hunger and malnutrition, improve agricultural productivity and sustainability and maintaining and sharing the genetic diversity of seeds and cultivated plants;

Bearing in mind the UN Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC) recognizes that food production systems are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change;

RESOLVES TO:

Urge APPF Member States to continue to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Affirm the importance of promoting the sustainable management of natural resources to the achievement of food security and the importance of increasing productivity in the agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors;

Encourage a comprehensive approach to food security that fosters open and efficient markets, ensures sustainable production and food safety, and supports efficient connectivity and investment along food chains;

Recognise the private sector as a crucial partner in expanding farming and fisheries opportunities and revitalizing rural communities for the sustainable development of food security;

Encourage an enabling environment to leverage multiple stakeholders including governments, the private sector, civil society, research institutes and producers to advance research, innovation and new technologies and to share knowledge, wherever possible, to advance food security;

Exhort good water management as a priority for our communities and economies because of its importance for food security, human health and poverty reduction;

Urge the promotion of healthier diets through a multi-sectoral approach which includes supportive food and trade policies, education and awareness campaigns;

Recognise that whilst the climate challenges that Member States face are different, a common thread is that the business of food security now carries more risk, and decisions around production are now less predictable. Supporting farmers, fishers, businesses, communities and governments to prepare for and adapt to a more variable climate is vital to addressing this risk.

Fostering regional cultural and tourism cooperation

The 26th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum:

Recognizing sustainable tourism is a key economic driver in the Asia-Pacific, creating jobs promoting investment, and enabling development;

Recalling the 2017 APEC High Level Statement: Promoting Sustainable Tourism for an Inclusive and Interconnected Asia-Pacific made by APEC Tourism Ministers and senior representatives in, Ha Long, Viet Nam, on 19 June 2017;

Noting the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Jakarta Concord 7 March 2017;

Welcoming the contribution cultural and tourism cooperation can make to economic growth, maintenance of peace, and promotion of understanding between nations in the region;

Underscoring the region's strong diversity and multicultural attributes;

RESOLVES TO:

Encourage sustainable tourism to promote economic growth in the region;

Promote cultural and tourism exchange across the region to increase people-to-people interaction and promote economic development;

Enhance regional air and sea connectivity through direct flights and shipping services, including cruise shipping by encouraging investment in infrastructure.

Combating International Terrorism and Trans-border Crime

The 26th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum:

Recalling previous resolutions adopted by Annual Meetings of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) on combating 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;

Reiterating the commitments made by APPF Member States to condemn and combat terrorism in all its forms;

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 the key international instruments aimed at combating 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 trans-border 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 trans-border 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;

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;

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

Emphasise the importance of well-targeted capacity building and technical assistance programs in the fight against international terrorism and trans-border 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 (UNCAC) and the international drug control conventions, and encourage States Parties to implement domestically their provisions.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

The 26th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum:

Recognising that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is not only a matter of human rights but is central to sustainable development;

Reaffirming the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, uphold the rights of women and girls, the *International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action* and their subsequent reviews;

Concerned 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;

Drawing 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;

Reiterating the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a specific goal on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls (SDG5)¹ as well as mainstreaming gender equality across all Goals;

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

Condemning all forms of violence against women and girls while noting that domestic violence remains the most prevalent form of violence affecting women of all backgrounds both in our region and around the world;

Aware of the importance of addressing discriminatory legal and policy barriers to women's economic empowerment, to allow women's full enjoyment of their human rights;

Aware that women are often disproportionately affected by climate change and natural disasters owing to gender inequalities and the dependence of many women on natural resources for their livelihoods;

¹ Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG5): Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Aware that sexual and reproductive health and rights are critical to women's economic advancement and empowerment;

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

RESOLVES TO:

Recognise that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are essential for the security, social cohesion, sustainable economic prosperity and development of our communities;

Affirm that women and men equally have the right to enjoy all their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

Urge APPF Member States to support and promote women's active participation in peace processes recognising that peace is inextricably linked to gender equality and that peace processes that involve women lead to better outcomes and sustainable peace;

Urge APPF Member States to devote particular attention to abolishing harmful practices and legislation that discriminate against women and girls, or perpetuate and condone violence and discrimination against them including child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation;

Urge APPF Member States to devote particular attention to the equitable provision and access to affordable and quality health services for women and girls including sexual and reproductive health services;

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

Encourage APPF Member States to collaborate with the private sector to contribute to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in private sector work places and through development assistance programs;

Encourage APPF Member States to support and promote women and girls' active participation in all levels of leadership, decision-making, political, economic and public life;

Encourage APPF Member States to prioritise the collection of better gender-sensitive data to address the challenges of effectively monitoring the gender-sensitive implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

Commit to engaging with men and boys to champion and support the changes and measures needed for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

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

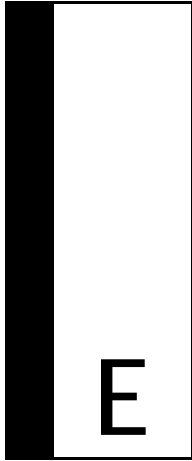
Call on APPF Member States to address and reduce the barriers women face to economic empowerment including women's equal access to all levels of education, the formal labour market, safe workplaces, accessible and safe transport, adequate childcare, financial services, inheritance, control over land and other property, and technology;

Call on APPF Member States to implement programs that reduce the burden of unpaid care work on women, including childcare, caring for the elderly, and domestic work;

Call on APPF Member States to better understand the gender differentiated effects of climate change and natural disasters;

Call on APPF Member States to implement systems to track public allocations of funding for gender equality and women's empowerment;

Call on APPF Member States to consider the particular needs, responsibilities and capabilities of refugee, displaced and migrant women and girls, and their need for protection from sexual- and gender-based violence and exploitation, including human trafficking.



Appendix E

Joint Statement of the 26th Annual meeting of the APPF

1. “At the invitation of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the twenty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) was held in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, from 18 to 21 January 2018 with 354 participants from 20 member countries and one observer country.
2. The third APPF Meeting of Women Parliamentarians was held in the morning of 18 January, before the opening of the Annual Meeting. H.E. Madam Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, President of the National Assembly of Viet Nam delivered her opening remarks, emphasized the significance of the APPF Women Parliamentarians Meeting, an important network connecting women parliamentarians to discuss gender equality and other matters for the interests of women and girls. The Meeting addressed the theme of “Promoting gender equality for sustainable development and shared prosperity”. The Honorable Mrs. Truong Thi Mai, Vietnamese National Assembly deputy delivered her key note address. Delegates stressed that parliamentarians should maximize their roles in all steps of decision-making processes, whether at the global, regional or national level, in different areas to promote the implementation of the 5th Goal of Gender Equality out of 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

3. The Executive Committee convened on 18 January 2018 and approved the Annual Meeting's agenda and program of activities. Madam Tong Thi Phong, the First Vice-President of the National Assembly of Viet Nam was agreed to be the Chair in the President's absence. The Honorable Mr. Vu Hai Ha, Deputy of National Assembly of Viet Nam was confirmed as the Chair of the Drafting Committee. Fiji was agreed to replace New Zealand in the Executive Committee for the coming term.
4. On 18 January 2018, the President, H.E Madam. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, opened the Annual Meeting by warmly welcoming all participants and wishing them a pleasant stay in Viet Nam. In her opening remarks, the President highlighted the challenges and opportunities for the APPF and called for greater cooperation among APPF member parliaments to bring APPF to a higher level to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. At the Opening Ceremony, H.E. Mr. Tran Dai Quang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam delivered his welcome remarks, highlighting the special role of APPF and its members over the past 25 years in dealing with common challenges. He emphasized that APPF should to work together with other regional fora to build the vision for cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.
5. H.E Madam. Jiko Luveni, Speaker of the Fijian Parliament, the Host of the 25th APPF thanked the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for its hospitality and excellent preparation for the Meeting.

As a special guest of the Host, Madam Gabriela Cuevas Barron, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union expressed her heart-felt gratitude to the National Assembly of Viet Nam for inviting her and colleagues to present at the Meeting, symbolizing the parliamentary diplomacy development.

6. The Honorable Mrs. Cuevas Barron highlighted the significance of association, integration and inclusion to contrast the messages of isolationism and the voices that attack multilateralism, especially while the world is facing such important challenges as inequality, disarmament, climate change and so many on. She stressed the 'turning words into action' spirit inspired by the IPU Hanoi Declaration adopted at the 132nd IPU General Assembly.

7. The Honorable Takuji Yanagimoto, Member of the House of Councillors and Head of the Delegation of Japan delivered a speech on behalf of APPF Honorary President Yasuhiro Nakasone, expressing his support for APPF. He highlighted that The APPF Annual Meeting shall become a leader holding the torch of hope not only for the Asia Pacific region but also for the entire world.
8. The Heads of 26th APPF delegations paid a courtesy call on H.E Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam. The General Secretary highly appreciated the increasingly developed APPF cooperation and the APPF Parliamentarians as the bridge between people and governments, representing the people's aspiration.
9. The Annual Meeting held four plenary sessions. A great number of speakers addressed the plenary sessions.
10. In the first plenary session on Political and Security matters, H.E. Madam Tong Thi Phong, First Vice-President of the National Assembly of Viet Nam delivered her keynote remarks on peace and security, highlighting a shared vision of Asia-Pacific for the interests of its people. Former IPU President, Mr. Saber H. Chowdhury was invited to speak at the plenary session. Delegations shared that peace, cooperation and development remain a major trend in Asia-Pacific and in the world. On the other hand, region also faces potential conflicts, instability, security threats and other global issues such as climate change, epidemics, terrorism, etc. Participants resolutely condemned terrorism and shared the views that terrorism, trans-border crime should be effectively addressed with joint efforts by international community by strengthening cooperation between governments and other related agencies in intelligence sharing, and capacity building for the law enforcement forces.
11. In the second plenary session on Economic and Trade matters, the Honorable Mr. Vuong Dinh Hue, Prime Minister of Viet Nam delivered his keynote speech on positive developments in economic cooperation and regional economic integration. The Meeting welcomed a report by Viet Nam on the deliverables of APEC 2017, including the 25th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Da Nang, Viet Nam in November 2017. Delegations agreed that despite many difficulties and uncertainties, Asia-Pacific region remained the world's most dynamic with high growth rate and deeper economic regional integration. Delegations stressed that APPF should enhance cooperation to further free and open trade and investment toward

the realization of the Free Trade Area of the Asia - Pacific (FTAAP); building a comprehensively connected and integrated Asia - Pacific; promoting quality and resilient infrastructure, sub-region and remote area connectivity. Another common theme was the optimization of global value chains. Delegates highlighted measures to strengthen Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises' (MSMEs) competitiveness and innovation and facilitate MSMEs' access to finance, technology and management; fostering policies and legal frameworks for start-ups and women's leadership role in MSMEs, particularly urge the governments to accelerate administrative reform, and to improve the investment environment.

12. Delegates stressed stronger cooperation in sustainable management and effective usage of natural resources, including trans-boundary water resources, land, forests, oceans etc., which contribute to secure long-term and sustainable food supply. Furthermore, it is necessary to promote sustainable rural-urban development, build communities resilient to natural disasters, diversify agricultural sector, increase investment to boost productivity and quality, and broaden the market of agricultural products.
13. In the third plenary session on Regional Cooperation, the Honorable Deputy Prime Minister Vu Duc Dam delivered the keynote address on climate action, cultural and tourism cooperation. Delegations expressed their deep concern over climate change and extreme weather events, which requires stronger joint efforts on disaster risk reduction to respond to climate change and mitigate its impacts and proposed strengthened cooperation in culture and tourism for sustainable development. IPU Secretary General Martin Chungong delivered his remarks emphasizing the significance of the parliamentary partnership and regional cooperation.
14. Regarding APPF Work, delegations emphasized the role of APPF in promoting partnership for sustainable development and inclusive growth in the Asia-Pacific as APPF Parliamentarians represent the aspiration and interests of the people in the region, for the good of all.
15. At the final session, the 26th Annual Meeting unanimously applauded the kind invitation of the Cambodian National Assembly to host the 27th Annual Meeting in Siem Reap in January 2019.
16. The Meeting was briefed on the outcomes of the Drafting Committee and 4 Working Groups throughout the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting

adopted Ha Noi Declaration, the Amended APPF Rules of Procedures which stipulate that the Meeting of Women parliamentarians will be held on the occasion of the APPF Annual Meeting to foster discussion and experience exchange related to topics of common interest to women parliamentarians, and 13 resolutions.

17. At the Closing Session, the Cambodian Head of Delegation delivered his acceptance speech for being the next Host of APPF in 2019. The Annual Meeting expressed highest appreciation and gratitude to the Viet Nam National Assembly for its outstanding organization and hospitality, especially to H.E Madam. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, President of the Viet Nam National Assembly for her exemplary Presidency of the 26th Annual Meeting and the staff for their hard work and excellent care for all participants, which contributed to the success of the Annual Meeting

18. In her concluding remarks, the President of the 26th Annual Meeting congratulated the delegates and commended them for their important contributions to the plenary sessions, Drafting Committee and Working Groups, thus bringing about a productive, cooperative and inclusive Annual Meeting.”



Appendix F

New APPF Rules of Procedures (Amended)

**26TH ANNUAL MEETING
ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM
NEW APPF RULES OF PROCEDURES (AMENDED)**

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
