

2020 CHAIRMAN'S PRESS STATEMENT OF THE ASEAN MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE ON STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S ROLE FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE AND SECURITY

Adopted in Ha Noi, Viet Nam on 10 September 2020

1. The ASEAN Ministerial Dialogue on Strengthening Women's role for Sustainable Peace and Security was convened on 10 September 2020 via video-conference. The Dialogue was chaired by H.E. Mr. Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Viet Nam and was attended by Foreign Ministers of ASEAN Member States or their high representatives. The key note speakers at the Dialogue were H.E. Retno Marsudi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women of the Commonwealth of Australia, Madame Nguyen Phuong Nga, Chairwoman of the Viet Nam Union of Friendship Organizations, H.E. Rosemary A. DiCarlo, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the United Nations and H.E. Dato' Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of ASEAN.
2. The Ministers reiterated ASEAN's staunch efforts and high determination to realise the Leaders' commitment to promoting gender equality and empowerment of all women, as well as enhancing the crucial role of women in peace, stability and sustainable development as stated in the Joint Statement on Promoting Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in ASEAN and the ASEAN Declaration on the Gender-responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals adopted at the 31st ASEAN Summit in 2017.
3. The Ministers were inspired by the ASEAN Leaders' Special Session at the 36th ASEAN Summit on Women's Empowerment in the Digital Age, held on 26th June 2020 and committed to keeping this momentum.
4. The Ministers emphasized the significance of the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. The Ministers underscored the importance of effective implementation of these milestone documents and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1889 on Women, Peace and Security in 2009, which constitute the fundamental basis for global efforts in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.
5. The Ministers committed to continue support for the WPS agenda to be prioritized in ASEAN's cooperation policies and programmes.
6. The Ministers encouraged enhanced role of women in peace processes, such as conflict prevention and resolution, post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the recognised prominent role and contribution of ASEAN women in UN peacekeeping operations.
7. Recognizing that economics and peace are inter-connected and mutually-reinforcing, the Ministers agreed to promote cooperation to safeguard women's economic well-being and welfare, thereby, enabling them to become catalysts for sustainable peace, harmony and prosperity.

8. Aware of the fact that women face higher risk and high exposure to the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19, the Ministers encouraged cooperation to include the WPS agenda into the wider ASEAN economic integration efforts and facilitate women's economic empowerment which is crucial in the process of conflict prevention, resolution and recovery.
9. The Ministers urged for greater coordination and synergy of efforts on promoting effective and substantive cooperation on WPS among relevant ASEAN's sectoral bodies, including the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW), the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs Network (AWEN), the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, and ASEAN Women for Peace Registry (AWPR).
10. The Ministers reiterated the commitment to promote an enabling environment and capacity building to empower women to realise their full potential and influence as negotiators, mediators, and decision makers at the international, regional, national and community level, as appropriate, in particular, through the promotion of the role of women as essential voices and active participants in society.
11. The Ministers encouraged enhanced role of women in political leadership in their respective communities and countries, across all decision-making contexts, to steer efforts towards sustainable peace, stability and security.
12. The Ministers undertook to foster greater awareness and understanding of WPS in ASEAN Community building process and in each ASEAN Member State, by providing the right tools and environment for women empowerment in the area of peace and security, among others through affirmative action, gender-specific policies, incentives and capacity building, as appropriate.
13. We further encouraged Member States to take national initiatives to further promote the WPS agenda in the region and took note of the need to develop a regional plan of action to synergize efforts at the national, regional and global level as well as to facilitate cooperation and collaboration with external partners.
14. The Ministers expressed their firm support to build capacity of women for their effective and substantive contribution in politics and peace activities. The Ministers supported further strengthening the ASEAN Women Peace Registry (AWPR) through appropriate capacity-building and technical assistance cooperation within ASEAN and with ASEAN's external partners.
15. The Ministers agreed to give due priority to the importance of the WPS agenda in the course of charting the future path for ASEAN, including in the course of developing the next vision of the ASEAN Community beyond 2025.
16. The Ministers committed to further intensify cooperation with ASEAN's external partners, the United Nations and other regional and international organisations in joint efforts to advance the WPS agenda, through strengthening global networks for women in peace and security.
17. The Ministers expressed their high appreciation to the valuable contribution of the keynote speakers at the Dialogue.