

# **2010 BRUNEI DARUSSALAM DECLARATION ON STRENGTHENING FAMILY INSTITUTION: CARING FOR THE ELDERLY**

*Issued in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 25 November 2010*

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 (7th 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 on 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 inter-generational 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-fulfillment and well- being through, for examples, access to welfare and social services, resources, skills training, lifelong 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.