



ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ORGANIZATION
27TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
10 - 15 SEPTEMBER 2006 ▲ CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES

RESOLUTION

ON

**THE ROLE OF WOMEN POLITICAL LEADERS
IN THE GLOBALIZED ERA**

The Twenty-Seventh General Assembly of AIPO:

Cognizant that a globalized era presents humankind with both unprecedented development opportunities and unique challenges as cooperation and linkages have been expanded at various layers, domains and magnitudes;

Aware that while globalization has spawned increased market access, rising income, greater access to information and heightened movement of people, it has also rendered economies vulnerable to financial crises which bear high human costs such as bankruptcies, increase in poverty, rising unemployment, reduced schooling, reduced public services, and increased social stress and human insecurity;

Emphasizing that managing globalization to ensure a more equitable and sustainable path to national and regional development is the task of the policy makers, particularly women political leaders, since women are the most affected and marginalized when the gains of globalization are not equally distributed;

Recognizing that gender parity in political participation is a commitment made by governments through article 2 to 4 of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, which call on state parties to actively pursue the elimination of discrimination in women's political participation through legal and temporary special measures and affirmative action;

Noting that according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in 2002, women account for only 15.2 percent of members of parliament in Asia and 13.6 percent in Southeast Asia for both single or lower house and upper house;

Taking note of the recommended strategies by the IPU to enhance women's representation and participation in politics, among them increasing the participation of women in political parties and the introduction of gender quotas for political parties and elective and appointive political positions;

Convinced that women political leaders play an increasingly important role in building and maintaining peace and social harmony, sustaining economic development and preserving national cultural identities and family values;

Knowing that women's wide-ranging participation and increasing influence are important factors in bringing about an alternative standpoint, approach and vision to ensure that the downside of globalization is minimized, its benefits maximized, and the search continued for alternative models of globalization;

Reiterating the need to set-up a Study Committee to identify a pilot project aimed at promoting women's participation in political leadership, especially in legislative bodies for region-wide action by AIPO member countries, as initially suggested during the 24th AIPO General Assembly;

Acknowledging the invaluable contribution and continuing efforts shown by women political leaders in creating a society that is peaceful, healthy and conducive to dynamic development;

Resolves to:

Encourage all ASEAN and AIPO member countries to put human concerns and rights at the center of national and international policy and action so as to build a more coherent and democratic architecture for global integration and cooperation;

Urge all ASEAN and AIPO member countries to mobilize partnerships among countries for a better understanding of globalization and to help civil society and government determine the key concerns and priorities to be addressed;

Call upon all ASEAN and AIPO member countries to take concrete steps to actively promote women's rights and increase the participation of women parliamentarians to address the impact of globalization on women;

Urge further all AIPO member countries to facilitate and implement the creation of a Study Committee to ensure women's equal access to and full participation in government structures.

Adopted this 14th day of September, 2006, in Cebu City, Philippines.