# Template for Article 32 written reports

*In accordance with Article 32 of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum Rules of Procedure, where a resolution is adopted by the Annual meeting, the country tabling that resolution shall provide the next host country with a written report on how that resolution has been put into effect no later than two months prior to the opening date of the next Annual Meeting.*

Please submit to the host country secretariat no later than [two months prior to the opening date of the Annual Meeting]

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| **Country name:** | Canada |
| **Resolution:** | [APPF29/RES/07](http://appf29.org/lib/download.php?file_name=RES07_ACCELERATING+DIGITAL+ECONOMY+AND+ENHANCING+CONNECTIVITY.pdf&save_file=a_202112231014390.pdf&meta=free) – Resolution on accelerating digital economy and enhancing connectivity |
| **Sponsoring country/countries:** | Republic of Korea, Australia, Canada, Indonesia, Mexico,  the Philippines, the Russian Federation and Vietnam |
| **Summary:** |  |

## Detailed response to resolutions

At the 29th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), the parliamentarians of the APPF resolved to:

| **Resolution** | **Status update** |
| --- | --- |
| 1. **Affirm** the determination of APPF Member Parliaments to maximize their roles to complete the national institutional frameworks in support for further development of digital economy with focus on e-governments, shaping e-ecosystem of trade promotion and managing e-commerce platforms**;** | In Canada’s Parliament, various committees have examined issues relating to e-commerce. For example, in 2012, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology prepared a [report](https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/41-1/INDU/report-1/page-5) that “identifies the key challenges and the existing core strengths of the e-commerce market in Canada,” and that contains recommendations for addressing some of the challenges. In 2018, that Committee prepared a report on the topic of [broadband connectivity in rural Canada](https://www.ourcommons.ca/Committees/en/INDU/StudyActivity?studyActivityId=9604427). Also in 2018, the House of Commons Standing Committee on International Trade completed a [study](https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/CIIT/report-9/page-5) that examined taxation, legislative and regulatory requirements in relation to e-commerce; the study also identified federal measures to support the e-commerce activities of Canada’s firms, as well as access to digital technologies and digital skills in Canada. Most recently, in 2021, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Accounts [examined](https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-2/PACP/report-14/page-5) the taxation of e-commerce.  In February 2022, the Government of Canada introduced [Bill C-11, Online Streaming Act](https://www.parl.ca/LegisInfo/en/bill/44-1/c-11) (short title). The bill would amend the *Broadcasting Act* to bring online undertakings, such as video streaming services, within its scope. As of 11 August 2022, the bill had been examined by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage, and was being studied by the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications. |
| 1. **Encourage** APPF Member Countries, as measures to overcome the economic crisis caused by COVID-19, to establish national policies and regulations and expand government investment in supporting MSMEs’ digital transition, creating jobs in emerging digital industries, and accelerating the growth of digital economy, and share experiences to facilitate dialogues and engagement in the development of FinTech regulatory sandboxes with better understanding of related risks and barriers; | Since 2021, the federal [Canada Digital Adoption Program](https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/canada-digital-adoption-program/en) has been providing two types of grants to support digital transformation in Canadian firms. The [Grow Your Business Online](https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/canada-digital-adoption-program/en/grow-your-business-online) initiative provides up to $2,400 per small business to help finance the costs relating to the adoption of digital technologies, and the [Boost Your Business Technology](https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/canada-digital-adoption-program/en/boost-your-business-technology) grants help Canadian-owned small and medium-sized firms to pay for the services of a digital advisor. These advisors recommend digital pathways and strategies that will help firms to achieve their business goals and increase their competitiveness in the digital economy.  In 2017, the [Competition Bureau](https://www.competitionbureau.gc.ca/eic/site/cb-bc.nsf/eng/04392.html) published a report that identifies steps the Government of Canada could take to foster fintech innovation and competition. The report also notes some of the reasons why Canada lags behind international competitors in fintech adoption rates. |
| 1. **Urge** APPF Member Countries to facilitate the flow of data, strengthen digital infrastructure, technologies and consumer trust in digital transactions and, when necessary, harmonize policies and legislation for regional economic digital integration envisioned in the APEC Connectivity Blueprint for 2015–2025; | Canada supports various initiatives designed to harmonize policies and legislation concerning digital integration. For instance, Canada is a signatory to the 2019 [WTO Joint statement on electronic commerce](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/WT/L/1056.pdf&Open=True), which aims to enhance “the benefits of electronic commerce for businesses, consumers and the global economy.” In June 2022, Canada and other members of the G7 issued a [communiqué](https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2022/06/28/g7-leaders-communique) committing to “work together to help shape an inclusive and global digital ecosystem that fosters an open, free and secure Internet, competition and innovation, protects privacy and personal data, and promotes respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.” |
| 1. **Invite** APPF Member Countries to work together to strengthen connectivity for early detection of and response to new threats to the region in the post COVID era such as new infectious diseases, natural disasters and cyber threats; | Canada has several mechanisms for the early detection of infectious disease. These include the [Respiratory Virus Detection Surveillance System](https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/surveillance/respiratory-virus-detections-canada.html), which collects data from select laboratories across Canada, and the [Global Public Health Intelligence Network](https://gphin.canada.ca/cepr/aboutgphin-rmispenbref.jsp?language=en_CA), which is an online early warning system that monitors global news sources in nine languages for potential public health risks occurring anywhere in the world.  To respond to natural disaster threats, the Government of Canada is developing a national [earthquake early warning](https://earthquakescanada.nrcan.gc.ca/eew-asp/system-en.php) (EEW) system designed to enhance early detection and warning in areas of moderate to high earthquake hazard. In March 2022, the Government [announced](https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2022/03/government-of-canada-helps-protect-canadians-with-earthquake-early-warning-system.html) that the first of hundreds of sensors for the EEW system has been installed.  In 2018, the Government of Canada published its [National Cyber Security Action Plan 2019–2024](https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrcs/pblctns/ntnl-cbr-scrt-strtg-2019/index-en.aspx). The action plan provides a framework for improving Canada’s cyber resilience and requires the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) – the country’s national police service – to enhance its operational capacity to prevent, detect and respond to cyber threats, including by developing a [national cyber crime and fraud reporting system](https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/new-cybercrime-and-fraud-reporting-system) that will make it easier for people and firms to report cybercrime and fraud. Pilot testing of the system has started, and the RCMP expects the system to be fully in place by 2023–2024. |
| 1. **Encourage** developed APPF Member Countries to provide technical and financial support for the less developed Member Countries in building necessary infrastructure to speed up their transition to digital economy; | As part of its international development policy, Canada supports the growth of the digital economy through several initiatives. For example, in 2019–2020, Canada [contributed](https://www.international.gc.ca/transparency-transparence/international-assistance-report-rapport-aide-internationale/2019-2020.aspx?lang=eng) to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank’s digital infrastructure sector strategy and partnered with the International Telecommunication Union to encourage girls and young women to enter careers in information and communications technology (ICT). In that context, Canada has supported the [International Girls in ICT Day](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Women-and-Girls/Girls-in-ICT-Portal/Pages/Portal.aspx) and coding camps for young girls in Africa and the Americas organized by UN Women, and has launched coding camps and ICT training.  Canada also supports digital transformation through capacity building. For instance, in April 2020, Global Affairs Canada and the Digital Opportunity Trust [co-hosted](https://www.international.gc.ca/transparency-transparence/international-assistance-report-rapport-aide-internationale/2020-2021.aspx?lang=eng) a session called “Innovating During Crisis: Lessons from the First 30 Days.” This event led to the sharing of innovative practices, new tools and challenges regarding how to continue to work toward achievement of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals during the COVID-19 pandemic. |
| 1. **Recommend** APPF Member Countries to make sure that regulations on the infringement of personal privacy and sensitive state information and cybersecurity threats, which can surface with the integration and sophistication of regional digital economy, can be integrated, transparent, predictable and rules-based while seeking to align and harmonize the regulatory frameworks among Member Countries and take a balanced approach between the regulations and digital business facilitation; | In June 2022, the Government of Canada introduced two bills that address issues of personal privacy and cybersecurity. First,  [Bill C-27, Digital Charter Implementation Act, 2022](https://www.parl.ca/LegisInfo/en/bill/44-1/C-27) (short title) would establish rules to govern the protection of personal information by recognizing individuals’ right to privacy and organizations’ need to collect, use or disclose personal information. The bill would also create new rules for the responsible development and use of artificial intelligence, and create a personal information and data protection tribunal. As well, the bill would implement [Canada’s Digital Charter](https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/innovation-better-canada/en/canadas-digital-charter/canadas-digital-and-data-strategy), which sets out principles designed to ensure that privacy is protected, data-driven innovation is human-centred, the digital and data-driven economy is fostered, and a regulatory framework is established. Second, [Bill C-26, An Act respecting cyber security, amending the Telecommunications Act and making consequential amendments to other Acts](https://www.parl.ca/LegisInfo/en/bill/44-1/c-26) would enhance cybersecurity across Canada’s financial, telecommunications, energy and transportation sectors. Moreover, the bill would give the Government the legal authority to mandate any actions needed to secure Canada’s telecommunications system; in this context, Canadian firms could be prohibited from using products and services from high-risk suppliers. |
| 1. **Encourage** APPF Member Parliaments to improve their competition laws to better capture anti-competitive practices in the digital markets, for example, by defining new relevant concepts such as certain practices of digital platforms that harm competition; | On 23 June 2022, Parliament passed [Bill C-19, Budget Implementation Act](https://www.parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bill/44-1/c-19), 2022, No. 1 (short title), which – among other things – amends Canada’s *Competition Act*. According to the [2022 federal budget](https://budget.gc.ca/2022/report-rapport/chap2-en.html), in relation to the *Competition Act*, the bill’s goal was to adapt the country’s competition law “to today’s digital reality.” The bill was studied by the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance and the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance, among others. |
| 1. **Encourage** APPF Member Countries to work to enhance their digital infrastructure to achieve the ultimate goal of universal connectivity that enables citizens in the region, especially those marginalized and vulnerable to digital divide, to benefit from digital connectivity and fully exercise their rights in digital space by providing them with affordable, safe and high quality Internet services and opportunities to learn basic digital skills at affordable or no cost and communicating the benefits of universal participation in the digital economy and its importance to achieving equality; | In 2017, Canada released its [High-Speed Access for All: Canada’s Connectivity Strategy](https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/high-speed-internet-canada/en/canadas-connectivity-strategy/high-speed-access-all-canadas-connectivity-strategy). The strategy aims to deliver high-speed connectivity to 90% of Canadians by 2021, to 95% of Canadians by 2026 and to the hardest-to-reach Canadians by 2030. The strategy acknowledges that access to high-speed Internet is a challenge, particularly in rural and remote communities and for Indigenous communities, and considers affordability to be a particular objective in connectivity programs. According to the [latest available data](https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/high-speed-internet-canada/en/progress-toward-universal-access-high-speed-internet), the share of Canadian households with access to minimum Internet speeds of 50/10 megabytes per second rose from 84.1% in 2017 to 89.7% in 2020; the improvement was mainly due to progress made in rural areas, where the shares were 37.2% in 2017 and 54.4% in 2020. Past federal initiatives designed to improve access to high‑speed Internet include [Universal Broadband](https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/high-speed-internet-canada/en/universal-broadband-fund/universal-broadband-fund-covid-19-rapid-response-stream/selected-universal-broadband-fund-projects) Fund, the [CRTC’s Broadband](https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/internet/select.htm) Fun, [Connect to Innovate](https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/connect-to-innovate/en) and [Connecting Canadians](https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/028.nsf/eng/50044.html). This year, the Government of Canada [announced](https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2022/01/government-of-canada-delivers-on-commitment-to-reduce-cell-phone-wireless-plans-by-25.html) that it had met its target of reducing the costs of mid-range wireless plans by 25% over two years. |
| 1. **Encourage** APPF Member Countries to consider ways of improving data exchange and infrastructure to make the data more convenient to use so that data-based policy making, project implementation and academic research can be facilitated, while ensuring compliance with requirements of national laws and regulations; | Statistics Canada – Canada’s national statistical office – has published and implemented its [Data Strategy](https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/about/datastrategy) for the years 2019 to 2022. Its goal is to ensure the availability of high-quality, trusted data to inform government programs and services at the federal, provincial/territorial and municipal levels to support data-driven policy decisions. It also aims to provide reliable data to support the work of non-government organizations, the private sector and academia. The strategy’s objectives include producing more timely and responsive statistics, releasing more detailed statistics, building statistical capacity for Indigenous peoples, and strengthening collaboration within the governments and between the governments and other public- and private-sector partners. |
| 1. **Encourage** APPF Member Countries to increase digital transition of public services to enable citizens to have access to public services wherever they want; | In June 2021, Canada released its [Digital Government Strategy](https://www.canada.ca/en/government/system/digital-government/digital-government-strategy.html). The strategy includes short- and long-term measures designed to modernize Government of Canada operations with the goals of enhanced responsiveness, greater resiliency and improved service. Measures implemented under this initiative include the creation of the [Canadian Digital Service](https://digital.canada.ca/), which helps federal departments to increase their digital capacity and to modernize the way they deliver their services. The [2022 federal budget](https://www.budget.gc.ca/2022/pdf/budget-2022-en.pdf) continued funding for this initiative. |
| 1. **Recommend** APPF Member Parliaments to seek ways that promote cybersecurity, protect personal data and facilitate digital payments in e-commerce while using parliamentary scrutiny on national e-commerce laws, regulations and policies; | In October 2018, the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce (now, the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Commerce and the Economy) released a report entitled [*Cyber Assault: It Should Keep you up at Night*](https://sencanada.ca/content/sen/committee/421/BANC/Reports/BANC_Report_FINAL_e.pdf). The report identifies cyber threats to Canada’s financial and commercial sectors, such as identity theft, privacy breaches and other fraudulent activities targeting Canadian consumers and small businesses, and examines regulations implemented in Canada and abroad to mitigate those threats. The report’s recommendations include developing a consistent set of cybersecurity standards and modernizing Canada’s privacy legislation to take into account emerging cybersecurity concerns. In June 2019, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security released a report entitled [*Cybersecurity in the Financial Sector as a National Economic Security Issue*](https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/SECU/report-38/). The report contains recommendations that include supporting research and development of quantum technologies and encryption standards with the goal of ensuring that Canada’s electronic information and information systems remain secure in a post-quantum world. Another recommendation mentions the potential establishment of a House of Commons subcommittee dedicated to studying the public safety and national security aspects of cybersecurity. |
| 1. **Recommend** APPF Member Countries to analyze and share the results of the potential uses of blockchain, issues of universal accessibility as well as their potential benefits and risks; | In January 2018, Canada’s [National Research Council](https://nrc.canada.ca/en/stories/exploring-blockchain-better-business) experimented with using public blockchain technology for the transparent administration of contracts. The goal was to test the viability of blockchain technology in administering innovation funding for Canadian small and medium-sized firms. |
| 1. **Encourage** APPF Member Parliaments to promote understanding of regulatory approaches affecting the Internet and Digital Economy and foster the mechanisms for parliamentary oversight of government activities to support digital economy in recognition that parliaments have the role to complete the national institutional frameworks in support for further development of digital economy; | Several House of Commons committees oversee federal activities relating to the digital economy. For instance, since May 2018, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics has studied the [use and impact of facial recognition technology](https://www.ourcommons.ca/Committees/en/ETHI/StudyActivity?studyActivityId=11566271), the [privacy of digital government services](https://www.ourcommons.ca/Committees/en/ETHI/StudyActivity?studyActivityId=9993140) and [net neutrality](https://www.ourcommons.ca/Committees/en/ETHI/StudyActivity?studyActivityId=9801483). In 2021, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Accounts studied the [taxation of e-commerce](https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-2/PACP/report-14/page-5) and the [Government’s procurement of new, complex information technology](https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-2/PACP/report-24/page-5). In 2022, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Industry and Technology (formerly, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology) studied [quantum computing](https://www.ourcommons.ca/Committees/en/INDU/StudyActivity?studyActivityId=11555561), and the [accessibility and affordability of telecommunications services](https://www.ourcommons.ca/Committees/en/INDU/StudyActivity?studyActivityId=11505291). |
| 1. **Invite** APPF Member Parliaments to strengthen cooperation and exchanges to lead the way to enhance understanding and share experiences in digital economy and develop relevant skills education and training programs; and | In its 2018 report entitled [*Cyber Assault: It Should Keep you up at Night*](https://sencanada.ca/content/sen/committee/421/BANC/Reports/BANC_Report_FINAL_e.pdf), the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce (now, the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Commerce and the Economy) recommends that all levels of government in Canada should prioritize cybersecurity education in their cybersecurity strategies and provide funds for cybersecurity skills training programs. Also recommended is the creation of a national cyber literacy program, to be led by the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security. |
| 1. **Recommend** APPF Member Countries to support the APEC actions to develop sustainable digital economy and strengthen digital infrastructure and technologies while respecting applicable domestic laws and regulations. | Canada supports the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation’s (APEC’s) various initiatives concerning the digital economy. For example, in May 2022, Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development Mary Ng attended APEC’s meeting of ministers responsible for trade. At the meeting, Minister Ng [announced](https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/05/minister-ng-participated-in-the-2022-apec-ministers-responsible-for-trade-meeting-in-thailand.html) Canada’s application to accede to the [*Digital Economy Partnership Agreement*](https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/consultations/depa-apen/background-information.aspx?lang=eng) (DEPA). Initiated by Chile, New Zealand and Singapore with the goal of facilitating digital trade, DEPA is a plurilateral trade agreement negotiated within the World Trade Organization. This agreement builds on some of the digital trade or e-commerce commitments that Canada has made in the *Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership*, but also covers additional issues, such as interconnection, cooperation on competition policy, public-domain data and electronic payments. |