



**The 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing  
(Baku, Azerbaijan, 7 September 2019)**



ICAPP/6WW/003

**Baku Statement for the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing**

1. We, the women representatives of 19 countries, following our five meetings in Baku (2013 and 2015), Colombo (2014), Kuala Lumpur (2016) and Moscow (2018), gathered in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, for the Sixth Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing. The Meeting was hosted by the New (Yeni) Azerbaijan Party on 5-8 September 2019, to discuss political issues pertaining to women's issues with a focus on the main theme of "Women's Empowerment."
2. We recalled the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) which was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948, and other human rights instruments which enshrine the obligation of the States to promote and protect fundamental human rights and prevent any form of discrimination against women and girls. We welcomed the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" by the United Nations, and noted with satisfaction that that this agenda addresses the great need to achieve gender equality and empower women and girls, ensuring no one is left behind, with an emphasis on systematic implementation and actually putting this into practice.
3. We recalled the important outcomes achieved through the previous five meetings of the Women's Wing and the Moscow Statement adopted at the 5th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing in 2018, which reaffirmed the importance of promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in achieving sustainable and inclusive societies with equitable economic growth and development. We also urged members, in accordance with the statements adopted by the ICAPP and other international organizations, such as the United Nations, to continue their efforts to enhance and protect the rights of women and girls and to further empower them at the national, regional and global levels to facilitate greater strides forward towards engagement in decision-making processes.
4. We emphasized the considerable importance of creating an enabling environment, ensuring that addressing the concerns and meeting the needs of women and girls is an integral part of the fabric of society, with women playing an inherent part. To this end, we stressed the vital importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women. We noted the key importance of enhanced cooperation and incorporating a gender perspective into the workings of society. Another vital element is women's full and equal participation in the development of, implementation of and follow-up to macroeconomic policies, including development policies and programs and poverty eradication strategies, such as poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist, aimed at implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
5. We urged members to sincerely pursue the political and socioeconomic empowerment of women and support their full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels,



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- including through affirmative action, where appropriate. Valuable elements in this regard include promoting and protecting the right to vote and to be elected and the right to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association. In this regard, we welcomed designing and implementing national policies and legal frameworks that promote and protect the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls, and fostering an environment in which violations or abuses of their rights are not tolerated.
6. We called upon members to integrate a gender perspective into the design, implementation and evaluation of and follow-up to development policies, plans and programs, including budget policies, where lacking, ensuring coordination between line ministries, gender policymakers, machineries for gender equality and other relevant government organizations and institutions with gender expertise, and according greater attention to the needs of women and girls to ensure that they benefit from policies. In this regard, we encouraged members to promote consultations with and the participation of women and, as appropriate, girls, including those who are indigenous, those with disabilities and older women, through their organizations and networks, in the design and development of programs.
  7. We encouraged full engagement of men and boys, including community leaders, as strategic partners and allies to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against them. We urged members to take appropriate measures to raise awareness among women and girls of the risks of trafficking in persons. We emphasized the importance of fostering understanding of the factors that make rural women and girls vulnerable to trafficking, and discouraging, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation and forced labour.
  8. We stressed the importance of taking steps to build the capacities and skills of women and their enterprises and cooperatives. We fully recognized the need to take steps to shape or develop and implement procurement policies and measures which enable women and their enterprises and cooperatives to benefit from public and private sector procurement processes. We also invited members to consider the adoption, where appropriate, of national legislation to protect the knowledge, measures for innovation and practices of women in indigenous and local communities relating to traditional medicine, biodiversity and indigenous technologies.
  9. We welcomed endeavours to devise, revise and implement laws to ensure that women are accorded full and equal rights to own and lease land and other property. This should encompass equal rights to economic and productive resources, access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services. We further urged members to take appropriate measures to adopt or develop legislation and policies that provide women with access to land and support women's cooperatives and agricultural programs.
  10. We encouraged member countries to take into full consideration the concluding



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observations and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights concerning their reports to those Committees when formulating policies and designing programs focused on the improvement of the situation of rural women, including those developed and implemented in cooperation with relevant international organizations.

We invited Governments of member countries to promote the economic empowerment of women, including through entrepreneurship training, and to adopt gender-responsive and climate-sensitive rural development strategies and agricultural production, including budget frameworks and relevant assessment measures, as well as to ensure that the needs and priorities of rural women and girls are systematically addressed and that they can effectively contribute to poverty alleviation, hunger eradication and food security and nutrition.

11. We underlined the importance of international cooperation for the conduct of concrete research to collect credible data on women's issues as an important instrument for the formulation and implementation of policies that serve to promote the participation of women and girls in socio-economic activities. We also reiterated the role of Governments and the members in eradicating poverty, hunger, and malnutrition, which have a serious impact on children and women, in particular. Recalling the importance of quality healthcare for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we called for special attention in the health, education, and information technology sectors for the promotion of sustained economic growth.
12. We agreed that increased cooperation among UN agencies, civil groups, relevant stakeholders, as well as policymakers is necessary, indeed vital, in addressing challenges hindering women's empowerment. In this regard, we encouraged close cooperation among members, with a view to fulfilling the pledge of the 2030 Agenda of leaving no one behind.
13. We expressed our profound gratitude to the New (Yeni) Azerbaijan Party and people of the Republic of Azerbaijan, for their excellent arrangements to ensure the resounding success of the 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing. Our special thanks went to Hon. Ali Ahmadov, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Deputy Chairman of New Azerbaijan Party and Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan, for his full support for this historic gathering. We also reaffirmed our deep appreciation for the ICAPP Secretariat's invaluable role and excellent preparations in organizing the meeting. We also reaffirm our deep appreciation for the steadfast support of the ICAPP Standing Committee led by Hon. Jose de Venecia, ICAPP Founding Chairman and Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, and the invaluable role and excellent preparations of the ICAPP Secretariat led by Secretary General Park Ro-byug, in organizing the meeting. We reiterated the importance of continuing to deepen the bonds of cooperation among women representatives.

Adopted unanimously on this 7th day of September 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan