

10th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference on
Progressing SRHR and gender equality into Beijing+20
6-7 September 2014 | Manila, Philippines

Statement of Commitment

We, Speakers, Ministers, and parliamentarians from 21 countries of the Asia-Pacific region, gathered at the 10th Regional Women Parliamentarians and Ministers Conference on Progressing SRHR and Gender Equality into Beijing+20 in Manila, Philippines on September 6-7, 2014 hereby adopt this Statement of Commitment.

Preamble:

1. **Reaffirming** commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome document of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly, including the 12 critical areas of concern, which are: women and poverty, education and training of women, women and health, violence against women, women and armed conflict, women and the economy, women in power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, human rights of women, women and the media, women and the environment and the girl child;
2. **Recognizing** the previous nine regional Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conferences as significant platforms of capacity building and strengthening of collaboration among women parliamentarians in the region;
3. **Recognizing** that despite milestones achieved on women and girls' empowerment, numerous critical issues remain; adequate health services including access to sexual and reproductive health and mental health services and suicide prevention, poverty, inequitable access and opportunities to education, all forms of violence, child and forced marriage, gender biased sex selection, honour killings, trafficking of women and girls, female genital cutting, child pornography proliferation, women headed households and their children and comprehensive sexuality education;
4. **Acknowledging** the unpaid labour and caring by women and girls in their households and communities and call for governments to measure and include the value of this contribution in national productivity and economic planning; we advocate for more equitable attitudes and behaviours towards the division of labour.
5. **Recognising** the high and increasing incidence of teenage pregnancies and their harmful impact including intergeneration consequences. We call on Governments to

mandate effective compulsory, age appropriate sexuality education and free and informed access to contraceptive commodities;

6. **Reiterating** the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, upholding the principle of equal rights of men and women; and the commitments made at the World Conferences on Women, held in Mexico in 1975, Copenhagen in 1980, Nairobi in 1985 and Beijing in 1995, to advance women and girls empowerment and gender equality;

7. **Reaffirming** the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action adopted in Cairo in 1994, to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and men, boys and girls;

8. **Recognizing** that the implementation of the Platform of Action requires strengthening and reforming institutions, increasing financing, enhancing accountability, ensuring appropriate legislation is in place with outcomes measurement supported by valid disaggregated data, forging stronger partnerships with civil society and the media and strengthening regional cooperation;

9. **Reiterating** the Bali Declaration by Parliamentarians and Civil Society on the MDG Acceleration and the Post 2015 Development Agenda adopted in March 2013, emphasizing human rights for all, democracy and good governance, equality and non-discrimination, sustainable development, and a system-wide approach through quality public service delivery;

10. **Celebrating** the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (APPC) Ministerial Declaration adopted in Bangkok in September 2013, and the leading role of the advocacy of parliamentarians in achieving a most significant rights-based document, we note the need to further assert sexual and reproductive health and rights as basic human rights without discrimination;

11. **Reiterating** the Sixth International Parliamentarians Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (IPCI/ICPD) Stockholm Declaration and IPCI Declaration on Human Rights adopted by parliamentarians from all regions of the world in April 2014, we commit to address the rights and inequities of migrants, refugees, people with disabilities, child brides, adolescents and other marginalised communities;

12. **Recognizing** the resolutions and decisions of the 47th Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) and reiterating the strong national and regional statements from combined nation groupings in the Pacific and Asia, we commit to monitor and progress commitments made by our Governments at the APPC, CPD and the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 into the era beyond 2015;

13. **Asserting** that our sub-regional inter-governmental bodies: the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and the Turk Parliamentary Association have a critical role to strengthen accountability of member States to mainstream gender equality and SRHR priorities and enable parliamentarians to play a strong advocacy and monitoring role on policy and legal reform and implementation;

We Speakers, Minister, and parliamentarians,

14. Assert that human rights in every aspect of development are intrinsically linked as outlined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and other human rights instruments. We call for all aspects of sexual and reproductive health and rights being recognised as parts of other rights in the civil, political, economic, social and cultural realms. Prevention of discrimination and all forms of violence against women and girls in both public and private domains must continue to be at the centre of this transformative approach to development and gender justice;

15. Commit to increase awareness of gender equality and rights of women and girls among policymakers and civil service officials in all government institutions and the media in order to strengthen capacity and political will to address in a coordinated and cross-sectoral manner the root causes of gender inequality: poverty and social exclusion of marginalized groups including indigenous communities, inequality and harmful cultural practices, and the specific needs and interests of women and girls, inclusive of the elimination of all forms of discrimination;

16. Advocate for increased voice and participation of women in governance through effective and equitable quota allocations for parliamentary and local government seats for women;

17. Will eliminate inequality and protect the rights of the girl child by ending child marriage and the implementation of national laws adheres to international legal and human rights frameworks including the establishment and best practice maintenance of civil registration systems for births, marriages, divorces and deaths;

18. Shall ensure healthy and safer lives and promote well-being for all at all ages by addressing the gender inequality for women and girls and for other sexual minorities including women and girls living with HIV/AIDS;

19. Acknowledge the economic and social costs of not achieving gender equality and social inclusion, particularly when considering the unequal impact on women and girls of violence, gambling, drugs, alcohol abuse including permanent damage to the new born and the growth in Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs);

20. Advocate for action to address the heightened vulnerability of women and girls exposed to growing wars, conflicts and humanitarian emergencies including natural disasters and climate change;

21. Act to strengthen national statistical offices and systems to produce, analyse and disseminate reliable and comparable gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex, age, and other relevant categories, in a timely manner, through increased financial and technical investment; Build the capacity of policymakers to interpret and use available data to inform policy, programming and planning decisions and to monitor, measure and report progress in the implementation of the Platform for Action;

22. Shall ensure that women and men parliamentarians are informed and equally engaged in the regional and global partnership for sustainable development and that effective partnerships with civil society and the media, including youth and faith-based organisations as well as partnering with men and boys to transform negative and inequitable gender stereotypes and prevention of violence against women and girls.

Forging ahead together in the spirit of women and girls human rights, gender equality and empowerment along a sustainable, effective partnership dialogue, we assert that this process must strengthen the way forward and reinforce the commitment made in March 2014 at the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) for a stand-alone goal on gender equality and gender mainstreaming across all the sustainable development goals and a solid commitment within a human rights framework.

Adopted in Manila, Philippines on 7 September 2014 by 41 parliamentarians from:

**Afghanistan
Australia
Bangladesh
Bhutan
Cambodia
Cook Islands
India**

**Indonesia
Iran
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Lao PDR
Malaysia
Maldives**

**Nepal
Pakistan
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Tonga
Tajikistan
Vietnam**