

2026 ASEAN LEADERS' STATEMENT ON THE ASEAN CONVERGENCE ON DISASTER RESPONSE: THE ASEAN STRATEGIC PROTOCOL FOR EMERGENCY AND COMPREHENSIVE TRANSFORMATION (ASPECT) FRAMEWORK

Adopted in Cebu, Philippines on 8 May 2026

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), gathered on the occasion of the 48th ASEAN Summit, reaffirm our collective resolve to strengthen ASEAN's unity, solidarity, and resilience in the face of increasingly frequent, intense, and complex disasters affecting our region.

We recognise that Southeast Asia remains one of the world's most disaster-prone regions, facing a significant number of hazard events and affecting millions of our people. We further acknowledge that climate-induced disasters, public health emergencies, biological, threats and cascading and compounding disaster risks are converging into a multi-hazard risk environment that demands faster, more anticipatory, and more coordinated regional action.

Recalling the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), and the ASEAN Declaration on 'One ASEAN, One Response': ASEAN Responding as One in the Region and Outside the region, we affirm that ASEAN centrality and solidarity remain the foundation of our regional disaster governance.

We further stress the importance of ASEAN's timely, prompt and expeditious response to emergencies and disasters, as well as timely assessment and early-warning measures to enhance ASEAN's preparedness and response in line with the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on the Strategic and Holistic Initiative to Link ASEAN Responses to Emergencies and Disasters. We also underline the need to enhance national and local capacity in undertaking measures to prevent, mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters in accordance with the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Sustainable Resilience.

Reaffirming our long-term regional vision as articulated in the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Strategic Plan, we underscore ASEAN's commitment to building a resilient, adaptive, and people-centred Community that is capable of anticipating and responding to future shocks and emerging risks. We recognise that disaster management is integral to sustaining a caring and sharing society and advancing inclusive resilience, and therefore must be further strengthened through future-oriented, risk-informed, and system-wide approaches that are consistent with ASEAN's long-term transformation agenda.

While applauding ASEAN's progress in implementing AADMER over the past two decades, we acknowledge the growing need to further enhance ASEAN disaster management systems in light of emerging needs and escalating challenges driven by the impacts of climate change. Increasingly frequent and severe weather-related disasters are placing new pressures on early warning and early action, response capacities, and resource coordination. We underscore that timely assistance during the critical hours following a disaster is essential to saving lives, protecting livelihoods, and safeguarding development gains.

In this regard, we welcome and support the **ASEAN Convergence on Disaster Response: The ASEAN Strategic Protocol for Emergency and Comprehensive Transformation (ASPECT) Framework** as a complementary mechanism designed to strengthen regional interoperability, streamline operational processes, promote convergence and synergy across existing ASEAN

mechanisms and initiatives, and translate the vision of “One ASEAN, One Response” into measurable and practical outcomes.

We hereby emphasise the following shared priorities:

1. Strengthening regional interoperability in disaster management through standardised digital coordination, enhanced information sharing, and integrated logistics systems, including through the Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA);
2. Reducing administrative latency by enhancing coordination and information-sharing mechanisms to support the timely facilitation of cross-border processes, including customs, immigration, and quarantine procedures (CIQP), in accordance with the respective national laws, regulations, and procedures of ASEAN Member States, and by facilitating the timely deployment of humanitarian personnel, equipment, and relief assets, as appropriate and upon the consent of the receiving Member State, in support of the Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP);
3. Working towards institutionalising risk-informed, tiered, and anticipatory approaches, including science-based triggers and pre-arranged standby mechanisms, to enable earlier regional mobilisation before or immediately upon disaster impact;
4. Enhancing financial resilience through accessible and predictable emergency financing and pre-arranged resources to support rapid response and early recovery, including by strengthening the ASEAN Disaster Management and Emergency Relief (ADMER) fund to allow for public and private contributions;
5. Adopting a multi-hazards approach that strengthens readiness for natural, biological, and systemic and complex risks, including energy, vaccine and food shortages, natural disasters and public health emergencies; and
6. Ensuring that all disaster response efforts are anchored in Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM), with interventions that are inclusive, community-led and protection-centred, leaving no one behind, particularly women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and other persons in vulnerable situations.

We reaffirm the central role of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM), ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) including the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) in operationalising regional cooperation and facilitating timely and effective assistance among Member States. We also acknowledge the role of the Secretary-General of ASEAN as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator (SG-AHAC) in ensuring ASEAN's coordinated response to disasters.

We task the relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies, particularly the AMMDM and ACDM, with the support of the ASEAN Secretariat and the AHA Centre, and in coordination with other ASEAN mechanisms, to further develop and implement the ASPECT Framework in alignment with SASOP, including through strengthened protocols, capacity-building, simulation exercises, and partnerships with dialogue partners and stakeholders.

We express our confidence that, through enhanced convergence, solidarity, and shared responsibility, ASEAN will continue to build a resilient community capable of delivering swift, coordinated, and inclusive assistance to all affected peoples, and of advancing a safer and more secure future for the region.