



**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/01)

**RESOLUTION ON

CHAMPIONING COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS ON WOMEN'S
POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP IN ASEAN**

***Sponsored by Malaysia
Co-Sponsored by Cambodia***

The Forty-sixth General Assembly:

Emphasising the importance of collaborative efforts in fostering a supportive environment for women's engagement in political and leadership roles, and guided by the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women \(CEDAW\)](#), specifically Articles 7 and 8, which urge States Parties to eliminate discrimination against women in political and public life and ensure women's equal opportunity to represent their governments;

Acknowledging the need to empower women's participation and representation at all levels of decision-making process, as stated in the United Nations Resolution No. [A/RES/66/130](#) on Women and Political Participation (2011) and [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#) (1995), which recognise the critical importance of women's equal participation in decision-making as a requirement for sustainable development, peace, and democracy;

Reaffirming the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), especially Goal 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, and Target 5.5, which calls for ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities in leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life;

Reiterating the [ASEAN Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region](#) (1988), [Declaration on the Gender-Responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 Sustainable Development Goals](#) (2017), [ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework 2021-2025](#), [ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on](#)

[Women, Peace and Security](#) (2022), and the [ASEAN Declaration on Gender Equality and Family Development](#) (2023), which identify women's participation and leadership as key priorities for regional cooperation;

Recalling the AIPA Resolutions No. [Res.44GA/2023/WAIPA/02](#) on Enhancing ASEAN Resilience Through Women Leadership and Gender-Responsive Parliaments; and [Res.45GA/2024/WAIPA/01](#) on Fostering Gender-Responsive Parliaments for a Resilient, Connected, and Inclusive ASEAN Community, which endorsed the [WAIPA Plan of Action](#) and the [Implementation Framework](#) on Women's Political Participation and Leadership as a key advocacy tool for AIPA Member Parliaments to execute strategic collaborative initiatives at both regional and national levels;

Stressing the critical role of WAIPA in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment and outcome of the Special Dialogue Session on Championing Collaborative Efforts on Women's Political Participation and Leadership, held as sideline event of the 4th WAIPA Coordinating Committee Meeting in Malaysia from 21–24 April 2025;

Acknowledging the important role of parliaments in advancing gender-responsive policies and legal frameworks to empower women's political participation and the need to foster inclusive environments where women from diverse backgrounds, including young women, women with disabilities, and women in vulnerable situations can engage meaningfully in politics;

Underlining that despite the progress made, women in ASEAN remain under-represented in political leadership and decision-making positions, particularly in national parliaments, local governments, political parties, non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) and executive roles; and

Mindful of the need for comprehensive measures to advance inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making and leadership of women and girls at all levels, including dismantling systemic barriers and reforming political party practices to secure women's representation across all decision-making levels.

Hereby resolves to:

Urge AIPA Member Parliaments to take decisive and coordinated action to advance women's full and equal participation in politics and leadership by intensifying the implementation of CEDAW, Beijing Platform for Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDGs 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, and align these efforts with the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, that aims to realising a community where women are empowered to participate fully and effectively in ASEAN

Community-building and realise their full potential in its decision-making processes to ensure women's leadership is embedded in ASEAN's long-term development trajectory;

Call upon AIPA Member Parliaments to consider accelerating intergenerational collaborative initiatives across ASEAN through sharing best practices, policy dialogues, technical cooperation, and research to inform and support national efforts including reviewing the policies and regulations to promote women candidates in advancing women's political representation;

Encourage AIPA Member Parliaments to advocate and support measures for the participation of women from diverse backgrounds, including young women, women with disabilities, rural, indigenous and women from ethnic minority backgrounds, women in vulnerable situations, and other marginalised groups, across all decision-making levels and in critical sectors such as the economy, technology, climate action, and governance. This should also ensure women's leadership in emerging areas, including digital transformation and climate governance, and amplify their voices in policy formulation;

Reiterate the need to empower women's political and leadership participation in ASEAN to align with the WAIPA Plan of Action and Implementation Framework on Women's Political and Leadership Participation across AIPA Member Parliaments;

Urge political parties to remove systemic barriers that discriminate women's equal and full participation in politics and transform the parliamentary cultures, practices, and institutional structures towards establishing gender-responsive parliaments where women's leadership is actively championed and celebrated;

Call upon AIPA Member Parliaments to support, develop or strengthen legal and parliamentary measures to prevent, investigate, and sanction against gender-based harassment including online harms and abuse directed at all persons in public life and to establish or support services and accessible reporting channels for all political candidates and parliamentarians, especially for women;

Urge AIPA Member Parliaments to adopt and strengthen family-friendly workplace policies and initiatives such as childcare support, lactation rooms, parental leave for parliamentarians and staff, and flexible sitting schedules to remove obstacles to sustain women's engagement in a political/parliamentary career;

Urge AIPA Member Parliaments to support investing in civic education, leadership training, and mentorship programmes within families, communities, schools and higher education aimed at building the capacity and confidence of women and girls to participate in political life, especially at the grassroots and community level;

Strongly encourage the integration of gender-responsive budgeting, and gender perspectives across all stages of policy and legislative processes, and promote the collection of sex-disaggregated data on political participation to guide policy development and monitor progress and emphasise the need for increased public communication to transform societal attitudes toward sustained gender equality;

Affirm the need to engage men and boys as allies in transforming political institutions and cultures to be more gender-equitable, through awareness-raising and educational programmes that encourage their active role in promoting gender equality and to conduct gender impact assessments, where feasible, for all proposed laws and budgets to minimise gender political leadership gaps; and

Approve the [Report of the 4th Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of WAIPA](#).

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

The resolution aims to affirm the critical importance of inclusive and gender-equitable governance by championing collaborative efforts across ASEAN to promote women's political participation and leadership. While ASEAN Member States have made progress in advancing women's rights, the representation of women in political institutions remains uneven and often low, especially in executive positions, legislatures, and local government bodies.

According to data from UN Women and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), as of early 2024, the global average of women in national parliaments stands at approximately 26.5%, while the average in ASEAN countries lags behind¹. For instance, women's representation in national parliaments in some ASEAN countries remains below 20%, with persistent under-representation at both the local and ministerial levels². These disparities highlight the urgency to remove institutional, cultural, and socioeconomic barriers that impede women's full engagement in political life.

Structural constraints such as gender-biased laws, male-dominated political parties, lack of financial resources, and political violence deter many women from running for office or participating in decision-making. In addition, women from marginalised backgrounds, such as rural areas, minority communities, and those with disabilities, face compounded obstacles to representation. Without deliberate and collaborative action, women's voices will continue to be excluded from critical decision-making processes that affect their lives and communities.

This resolution recognises the pivotal role AIPA Member Parliaments play in fostering political environments that are inclusive, democratic, and representative. Legal reform,

¹ Women in parliament 2023

<https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2024-03/women-in-parliament-2023>

² ASEAN Gender Outlook Achieving the SDGs for all and leaving no woman or girl behind 2024

https://data.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/documents/Publications/2024/ASEAN-gender-outlook_2024.pdf

inclusive electoral policies, mentorship, and regional cooperation are essential components in dismantling barriers and cultivating women leaders.

Strengthening women's leadership not only upholds human rights and gender equality but also improves governance outcomes, enhances peace and conflict resolution processes, and ensures that laws and policies reflect the diverse needs of society. By investing in women's political empowerment, ASEAN stands to gain more resilient institutions, participatory democracies, and sustainable development.

This resolution complements ASEAN's broader commitments under the [ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework 2021-2025](#), the [ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security](#), and the Sustainable Development Goals. It urges Member Parliaments to take bold, coordinated action to elevate women's voices and leadership at all levels of governance.