



38TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

14-20 September 2017
Makati Shangri-La, Manila, Philippines

"AIPA and ASEAN: Partnering for Inclusive Change"



RES.38GA/2017/WAIPA/01

RESOLUTION
ON
PROMOTING THE HEALTH OF WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS

The Thirty-Eighth AIPA General Assembly:

Aware that the migration of women workers from Southeast Asia (voluntary or forced), either across an international border or within a state or the ASEAN region, is increasing due to political and economic reasons;

Reaffirming that women migrant workers are vested with the right to health including access to affordable, quality and cost-effective health services;

Recognizing that women migrant workers face various challenges such as increased vulnerability to health risks and exposure to potential hazards at all stages of migration whether before departure, while in transit, at their place of work, or upon return from overseas employment;

Noting with particular concern that despite national legislation on health protection, migrant workers have fallen victim to excessive out-of-pocket charges for health services which have regrettably caused women migrant workers and their families left behind undue hardship;

Recalling the importance of ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and the Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the gender equality agenda as stated in Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in

the ASEAN region and other relevant international instruments to which ASEAN member states are parties;

Recognizing that the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW), the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 97 on Migration for Employment, ILO Convention 143 on Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provision), established a broad legal framework for the protection of migrant workers including women migrant workers;

Recalling that the Sixty-first World Health Assembly held on 19-24 May 2008 in Geneva, Switzerland, in its Resolution on Health of Migrants, highlighted the promotion of migrant-sensitive health policies and the promotion of equitable access to disease prevention and health care for migrant workers, among others;

Recalling further that the AIPA member parliaments are signatories to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which include Goal 5 on the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and Goal 3 on ensuring healthy lives and the promotion of well-being for all at all ages that entails, among others, a target to achieve universal health coverage in 2030, including "financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable medicines and vaccines for all;"

Recognizing that the health rights of women migrant workers need to be addressed in the ongoing discussions on universal health coverage reforms amidst international accession of the need to define universal health care coverage beyond the basis of citizenship, religion, political affiliation and other diversities;

Acknowledging that not all ASEAN member states have integrated and prioritized women migrant workers in their compulsory health care coverage policies.

Resolves to:

Establish the AIPA/ Women Parliamentarians of AIPA (WAIPA) Committee on Women Migrant Workers to address health issues of women migrant workers and prioritize the formulation of a Plan of Action.;

Urge AIPA member countries and their parliaments to further improve their health care financing policies in order to provide women migrant workers with access to health care services regardless of their financial capability;

Urge AIPA member parliaments to be mindful of the plight not only of women migrant workers but of all migrant workers and be signatories to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families; and

Call upon all AIPA member countries and their parliaments to develop effective policy options, strategies, and measures for improving health outcomes to achieve the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 target of universal health coverage for all, regardless of age, gender, race, religion, disability, class ethnicity, nationality, migration and social status or political affiliation.

Adopted on the 19th day of September 2017 in Manila, Philippines.