

Resolution from the 3rd APGF Congress in NZ

Number: 15 (FINAL)

Short title	Effective and substantive transparency and impact assessment measures for all trade negotiations
Proposed Resolution Text (about 3 points)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The APGF expresses its deep concern at the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, which has the potential to undermine the rights of citizens by putting at risk human rights, public health, the environment, climate, internet freedom, privacy, labour rights, food labelling and more. 2. Rejects any deal that would give multinational companies the rights to sue governments using dangerous Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) clauses. 3. Urges all TPP participating governments to make all TPP negotiation documents, agreed or under discussion, fully public. 4. Urge all TPP participating governments to reject any deal unless there is a thorough evaluation of the TPP's impact on all aspects of society, including, but not limited to, economic, environmental, social and cultural. 5. Calls for all Asia Pacific governments to establish a credible, accountable and codified assessment mechanism on all impacts of current and future trade agreements and to make any such assessment mechanism publicly available.
Proposed by (person and country)	Taiwan
Contact details (Email, phone)	ychenae@gmail.com / +886-935838211
Also Endorsed by (optional)	Japan, New Zealand, Australia, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Philippines,
Action to be taken from the resolution	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organize informational sessions and/or public hearings to raise awareness of the impact of "free trade" agreements 2. Petition for government information releases on existing trade negotiation documents. 3. Organize political initiatives, spearheaded by members of APGF, in respective TPP participants to codify trade impact assessment mechanism aforementioned in paragraph 2 of this resolution.

Any policy background & reason for the resolution

1. As the conclusion of TPP negotiations draws near, concerns intensify on aspects of environment, sovereignty, labor, wealth distribution and other areas vulnerable to this trade initiative.
2. Proponents of TPP have billed it to be the stepping stone for another future trade initiative that encompass the entire Asia Pacific region, with its level of liberalization referred to as the “golden standard”.
3. For a trade pact that involves 40% of the world’s economy, TPP negotiations are shrouded in utter secrecy. Even as it’s leading proponent, the United States government claims that “unprecedented transparency” is attached to TPP negotiations, stakeholders beside major corporations have little to no access to the terms being negotiated.
4. Amid such secrecy, currently available information already indicates that liberalization under TPP severely undermines basic access of food, social and public health, and a free media, principles that the Global Greens have affirmed not to be “commodities” subject to international market agreements.
5. Meanwhile, the United States Congress is considering expediting TPP’s future review through the proposed Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act, which if passed, could allow TPP to go through Congress with no chance of amendment.
6. Governments of various Asia Pacific countries, Taiwan’s among the most fervent, have already blindly expressed their interests to join the initiative, without even the knowledge of TPP’s substantive content.
7. As expressed in the Global Greens Charter, transparency, truthfulness, and accountability in governance are required from elected representatives for all citizens to voice their concerns. It is thus imperative that citizens in the region, and around the world, to review governments’ trade policy through political actions