

# ASEAN Declarations and Statements on gender equality and women's empowerment, social welfare and development, women's rights and children's rights, and rural development and poverty eradication



one vision  
one identity  
one community





**ASEAN Declarations and Statements on  
gender equality and women's empowerment,  
social welfare and development, women's  
rights and children's rights, and rural  
development and poverty eradication**

**ASEAN  
(ACW, ACWC, SOMSWD, SOMRDPE)**

**The ASEAN Secretariat**

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967. The Member States are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

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# ASEAN DECLARATIONS



## DECLARATION ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN THE ASEAN REGION

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand;

**DESIRING** to further intensify the aims and purposes of the Bangkok Declaration of 1967, the Declaration of ASEAN Concord of 1976, and the Manila Declaration of 1987;

**RECOGNIZING** the importance of active participation and integration of women in the region in sharing the future development and progress of ASEAN and the necessity of meeting the needs and aspiration of women in the ASEAN Member Countries;

**AWARE** that women constitute half of the total population of the ASEAN region; and

**TAKING** cognizance of the multiple roles of women in the family, in society and in the nation and the need to give full support and provide facilities and opportunities to enable them to undertake these tasks effectively;

### **DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT:**

In the context of strengthening regional cooperation, collaboration and coordination for the purpose of advancing the role and contribution of women in the progress of the region, each MEMBER COUNTRY, either individually or collectively, in ASEAN shall endeavour:

1. To promote and implement the equitable and effective participation of women whenever possible in all fields and at various levels of the political, economic, social and cultural life of society at the national, regional and international levels.
2. To enable women in the region to undertake their important role as active agents and beneficiaries of national and regional development, particularly

in promoting regional understanding and cooperation and in building more just and peaceful societies.

3. To integrate in national plans the specific concerns of women and their roles as active agents in and beneficiaries of development, specifically considering their role as a productive force to attain the full development of the human personality.
4. To design and promote programmes involving the participation of the community and nongovernmental women organizations towards strengthening national and regional resilience.
5. To strengthen solidarity in the region and international women forum by promoting harmonization of views and of positions.

**DONE** in Bangkok, Thailand, this 5th day of May 1988 in single copy in the English language.

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## DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE ASEAN REGION

The Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, the Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam;

**RECALLING** the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in its Resolution 48/104 of 20 December 1993, and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women;

**CONCERNED** that violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of equality, development and peace, as embodied in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted in September 1995 by the Fourth World Conference on Women and reiterated in the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century";

**DESIRING** to intensify the aims and purposes of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) of 1967, the Declaration of ASEAN Concord of 1976, the Manila Declaration of 1987, the Declaration of the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region of 1988 and the Ha Noi Plan of Action of 1998;

**RECOGNISING** that violence against women both violates and impairs their human rights and fundamental freedoms, limits their access to and control of resources and activities, and impedes the full development of their potential;

### DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT:

In the context of strengthening regional cooperation, collaboration and coordination for the purpose of eliminating violence against women in the region, each Member Country, either individually or collectively, in ASEAN shall endeavour to fully

implement the goals and commitments made related to eliminating violence against women and monitor their progress as follows:

- 1.1 To encourage greater regional and bilateral cooperation in the systematic research, collection, analysis and dissemination of data, including disaggregated by sex, age, and other relevant information, on the extent, nature and consequences of violence against women and girls, and on the impact and effectiveness of policies and programmes for combating violence against women;
- 1.2 To promote an integrated and holistic approach to eliminate violence against women by formulating mechanisms focusing on the four areas of concerns of violence against women, namely, providing services to fulfill the needs of survivors, formulating and taking appropriate responses to offenders and perpetrators, understanding the nature and causes of violence against women and changing societal attitudes and behaviour;
- 1.3 To encourage gender mainstreaming to eliminate all forms of violence against women through policies and programmes as well as systems, procedures and processes;
- 4 To enact and, where necessary, reinforce or amend domestic legislation to prevent violence against women, to enhance the protection, healing, recovery and reintegration of victims/survivors, including measures to investigate, prosecute, punish and where appropriate rehabilitate perpetrators, and prevent re-victimisation of women and girls subjected to any form of violence, whether in the home, the workplace, the community or society or in custody;
- 1.4 To take all necessary measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and to empower women and strengthen their economic independence and to protect and promote the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to allow women and girls to protect themselves against violence;
- 1.5 To intensify efforts to develop and/or improve existing legislative, educational, social measures and support services aimed at the prevention of violence against women, including adoption and monitoring the implementation of laws, the dissemination of information, active involvement with community-based players, and the training of legal, judicial, enforcement officers, social workers and health personnel;

1.6 To strengthen collaboration between and among countries, through bilateral, regional and international cooperation for resource mobilisation and technical exchange programmes, including sharing of best practices and experience in raising awareness, developing advocacy programmes on preventing and tackling violence against women; and

8. To support initiatives undertaken by women's organisations and non-governmental and community-based organisations on the elimination of violence against women and to establish and/or strengthen networking as well as collaborative relationships with these organisations, and with public and private sector institutions.

**DONE** in Jakarta, Indonesia, this Thirtieth day of June in the Year Two Thousand and Four, in one single copy in English.

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## **BRUNEI DARUSSALAM DECLARATION ON STRENGTHENING FAMILY INSTITUTION: CARING FOR THE ELDERLY**

WE, the Ministers responsible for social welfare and development of ASEAN Member States, on the occasion of the Seventh ASEAN Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development (7<sup>th</sup> AMMSWD);

**REAFFIRMING** our commitment to support the Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Road map for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015), in particular to promote a people- oriented ASEAN in which the welfare and development of the peoples of ASEAN, including the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, are safeguarded;

**REITERATING** the purposes of ASEAN as set out in the ASEAN Charter in particular to enhance the well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN by providing them with equitable access to opportunities for human development, social welfare and justice;

**ENCOURAGED** by the progress of implementation of the Strategic Framework and Plan of Action for Social Welfare, Family and Children (2007-2010) which contributes to the building of a caring and sharing ASEAN Community by 2015;

**RECOGNISING** the social impacts of the growing trend of ageing populations as life expectancies are rising steadily and the need to address the challenges in providing adequate care and support for the elderly who are in need of social assistance;

**STRESSING** the importance of cooperation among ASEAN Member States to provide care and support as well as to promote the quality of life and well-being of the elderly;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the important role of family, being the basic unit of society, communities, civil society, private sector and governments, as well as the importance of intergenerational interdependence and solidarity in promoting active, self-care and healthy elderly;

### **DO HEREBY:**

**AGREE** to take concerted efforts to promote the quality of life and well-being of the elderly as well as to reduce the social risks faced by the elderly, as follows:

- a) Develop social support system and encourage the development of education programme to enhance the ability of families to take care of the elderly;
- b) Provide appropriate care and support, including community volunteer approach and other forms of alternative family and community care arrangements, to the elderly;
- c) Promote the quality of life of the elderly by creating conditions that enhance their self reliance and ability to remain economically active;
- d) Provide life-long opportunities for individual development, self-fulfilment and well- being through, for examples, access to welfare and social services, resources, skills training, life-long learning and participation in the community;
- e) Achieve secure, active and healthy ageing by reducing the incidence of poverty among the elderly;
- f) Promote quality health care, support and social protection for the elderly, including preventive and rehabilitative health care;
- g) Support capacity building of primary health providers, social workers, caregivers, and volunteers in delivering care of the elderly;
- h) Promote the awareness and ability of the younger generation to live a healthy lifestyle, nurture a life course approach to growing older and respond to the issues relating to ageing;
- i) Facilitate the conduct and exchange of researches and studies in gerontology and geriatrics; and
- j) Strengthen inter-sectoral collaboration with the relevant ASEAN bodies and promote closer partnerships with the civil society, private sector, older persons' associations and the elderly themselves, to promote the well-being of the elderly.

**REQUEST** the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) to undertake measures to implement this commitment, including mobilising appropriate resources and annual review of the implementation.

**ADOPTED** in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, this Twenty-fifth of November in the Year Two Thousand and Ten.

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## HA NOI DECLARATION ON STRENGTHENING SOCIAL WORK TOWARDS COHESIVE AND RESPONSIVE ASEAN COMMUNITY

**WE**, the Heads of States or Governments of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN”), namely: Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 37<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit;

**UPHOLDING** the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 which seeks to build upon and deepen the integration process to realise a rules-based, people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN Community, and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025 which aims to provide mechanisms and enhance institutional capacity to promote equitable access to social protection, and basic social welfare for all, and particularly for vulnerable groups including older persons, persons with disabilities, women and children, as well as encourage institutional and technical innovations for the provision of social services;

**REAFFIRMING** the complementarity between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the implementation of the Complementarities Roadmap (2020-2025), particularly in addressing inequality, facilitating access to services, promoting social justice and social cohesion, preventing and responding to violence, abuse, exploitation, discrimination, neglect and family separation, and addressing harmful behaviours and social norms by creating policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, and ensuring mobilisation of resources and strengthening relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation for building capacity at all levels;

**COMMENDING** the progress of work of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD) and the Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) that continues to harness the potential of social welfare and development in reducing inequality, empowering peoples of ASEAN, mitigating the impacts of economic downturn, as well as the negative impacts of public health emergencies, and natural and human-induced disasters on vulnerable groups;

**ENCOURAGED** by the progress of social work development in ASEAN Member States and the work of the ASEAN Social Work Consortium (ASWC), which continues to strengthen solidarity and cooperations among social work practitioners, educators, and schools of social work, which was well documented by the Annual Publication of ASEAN Social Work Journal as a part of knowledge management as well as the establishment of the ASEAN Training Centre for Social Work and Social Welfare (ATCSW) as noted at the 35<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit, with a vision to be a leading training center on social work and social welfare in ASEAN focusing on building capacities and skills, sharing knowledge and expertise, and enhancing collaboration and partnership;

**RECOGNISING** the critical role of social work in mitigating the impacts of economic and social crises, and risks and vulnerabilities on individuals, households and communities, mitigating risks and improving stability and the overall resilience of vulnerable groups to the impact of these crises, and addressing vulnerabilities arising from natural and human-induced disasters, conflict, climate change, rapid urbanisation, disparity and inequality.

**COGNISANT** of the vital role fulfilled by the social workers in ensuring high quality, timely delivery of, and accessibility to social welfare and accessibility to social protection for vulnerable groups, and, as such, their immense contribution to poverty eradication, reduction of social barriers, inequality and the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring that no one is left behind;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that social work is an essential part of social welfare and that a holistic and comprehensive approach to social service workforce strengthening is needed in order to effectively and comprehensively strengthen social work and to realise the vision of key ASEAN instruments such as the *Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children*, the *Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection in ASEAN* and its regional framework and action plan, the *ASEAN Enabling Master Plan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, the *Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN* and its regional action plan, the *ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Violence Against Children* and its regional plans of action, and *Complementarities Roadmap (2020- 2025)*, among others, towards a more cohesive and responsive ASEAN Community;

**TOGETHER, WE DECLARE OUR COMMITMENT TO** promote social work and strengthen its catalytic role in realising a people-centred, people-oriented, and inclusive ASEAN Community, that enhances the capacities of the poor, vulnerable groups; achieves inclusion and enhances equitable access of those groups, including but not limited to persons with disabilities, the elderly, youth, women, children and adolescents, migrant workers and victims of violence, trafficking in persons, pandemics and disasters, among others; and, in accordance to the prevailing national laws, policies and regulations of ASEAN Member States, through the following:

1. Develop and strengthen legislation and policies on social work including defining, reinforcing and enhancing the roles and functions of social workers, validate and create (if any) social work positions in social welfare, health, education and justice systems covering the areas of prevention, response, and rehabilitation at the micro-, meso-, and macro-levels. Such legislation and policies are aimed at addressing professional practice gaps, enhancing professionalisation and competencies, promoting standards and accountability, increasing efficiency and effectiveness.
2. Develop a strategic plan for the progressive strengthening of social work, based on an assessment of needs and current social service system capacities and a multidisciplinary, inclusive and participatory approach, to deliver quality social services nationally. In order to effectively plan, develop and support the strengthening of social work, promote the adoption of information management systems for both human resource management and case management and the development of indicators for tracking and monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of policies and strategic plans.
3. Adopt, standardise and strengthen accreditation, certification, registration and licensing systems for social workers and para-social workers. Develop, standardise and strengthen quality education, research, studies, and pre- and in- service training programmes for social work professionals and para-professionals, and other professionals to produce social work graduates in various fields in order to fulfil the demand, and ensure responsiveness to national priorities, and alignment with international standards. Facilitate the availability of education and training opportunities at regional and international level including through the ASEAN Training Centre for Social Work and Social Welfare (ATCSW).
4. Enhance interagency coordination at the national level, and cross-sectoral collaboration at the ASEAN level, between social welfare, health, education, justice, labour, community development, finance, disaster risk reduction and management to explicitly reference social work in relevant mechanisms, platforms, and regulations. Encourage government and non-government agencies to provide opportunities for social workers relevant to their work setting.
5. Promote the establishment of national associations or councils of social workers, support collaboration with professional associations or councils, both government and non-government, and foster partnerships with other professionals and paraprofessionals, allied workers and civil society organisations, and with the private sector through Corporate Social Responsibility.
6. Promote the retention of social workers through the provision of career progression opportunities and professional development. Promote continuous

capacity building, and establish and strengthen systems for quality supervision and support for social workers.

7. Allocate adequate resources to strengthen social work, including workforce development and financing for education, training, research and publications.
8. Develop and enhance regional networks of social workers and regional platforms including but not limited to the ASEAN Social Work Consortium for exchange of good practices and enhancing social work and social welfare in the region, establishing referral system, meeting the supporting needs of the citizens toward substantive equality and effective social development.
9. Work towards regional professional recognition of social work, render necessary assistance to narrow social work education gaps among ASEAN Member States, and develop regional professional and occupational standards, social work ethics, standardised competency frameworks, standards/core curriculum and guidelines for the supervision of social work.
10. At the national and regional level, endeavour to develop strategies to enhance positive public perception of social work and social workers, including building the capacity and engaging various types of media, including the social media network to promote an understanding of the role and impact of social work in ASEAN.
11. Undertake cross-sectoral and inter-pillar cooperation across the ASEAN Community, as well as engage ASEAN's partners including the ASEAN Plus Three Countries, ASEAN Dialogue Partners, international organisations and civil society organisations, academe, and private sector, among others, to continue the development and support social work in ASEAN.

**WE ENCOURAGE** relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies in the three ASEAN Community Pillars to promote the implementation of this Declaration, and task the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD), with the support of the Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) and ASEAN Social Work Consortium (ASWC) to develop a Roadmap to implement this Declaration, and review, coordinate, monitor and report the progress of its implementation in partnership with other sectoral bodies and partners.

**ADOPTED** at the Summit, this Twelfth day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty, in a single original copy in the English Language.

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## **BALI DECLARATION ON THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE ROLE AND PARTICIPATION OF THE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN ASEAN COMMUNITY**

**WE, THE PEOPLES** of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), represented by the Heads of State or Government of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

**RECOGNISING** the enhancement of well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN by providing them with equitable access to opportunities for human development, social welfare and justice as stipulated in the ASEAN Charter;

**REAFFIRMING** our commitment to accelerating the establishment of the ASEAN Community by 2015 comprising three pillars, namely the ASEAN Political and Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community;

**REAFFIRMING** the potential contribution of persons with disabilities and their important role and participation in the implementation of all action lines under the ASEAN Socio Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint which includes the scope of cooperation in social welfare and development of children, persons with disabilities and the elderly with sustained impact both nationally and regionally in the establishment of ASEAN Community by 2015.

**RECALLING** the Jakarta Declaration adopted at the Regional Conference on ASEAN and Disability on 2 December 2010 that recognises the necessity of persons with disabilities to actively participate in formulating, implementing and evaluating policies related to disability issues in the ASEAN region;

**RECALLING** also the World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons, the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in which persons with disabilities are recognised as both development agent and beneficiaries in all aspects of development;

**NOTING** the Bwako Millennium Framework and Bwako Plus Five for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society in Asia and the

Pacific 2003-2012 to ensure effective participation of persons with disabilities in all relevant activities;

**COGNISANT** that the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedom of the persons with disabilities in strengthening their full participation will result in their enhanced sense of belonging and in significant advances in the human, social and economic development of society and the eradication of poverty;

**EMPHASIZING** the importance of mainstreaming disabilities issues as an integral part of relevant strategies of sustainable development;

**DO HEREBY DECLARE TO:**

1. Encourage ASEAN Member States to sign and ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and foster its implementation in the communities;
2. Proclaim the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2011- 2020) and its related initiatives as the theme is to promote disability-inclusive development within ASEAN;
3. Welcome the initiative of ASEAN Disabled People's Organisations for establishing the ASEAN Disability Forum, a joint effort of multi-stakeholders, including ASEAN Member States, the ASEAN Secretariat, international development agencies, civil society organisations, media, business sector, academic groups, Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs), disability-related organisations and their parents/family organisations;
4. Urge that ASEAN Member States to promote the quality of life of persons with disabilities in the context of poverty alleviation and develop regional statistical indicators in ASEAN to measure the development of vulnerable groups, particularly persons with disabilities;
5. Ensure the fulfillment of the rights of persons with disabilities in all aspects of life through mainstreaming disability perspective in the development and implementation of ASEAN policies and programmes across the economic, political security and socio- cultural pillars of the ASEAN Community;
6. Continue to raise awareness on disability issues and to increase outreach activities for all society ranging from local, national and regional levels by using various media and involving all components of society;
7. Encourage the participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development including their participation in political activities by providing them with equal political rights in the election of the leaders and parliamentarians, both at local and national levels;

8. Encourage the government and civil society organisations, including NGOs, to work closely with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, the ASEAN Inter-governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), in joint efforts to help protecting the rights and accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities, particularly older persons, women and children;
9. Encourage ASEAN Member States to develop national plans of actions on disability and allocate their national budget through relevant line-ministry/ agency for empowering persons with disabilities;
10. Facilitate and encourage persons with disabilities to participate in formulating, implementing and evaluating policies and programmes related to disability issues;
11. Encourage ASEAN Member States to promote, develop and diversify social services supporting persons with disabilities in the field of social welfare and employment;
12. Encourage ASEAN Member States to accelerate the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework and Biwako Plus Five for Action Towards An Inclusive, Barrier-Free and Rights-based Society in Asia and the Pacific 2003-2012;
13. Enhance sharing of information, good/best practices and experiences on issues concerning persons with disabilities as well as encourage the development of new knowledge through researches, analysis and trainings;
14. Work towards equal opportunities of persons with disabilities to education especially basic education and alternative means of communication including sign language, Braille and the like;
15. Emphasize the need of providing accessibility to public facilities and amenities, public transportation, education, employment, information communication and technology (ICT), recreation as well as sports for persons with disabilities in ASEAN;
16. Mainstream disability issues in disaster management policies and programmes at regional, national and community levels;
17. Develop social security schemes in ASEAN Member States for protecting persons with disabilities, especially those with severe disabilities;
18. Develop the social inclusiveness of persons with disabilities which includes the development of leadership, community inclusive, gender-sensitive and socially inclusive business;

19. Encourage international development agencies and other international institutions to support the implementation of the disability policies and programmes in the ASCC Blueprint;
20. Encourage the mass media, regardless of its scale and coverage, to be culturally- and gender- sensitive in promoting accurate information and image of disability and persons with disabilities in ASEAN.

**WE** hereby pledge our commitment to task the concerned Ministers of ASEAN Sectoral Bodies to implement this Declaration.

**ADOPTED** in Bali, Indonesia, this Seventeenth Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Eleven.

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## VIENTIANE DECLARATION ON ENHANCING GENDER PERSPECTIVE AND ASEAN WOMEN'S PARTNERSHIP FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

**WE**, the Ministers/Heads of Delegations of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, gathered in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 19 October 2012 for the First ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW);

**REAFFIRMING** our commitment to pursue a holistic and cooperative approach in advancing the participation of women and enhancing gender perspective in the political-security, economic and socio-cultural aspects of the ASEAN Community-building process;

**UPHOLDING** the goals, purposes and principles of ASEAN in the ASEAN Charter and Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015);

**RECALLING** the ASEAN Declaration on Environmental Sustainability adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit held on 20 November 2007 in Singapore;

**REITERATING** the commitments of ASEAN to promote gender equality and empower women as reflected in the Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children adopted at the 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit held on 28 October 2010 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region signed at the 37<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) held on 30 June 2004 in Jakarta, Indonesia, and ASEAN Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region signed at the 21<sup>st</sup> AMM held on 5 July 1988 in Bangkok, Thailand;

**NOTING** with satisfaction the significant achievements made in implementing the regional projects and activities agreed in the Work Plan of the ASEAN Committee on Women (2011- 2015) to promote gender equality, social justice, well-being and rights of women in the region;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the commitment of ASEAN Member States to the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPFA), BPFA+5 Outcome Document, and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

**NOTING** the outcome of the Women Leader's Summit at the Rio+20 Conference in June 2012 on the Future Women Want; and

**RECOGNISING** that women represent a large untapped potential for environmental sustainability and the need to mainstream gender perspective and promote women's partnership and participation in sustaining the environment in ASEAN through holistic and effective strategies in collaboration and coordination with other relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, with the participation of stakeholders, and in partnership with external partners, including ASEAN Dialogue Partners;

**DO HEREBY DECLARE OUR COMMITMENT TO PROMOTE:**

1. Women's knowledge and skills in environmental management and biodiversity conservation;
2. Women's knowledge and skills in climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction and management;
3. Women's knowledge and skills in soil conservation and appropriate land use technologies under the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Plus (REDD+) and ensuring gender responsiveness of the REDD+ implementation in ASEAN Member States which would contribute to environmental protection and sustainability of livelihood;
4. Women's capacity in coping with the social and environmental impacts of deforestation and diversion of agricultural land for industrialisation and urbanisation;
5. Women's access, ownership and control over resources to support sustainable livelihoods and their active involvement in mitigating pollution and contamination of ecosystems;
6. Gender mainstreaming and active involvement of women in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of environmental policies and programmes at the national, regional and international levels;
7. Women's full and substantive participation in the decision making process particularly concerning climate change and natural resource management at all levels;

8. Women's adequate protection and safety during the time of natural disasters and climate change hazards;
9. Legal measures, policies, strategies, and programmes on environmental sustainability for women especially those from vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

**WE** task the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) to effectively implement this commitment and monitor its progress in collaboration and coordination with the relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies including the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Environment (ASOEN) and ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM). ASEAN Member States shall support these ASEAN Sectoral Bodies in the implementation of this Declaration through maximum efforts by such appropriate instruments as may be necessary and consistent with their respective national laws and policies.

**WE** task the ACW to collaborate with the concerned ASEAN sectoral bodies to mobilise resources to implement this Declaration and to foster closer cooperation with external partners, including ASEAN Dialogue Partners, as well as other relevant stakeholders in building ASEAN as a gender-responsive and environmentally-responsible Community.

**ADOPTED** on this Nineteenth Day of October in the year two thousand and twelve in Vientiane, the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

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## ASEAN DECLARATION ON STRENGTHENING SOCIAL PROTECTION

**WE**, the Heads of State/Government of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN”), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit in Brunei Darussalam;

**REAFFIRMING** our commitment to build an ASEAN Community comprising three pillars, namely the ASEAN Political and Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community that are closely intertwined and mutually reinforcing by 2015;

**GUIDED BY** the ASEAN Charter which sets out the purposes of ASEAN in particular to enhance the well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN by providing them with equitable access to opportunities for human development, social welfare and justice;

**MINDFUL** the primary goal of the ASEAN Socio Cultural Community is to contribute to realising an ASEAN Community that is people-centred and socially responsible with a view to achieving enduring solidarity and unity among the nations and peoples of ASEAN by forging a common identity and building a caring and sharing society which is inclusive and harmonious where the well-being, livelihood, and welfare of the peoples are enhanced;

**RECALLING** the Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015) that recognised the role of social protection in enhancing the well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN;

**FURTHER RECALLING** the collective commitments of ASEAN in, among others, the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in A Global Community of Nations; Cebu Declaration Towards One Caring and Sharing Community; ASEAN Human Rights Declaration; Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of the Persons with Disabilities in ASEAN Community; Proclamation of the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2011-2020): Towards an Inclusive Society; Joint Declaration and ASEAN Roadmap on the Attainment of the Millennium

Development Goals in ASEAN; Brunei Darussalam Declaration on Strengthening Family Institution: Caring for the Elderly; Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children; Declaration on the Commitments for Children in ASEAN;

Resolution on the ASEAN Plan of Action for Children; Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region; ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers; as well as in the work programmes of the relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the commitments of individual ASEAN Member States to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and other related international instruments that ASEAN Member States are parties to;

**NOTING** the concept of “Regional Policy Advocacy on Social Protection: An Agenda for ASEAN Community 2015, Toward an ASEAN Social Protection Framework” initiated by Cambodia during the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council on 25 October 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia; recommendations of the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN GO-NGO Forum for Social Welfare and Development and 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMS WD) held on 20-22 September 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand, as well as the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development, and 8<sup>th</sup> SOMS WD held on 12-14 September 2012 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, respectively, as well as recommendations of the Regional Workshop on Social Protection and Promoting Social Services for Vulnerable Groups held on 11 September 2012 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, as well as ILO Recommendation concerning national floors of social protection, 2012 (No.202);

## **DO HEREBY:**

### Principles

STRIVE to adhere to the following principles that are applied in accordance with the domestic laws and policies of respective ASEAN Member States, nationally-defined social protection and its national priorities, and adapted to the different contexts of ASEAN Member States:

1. Everyone, especially those who are poor, at risk, persons with disabilities, older people, out-of-school youth, children, migrant workers, and other vulnerable groups, are entitled to have equitable access to social protection that is a basic

human right and based on a rights-based/needs-based, life-cycle approach and covering essential services as needed;

2. Extending coverage, availability, quality, equitability and sustainability of social protection should be gradually promoted to ensure optimal benefits to the beneficiaries;
3. Social protection covers, but is not limited to, social welfare and development, social safety-nets, social insurance, social assistance, social services, in ASEAN Member States;
4. Implementation of social protection should be based on respect for fundamental freedoms, promotion and protection of human rights, promotion of social justice, social solidarity, non-discrimination, accessibility, reasonable accommodation, gender equality, social inclusiveness, coherence, and accountability;
5. Implementation of social protection towards progressive realisation in ASEAN Member States is the main responsibility of the respective governments based on national legislations, policies, programmes, strategies, standards and guidelines;
6. Social protection is a cross-cutting issue, hence its implementation requires coordinated and holistic approaches with the involvement of governments, private sectors, development partners, civil society, service providers, and other stakeholders, where appropriate;
7. Family unit and the community are an important element in supporting and delivering social protection services and therefore should be strengthened and preserved;
8. Inclusive and participatory approach should be ensured in the planning, programming and budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes of social protection at all levels in the region to realise the strengthening of institutional capacity, transparency and responsiveness to the needs of those concerned;
9. Social protection is an investment in people that should be supported by adequate resources in order to empower them to meet their basic needs;
10. Social protection shall be adaptive to the different risks such as lifestyle and individual risks, social risks, and emerging risks and vulnerabilities faced by the region such as, but not limited to, changes in the economy and labour markets and impacts of climate change, disasters and economic crises.

## Strategies and Mechanisms

FURTHER STRIVE to foster the following concrete actions towards improved quality, coverage, and sustainability of social protection in ASEAN Member States subject to each ASEAN Member State's national policies and priorities and adapted to the different contexts of ASEAN MemberStates:

11. Support national policies, strategies and mechanisms to strengthen the implementation of social protection programme, as well as effective targeting systems to ensure social protection services would go to those most inneed;
12. Advocate strategies that promote the coverage, availability, comprehensiveness, quality, equitability, affordability and sustainability of various social protection services, including the expansion of social insurance to the informal sector; strengthening social assistance programmes for persons with disabilities, elderly, children and other vulnerable groups; greater access to social protection programmes and services, including vocational trainings as part of active labour market interventions and human resourcedevelopment;
13. Promote results-based and evidence-based national assessments and benchmarking of social protection delivery services in ASEAN Member States that would contribute to the progressive implementation, effective monitoring and evaluation, as well as optimum impact of socialprotection;
14. Explore and develop assessment tools and regional statistical indicators where appropriate to measure the impact of social protection to the holistic development of vulnerable groups for future planning towards available accurate baseline data collection;
15. Allocate adequate financial resources for social protection in line with national targets and subject to the capacity of eachGovernment;
16. Strengthen the capacity of government officials, communities, service providers, and other stakeholders for better responsiveness, coordination and effectiveness of social protection and delivery services at regional, national and locallevels;
17. Collectively accelerate the progress towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in all ASEAN Member States by strengthening capacity to assess and manage health systems to support UHC through sharing of experiences, information andexperts;
18. Foster the involvement of the existing mechanisms of ASEAN sectoral bodies, including the ASEAN+3 Network on Universal Health Coverage, in promoting social protection in the region through projects and activities to

support ASEAN Member States in fulfilling the social protection of the people, particularly the poor, persons with disabilities, older people, children and other vulnerable groups;

19. Promote multi-sectoral responsiveness of social protection through consultations, sharing of information on good practices and policies, knowledge management, cooperation, and coordination on social protection amongst the relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies with the support of the ASEAN Secretariat. In this regard, the relevant ASEAN Ministerial Sectoral Bodies are tasked to convene an inter-sectoral regional consultation meeting involving SOMSWD, Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE), Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD), Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM), ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), and ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), and other relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies from the economic and political- security pillars should be convened regularly, as much as possible, to promote coordinated and holistic approach;
20. Assign the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD), with the support of SOMSWD, as the focal point for inter-sectoral cooperation on social protection at regional level, while acknowledging the different national coordinating mechanisms in ASEAN Member States;
21. Build and strengthen the networking and partnerships within and among ASEAN Member States as well as with Dialogue Partners, UN Agencies, civil society, private sectors, development partners, and other stakeholders in supporting adequate resources and effective implementation of the commitments reflected in this Declaration.

**ADOPTED** in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, this Ninth Day of October in the Year Two Thousand and Thirteen, in a single original copy, in the English Language.

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## **THE DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN ASEAN**

**WE**, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN”), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit;

**UPHOLDING** the goals, purposes and principles of ASEAN as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015);

**REAFFIRMING** the goals and commitments of ASEAN to eliminating violence against women and monitor their progress as reflected in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region adopted at the 37<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) on 30 June 2004;

**FURTHER REAFFIRMING** the importance and general principles of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD adopted at the 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit on 18 November 2012; and the commitments of ASEAN as reflected in the ASEAN Leaders’ Joint Statement in Enhancing Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons in Southeast Asia adopted at the 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 8 May 2011; the Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children adopted at the 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 28 October 2010; the ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons, particularly Women and Children adopted at the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 29 November 2004; the Declaration on the Commitments for Children in ASEAN adopted at the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare (AMRSW) on 2 August 2001; the Resolution on the ASEAN Plan of Action for Children adopted at the 3<sup>rd</sup> AMRSW Meeting on 2 December 1993; and the Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region adopted at the 21<sup>st</sup> AMM on 5 July 1988;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the commitments of individual ASEAN Member States to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) that have been ratified by all ASEAN Member States; the Declaration on the Elimination

of Violence Against Women (Vienna Declaration); the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPFA), BPFA+5 Outcome Document; the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and Plan of Action for Child Survival, Protection and Development; A World Fit For Children Declaration; and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

**RECALLING** resolutions relating to the elimination of violence against women and children of the United Nations General Assembly, the Human Rights Council and the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), and 1889 (2009) on Women, Peace and Security;

**WELCOMING** the adoption of the Terms of Reference and Work Plan (2012-2016) of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and children in ASEAN taking into consideration the regional and national contexts bearing in mind the different historical, political, socio-cultural, religious, legal and economic backgrounds in the region;

**RECOGNISING** that ASEAN Member States shall take all appropriate measures to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedom and to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the importance of intensifying efforts of ASEAN Member States to promote the rights of women and children, as well as to prevent and protect them from and respond to all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation of women and children particularly for those who are in vulnerable situations, including domestic violence, women and children who are sexually exploited, women and children with disabilities, women and children living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, women and children in conflict with laws, cyber pornography and cyber prostitution, trafficking in women and children, women and children in disasters, women and children in armed conflict, women and children in refugee camps, women and children on the move, stateless women and children, migrant women and children, women and children belonging to ethnic and/or indigenous groups, children in early marriage, physical abuse of children, bullying, discrimination against women and children in mass and social media, and others;

**RECOGNISING** that violence against women and violence against children occur irrespective of the stages of the life cycle, whether at home, in school, in the workplace, in public or private spaces (including cyber space) as a result of gender bias, discriminatory and harmful traditional practices and must be eliminated as they impair human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and children;

**EMPHASISING** that the rights of children to special protection and care are different than those of women, given that parents have the responsibilities in the upbringing and development of their children and to protect them from violence, abuse, maltreatment and exploitation, and the obligations of state parties to assist parents in these efforts;

**DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT:**

ASEAN Member States, individually and/or collectively, express common resolve to eliminate violence against women and violence against children in the region through the following measures:

1.	Strengthen and, where necessary, enact or amend national legislations for the elimination of violence against women and violence against children, and to enhance the protection, services, rehabilitation, education and training, recovery and reintegration of victims/survivors;
2.	Integrate legislations, policies and measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women and violence against children and to protect and assist the victims/survivors in the national development plans and programmes with time- bound targets, adequate resources, and gender-responsive planning and budgeting;
3.	<p>Strengthen a holistic, multi-disciplinary approach to promote the rights of women and children and adopt a gender-responsive, child-sensitive, and age-responsive approach to eliminate violence against women and violence against children in the region which includes effective laws, legislations, policies and measures to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Investigate, prosecute, punish and, where appropriate, rehabilitate perpetrators;</li> <li>● Protect women and children victims/survivors and witnesses;</li> <li>● Provide victims/survivors with access to justice, legal assistance, protection, social welfare services, education, and health services, including counseling and peer-to-peer support mechanisms, rehabilitation, recovery, and reintegration into the community, and consider provision of programme for families to properly give support to victims/ survivors;</li> <li>● Instill awareness to prevent re-victimization of women and children from any form of violence and ensure it does not occur anywhere through various programmes, such as provision and promotion of vocational training and employment opportunities of women who are victims/survivors, access to reproductive health services, education and other basic social services;</li> <li>● Promote family support services, parenting education, education and public awareness on the rights of women and children and the nature and causes of violence against women and violence against children to encourage active public participation in the prevention and elimination of violence;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create an enabling environment for the participation of women and children, including victims/survivors, in the prevention and elimination of violence against women and violence against children;</li> <li>• Develop effective strategies to eliminate harmful practices which perpetuate gender stereotyping, violence against women and violence against children;</li> </ul>
4.	Strengthen the existing national mechanisms, with the assistance, where necessary, of the ACWC and other related stakeholders, in implementing, monitoring and reporting the implementation of the Concluding Observations and Recommendations of CEDAW, CRC and other Treaty Bodies as well as the accepted recommendations under the Universal Periodic Review Process of the United Nations Human Rights Council related to the elimination of all forms of violence against women and violence against children;
5.	Strengthen the capacity of law enforcement officers, policy makers, social workers, health personnel, and other stakeholders to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate gender responsive and child friendly legislations, policies and measures for women and children victims of violence;
6.	Encourage research and data collection and analysis in confidence concerning all forms of violence against women and violence against children to support the formulation and effective implementation of laws, policies and programmes to eliminate violence against women and violence against children for better protection of the victims/survivors in the region;
7.	Strengthen the provision of support social welfare services to women and children victims/survivors of violence and their families in ASEAN through the establishment of an ACWC network of social services to facilitate the promotion of good practices, sharing of information, exchange of experts, social workers and service providers, including NGOs;
8.	Strengthen partnerships with external parties at international, regional, national and local levels, including ASEAN Dialogue Partners, UN Agencies, civil society, community-based organisations, academia, philanthropists and private entities, in the work for the elimination of violence against women and violence against children in ASEAN and to mobilise resources to assist the victims/survivors;

**WE TASK** the relevant ASEAN bodies, in particular the ACWC, to promote the implementation of this Declaration and review its progress through appropriate instruments and actions with the support of ASEAN Member States.

**ADOPTED** in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam this Ninth Day of October in the Year Two Thousand and Thirteen, in a single original copy, in the English Language

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## **KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION ON AGEING: EMPOWERING OLDER PERSONS IN ASEAN**

**WE**, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Malaysia;

**REAFFIRMING** our commitment to build an ASEAN Community that engages and benefits the people, and is inclusive, sustainable, resilient and dynamic;

**GUIDED BY** the ASEAN Charter which sets out the purposes of ASEAN in particular to enhance the well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN by providing them with equitable access to opportunities for human development, social welfare and justice;

**MINDFUL** that the ASEAN population for those aged 60 years and over is projected to increase from 59.5 million in 2015 to 127 million in 2035, which will present immense opportunities and challenges resulting in profound implications in our society;

**RECALLING** the two World Assemblies on Ageing in 1982 and 2002, World Health Assemblies 58.16 on Strengthening Active and Healthy Ageing (2005), as well as the regional meetings reaffirming the adoption of the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing (1982), the UN Principles for Older Persons (1991), the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific (1999), the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002), the Shanghai Regional Implementation Strategy on Ageing (2002); ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention 1958 (No.111); and Termination of Employment Recommendation, 1982 (No.166);

**RECALLING FURTHER** the collective commitments of ASEAN in, among others, the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in A Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III, 2011); Brunei Darussalam Declaration on Strengthening Family Institution: Caring for the Elderly (2010); Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of the Persons with Disabilities in ASEAN Community (2011); the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (2012); Proclamation of the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2011-2020: Towards Inclusive Society (2011); Joint

Declaration and ASEAN Roadmap on the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in ASEAN (2009); ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection (2013); as well as the work programmes of relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the commitments of individual ASEAN Member States to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and other related international instruments that ASEAN Member States are parties to;

**RECOGNISING** that an increase in the proportion of older population will require adaptation of health care and social support systems to meet this emerging challenge;

**COGNISANT** that the promotion of healthy, active and productive ageing in an enabling and supportive environment is key to the well-being of older persons as valuable members of the family, community and society with roles and responsibilities towards the self, others and the nations;

**WE DO HEREBY DECLARE TO:**

**FOSTER** the following concrete actions towards the empowerment of older persons subject to each ASEAN Member State's national laws, policies, and programmes:

1. Promote a shared responsibility approach in preparation for healthy, active and productive ageing by supporting families, caregivers/care workers and strengthening communities in delivering care for older persons;
2. Promote intergenerational solidarity towards a society for all ages by raising public awareness on the rights, issues and challenges of old age and ageing;
3. Promote rights-based/needs-based and life-cycle approach and eliminate all forms of maltreatment on the basis of old age and gender through equitable access of older persons to public services, income generation, health care services, and essential information, as well as preventive measures, legal protection, and effective support system;
4. Mainstream population ageing issues into public policies and national development plans, and programmes, which may include flexible retirement age and employment policies;
5. Promote the development of human capital and expertise in gerontology, geriatrics and other related professional and para-professional manpower including care workers to meet the current and future demands for health and social services for older persons;

6. Promote the development of reliable information, evidence-based and gender-disaggregated data on ageing, including improved capacity to bridge the gaps in policy, research and practice;
7. Strengthen the capacity of government agencies, corporate bodies, civil society organisations, including voluntary welfare organisations, communities, and relevant stakeholders, for better coordination and effectiveness in the delivery of quality services for older persons at local, national and regional levels;
8. Encourage the development of older people's associations or other forms of networking including elderly clubs and volunteers' networks in each ASEAN Member State by strengthening their capacity, and providing them with multi-sectoral platforms of dialogue with the government on ageing issues;
9. Promote age-friendly communities/cities in the region through sustainable and accessible infrastructure;
10. Build and strengthen the networking and partnerships within and among ASEAN Member States as well as with Dialogue Partners and Development Partners including UN Agencies, civil society organisations, private sector, and relevant stakeholders in supporting and providing adequate resources and effective implementation of the commitments reflected in this Declaration.

**ASSIGN** the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD), with the support of Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) to coordinate and collaborate with relevant sectors for inter- sectoral cooperation on the empowerment of older persons and to develop a regional action plan on ageing to implement this Declaration.

**ADOPTED** in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, this Twenty First Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, in a single original copy, in the English Language.

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## **ASEAN DECLARATION ON THE GENDER-RESPONSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASEAN COMMUNITY VISION 2025 AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**WE**, the Heads of States or Governments of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN”), namely: Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit;

**UPHOLDING ASEAN Community Vision 2025** and guided by the Blueprints of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) and ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), which envision a rules-based, people-oriented and people-centered ASEAN Community, where our **peoples enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms**, higher quality of life and the benefits of community building, reinforcing our sense of togetherness and common identity, and guided by the purposes and principles of the ASEAN Charter;

**UPHOLDING** the general principles and decisions enshrined in the Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region adopted on 5 July 1988; ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children adopted on 29 November 2004; Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children adopted on 28 October 2010; ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD adopted at the 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit on 18 November 2012; Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and Elimination of Violence against Children in ASEAN adopted on 09 October 2013; and other relevant declarations, such as the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection, Regional Framework and Action Plan to Implement the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection, Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of the Persons with Disabilities in ASEAN Community, Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN, Brunei Darussalam Declaration on Strengthening Family Institutions: Caring for the Elderly, ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Education for Out-of-School Children and Youth, and the ASEAN Plus Three Statement on Active Ageing;

**REAFFIRMING** the commitments of individual ASEAN Member States to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) which is the basic and foundational framework for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, to the Convention on the Rights of a Child (CRC) and to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD);

**FURTHER REAFFIRMING** the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the outcome documents of their review conferences, by which gender mainstreaming was established as a major global strategy for promoting gender equality;

**RECOGNISING** the complementarity of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the ASEAN Community Vision 2025;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls are at the center of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and that gender equality is recognised and affirmed as a precondition for the realisation of sustainable development;

**UNDERSCORING** the need to work towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, by the promotion of women's leadership, elimination of gender stereotyping, elimination of violence against women, economic empowerment of women, and protection and empowerment of women in vulnerable situations through gender mainstreaming across the three pillars.

**MINDFUL** of the fact that the promotion of sustainable development and gender equality requires multi-sectoral interventions and the involvement of dialogue and development partners, international organizations, sub-regional organisations, academia, local governments/local authorities in provinces, townships, municipalities and cities, private-public partnerships, community engagement, tripartite engagement with the labor sector, social enterprises, government organisations, media, non-governmental organisations and civil society organisations;

**DEEPLY CONCERNED** by the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, inequality and violence to which all women and girls continue to face;

**TOGETHER, WE DECLARE OUR COMMITMENT TO** the gender-responsive implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 with the three ASEAN Blueprints and the Sustainable Development Goals to ensure the realisation of a people-oriented and people-centered ASEAN where all women and girls are able to reach the fullest of their potentials, through the following:

- A. **Enhance the ASEAN Member States' capacity in strengthening national and sub-national sex-disaggregated databases and analyses** on all Sustainable Development Goals, and consider establishing reliable regional gender statistics, including sex-disaggregated databases for key sectors to

support ASEAN policies and programmes in the three ASEAN Blueprints towards ASEAN Community Vision 2025;

- B. **Collect, manage, analyze, disseminate and ensure access to high-quality, reliable and timely data** disaggregated by sex, age, and socio-cultural and economic characteristics relevant in national contexts, to the extent permitted by their respective domestic laws and policies;
- C. **Strongly encourage the monitoring and evaluation** of existing policies, plans and programmes on women and girls, including assessing the contribution of women in the economy and the economic costs of gender-based violence including violence against women and violence against girls (VAW and VAC) on the family and the State;
- D. **Reaffirm the need to mainstream a gender perspective and analysis, which may include targeted actions and investments, and gender-responsive budgeting**, in the formulation and implementation of policies, plans and programmes of all relevant sectors in the three ASEAN Community Pillars for the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- E. **Encourage more investments to close resource gaps** for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, particularly in a changing world;
- F. **Promote women's equal access to and full participation in decision-making bodies and mechanisms** involved in the implementation of all goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including in policy, plan and programme formulation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation;
- G. **Promote the engagement of men and boys** as agents and beneficiaries of change in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and as strategic partners and allies in the elimination of all forms of discrimination and gender-based violence including violence against women and violence against children (VAW and VAC);
- H. Encourage ASEAN Sectoral Bodies to engage and establish mechanisms for **engagement with women's groups and organisations**, in joint efforts to ensure the gender-responsive implementation of policies and plans and for the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- I. Support the development and implementation of **gender mainstreaming** initiatives across all sectoral bodies in the three ASEAN pillars.

**WE ENCOURAGE** relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies in the three ASEAN Pillars to promote the implementation of this declaration, and task the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW), with the support of the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) to review, coordinate, monitor and report its progress through appropriate instruments and actions with the support of ASEAN Member States.

**ADOPTED** in Manila, the Republic of the Philippines on this Thirteenth Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Seventeen, in a single original copy, in the English Language.

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## **DECLARATION ON THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM ALL FORMS OF ONLINE EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE IN ASEAN**

**WE**, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN”), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 35<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit;

**UPHOLDING** ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and guided by the Blueprints of the ASEAN Political Security Community (APSC) and ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in 2015;

**REAFFIRMING** the goals and commitments of ASEAN to eliminate violence against children as reflected in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN (2013); and the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Children (2015);

**FURTHER REAFFIRMING** the importance and general principles of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD (2012); the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking-in-Persons, Especially Women and Children (2015); the Declaration on the Commitments for Children in ASEAN (2001); the ASEAN Tourism Agreement (2002); the Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children (2010); and the Declaration on Culture of Prevention for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy and Harmonious Society (2017);

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that all ASEAN Member States are Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); and that the CRC emphasizes the principles of non- discrimination; child protection; the right to life, survival, and development; the best interests of the child; and respect for the child’s views;

**RECALLING** the commitment of ASEAN Member States to leave no one behind by implementing the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015)

of which Goal 5.2 is to “Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation” and Goal 16.2 is to “End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children” by the year 2030;

**HIGHLIGHTING** that the rapid advances in and proliferation of the Internet and evolving communications technologies have led to the emergence of unforeseen and unintended consequences that put children’s safety at risk and will likely continue to do so;

**CONCERNED** by the ongoing and emerging global threats that are making more children vulnerable to the borderless nature of the production and sharing of online child sexual abuse material (CSAM) or any other forms of online child exploitation, which require increasing awareness of the rights holders (children) and duty-bearers (parents, communities, private sector and policymakers, among others) and strengthening of child protection systems;

**WE HEREBY COMMIT** to further protect children from all forms of online exploitation and abuse, prioritising the following measures:

- A. **Promote, develop, and implement comprehensive national legal frameworks in each ASEAN Member State and work towards improving child protection standards and policies on all forms of online exploitation and abuse across ASEAN Member States;**
- B. **Enhance law enforcement, judicial and legal professional capabilities** through regular, relevant and updated trainings and sharing and exchange of best practices in the protection of children against all forms of online exploitation and abuse;
- C. **Encourage the establishment of a national specialised unit with an explicit remit to lead, support and coordinate investigations;**
- D. **Increase effectiveness of rights-based and gender-responsive child protection and support services, social welfare programmes;**
- E. **Strengthen data collection and monitoring, reporting and referral mechanisms,** through hotlines to report online materials suspected to be illegal, including child sexual abuse material;
- F. **Promote a national education programme and school curricula to raise awareness of sexual, and other forms of exploitation of children to empower children, young people, parents, guardians, caregivers, practitioners and community;**

- G. **Mobilise and enhance engagement with the private sector and other relevant stakeholders** to actively involve them in monitoring prevention and response measures through regulations, corporate social responsibility, and collaboration for the development of effective measures to detect, take down and report illegal content related to child sexual abuse and exploitation.

**WE ENCOURAGE** relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies in the three ASEAN Community pillars to promote the implementation of this Declaration, and task the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD) with the support of the Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) and ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) to review, coordinate, monitor and report its progress and develop a standard and practical guideline for the implementation of the above measures (appropriate instruments, actions and universally agreed terminology, among others) with the support of ASEAN Member States.

**ADOPTED** in Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand on this Second Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Nineteen, in a single original copy, in the English Language.

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## ASEAN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN IN THE CONTEXT OF MIGRATION

**WE**, the Heads of State and Government of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN”), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 35<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit;

**NOTING** with deep concern the millions of children worldwide who are displaced from their homes, including by conflict, poverty, disaster, climate change, and environmental degradation, experience exploitation, deprivation and discrimination on their journeys within and across borders, and acknowledging the need for mechanisms to ensure the protection of their rights and access to services in all regions of the world, including the ASEAN region;

**REFERRING** to the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) which has been ratified by all ASEAN Member States, and recognising that the Convention on the Rights of the Child is the standard for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including in the context of migration;

**RECALLING** all other appropriate international instruments to which ASEAN Member States are Parties, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour;

**RECALLING** the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in New York, USA, in September 2015, including Goals 3, 4, 8, 10, 13, 16, 17, and in particular Target 10.7 to “Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”, and Target 16.2 to “End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children”, in addition to many additional targets related to migration and the pledge that no one will be left behind and to reach the furthest behind first;

**REAFFIRMING** our commitment to the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers, the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Children (RPA on EVAC), the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Education for Out-of-School Children and Youth, as well as the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

**FURTHER REAFFIRMING** our commitment to the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Work Plan, also referred to as the “Bohol TIP Work Plan”;

**COGNISANT** of our commitment under the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025 towards an inclusive ASEAN Community that promotes and protects the human rights of its peoples including, among others, children, youth, migrant workers, and vulnerable and marginalised groups;

**RECOGNISING** the sovereignty of ASEAN Member States, and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of ASEAN Member States as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, in determining their own policies relating to children in the context of migration, including determining entry into and departure from their territory and under which conditions they may remain;

**REITERATING** that ASEAN should make further progress as a cohesive and caring society committed to enhancing the quality of life and well-being as well as to strengthening cooperation in addressing the underlying causes of children in the context of migration, with an emphasis on the prevention of such causes;

**DO HEREBY:**

1. **REAFFIRM** our commitment as States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to protect the rights of children and to ensure that the best interests of the child is a primary consideration in all relevant policies and practices in the context of migration;
2. **ACKNOWLEDGE** the need to further strengthen the national systems, including but not limited to child protection, education, health, and justice, in the ASEAN region, and to enhance their accessibility for children affected by migration, including those who are unaccompanied or separated from their families, those requiring protection and assistance, those who have become victims of violence, abuse, and exploitation, including gender-based violence and human trafficking, those living with life-threatening infections and diseases, and those with disabilities, among others;

3. **FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGE** the need to enhance the identification, referral and protection of, and assistance to all children in the context of migration, including those who have become victims of trafficking, refugees, asylum-seekers, and internally displaced children and all other children requiring protection and assistance;
4. **RESOLVE** national systems, including but not limited to child protection, education, health, and justice, to ensure that these address the rights and needs of children in the context of migration, and to facilitate this by ensuring the allocation of necessary resources, as well as well-trained and child- and gender-sensitive human resources;
5. **ENCOURAGE** ASEAN Member States to further enhance cooperation in the implementation of child-sensitive and gender-responsive border governance policies to augment the assistance to and protection of children in the context of migration;
6. **CALL UPON** ASEAN Member States to further recognise that children in the context of migration are particularly vulnerable to discrimination and certain types of violence, abuse, and exploitation, including forced and child labour, child marriage, sexual exploitation, gender-based violence, neglect, and domestic servitude and to cooperate and build partnerships with relevant stakeholders to address and prevent this;
7. **RESOLVE** to provide access to basic services such as health, a clean and safe environment, and psychosocial support services for children in the context of migration;
8. **AGREE** to coordinate with respective concerned consular offices/embassies/legal authorities in facilitating the registration of all births on our territories and the issuance of birth certificates, allowing for all children born in the territory to be registered in accordance to the respective prevailing laws and regulations;
9. **AGREE** that in order to promote the best interests of the child, States should work to develop effective procedures and alternatives to child immigration detention to reduce its impact, and ensure that, where possible, children are kept together with their families in a non-custodial, and clean and safe environment;
10. **ENCOURAGE** to further strengthen the evidence base on children in the context of migration by improving and investing in the collection and analysis of accurate, reliable, comparable data, disaggregated by sex, age, migration status and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, including contributing factors to the movement, where such data are available;
11. **ENCOURAGE** the incorporation of case management for children in the context of migration in standardised social work curriculum and guidance, and

the capacity building of law enforcers, social workers, service providers, and civil society organizations and other relevant actors to be able to respond to the rights and needs of children in the context of migration;

12. **WELCOME** the exchange of experiences in protecting children in the context of migration, with a focus on gender-specific needs, case management, policy development, and cross-border collaboration, where appropriate, through the development of bilateral cross-border agreements and standard operating procedures;
13. **CALL UPON** international organisations, National Human Rights Institutions, ASEAN Dialogue Partners and other countries to extend support and assistance to the implementation of the measures contained in this Declaration; and
14. **TASK** the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development to monitor the progress of this Declaration.

**ADOPTED** in Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand on this Second Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Nineteen, in a single original copy, in the English language.

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## **BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN DECLARATION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FAMILY FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND NATION-BUILDING**

The Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on the occasion of the 38<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit held on 26-28 October 2021:

**REFERRING** to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, which recognize the family as the natural and fundamental group unit of society and entitled to protection by society and the State;

**RECALLING** the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Bill of Human Rights, which highlight equality, non-discrimination and universality of human rights are principles that should be reflected as important in community development and nation building;

**REAFFIRMING** our commitment to the Brunei Darussalam Declaration on Strengthening Family Institution: Caring for the Elderly in 2010, the Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of Persons with Disabilities in ASEAN Community in 2011, the Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children in 2010, the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN in 2015, the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection in 2013, the ASEAN Declaration on the Gender- Responsive Implementation of ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals in 2017, the ASEAN Declaration on Culture of Prevention for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy, and Harmonious Society in 2017, the Ha Noi Declaration on Strengthening Social Work Towards Comprehensive and Responsive ASEAN Community and the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework in 2020, in order to strengthen family role and engagement in achieving a peaceful, stable and prosperous ASEAN Community;

**REITERATING** the principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter to enhance the well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN by providing them with equitable access to opportunities for human development, social welfare and justice, and to promote a people-oriented ASEAN in which all sectors of society are encouraged to participate in, and benefit from, the process of ASEAN integration and Community-building;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the crucial role of the institution of family, in accordance with our national laws, as a fundamental building block of society that provides the first line of care and support for the nurturing of the resilience and development of its people;

**RECOGNISING** the family structure and its inherent strengths and capacities to provide a firm community foundation for the peoples of ASEAN to adapt to emerging developments, crises, and to take on new opportunities;

**MINDFUL** of the impacts of the challenges affecting the institutions of family and community, amongst others, due to violence within and outside the family, disaster, and climate change, technological and digital revolution, economic recession and health crises such as pandemics;

**NOTING** further the need to address the challenges and barriers faced by families in order to honour and optimise their invaluable roles and contributions to community harmony, shared prosperity and nation-building;

**UNDERSCORING** that building family resilience requires caring, accepting, capable and resourceful communities that enable and empower families and their members to thrive and adapt to different forms of setbacks, crises and shocks;

**STRESSING** the need for cooperation among the ASEAN Member States and relevant stakeholders at all levels to highlight the importance of the family, foster family- community partnership, improve family engagement in community building and build resilient and open communities to achieve a greater sense of unity and solidarity within our nations, and in our ASEAN Community;

**DO HEREBY:**

**AGREE** to strengthen concerted efforts to promote the importance of family for community development and nation-building, as follows:

- a) Develop a whole-of-ASEAN strategy for a holistic family-centred approach that strengthens family well-being and development, family resilience and family solidarity to adapt to challenges facing families and addresses emerging issues and concerns of families in general, such as through introducing “ASEAN Family Day” to be celebrated in May every year;
- b) Develop and enhance pro-family policies and legislation to strengthen the family institution, in accordance with prevailing national laws, policies and regulations. Such legislation and policies are aimed to protect and promote the interests of families in terms of the needs, risks and vulnerabilities of everyone in the family;
- i) Facilitate investment in and access to quality family support, care, protection and development services to ensure that their essential needs for survival, resilience, self-reliance, and well-being are promoted, pursued and safeguarded;

- ii) Foster secure family life by reducing the incidence of poverty, exclusion and violence within and outside families in ASEAN while promoting acceptance, respect, harmony, constructive dialogue and togetherness;
- iii) Promote the establishment of community-based integrated care support systems to assist families as primary caregivers providing necessary protection, assistance and care services to children, elderly, women, and individuals with special needs, thereby allowing the effective role of families in boosting community welfare, well-being, social protection, and nation- building;
- iv) Strengthen conducive support systems and structures particularly at the community level to leverage effective responses to address economic and social issues confronting families, taking into consideration the opportunities from the use of digital technology, innovation and connectivity, among others;
- v) Improve human and institutional capacities in multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary planning and evaluation, policy analysis and research, service delivery and capability-building for stakeholders with the active participation of families;
- vi) Develop strategies to support work-life harmony and shared responsibilities, and strengthen the family institution, such as through flexible working arrangements, employee support schemes and leave schemes, safe and supportive family environment among others;
- vii) Promote gender equality, including equal sharing of family responsibilities as well as the equal participation and contribution of women and men in family building and social development when formulating family and marriage-related policies;
- viii) Strengthen family bonds through the pursuit of healthy lifestyles inculcating positive family values, mental health, effective communication and nurturing open and good mental health;
- ix) Foster cooperation in developing high-quality family-based or community-based social work services for people, especially disadvantaged groups with difficult circumstances, to contribute to strengthening family well-being and development;
- x) Enhance cooperation within ASEAN and its external partners in sharing experiences and successful lessons on family-related and marriage-related topics;
- xi) Promote lifelong learning in order to enhance family strengths;
- xii) Facilitate the protection of all members of family and community from any health pandemic and assistance for the sustainability and well-being of the family and community.

**WE ENCOURAGE** relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies in the three ASEAN Community Pillars together with civil society organisations, academic institutions, private sector, and community partners in ASEAN, to strengthen collaboration on the implementation of this Declaration, and **TASK** the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD), with the support of the Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD), to undertake measures to implement this commitment, including mobilising appropriate resources and systematic review of the implementation.

**ADOPTED** in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, this Twenty-sixth of October in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty One.

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## DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF BULLYING OF CHILDREN IN ASEAN

**WE**, the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:

**UPHOLDING** the goals of ASEAN to end all forms of violence against children as reflected in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN (2013); the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Children (2015); the ASEAN Declaration on Culture of Prevention for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy and Harmonious Society (2017); the Declaration on the Protection of Children from all Forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse in ASEAN (2019);

**REAFFIRMING** ASEAN's commitment to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015); the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (2012); the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Education for out-of-school Children and Youth (OOSCY) (2016); the ASEAN Declaration on the Gender-Responsive Implementation of ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals (2017); the Joint Statement on Reaffirmation of Commitment to Advancing the Rights of the Child in ASEAN (2019); the Narrative of ASEAN Identity (2020); Ha Noi Declaration on Strengthening Social Work Towards Comprehensive and Responsive ASEAN Community (2020), as well as ASEAN Roadmap on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2025, in order to eliminate all forms of bullying, towards a more caring, inclusive, child-sensitive and child-friendly ASEAN Community;

**RECALLING** the obligation of all ASEAN Member States to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No.182); and that the CRC, CEDAW, CRPD, and ILO's related Conventions emphasize the principles of non-discrimination; and that the CRC, in particular, underscores the principles of right to life, survival, protection and development; the best interests of the child; and respect for the child's views;

**RECOGNISING** bullying as a repeated or persistent behavior intended to hurt or cause distress to a person, which could be physical, verbal, or relational in nature,

occurring online or offline, hostile intent, and involves an observed or perceived power imbalance;

**RECOGNISING FURTHER** the risks and vulnerabilities of children brought by varying socio- economic and cultural factors such as gender, income level, ethnicity and disability, among others, that may cause bullying in schools, communities, other private and public spaces and even in cyberspace with the rapid advancement in technologies, communication and connectivity. Cognizant also of the exacerbated incidences of bullying such as physical, verbal, psychological, passive and active, harassment, assaults, and cyberbullying; as vulnerabilities and susceptibilities of children have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic;

**DEEPLY CONCERNED** by the harmful and long lasting impacts of bullying on the physical and psycho-emotional and socio-cultural development, health, self-esteem, sense of confidence and overall well-being of children in ASEAN, especially since it can be unseen physically;

**ENDEAVORING** to leverage targeted collaborative actions and optimise regional cooperation towards the elimination of bullying among and against children in the ASEAN region through evidence-based policy strategies, meaningful dialogues, development and active enforcement of preventive measures and education, and comprehensive responses and rehabilitation to end bullying for all children across ASEAN Member States;

**STRESSING** the need for partnership among ASEAN Member States and the crucial roles of the parents, guardians, caregivers families, teachers, educators, community leaders, religious leaders, psychologists, social workers, and social service workforce, technology industry, private sector, and the responsible government institutions, educational institutions, neighbourhood and community partners, civil society organisations, service providers, the media, and other relevant parties to prevent and end the bullying of children, hand-in-hand with the active participation of children and the youth themselves;

**REAFFIRMING FURTHER** the distinctive contexts of the different perspectives on bullying from the victim, the bully, and the bystander, to identify clear pathways on how protection shall be made available in case of bullying involving children.

#### **DO HEREBY:**

**AGREE** to strengthen concerted efforts and undertake appropriate measures to promote and protect children in ASEAN against all forms of bullying in different settings, ensuring that their best interests and welfare are upheld.

**ENHANCE** the improvement of accessibility of a mechanism or helpline for reporting of cases of bullying of children that is effective and accessible to children and the public while respecting the privacy rights of the children involved as well as the

persons providing the report, in accordance to the ASEAN Member States' national laws, policies and regulations. The reporting mechanism could empower children to be agents of change being able to step up for themselves and/or for other children who are in situation of bullying.

**PROMOTE** a culture of prevention that educates and empowers people, detects, prevents and immediately responds to bullying to children through a holistic, cross-sectoral, multi-disciplinary, integrated, and participatory approach from family development, comprehensive and inclusive education, social norms and behavioral changes, digital literacy, access to health and social services, social work strengthening and economic empowerment, as well as cognitive and affective empathy, among others.

**STRENGTHEN** efforts to address the root causes and drivers of bullying among and against children, including bullying in cyberspace, and its impacts on children, their families and communities through the generation of appropriate and relevant statistical information and sex- and age-disaggregated data, and conduct of dialogues and learning exchanges, among others, taking into account the ASEAN Member States' national contexts, to inform practical solutions and actions to accelerate efforts to eliminate bullying of children in ASEAN

**DEVELOP** inclusive, gender-responsive child protection systems and child-safeguarding measures for the ASEAN Member States in accordance with their prevailing national laws, policies and regulations, that are applicable to communities in ASEAN to ensure effective response for needed support and services to children, their families and schools in situations of bullying, offline or online.

**ENCOURAGE** to undertake capacity building and increased awareness-raising activities on preventing and responding to bullying of children among children, parents, families, caregivers, teachers, educators, social workers, health personnel, government agencies and relevant institutions such as schools, media organisations, service providers, civil society organisations, community partners and other relevant actors.

**ENCOURAGE** the development of educational programs, including capacity building in life and social skills, and communication strategies with positive and uplifting messages that affirm the child to promote a better understanding of the ASEAN people on the issue of bullying of children and its exponential impacts on the society, as well as support children's safe and creative interactions on the internet by utilising various types of interventions, including social media, innovative learning methods and tools and other online platforms, taking advantage of the opportunities on the use of digital technologies.

**IMPROVE** the availability and accessibility of support services and referral system for the children and the concerned public in reporting cases of bullying of children and

making sure it is safe, accessible, and confidential in accordance with the ASEAN Member State's national laws, policies and regulations. The reporting mechanism could empower children to be agents of change, being able to step up for themselves and/or for other children who are in situations of bullying.

**LEVERAGE** on and strengthen existing regional cooperation with regional inter-governmental organisations and development partners, UN agencies, non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations, community partners, and relevant actors, among others in accordance with national contexts, to better protect and empower children, particularly those in vulnerable situations, from all forms of bullying.

**ENCOURAGE** relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies in the three ASEAN Community Pillars to promote and support this Declaration; and **TASK** the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD), with the support of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) and the Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) to develop a Roadmap to operationalise this Declaration, and mobilise resources to coordinate, monitor and report its progress of implementation in partnership with other relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies and partners.

**ADOPTED** in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, this Twenty Sixth Day of October in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty One.

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## **DECLARATION ON BUILDING A MORE SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT FUTURE: UNLOCKING WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN ASEAN**

**WE**, the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN”), namely: Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 41<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit:

**UPHOLDING** the commitment of ASEAN to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls enshrined in the Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region (1988), ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2004), Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children (2010), ASEAN Human Rights Declaration and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD (2012), the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN (2013), the ASEAN Declaration on the Gender-Responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals (2017), the Action Agenda on Mainstreaming Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE) in ASEAN (2017), the Joint Statement on Promoting Women, Peace and Security in ASEAN (2017), the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2018), and the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework 2021-2025.

**REAFFIRMING** the complementarity between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which underscores the importance of women’s economic empowerment in driving inclusive economic growth, alleviating poverty, sustaining peace and fostering long-term resilience by ensuring women’s equal rights and access to education and training, economic resources, decision-making, leadership as well as equitable access to health services, technology, financial services and markets.

**REITERATING** the need to strengthen the efforts to promote the economic empowerment of women and women’s entrepreneurship development in ASEAN by creating a holistic system and enabling environment that will build capacity, enhance knowledge and skills and maximise the potentials of women entrepreneurs in our

region as reflected in the ASEAN Declaration on Innovation (2017), the ASEAN Declaration on Human Resources Development for the Changing World of Work and its roadmap (2020), the ASEAN Guideline on Gender Mainstreaming into Labour and Employment Policies Towards Decent Work For All (2020), the Consolidated Strategy on the Fourth Industrial Revolution for ASEAN (2021) and the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery

Framework (2020).

**UNDERSCORING** the unprecedented and long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and their economic security particularly concerning loss of employment, detrimental effects on women-led businesses, compounded challenges for women in the informal sector and sharp increases in unpaid care and domestic work on women which has exacerbated existing biases and barriers including violence against women, harmful gender stereotypes and socio-cultural norms, gender digital divide, limited access to finance and impediments to reskilling and upskilling which in turn undermine women's economic empowerment and the potentials for optimal growth for women's entrepreneurship in the region.

**COMMENDING** steadfast endeavors and remarkable progress of the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs' Network (AWEN), the Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM), the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ACCMSME), the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) and the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) who continue to unlock and to harness women's entrepreneurship through promoting opportunities for learning, expanding networks, fostering business skills, combatting discrimination and exploitation, boosting access to finance, digital solutions, logistics and other services for women and through advocating for women's economic leadership at all levels.

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that women are main drivers for inclusive growth, economic integration, and transformation and social cohesion, particularly in the COVID-19 recovery and their key roles and contributions as economic and sustainable development actors. Women business owners must be recognized, nurtured, and promoted in order to unlock and fulfill their potential for inclusive entrepreneurship from micro, small and medium-sized (MSMEs) to large enterprises in a wide range of sectors, including emerging opportunities in social entrepreneurship, environmental sustainability, platform work and provision of care and services.

**MINDFUL** of the fact that building a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient future for women entrepreneurs requires multi-sectoral collaboration, engagement and commitment from multiple stakeholders including government agencies, private and business sector, investors, social enterprises, the media, academic institutions, experts and practitioners, ASEAN dialogue partners, international as well as community and civil society organisations.

## DO HEREBY:

Resolve to undertake the following actions, considering the context, capacities and resources of the respective ASEAN Member States, to advance and unlock the potential of women entrepreneurs in the region:

1. Address systemic and institutional barriers faced by women, especially women with disabilities and those in vulnerable situations, to entrepreneurship and broader economic empowerment, that may prevent them from thriving from micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and the self-employed to larger businesses, namely limited access to knowledge, poor entrepreneurial skills, deficient training opportunities and markets, insufficient financial support and capitals, inadequate networking and access to industry experience, unfavourable working conditions, discriminatory socio-cultural norms and practices as well as large gender pay gap, gender digital divide and lack of decent work, and disproportionate burden of unpaid care and domestic work, among others.
2. Strengthen policy and legislative frameworks that promote women's entrepreneurship development, resilience and economic empowerment, address gaps and setbacks in women's business ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services and resources, in access to public and private markets and e-markets and enhance governance mechanisms including gender-responsive procurement (GRP) practices that includes women entrepreneur voices in decision-making and leadership both in public and private sectors.
3. Promote gender-responsive investments that include a combination of investment in women-owned or -led businesses in key sectors and help create employment opportunities; investment in businesses that promotes workplace equity; or investing in organizations that offer products or services that improve the lives of women in a sustainable manner.
4. Promote targeted measures to enable women to adapt, respond to and recover from the crisis particularly the COVID-19 pandemic and to build long-term resilience by supporting women in starting new and diversified businesses, in self-employment and by improving the opportunities to reskilling and upskilling efforts through effective use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), digital platforms and overall connectivity and access to diverse business models and diverse sources of finance and services.
5. Invest in data collection for gender analysis, creating action plans, and monitoring the progress of women-owned and -led businesses and enterprises, in regardless of whether they are formal or informal, and located in the urban or rural areas, to reach all segments of women entrepreneurs including micro, small, medium and large-sized businesses as well as emerging start-ups across industries with a priority to foster emerging female underrepresented sectors, including in technology and innovative sectors in Science, Technology,

Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), the creative economy, and in sustainable development and inform about policies and interventions to bolster women's entrepreneurship at each stage of development.

6. Promote an inclusive and gender-responsive entrepreneurship approach that harnesses the role of women entrepreneurs to advance sustainable development and that embraces the diversities and differences of women entrepreneurs, acknowledging the needs of the female youth, rural women, low-income women, migrant women, women with disabilities, older women, women-headed households, women in vulnerable situations, women who are victims of violence and disasters, among others, and tackle the ensuing challenges of the sector in entrepreneurship development.
7. Provide gender-responsive and accessible entrepreneurship support services to women, especially women with disabilities and those in vulnerable situations, that include but not limited to, data and information and technology, technical support and expertise, capacity- building including vocational training activities, trade and financial services, and marketing support and opportunities, training on digital literacy and skills development especially the application of digital technology and doing business on the e-commerce trading floors to promote adaptation and readiness to the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
8. Recognize and value women's unpaid care and domestic work and address the unequal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of gender-responsive and care-sensitive public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility and of work-life balance within the household and the family, whilst creating an enabling environment for care entrepreneurship opportunities to complement and enhance the public provision of care in the community.
9. Enhance cross-sectoral and inter-pillar cooperation across the ASEAN Community, as well as engage ASEAN's entities and Dialogue Partners, international and civil society organisations, academe, and business and private sector, social enterprise, experts and practitioners among others, to continue advancing and unlocking the tremendous potential of women's entrepreneurship in ASEAN as a means to promote women's empowerment, sustainable development, shared prosperity, social cohesion and resilience.

**WE ENCOURAGE** relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies in the three (3) ASEAN Community Pillars to promote and implement the provisions of the present declaration in all its aspects, and task the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW), with the support of the ACW to review, coordinate, monitor and report its progress through appropriate instruments and actions with the support of AMS.

**ADOPTED** on this Eleventh Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Two in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.



## ASEAN DECLARATION ON GENDER EQUALITY AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

**WE**, the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN”), namely: Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 43<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit held on 5 September 2023:

**RECALLING** the principles of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights that recognises the family as the natural and fundamental unit of society and entitled to protection by society and the State, as well as the commitments of all ASEAN Member States to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) including the full development and advancement of women and men, and girls and boys, and the commitment to achieving SDG 5;

**REAFFIRMING** the commitment of ASEAN to promote family development, women’s empowerment, gender equality, and child protection enshrined in all ASEAN related policies and regulations;

**UPHOLDING** the principles in the ASEAN Charter to enhance the well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN by providing them with equitable access to opportunities for human development, social welfare and justice, and to promote a people-oriented ASEAN in which all sectors of society are encouraged to participate in, and benefit from, the process of ASEAN integration and community-building;

**RECALLING** the Narrative of ASEAN Identity that was adopted by the ASEAN Leaders during the 37<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in November 2020 which enunciates the values of respect, collectivism, and social harmony in ASEAN Community to increase ASEAN Awareness, Relevance, and Appreciation by ensuring the

integration of ASEAN in its people's daily lives, as well as increasing people to people contacts and emphasise in providing of ASEAN-related symbols and ideals in the community; and recalling further the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on the Importance of Family for Community Development and Nation-building as well as the ASEAN Comprehensive Framework on Care Economy;

**WELCOMING** Indonesia's chairmanship under the theme "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth" as ASEAN collective commitments to strengthen ASEAN region to enable to address today's challenges and remain relevant and beneficial to its people, the region, and serving as the regions' epicentre of growth;

**UNDERSCORING** the crucial role of the family as an essential institution and building block of societies to address current and emerging crises, challenges and complexities, more so in the post-COVID 19 pandemic era, as well as the essential contributions of women and men, and girls and boys to the development and well-being of the whole family;

**MINDFUL** of prevailing social and cultural norms and gender stereotypes that perpetuate violence against women and children, unequal gender-based relations and burden of care work and households' responsibilities faced by women and men, and girls and boys in the family; whereas family as a social institution that imparts gender equality, non-discriminatory and non-gender-based violence values;

**RECOGNISING** that the advancement of family development, women's empowerment, and gender equality are necessary for socio-economic growth and inclusive development in ASEAN, and an important component of a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable community; that family development and women's empowerment are mutually complementary and reinforcing, where strong and supportive families provide the foundation for the promotion, protection and fulfilment of women's rights, and for women to achieve their aspirations and realise their full potential in partnership with men, in line with the ASEAN Community Vision to move towards a more inclusive community guided by a life-cycle approach;

**EMPHASISING** the importance of equal partnership between women and men, and girls and boys in all aspects, including the family, as families are the pivot upon which this partnership is nurtured and promoted, in line with the values of mutual respect, collectivism and social harmony.

## DO HEREBY:

**RESOLVE** to work together towards strengthening family development, women's empowerment, gender equality, and inclusive sustainable growth in line with the values of respect, equality, collectivism, and social harmony, in accordance with prevailing national laws, policies and regulations, through the following actions:

1. Develop and implement strategies and approaches which strengthen family's resilience, and well-being throughout their life-cycle in ASEAN to achieve a condition in which every family has capacity to develop themselves and live independently and harmoniously in pursuit of a prosperous, safe and equal life through the development, implementation, and evaluation of family-centred policies in ASEAN and its Member States, and promote gender mainstreaming in these policies.
3. Promote economic empowerment of women, increasing opportunities for girls and women in education and vocational education training, mainstreaming gender into labour and employment policies and programmes toward balancing work-life balance and shared family responsibilities among men and women workers.
4. Strengthen regional and national capacities of stakeholders, including on sex- disaggregated data and statistics on family; to increase awareness on family inclusive approaches and family-centred and gender equality policies and programmes; and to monitor and evaluate the implementation of family-centred policies and programmes.
5. Increase and enable investments in building universal, gender-responsive and sustainable care systems, and social services to recognise and reduce the burden of unpaid care work for women and girls in family.
6. Strengthen cross-sectoral and inter-pillar cooperation across the ASEAN Community, such as through knowledge exchange and research, as well as engage ASEAN's relevant stakeholders, academia, and business and private sector, social enterprise, experts, practitioners, dialogue partners and international organisations among others, to promote family development, women's empowerment, gender equality and inclusive sustainable growth.

**ENGAGE** relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies in the three ASEAN Community Pillars together with women’s organisations, civil society organisations, academic institutions, private sector, community partners in ASEAN, to strengthen collaboration on the implementation of this Declaration, and **TASK** the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW), with the support of the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), to undertake measures to implement this commitment, including mobilising appropriate resources and systematic review of the implementation.

**ADOPTED** on this Fifth Day of September in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Three in a single original copy in the English Language.

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## **ASEAN DECLARATION ON DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT AND PARTNERSHIP FOR A RESILIENT ASEAN COMMUNITY**

**WE**, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, gathered in Jakarta on 5 September 2023, on the occasion of the 43<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit;

**UNITED** by the commitment to the ASEAN Vision 2025 and in realising an ASEAN Community that engages and benefits the people, and is inclusive, sustainable, resilient and dynamic, as also inscribed in ASEAN Community Blueprint 2025 and the Narrative of ASEAN Identity;

**RECALLED** the purposes of ASEAN stipulated in ASEAN Charter to enhance the well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN by providing persons with disabilities with equitable access to opportunities for human development, social welfare and justice, as well as to promote a people-oriented ASEAN in which all sectors of society are encouraged to participate in, and benefit from, the process of ASEAN integration and community building through enhanced regional cooperation and mutual assistance;

**REAFFIRMED** the guiding principles laid out by the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration which recognises the rights of persons with disabilities that are universal, inalienable, integral and indivisible part of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

**RECOGNISED** the 2030 United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, the Beijing Declaration including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy, the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023 – 2032, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as well as other relevant international instruments highlighting on the importance of the protection and empowerment of persons with disabilities and of inclusive, accessible, equitable, and non-discriminatory participation in all aspects of development;

**RECOGNISED** the Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of the Persons with Disabilities in ASEAN Community and Mobilisation Framework of the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities commencing the regional collective efforts in promoting and protecting the rights of persons with

disabilities across the economic, political security, and sociocultural pillars of the ASEAN Community;

**ACKNOWLEDGED** the contribution of persons with disabilities to the political, economy and socio-cultural development in the region and the importance of unlocking their potentials to contribute to and realise ASEAN as an epicentrum of growth that is disability-inclusive;

**ACKNOWLEDGED** the efforts and progress made by member states in the implementation of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by ASEAN Member States, through collaboration and partnership across the region;

**NOTED** with concern that, despite progress in the region to promote inclusion and to empower persons with disabilities, challenges remain due to attitudinal, environmental, institutional, and social barriers and were aggravated by intersectionality aspects as well as even exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic which disproportionately affected the well-being of all persons with disabilities;

**ACKNOWLEDGED** the contribution of relevant stakeholders in society, particularly organisations of and for persons with disabilities in mainstreaming a disability-sensitive approach and the roles of private sectors entities in driving disability-inclusive business models and value chains in the phase of response, recovery, and rebuild from the COVID-19 pandemic;

**RECOGNISED** the strategic position of regional cooperation to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities, including but not limited to persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, in developing accessible services and reasonable accommodation to health, education, employment and social protection, and to ensure digital inclusion for independent living and full participation in society as well as to enable them to rightfully become full-fledged workers or technopreneurs allowing them to better contribute to sustainable growth and development.

**DO HEREBY DECLARE** to:

1. Continue to respect, protect, fulfill, promote, and enforce the rights of persons with disability in line with Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ASEAN Enabling Masterplan and other relevant global and regional disability-related instruments;
2. Further mainstream disability-inclusive as well as evidence and results-based approaches to protect and empower persons with disabilities, focusing on distinct needs of disability-based intersectionality aspects;
3. Promote disability-inclusive infrastructure to further improve accessibility of persons with disabilities through an enabling physical environment, including but

not limited to public transportation, health services, education and training, employment, political participation, information, communication, and technology, in line with the relevant international accessibility standards and guidelines;

4. Further empower and improve the well-being of persons with disabilities by providing accessibilities, reasonable accommodation, appropriate education and training, decent work, financial inclusion, and public services particularly on essential services in situations of risk;
5. Promote comprehensive and universally designed goods, services, equipment, and facilities for people with disabilities;
6. Advance public awareness to eliminate negative stigma and discrimination towards persons with disabilities including through but not limited to media engagement and open campaigns;
7. Provide comprehensive and inclusive social protection as an integral component of social justice for persons with disabilities;
8. Work towards the establishment of relevant multi-stakeholder partnership platforms, including with the business sectors and relevant stakeholders, that focus on addressing inequalities and promoting disability empowerment;
9. Build global and regional collaboration in the areas of policy, practices, research, evaluation, training, education, fighting stigma and discrimination that are relevant to the lives, care, and social inclusion of all persons with disabilities;
10. Take action to reduce disparities on disability data in national and regional levels and be willing to share relevant, reliable, valid and comparable disability data, in partnership with relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies and think-tank organisations affiliated with ASEAN;
11. Accelerate national reviews, including data surveys, to complement the progress report of the implementation of ASEAN Enabling Masterplan in the region and its monitoring and evaluation mechanism involving the three pillars of ASEAN Community;
12. Take action towards harmonising disability-related concept in the region that is in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other relevant international laws;
13. Explore further potential collaboration with ASEAN partners, organisations of and for persons with disabilities, and private sectors to protect and empower person

with disabilities, in particular to ensure sustainable project and funding to accelerate disability-inclusive development in the region and beyond, including through cooperation in the Indo-Pacific;

14. Explore possible development of a future regional strategy to strengthen and maintain disability-inclusive development and ensure its inclusion in ASEAN Vision post-2025, towards 2045, and thus contribute to a resilient and prosperous ASEAN Community.

**WE** tasked the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD) with the support of the Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) to realise this Declaration through operational documents and resource mobilisation for its implementation in accordance with the national laws, regulations, and policies of ASEAN Member States.

**ADOPTED** on this Fifth Day of September in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty- Three in a single original copy in the English Language.

# ASEAN JOINT STATEMENTS



## JOINT STATEMENT ON PROMOTING WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY IN ASEAN

**WE**, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN”), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit:

**RECALLING** our commitment to promote regional peace and stability, sustainable development and prosperity for our citizens as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, and our commitment to ensure gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, towards realising an inclusive, people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN Community, as reflected in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025;

**REAFFIRMING** the goals and our commitments to eliminate violence against women and girls, as reflected in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region adopted at the 37<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (2004), the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children (2013), Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of the Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children (2010) and the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (2015);

**REAFFIRMING FURTHER** our commitments to the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Declaration on Violence Against Women (Vienna Declaration), the Beijing Platform of Action, the BPFA + 20 and its Outcome Document, and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the efforts of ASEAN on peacebuilding, including the increasing public spending and investment on social services, such as those for education and health, which serve to reinforce peace in the region;

**CONCERNED** by the increasing and unprecedented threats posed by conflicts, the rise of violent extremism, and the increasing numbers of refugees and displaced persons, including women and children;

**RECOGNISING** that peace and security are essential to the achievement of sustainable development, and are interconnected and vital to the future of ASEAN;

**RECOGNISING FURTHER** the Women, Peace and Security agenda, which recognises the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women, the occurrence of sexual and gender-based violence during armed conflict, and emphasizes the importance of women's equal, full and effective participation at all stages of peace processes given their necessary role in the prevention and resolution of conflict, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, as embodied in UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), and 1889 (2009).

**DO HEREBY:**

**PROMOTE** a culture of peace and prevention that educates and empowers people, detects and prevents armed conflicts, and sustains peace through a cross-sectoral, comprehensive, and integrated approach.

**COMMIT** to continue addressing the root causes of armed conflicts such as poverty, discrimination, gender inequality, social injustice, economic, and social exclusion of persons and communities vulnerable to and at risk of radicalisation, violent extremism, and terrorism.

**PLEDGE** to promote gender equality and reduce social inequalities between men and women in our societies as a way to contribute as well to longstanding peace and prosperity.

**ENCOURAGE** the integration of gender perspective in all conflict prevention initiatives and strategies, and ensure the full participation of women in peace processes such as conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation processes.

**ENCOURAGE** the inclusion of the women, peace and security agenda in policies and programmes for the protection of women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence before, during and after armed conflict, and the creation of greater and wider spaces for participation in peacebuilding and post-reconstruction processes.

**BUILD** the capacity of women as peace builders either as mediators, negotiators and/ or first responders at the regional, national and local levels.

**COMMIT** to engage men and boys within the broader women, peace and security agenda.

**LEVERAGE** the role of regional inter-governmental organisations and development partners to support the implementation of global obligations and commitments in advancing the women, peace and security agenda to better protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence, discrimination and social exclusion.

**TASK** relevant ASEAN bodies to work together to promote the women, peace and security agenda in the ASEAN region.

**ADOPTED** on the Thirteenth Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Seventeen (2017) in Manila, the Philippines.



## JOINT STATEMENT ON REAFFIRMATION OF COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD IN ASEAN

**WE**, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 35th ASEAN Summit;

**COGNISANT** that all ASEAN Member States ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and acknowledging that the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and its 17 goals as well as ASEAN Community Vision 2025, contributing to further the implementation of the CRC;

**RECOGNISING** that the ten ASEAN Member States, together and individually, have made significant progress in improving the lives of millions of children across the region, and providing an environment towards a happier childhood, more opportunities for realising their potential and sustained good health and well-being;

**FURTHER RECOGNISING** that there are new and emerging threats to child rights and new opportunities to realise child rights, posed by global trends such as climate change, online safety, protracted conflict, mass migration and demographic shifts, among others;

**DO HEREBY REAFFIRM THE COMMITMENT TO FULLY IMPLEMENT THE CRC AND AGREE TO:**

1. **ACCELERATE** efforts to remove barriers that hinder equity, inclusion and equality across all child rights sectors by generating data and utilising evidence to address causes of exclusion, as well as mobilising political will, resources and partnerships with civil society, private sector, and other relevant stakeholders; and strengthen monitoring of SDGs including on prevalence of violence against children, climate and environmental impacts on children, and ensuring availability of children's sex- disaggregated data;
2. **COMMIT** to achieve gender equality and empowerment of children as enshrined in ASEAN Community Vision 2025 including addressing social norms that act as barriers to children's rights and gender equality and the disproportionate impacts and vulnerability of children during and after disasters;

3. **INCREASE** coverage of quality services in all ASEAN Member States by strengthening national policies and programmes in relation to health, nutrition, education, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), child protection and social work and protection, and by mainstreaming child rights in cross-cutting areas such as early childhood and development, adolescent empowerment, multi-dimensional poverty, disabilities, migration, environmental degradation, urbanisation, climate change and disaster risk reduction;
4. **STRENGTHEN** child rights legal frameworks across relevant sectors, including preventing all forms of violence against children, protecting children's rights to a clean and safe environment, and promoting universal health coverage, among others;
5. **LEVERAGE** innovation and technology in the digital age to promote actions that support children's rights, and to assist disadvantaged groups to access new technologies including technical tool for safer internet experience for children, and climate smart technology to address climate change;
6. **SAFEGUARD** the rights of children to express themselves under Article 13 of the CRC by providing a safe space to them, and creating opportunities for children to participate and be responsible and engaged in defining and designing policies that address 21<sup>st</sup> century skills;
7. **INCREASE** social investments to lift children out of poverty, to address the persistent challenge of multiple deprivations experienced by children, and to support continued and future economic growth and progress toward implementation of the CRC and achievement of SDG targets and ASEAN Community Vision 2025;
8. **CONTINUE** to work closely with UNICEF and other UN and intergovernmental bodies, CSOs, private sector and other stakeholders including children themselves to reinforce regional cooperation, cross-border collaboration as well as national policies and programmes that promote implementation of Member States' international child rights commitments, all of which recognise the need for specific actions for children from vulnerable groups; and
9. **TASK** the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD) to work together with all ASEAN Member States to support the full implementation of the CRC in the ASEAN region.

**ADOPTED** in Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand on this Second Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Nineteen, in a single original copy, in the English language.

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## ASEAN LEADERS JOINT STATEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ASEAN VILLAGES NETWORK

**WE**, the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao's People Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 42<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Summit chaired by the Republic of Indonesia;

**NOTING** the significant progress made by ASEAN Member States in achieving the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, including the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community which engages and benefits the people and is inclusive, sustainable, resilient and dynamic;

**RECALLING** the purposes of ASEAN, as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, which are to enhance regional resilience, promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as enhance the well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN for the strengthening of ASEAN Community;

**RECOGNISING** the ASEAN Master Plan on Rural Development which aims to provide a cohesive guiding framework for the ASEAN rural development and poverty alleviation agenda, which contributes to and is shaped by the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the need to promote rural development in order to accelerate the achievement of ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as beyond.

### **DO HEREBY:**

1. **AGREE** to establish an ASEAN Villages Network with the purpose to, among others:
  - i. Provide platform for whole-of-community and inclusive participation so as their voices are heard and able to contribute to and benefit from the development;
  - ii. Facilitate collaboration and cooperation among villages to enable villages to fast-track rural transformation;

- iii. Exchange strategies to improve digital infrastructure, increase digital usage, enhance digital skills and inclusion, and promote digital innovation in rural areas;
  - iv. Facilitate better and wider rural products' access to markets so as to provide more opportunities for village products to penetrate regional and international markets;
  - v. Explore collaboration with External Partners and private sectors to support the sustainability of the Network; and
  - vi. Strengthen ASEAN identity among villages community.
2. **TASK** the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMMRDPE) with the support of ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE) and other relevant ASEAN Sectoral Ministerial Bodies to mobilise resources for its implementation in accordance with the national laws, policies and regulations of ASEAN Member States, and develop an ASEAN Villages Network Framework to translate the Network into a concrete and bottom-up platform to fast-track the village development towards the attainment of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**ADOPTED** in Labuan Bajo, the Republic of Indonesia, on this Tenth Day of May in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Three, in a single original copy in the English language.

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