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Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments

CONTRIBUTION

by

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to the debate on

“Gender inequality in parliaments – what are the solutions?”

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- *Your Excellency Najib El Khadi, President of ASGP,*
- *Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen*

First of all, I appreciate that ASGP has chosen Gender Equality in Parliaments to discuss at this Meeting. Gender equality is of great significance, as it is one of the striving goals of countries around the world towards the promotion of a progressive, equal and sustainable society, and is a top concern at regional and international parliamentary fora. In the process of policy-making, parliaments need to promote their role in addressing inequality, and at the same time, they must really become legislative bodies that respect and represent gender equality.

Secondly, in Viet Nam, promoting gender equality and women's rights is a consistent policy of our Party and State, and it is enshrined in the Constitution and guaranteed in practice. The National Assembly of Viet Nam has passed many legal documents (such as the Constitution, the Law on Gender Equality, the Law on Elections of National Assembly Deputies and People's Council deputies, etc.) to protect and promote women's empowerment and encourage women's participation in economic - political - social affairs. During the review and adoption of laws, it is necessary to put in place a gender impact assessment for each policy.

In addition, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly of Viet Nam has given instructions to strengthen training, capacity building for female candidates participating in election campaigns as well as female National Assembly deputies once they are elected; strengthen communication and raise awareness for voters and people about the role of women participating in the National Assembly.

As a result, our National Assembly has recorded many progressive outcomes on gender equality, such as:

- The proportion of female deputies in the National Assembly has increased gradually through each term: the 13th term (2011-2016) 24.2%, the 14th term (2016-2021) 27.31%, the 15th term (2021-2026) 30.26% respectively. According to IPU's Global Data on National Parliaments by February 2023, Viet Nam ranks 64th in terms of the percentage of female parliamentarians.

- The XIV 14th National Assembly entered in the history of Viet Nam's National Assembly as for the first time the President of the National Assembly was a woman.

- The 15th National Assembly currently has 151 female deputies; The Standing Committee of the National Assembly has 03 female members; The Ethnic Minority

Council and 9 Committees have 18 female leaders, accounting for 40% of the total number of their leaders.

- The Female Parliamentarians' Group of our National Assembly was established during the 12th Legislature, in the span of 3 terms, it has become a forum for female deputies to share experiences on operational skills and support for deputies to perform more effectively their representative role.

Thirdly, with a view to further advancing gender equality, I would like to put forward following recommendations:

1. ASGP should compile a report summarizing experiences, recommendations to be sent to IPU to adopt a resolution, report or Declaration on gender equality in Parliaments. On that basis, commitments can be turned into specific actions.
2. It is necessary to promote inter-parliamentary cooperation and cooperation among member parliaments, UN organizations and international forums on women to better ensure women's rights. Countries that have made progress in gender equality should share their experiences with others.
3. IPU needs to strengthen training and capacity enhancement for key female parliamentarians in parliamentary performance; on capacity to incorporate international commitments on gender equality into domestic laws; on how to approach the law through the lens of gender; on skills to analyze data on gender equality during law-making process... On that basis, these female parliamentarians will become the core group to perform training and retraining for other female parliamentarians.

We wish all the delegates good health and the Meeting a great success.

Thank you very much for your attention./.