

2015 KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION ON AGEING: EMPOWERING OLDER PERSONS IN ASEAN

Adopted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 21 November 2015

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (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 27th ASEAN Summit in Malaysia;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to build an ASEAN Community that engages and benefits the people, and is inclusive, sustainable, resilient and dynamic;

GUIDED BY the ASEAN Charter which sets out the purposes of ASEAN 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;

MINDFUL that the ASEAN population for those aged 60 years and over is projected to increase from 59.5 million in 2015 to 127 million in 2035, which will present immense opportunities and challenges resulting in profound implications in our society;

RECALLING the two World Assemblies on Ageing in 1982 and 2002, World Health Assemblies 58.16 on Strengthening Active and Healthy Ageing (2005), as well as the regional meetings reaffirming the adoption of the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing (1982), the UN Principles for Older Persons (1991), the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific (1999), the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002), the Shanghai Regional Implementation Strategy on Ageing (2002); ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention 1958 (No.111); and Termination of Employment Recommendation, 1982 (No.166);

RECALLING FURTHER the collective commitments of ASEAN in, among others, the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in A Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III, 2011); Brunei Darussalam Declaration on Strengthening Family Institution: Caring for the Elderly (2010); Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of the Persons with Disabilities in ASEAN Community (2011); the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (2012); Proclamation of the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2011-2020: Towards Inclusive Society (2011); Joint Declaration and ASEAN Roadmap on the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in ASEAN (2009); ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection (2013); as well as the work programmes of relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies;

ACKNOWLEDGING the commitments of individual ASEAN Member States to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and other related international instruments that ASEAN Member States are parties to;

RECOGNIZING that an increase in the proportion of older population will require adaptation of health care and social support systems to meet this emerging challenge;

COGNISANT that the promotion of healthy, active and productive ageing in an enabling and supportive environment is key to the well-being of older persons as valuable members of the family, community and society with roles and responsibilities towards the self, others and the nations;

WE DO HEREBY DECLARE TO:

FOSTER the following concrete actions towards the empowerment of older persons subject to each ASEAN Member State's national laws, policies, and programmes:

1. Promote a shared responsibility approach in preparation for healthy, active and productive ageing by supporting families, care givers/care workers and strengthening communities in delivering care for older persons;
2. Promote intergenerational solidarity towards a society for all ages by raising public awareness on the rights, issues and challenges of old age and ageing;
3. Promote rights-based/needs-based and life-cycle approach and eliminate all forms of maltreatment on the basis of old age and gender through equitable access of older persons to public services, income generation, health care services, and essential information, as well as preventive measures, legal protection, and effective support system;
4. Mainstream population ageing issues into public policies and national development plans, and programmes, which may include flexible retirement age and employment policies;
5. Promote the development of human capital and expertise in gerontology, geriatrics and other related professional and para-professional manpower including care workers to meet the current and future demands for health and social services for older persons;
6. Promote the development of reliable information, evidence-based and gender-disaggregated data on ageing, including improved capacity to bridge the gaps in policy, research and practice;
7. Strengthen the capacity of government agencies, corporate bodies, civil society organizations, including voluntary welfare organisations, communities, and relevant stakeholders, for better coordination and effectiveness in the delivery of quality services for older persons at local, national and regional levels;
8. Encourage the development of older people's associations or other forms of networking including elderly clubs and volunteers networks in each ASEAN Member State by strengthening their capacity, and providing them with multi-sectoral platforms of dialogue with the government on ageing issues;
9. Promote age-friendly communities/cities in the region through sustainable and accessible infrastructure;
10. Build and strengthen the networking and partnerships within and among ASEAN Member States as well as with Dialogue Partners and Development Partners including UN Agencies, civil society organisations, private sector, and relevant stakeholders in supporting and providing adequate resources and effective implementation of the commitments reflected in this Declaration.

ASSIGN the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD), with the support of Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) to coordinate and collaborate with relevant sectors for inter-sectoral cooperation on the empowerment of older persons and to develop a regional action plan on ageing to implement this Declaration.

Adopted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, this Twenty First Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen, in a single original copy, in the English Language.