

2023 ASEAN DECLARATION ON DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT AND PARTNERSHIP FOR A RESILIENT ASEAN COMMUNITY

Adopted in Jakarta, Indonesia on 5 September 2023

WE, 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, gathered in Jakarta on 5 September 2023, on the occasion of the 43rd ASEAN Summit;

UNITED by the commitment to the ASEAN Vision 2025 and in realising an ASEAN Community that engages and benefits the people, and is inclusive, sustainable, resilient and dynamic, as also inscribed in ASEAN Community Blueprint 2025 and the Narrative of ASEAN Identity;

RECALLED the purposes of ASEAN stipulated in ASEAN Charter to enhance the well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN by providing persons with disabilities with equitable access to opportunities for human development, social welfare and justice, as well as to promote a people-oriented ASEAN in which all sectors of society are encouraged to participate in, and benefit from, the process of ASEAN integration and community building through enhanced regional cooperation and mutual assistance;

REAFFIRMED the guiding principles laid out by the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration which recognises the rights of persons with disabilities that are universal, inalienable, integral and indivisible part of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

RECOGNISED the 2030 United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, the Beijing Declaration including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy, the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023 – 2032, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as well as other relevant international instruments highlighting on the importance of the protection and empowerment of persons with disabilities and of inclusive, accessible equitable, and non-discriminatory participation in all aspects of development;

RECOGNISED the Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of the Persons with Disabilities in ASEAN Community and Mobilisation Framework of the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities commencing the regional collective efforts in promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities across the economic, political security, and sociocultural pillars of the ASEAN Community;

ACKNOWLEDGED the contribution of persons with disabilities to the political, economy and socio-cultural development in the region and the importance of unlocking their potentials to contribute to and realise ASEAN as an epicentrum of growth that is disability-inclusive;

ACKNOWLEDGED the efforts and progress made by member states in the implementation of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by ASEAN Member States, through collaboration and partnership across the region;

NOTED with concern that, despite progress in the region to promote inclusion and to empower persons with disabilities, challenges remain due to attitudinal, environmental, institutional, and social barriers and were aggravated by intersectionality aspects as well as even exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic which disproportionately affected the well-being of all persons with disabilities;

ACKNOWLEDGED the contribution of relevant stakeholders in society, particularly organisations of and for persons with disabilities in mainstreaming a disability-sensitive approach and the roles of private sectors entities in driving disability-inclusive business models and value chains in the phase of response, recovery, and rebuild from the COVID-19 pandemic;

RECOGNISED the strategic position of regional cooperation to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities, including but not limited to persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, in developing accessible services and reasonable accommodation to health, education, employment and social protection, and to ensure digital inclusion for independent living and full participation in society as well as to enable them to rightfully become full-fledged workers or technopreneurs allowing them to better contribute to sustainable growth and development.

DO HEREBY DECLARE to:

1. Continue to respect, protect, fulfill, promote, and enforce the rights of persons with disability in line with Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ASEAN Enabling Masterplan and other relevant global and regional disability-related instruments;
2. Further mainstream disability-inclusive as well as evidence and results-based approaches to protect and empower persons with disabilities, focusing on distinct needs of disability-based intersectionality aspects;
3. Promote disability-inclusive infrastructure to further improve accessibility of persons with disabilities through an enabling physical environment, including but not limited to public transportation, health services, education and training, employment, political participation, information, communication, and technology, in line with the relevant international accessibility standards and guidelines;
4. Further empower and improve the well-being of persons with disabilities by providing accessibilities, reasonable accommodation, appropriate education and training, decent work, financial inclusion, and public services particularly on essential services in situations of risk;
5. Promote comprehensive and universally designed goods, services, equipment, and facilities for people with disabilities;
6. Advance public awareness to eliminate negative stigma and discrimination towards persons with disabilities including through but not limited to media engagement and open campaigns;
7. Provide comprehensive and inclusive social protection as an integral component of social justice for persons with disabilities;
8. Work towards the establishment of relevant multi-stakeholder partnership platforms, including with the business sectors and relevant stakeholders, that focus on addressing inequalities and promoting disability empowerment;
9. Build global and regional collaboration in the areas of policy, practices, research, evaluation, training, education, fighting stigma and discrimination that are relevant to the lives, care, and social inclusion of all persons with disabilities;

10. Take action to reduce disparities on disability data in national and regional levels and be willing to share relevant, reliable, valid and comparable disability data, in partnership with relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies and think-tank organisations affiliated with ASEAN;
11. Accelerate national reviews, including data surveys, to complement the progress report of the implementation of ASEAN Enabling Masterplan in the region and its monitoring and evaluation mechanism involving the three pillars of ASEAN Community;
12. Take action towards harmonising disability-related concept in the region that is in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other relevant international laws;
13. Explore further potential collaboration with ASEAN partners, organisations of and for persons with disabilities, and private sectors to protect and empower person with disabilities, in particular to ensure sustainable project and funding to accelerate disability-inclusive development in the region and beyond, including through cooperation in the Indo-Pacific;
14. Explore possible development of a future regional strategy to strengthen and maintain disability-inclusive development and ensure its inclusion in ASEAN Vision post-2025, towards 2045, and thus contribute to a resilient and prosperous ASEAN Community.

WE tasked the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD) with the support of the Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) to realise this Declaration through operational documents and resource mobilisation for its implementation in accordance with the national laws, regulations, and policies of ASEAN Member States.

Adopted on this Fifth Day of September in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Three in a single original copy in the English Language.