

# 2022 ASEAN HEALTH MINISTERS' MEETING JOINT STATEMENT ON MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF COVID-19 VACCINATION CERTIFICATES

*Issued in Bali, Indonesia on 14 May 2022*

The 15th ASEAN Health Ministers' Meeting was held in Bali, Indonesia on 14 May 2022.

**COGNIZANT OF** the Declaration of the Special ASEAN Summit on COVID-19 in 2020 that encouraged the development of a post-pandemic recovery plan to share lessons learned, restore ASEAN's connectivity, tourism, normal business and social activities, prevent potential economic downturns.

**DESIRING** to strengthen friendly relations and to develop cooperation related to COVID-19 response and recovery based on the principle of equality, mutual benefit, and mutual respect;

**RECOGNIZING** the ASEAN Travel Corridor Arrangement Framework (ATCAF) on the need to facilitate essential business and official travel between and among ASEAN Member States, while prioritizing public health safety, particularly in preventing and controlling the transmission of COVID-19

**FURTHER RECOGNIZING** the need to establish a basis for regional cooperation concerning mutual recognition of COVID-19 vaccination certificates.

**PURSUANT TO** the prevailing laws, public health regulations, and administrative procedures of their respective countries

The Meeting has reached the following understanding:

1. This Joint Statement serves as a basis for the establishment of cooperation concerning mutual recognition of COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates under the framework of the World Health Organization's Digital documentation of COVID-19 certificates : Vaccination Status : Technical Specification and Implementation Guidance, 27 August 2021, with a view to facilitate ease of travel between the citizen ASEAN countries as well as in the spirit of further strengthening the cooperation and coordination between countries.
2. All COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates issued by the ASEAN Member States will have a secure QR code digitally signed to protect it against falsification. The genuineness of the COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate issued by the ASEAN Member States can be verified through the ASEAN universal verification mechanism or any other mechanisms created according to the World Health Organization's Digital documentation of COVID-19 certificates : Vaccination Status : Technical Specification and Implementation Guidance.
3. The implementation of the Joint Statement on Mutual Recognition on COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates will only be meant to recognise and verify or authenticate the vaccination certificates, while upholding to the prevailing laws and regulations of the respective ASEAN Member State related to immigration and mandatory health protocols.
4. The ASEAN universal verification mechanism will be voluntarily implemented based on its Terms of Reference and its Technical Arrangement.
5. The ownership of the ASEAN universal verification mechanism will be managed by the ASEAN Secretariat to ensure transparency, neutrality, confidentiality, integrity, and availability.