

2012 PHNOM PENH STATEMENT ON THE ADOPTION OF THE ASEAN HUMAN RIGHTS DECLARATION

Signed in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 18 November 2012

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), on the occasion of the 21st ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia;

REAFFIRMING ASEAN's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as the purposes and the principles as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, including the principles of democracy, rule of law and good governance;

REITERATING ASEAN and its Member States' commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and other international human rights instruments, to which ASEAN Member States are parties as well as to relevant ASEAN declarations and instruments pertaining to human rights;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of the role of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), as the overarching institution responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights in ASEAN, that contributes towards the building of a people-oriented ASEAN Community and as a vehicle for progressive social development and justice, the full realization of human dignity and the attainment of a higher quality of life for ASEAN peoples;

COMMENDING AICHR for developing a comprehensive declaration on human rights, in consultation with ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and other relevant stakeholders;

ACKNOWLEDGING the meaningful contribution of ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and other relevant stakeholders in the promotion and protection of human rights in ASEAN, and encourage their continuing engagement and dialogue with the AICHR;

DO HEREBY:

1. ADOPT the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD);
2. AFFIRM our commitment to the full implementation of the AHRD to advance the promotion and protection of human rights in the region; and
3. REAFFIRM further our commitment to ensure that the implementation of the AHRD be in accordance with our commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action, and other international human rights instruments to which ASEAN Member States are parties, as well as to relevant ASEAN declarations and instruments pertaining to human rights.

DONE at Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, this Eighteenth Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Twelve, in a single original in the English language.

For Brunei Darussalam: **HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH**, Sultan of Brunei Darussalam

For the Kingdom of Cambodia: **SAMDECH AKKA MOHA SENA PADEI TECO HUN SEN**, Prime Minister

For the Republic of Indonesia: **SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO**, President

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic: **THONGSING THAMMAVONG**, Prime Minister

For Malaysia: **DATO' SRI MOHD NAJIB TUN ABDUL RAZAK**, Prime Minister

For the Republic of the Union of Myanmar: **U THEIN SEIN**, President

For the Republic of the Philippines: **BENIGNO S. AQUINO III**, President

For the Republic of Singapore: **LEE HSIEN LOONG**, Prime Minister

For the Kingdom of Thailand: **YINGLUCK SHINAWATRA**, Prime Minister

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam: **NGUYEN TAN DUNG**, Prime Minister