

FIVE-YEAR WORK PLAN OF THE ASEAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (2016 – 2020)

I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the Terms of Reference of the AICHR, this five-year Work Plan for the period of 2016 – 2020 includes programmes and activities of the AICHR with indicative budget to be approved by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting, upon the recommendation of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN.

The AICHR has successfully completed mandate 4.2 of the first Five-Year Work Plan ie to develop an ASEAN Human Rights Declaration with a view to establishing a framework for human rights cooperation in ASEAN. As the Five-Year Work Plan 2016 – 2020 is the continuation of the AICHR Work Plan 2010 - 2015, this five-year Work Plan will continue AICHR's works on the promotion and the implementation of the Declaration itself and the Phnom Penh Statement. The AICHR will also work on engaging with ASEAN Organs and ASEAN Bodies dealing with human rights through mainstreaming of human rights in the three pillars of ASEAN.

II. OBJECTIVES OF AICHR'S FIVE-YEAR WORK PLAN 2016 - 2020

AICHR is guided by the ASEAN Charter, Cha-Am Hua Hin Declaration on the Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and the TOR of AICHR. The AICHR desires that the ASEAN community shall be free from fear, war, aggression and poverty. The peoples of ASEAN shall enjoy the right to live in peace, dignity and prosperity. There shall be a balance between rights, duties and responsibilities of individuals in the context of the ASEAN Community. The Member States of ASEAN and all sectors of their respective societies have the shared responsibility to ensure the promotion and protection of these rights and duties.

The objective of the AICHR Work Plan 2016-2020 is to give reality to the Terms of Reference of AICHR. To that end, the Work Plan is aimed at realizing the aspiration of the people of ASEAN on human rights, strengthening AICHR, promoting and protecting human rights in ASEAN and enhancing cooperation with external partners, as well as to implement AICHR's overarching mandate on human rights, thereby contributing to the successful building of an ASEAN Community and beyond.

This Work Plan reflects the AICHR as a vehicle for progressive social development and justice, giving full realization to human dignity and the attainment of higher quality of life. In this respect, AICHR will continue to work to promote and protect human rights¹.

III. PRINCIPLES

The Work Plan of AICHR, together with all its activities must be in accordance with the principles, mandate, functions and modalities under the TOR of AICHR as well as the AHRD and the Phnom Penh Statement.

Participation by various sectors of society of each ASEAN Member State in the implementation of the Work Plan shall be determined by AICHR, taking into consideration the need to encourage as broad a participation as possible.

IV. WORK PLAN (based on the 14 Mandate and Functions of AICHR as provided for in the TOR)

Characteristics and Elements	Actions				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Mandate 4.1. To develop strategies for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms to complement the building of the ASEAN Community					
1. Complete the second Five-Year Work Plan 2016-2020	√				
2. Develop and complete the various activities in the immediate and longer term that will support the implementation of the Five-Year Work Plan 2016-2020	√				
3. Dialogue and consult with the three Communities on their respective activities in the ASEAN Community Post-2015 Vision and its	√				

¹ References to the term human rights encompasses fundamental freedoms.

Attendant Documents concerning the promotion and protection of human rights.					
4. Develop regional plans of action, recommendations, or ASEAN policy frameworks on human rights for women, children and persons with disabilities to mainstream and enhance human rights across the Community pillars, organs and bodies	√				
5. In the periodic review process of the TOR of AICHR, the AICHR shall assess its work and submit recommendations to the AMM on future efforts that can be undertaken in the promotion and protection of human rights within ASEAN					√
6. Contribute to the strengthening of a dedicated unit within the ASEAN Secretariat and improving its visibility to support more effectively the work of the AICHR	√	√	√	√	√
7. Continue the exchange of visit(s) with international and other regional human rights bodies (as necessary or on invitation)	√				
8. Continue to develop regional strategies and undertake initiatives for further integration of human rights based approach, to environmental policy making and protection in line with the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (the 'AHRD') and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of Human Rights (the 'Phnom Penh Statement')	√				
9. Drafting a policy that will protect women and girls against violence	√				
Mandate 4.2.² To develop an ASEAN Human Rights Declaration with a view to establishing a framework for human rights cooperation through various ASEAN conventions and other instruments dealing with human rights					

² This mandate has been completed. The AICHR has drafted the ASEAN Human Right Declaration, which was adopted by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers in 2012.

1. Take stock of and assess status of existing human rights instruments in ASEAN					
2. Work towards ASEAN conventions and other instruments ³ dealing with human rights, in light of the adoption of the AHRD and the Phnom Penh Statement	√				
3. Support the development of other ASEAN legal instruments on human rights undertaken by other ASEAN sectoral bodies	√				
4. Support and strengthen the framework of legal cooperation on ASEAN human rights	√				
Mandate 4.3. To enhance public awareness of human rights among the peoples of ASEAN through education, research and dissemination of information					
1. Develop/update general basic information about AICHR including translation in each national language					
2. Disseminate information relating to the work of AICHR as it may be approved, including publications in both English and national languages					
3. Organise AICHR Road-Shows on AHRD and AICHR					
4. Organise workshops/seminars with track I, II and III, either on its own or in cooperation with other institutions/organisation, at regional and national levels					
5. Design and organize courses/training programmes on AHRD and Phnom Penh Statement / human rights for targeted groups of participants from AMS	√				

³ Protocol, Guidelines, and others.

6. Taking stock of existing human rights education/studies programs in the region					
7. Support the efforts of ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (ASED) to develop a regional education programme on human rights	√				
8. Support the efforts to develop common media programmes on AICHR, AHRD and the Phnom Penh Statement, and human rights, in close consultation and cooperation with AMRI and AMCA					
9. Develop a website of AICHR both at the regional and national level that is accessible to the public	√				
10. Increase awareness and information sharing among relevant stakeholders on CSR and Human Rights					
11. Organise activities to raise awareness on the role of AICHR and the importance of promoting and protecting human rights for relevant stakeholders, including students and youth					
12. Dissemination of the AHRD and the Phnom Penh Statement					
Mandate 4.4. To promote capacity building for the effective implementation of international human rights treaty obligations undertaken by ASEAN Member States					
1. Undertake needs assessment for capacity building					
2. Design and organise a general course/advanced annual training program on implementation of international human rights treaty obligations undertaken by AMS for government officials/public officers of AMS					
3. Design and organise an annual thematic workshop					

4. Design and organise annually specific courses for target groups	√				
5. Share best practices among ASEAN Member States					
Mandate 4.5. To encourage ASEAN Member States to consider acceding to and ratifying international human rights instruments					
1. Complete a stocktaking of existing human rights instruments acceded and ratified by ASEAN Member States					
2. Identify priority for accession and ratification of international human rights instruments for ASEAN Member States, through study and dialogue					
3. On request of the ASEAN Member State concerned, provide necessary assistance to facilitate the accession and ratification of international human rights instruments					
4. Encourage the sharing of experiences and best practices in implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	√				
Mandate 4.6. To promote the full implementation of ASEAN instruments related to human rights					
1. Compile ASEAN instruments related to human rights including translation into the national languages					
2. Coordinate with relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies to ensure the effective implementation of the AHRD and the Phnom Penh Statement	√				
3. Coordinate annually or biennially with the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN on activities related to human rights and in the implementation of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration and the Phnom Penh Statement	√				

4. To engage and exchange views with the judiciary via symposium and workshops to promote the full implementation of the AHRD and the Phnom Penh Statement and other ASEAN Instruments related to human rights					
5. Promote the enhancement of the role and participation of persons with disabilities in ASEAN Community, including working with relevant stakeholders					
6. Promote increased access to education for children with disabilities, including working with relevant stakeholders					
Mandate 4.7. To provide advisory services and technical assistance on human rights matters to ASEAN sectoral bodies upon request					
1. Identify resources and areas of competence where AICHR may provide advisory services and technical assistance to ASEAN sectoral bodies					
2. Hold consultations with relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies to identify their needs for assistance					
3. Organise joint meetings as needed with ASEAN sectoral bodies concerned					
Mandate 4.8. To engage in dialogue and consultation with other ASEAN bodies and entities associated with ASEAN, including civil society organisations and other stakeholders, as provided for in Chapter V of the ASEAN Charter;					
1. Enhance dialogue with CSOs which have “consultative relationship” on promotion and protection of human rights	√				
2. Engage in dialogue with regional stakeholders on emerging human rights issues of interest to ASEAN pertaining to the promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with the AHRD and the Phnom Penh Statement and the TOR of AICHR					

Mandate 4.9. To consult, as may be appropriate, with other national, regional and international institutions and entities concerned with the promotion and protection of human rights					
1. Study visits to other regional human rights mechanisms					
2. Participate in regional and international events on promotion and protection of human rights					
3. Jointly organise events with other regional and international human rights mechanisms	√				
4. Meeting with other human rights mechanisms and entities as agreed to by AICHR	√				
5. Share best practices on the implementation of human rights with other regional human rights mechanisms	√				
Mandate 4.10. To obtain information from ASEAN Member States on the promotion and protection of human rights					
1. Obtain a copy of country reports submitted by ASEAN Member States to the human rights bodies in the UN system					
2. Invite ASEAN Member States to share additional and updated information on their country reports					
Mandate 4.11. To develop common approaches and positions on human rights matters of interest to ASEAN					
1. Identify the current and potential human rights matters of interest to ASEAN					
2. Develop and make recommendations on the common ASEAN approaches and positions on these matters					
3. Support the efforts of ASEAN Committees in Geneva and New York to arrive at a common ASEAN position on the review of the UPR mechanism and the review of the UN Human Rights Council					

Mandate 4.12. To prepare studies on thematic issues of human rights in ASEAN					
<p>1. Initiate thematic studies on issues relating to human rights, at least one issue per year, in close consultation with sectoral and other relevant ASEAN bodies.</p> <p><u>Regional-base study</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration • Trafficking in person particularly women and children • Women and children in conflicts and disasters • Juvenile justice • Right to information in criminal justice • Right to health • Right to education • Right to life • Right to peace • Legal aid • Freedom of religion and belief 	√				
<p>2. Hold workshop upon completion of the draft of the relevant thematic studies for discussion and consultation with the relevant stakeholders as provided for in the Guidelines on the Conduct of Thematic Studies for purposes of obtaining further inputs</p>	√				
<p>3. AICHR shall publish and disseminate the studies, as appropriate (as part of human rights education & raising awareness as well as for building AICHR's visibility, release periodic publications)</p>	√				
Mandate 4.13. To submit an annual report on its activities, or other reports if deemed necessary, to the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting					
<p>1. Meet with AMM</p>	√				
<p>2. Prepare annual report on activities of AICHR, and other appropriate reports as deemed necessary</p>	√				

3. Submit thematic report(s) for further guidance	√				
Mandate 4.14. To perform any other tasks as may be assigned to it by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting					
1. Meet with AMM	√				
