

2017 ASEAN DECLARATION ON CULTURE OF PREVENTION FOR A PEACEFUL, INCLUSIVE, RESILIENT, HEALTHY AND HARMONIOUS SOCIETY

Adopted in Manila, the Philippines on 13 November 2017

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as ASEAN), representing the peoples of the Member States of ASEAN, attending the 31st ASEAN Summit on 13 November in 2017 in Manila, Philippines;

GUIDED by the ASEAN Charter to maintain and enhance peace, security and stability and to further strengthen peace-oriented values in the region;

REAFFIRMING the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the respective Blueprints of ASEAN Political-Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community towards a peaceful, inclusive, resilient, healthy and harmonious society with enhanced capacity to respond to challenges in an effective and timely manner;

RECALLING also the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration to strengthen cooperation on the promotion and protection of human rights including the right to peace, economic, social and cultural rights among others;

RECALLING the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection, Declaration on The Elimination of Violence Against Women And Elimination of Violence Against Children In ASEAN, ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Education for Out-of-School Children and Youth (OOSCY), ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers, ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region, Declaration of The 6th ASEAN Health Ministers' Meeting on Healthy ASEAN Lifestyles, and the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates to enhance cooperation within various ASEAN-led mechanisms aiming to drown out the voices of extremism;

RECALLING the ASEAN Declaration on Cultural Heritage, Declaration on ASEAN Unity in Cultural Diversity: Towards strengthening ASEAN Community, Declaration on Culture for ASEAN Community's Sustainable Development, Declaration on Culture and the Arts to promote ASEAN's Identity towards a Dynamic and Harmonious ASEAN Community and Vientiane Declaration on Reinforcing Cultural Heritage Cooperation in ASEAN that highlight the important role of culture in building a coherent and harmonious ASEAN Community and pursue sustainable economic development;

RECALLING further the United Nations General Assembly's Declaration on a Culture of Peace and the Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels that emphasised the need to promote and strengthen a culture of peace and rule of law worldwide;

RECOGNISING the 2030 United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development, which highlights the desire to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development by significantly reducing all forms of violence;

ACKNOWLEDGING the priorities of ASEAN, under the Chair of the Philippines in 2017 with the theme "Partnering for Change, Engaging the World", on strengthening a people-oriented and people-centred ASEAN, peace and stability in the region and ASEAN's resiliency;

REAFFIRMING our shared responsibility to realise a common vision for an inclusive, sustainable, resilient, dynamic and harmonious ASEAN Community;

REAFFIRMING FURTHER our commitment to the vision “A Healthy, Caring, and Sustainable ASEAN Community” pledged at the 12th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting held in September 2014 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, in order to achieve the goals of the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda;

RECOGNISING that the prevalence of various forms of violence, including violence against women, children and vulnerable groups, drug abuse, trafficking, youth crime, hate crime/speech, irresponsible use of media, intolerance, as well as violent extremism, among others, can undermine peace and security of society;

RECOGNISING further that deviant behaviours can occur in aggravating circumstances such as the displacement of peoples from their homes as a result of human-induced, natural disasters, environmental degradation, as well as the deprivation of basic physical and mental well-being;

COGNISANT of the manifestations of socio-economic problems including poverty, inequality, disparity, marginalisation, social exclusion, youth unemployment, youth disenfranchisement, racial and religious discriminations, corruption, sense of social injustices, lack of access to education, health care and other basic government services and lack of economic/employment opportunities are commonly seen as root causes of violence;

RECOGNISING the compelling need to address the root causes of violent extremism and other forms of violence in order to ensure that the ASEAN Community stays united and celebrate the diversity in cultures, heritage, religions and values while observing the principle of non-interference in internal affairs of ASEAN Member States;

CONVINCED of the need to build on the momentum of ASEAN’s preventive work in addressing the consequences of violent extremism and other forms of violence and deviant behaviours by expressing support for efforts aimed at promoting moderation and fostering a culture of prevention;

DO HEREBY AGREE TO:

1. **PROMOTE** a culture of prevention for a peaceful, inclusive, resilient, healthy and harmonious society by focusing on:
 - i. understanding the root causes and consequences of violent extremism and other forms of violence and deviant behaviours at individual, organisational and institutional levels through risk assessment, research, forecast, early warning and other evidence-based methods;
 - ii. adopting a mindset change from a reactive to a preventive approach;
 - iii. inculcating shared values such as peace, harmony, intercultural understanding, the rule of law, good governance, respect, trust, tolerance, inclusiveness, moderation, social responsibility, and diversity;
 - iv. developing effective upstream preventive policies and initiatives such as transformative social protection, public information, responsible use of media, as well as strengthening the existing values-based education in schools and institutions.

2. **SUPPORT** the following thrusts of a culture of prevention, in conformity with the principles of ASEAN Charter, as follows:
 - i. Promoting a culture of peace and intercultural understanding;
 - ii. Promoting a culture of respect for all;
 - iii. Promoting a culture of good governance at all levels;
 - iv. Promoting a culture of resilience and care for the environment;
 - v. Promoting a culture of healthy lifestyle;
 - vi. Promoting a culture supporting the values of moderation.
3. **CALL FOR** closely coordinated approach between ASEAN Political-Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community, and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community aiming for the effective implementation of the thrusts identified for a culture of prevention;
4. **TASK** the respective sectoral bodies under the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, to mainstream a culture of prevention into their respective Work Plans, and to develop strategic activities to support a culture of prevention;
5. **COOPERATE** also with other relevant stakeholders to mobilise support at the grassroots level to promote a culture of prevention;
6. **FOSTER** a culture of prevention through values-based education as well as lifelong learning, quality basic social services, youth engagement and sports;
7. **USE** all forms of media – mainstream and online/social media – to communicate strategically in order to engage, educate and empower the people, especially the youth, on a culture of prevention;
8. **ACKNOWLEDGING** the importance of moderation, as an all- encompassing approach to counter violent extremism, including radicalisation through the conduct of seminars, workshops, training programmes, as called for by the Global Movement of Moderates, complementing the culture of prevention;
9. **EMPHASISE** the important roles of family, community organisations, educational institutions and religious groups to support and promote the 6 thrusts of a culture of prevention;
10. **RECOGNISE** the importance of productive relations with Strategic Partners, Dialogue Partners, Development Partners and other external partners and relevant stakeholders in exploring effective ways to implement this Declaration.

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