

## **Parliamentarians for Global Action**

### **32nd Annual Forum: Women's Empowerment: Building Human Security**

#### **FINAL DECLARATION**

*We, Parliamentarians participating in Parliamentarians for Global Action's (PGA) 32nd Annual Forum:*

- Acknowledging the important role played by women in the development of society across the globe;
- Regretting, however, that the full potential of this role has not been realized;
- Acknowledging that the empowerment of women is an integral part of sustainable international, regional and national security for, and in the interest of, every woman, man and child in the world today and for future generations;
- Understanding that the aspects of women's empowerment as defined by human security - the security of survival, dignity and livelihood - are all interlinked and mutually enhancing;
- Recognizing that confronting these issues and securing an effective local, national and international response will require strong political leadership and will and recognizing also that conflict, civil strife and political instability have a negative effect on gender equality and a consequential negative impact on economic and societal development;
- Cognizant that women's socio-economic empowerment plays an essential role in all nations' economic productivity and development;
- Taking into account that gender equity in control over resources and property rights is not only paramount to realizing empowerment for women, but also for the well being of all members of society;
- Affirming our commitment to major international conventions and political pacts related to the advancement of women such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
- Regretting that, to date, many States have yet to drop their reservations to CEDAW and/or to align their national legislation to adhere to the convention, and to the other key international conventions that seek to promote women's rights;
- Recognizing that in conjunction with international conventions, countries and societies must forge ahead with aligning national priorities to facilitate improved gender equity;

***Now, we, Parliamentarians therefore agree to work within our respective Parliaments, Parliamentary Committees, and other regional and international fora in which we participate, to:***

1. Seek greater numbers of ratification of, accession to and implementation of the major international rights-based frameworks related to women, including CEDAW, the BPfA and the relevant provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
2. Strongly encourage fellow parliamentarians to actively promote all legal measures to achieve women's socio-economic empowerment, particularly in the areas of labor laws, personal status, protection and family law, including property rights as well as measures aimed at eliminating violence against women.
3. Incorporate gender mainstreaming into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies and national budgets.
4. Cooperate and exchange best practices in gender mainstreaming at all levels.
5. Encourage governments to bring into public sector those schools that may be vulnerable or subject to possible extremism or militancy tendencies so that they may be more effectively supervised and as a means to ensure greater peace and inter-faith harmony.
6. Incorporate urgently the MDGs as related to women into national plans of action.
7. Facilitate the extension of sexual and reproductive health and family planning services, as well as education and legal services to women in all areas.
8. Advocate vigorously for UN Women to receive the resources it needs to be effective and credible.
9. Increase public awareness of legislation related to women's rights.
10. Strengthen information sharing and outreach to people in all communities as to the importance of women's empowerment for human security.
11. Support the development and expansion of policies for capacity building support for judicial and security personnel to implement existing legislation aimed at achieving complete gender equality.
12. Establish and/or strengthen the means by which to disaggregate data by sex and gender statistics to more effectively monitor progress towards gender equity.
13. Promote a social ethic based upon gender equality.

**Done in Istanbul, this 24th day of October, 2010**