

# 2017 JOINT STATEMENT ON PROMOTING WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY IN ASEAN

*Issued in Manila, the Philippines, 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”), 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 37th 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.

**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.

**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.

**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.**