



**THE 46TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
16-22 September 2025
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

*Parliament at the Forefront for Inclusive Growth and
Sustainable ASEAN*

(Res.46GA/2025/WAIPA/03)

**RESOLUTION ON

ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY BY PROMOTING DIGITAL SKILLS
FOR WOMEN**

***Sponsored by Lao PDR
Co-Sponsored by Cambodia***

The Forty-sixth General Assembly:

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

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

Recalling the [ASEAN Declaration on the Gender-Responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals](#), which underscores the importance of integrating gender perspectives into ASEAN's efforts to achieve a cohesive, integrated, and responsible community;

Further Recalling AIPA Resolution No. [Res.40GA/2019/WAIPA/02](#) on Bridging the Gender Gap in Technology-Based Disciplines; [Res.42GA/2021/WAIPA/01](#) on Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment in the Future of Work and Post Pandemic Recovery Through Digital and Financial Inclusion; and [Res.44GA/2023/WAIPA/03](#) on Digital Transformation Led by Women and for Women;

Recognising the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women held at the United Nations Headquarters on March 6-17, 2023 with priority theme “Innovation and Technological Change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls” that recognised and commended the contributions of women and girls in innovation, technology and digital education;

Recognising that digital transformation and technological innovation enhance women’s access to education, employment, entrepreneurship, and political participation, enabling them to exercise their rights, representation, and leadership roles, while fostering inclusive parliaments, gender-responsive decision-making, and regional cooperation for gender-sensitive policymaking;

Reaffirming the [ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025](#) and the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA), which aim to build a secure, sustainable, and inclusive digital ecosystem, and recognising that advancing women’s digital skills is fundamental to realising these regional priorities and [ASEAN Community Vision 2045](#);

Acknowledging that AIPA Member Parliaments implement the WAIPA [Plan of Action](#) and [Implementation Framework](#) on Promoting Women’s Political Participation and Leadership (WPPL) 2024-2030 as advocacy tools, together with encouraging initiatives to strengthen women leaders’ digital knowledge and skills for creating greater leadership opportunities;

Further acknowledging that the increased representation of women in parliament contributes to more inclusive and participatory decision-making processes by integrating diverse perspectives into legislative frameworks; enhances the effectiveness of parliamentary oversight through gender-sensitive policy evaluation; and promotes the equitable and gender-responsive allocation of budgets and resources; and

Noting the persistent digital divide, limited financial support, and the underrepresentation of women in the tech sectors, which further exacerbate unequal access to health, education, basic utilities and amenities, especially between the urban and rural and the rich and the poor.

Hereby resolves to:

Call on AIPA Member Parliaments to enact and update legislation that supports digital development and innovation hubs, particularly those that provide training opportunities for women and girls, and urge governments to ensure women’s active participation and empowerment, including through public-private partnerships, recognising that closing the gender digital divide is essential to unlocking ASEAN’s full digital economy potential;

Urge AIPA Member Parliaments to oversee adequate allocation in national budgets for comprehensive digital skills training programmes for women and girls, focusing on emerging technologies, where capacity allows such as AI, data science, and cybersecurity, and to take measures to expand access to digital education, resources, infrastructure, and devices, while integrating gender-sensitive digital education into national curricula, training programmes, and lifelong learning opportunities;

Encourage ASEAN Member States to advocate for strategies and action plans to enhance women's digital knowledge and skills and ensure their meaningful, safe, and productive participation in the digital economy and society, including access to public digital services;

Call upon AIPA Member Parliaments to oversee concrete and targeted measures to enhance the capacity and professional skills of women, create opportunities for career advancement, increase women's participation in the digital technology workforce and leadership;

Encourage AIPA Member Parliaments to support the development of women digital talent, promote gender balance through leadership support, and formulate strategies to promote women's leadership in the technology industry, while also ensuring safe digital spaces by addressing online gender-based violence, cybersecurity threats, and promoting women-led digital innovation and entrepreneurship, thereby creating a more inclusive technology sector;

Call on AIPA Member Parliaments to promote initiatives that enhance digital knowledge and skills for women parliamentarians at national and local levels through targeted digital training programmes, multi-stakeholder collaboration, and knowledge-sharing platforms thereby strengthening women's leadership capacity and bridging the digital knowledge and skills gap;

Call on AIPA Member Parliaments to promote cooperation among international organisations, development partners, public and the private sector to ensure equitable and inclusive access to the digital system through projects enhancing digital literacy and skills among women, particularly in remote and underserved communities, including women with disabilities, indigenous women, and migrant workers, thereby ensuring accessibility and inclusivity to digital opportunities;

Highlight the pivotal role of AIPA Member Parliaments in monitoring and evaluating projects that promote women's digital literacy, and sharing of best practices to bridge the digital divide and foster women's participation in technology development; and

Stress the importance of collaboration across AIPA Member Parliaments, ASEAN Member States, AIPA Secretariat and all stakeholders to facilitate coordination, share

best practices and experiences, and co-organise activities related to gender equality and digital development;

Adopted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the Twentieth Day of September, in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.



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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Original Version

In the contemporary era, digital technologies are being increasingly integrated across key sectors, including industry, services, agriculture, education, and public health. These advancements have contributed significantly to employment generation, income enhancement, and the overall improvement of living standards. Accordingly, digital literacy and competencies are now regarded as fundamental prerequisites for effective participation in political, economic, and social spheres. Despite the transformative impact of digitalization on human development, a pronounced gender digital divide persists, particularly in terms of access to digital skills and tools. This disparity contributes to unequal development outcomes between women and men. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), women and girls continue to face significantly lower levels of access to digital technologies and digital training opportunities compared to their male counterparts (UNESCO, 2023). Moreover, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) has reported that, within the ASEAN region, women's access to the internet is approximately 17% lower than that of men (UN Women, 2022). These figures underscore the ongoing structural barriers to enhancing digital capacity among women, and highlight the urgent need to bridge the gender digital divide as a key component of achieving gender equality.

In many developing countries, including the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the role and opportunities of women to participate in the digital society remain limited due to various structural and industrial factors. These include inadequate information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure, insufficient budgetary resources, and a lack of foundational digital skills. Furthermore, cultural norms continue to influence and constrain women's access to digital technologies. Therefore, strengthening digital competencies among women is a critical strategy to safeguard and advance digital rights, and to promote greater gender equality within society.

Recalling the Resolution of the 44th AIPA General Assembly on *Digital Transformation Led by Women and For Women*, and the Resolution of the 45th AIPA General Assembly on *Fostering Gender-Responsive Parliaments for a Resilient, Connected,*

and Inclusive ASEAN Community, which has been adopted the Action Plan and Implementation Framework of the WAIPA Strategic Plan on Women's Political Participation and Leadership (WPPL) 2024–2030 as a guiding instrument to strengthen the empowerment and leadership of women; Further acknowledging that these resolutions have encouraged AIPA Member Parliaments to support initiatives aimed at enhancing women's digital literacy and skills development, thereby increasing their access to leadership opportunities across various sectors and advancing gender-inclusive governance throughout the ASEAN region.

This resolution serves as an essential instrument in closing the gender digital divide. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has indicated that addressing gender disparities in digital access can increase a country's GDP by more than 1 to 2% annually (ITU, 2021). This demonstrates that the development of digital skills is not only a catalyst for economic growth, but also a means to enhance women's capacity for political participation, decision-making, and community development. Ensuring equal access to digital technologies contributes to sustainability and promotes inclusive development for all.

This resolution represents a critical step toward unlocking the potential and expanding the opportunities of women to participate equally in the digital society. The cooperation among AIPA Member Parliaments plays a pivotal role in advancing inclusive and sustainable economic and social development across the region.